

Requirements for Congregants
Attending In-Person Services at TI during COVID-19 Pandemic
Updated December 29, 2020

As part of an effort to keep all of us as safe as possible during the pandemic, the TI COVID Committee established the following requirements for those attending services in the Sanctuary. Please note these requirements when making the decision to attend a Sanctuary service.

SEATING

You are most likely coming to the Sanctuary to help lead a service during a bar/bat/kabalat mitzvah or as a guest. B'nai mitzvah families can have up to 9 separate seating areas in the Sanctuary, together totaling a maximum of 25 attendees. Each seating area will be for an individual or a Family Unit that lives together. As an attendee, you will also be assigned a seating area.

The family will have submitted a list to Rabbi Werbow and Sheri Blonder of everyone they expect to have present in the Sanctuary and indicate who belongs in each Family Unit. Similarly, please tell Rabbi Werbow (mwerbow@tifereth-israel.org) and Sheri (sheri@tifereth-israel.org) if you plan to bring anyone else from your Family Unit. A member of the administrative staff will place signs on seats in the Sanctuary for each individual and Family Unit.

In advance of the service, a staff member will send you additional instructions related to seating assignments and building use. Please be on the lookout for this note, read it carefully when you get it and share it with any other members of your Family Unit who will be coming to services.

TESTING REQUIREMENTS

Because COVID can be asymptomatic, testing is one important way to determine whether or not someone has been infected. Without exception, everyone who will attend services in person must be tested. Anyone testing positive will not be allowed in the synagogue.

If Coming from Outside the DMV

Anyone coming into Washington, DC should follow the guidelines on testing, quarantining and limiting exposure as laid out by the DC government. This information can be found at <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/>.

If You Live Locally

People who live locally are asked to avoid any travel outside of DC, Maryland and Virginia within two weeks of the date of the service.

Local residents are required to get tested no more than five days before the date of the service and far enough in advance to obtain results by Friday, the day before the service. PCR tests are preferable and generally take 3-5 days for results. Resources for testing in DC and Montgomery County can be found at <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/testing.html> and <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/testing>.

All attendees

Everyone in your party is asked to curtail, as much as possible, contact outside your Family Unit between the time of their test and the service. This means avoiding public spaces where you may be in close proximity to others. This includes but is not limited to in-person learning, grocery stores and other stores, enclosed spaces

such as restaurants and bars, and enclosed private gatherings—large and small—regardless of how well attendees know one another.

IN CASE OF A POSITIVE TEST OR SYMPTOMS (EVEN MILD)

COVID-19 symptoms can include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea.

During the week before the service, if you or anyone in your Family Unit (whether or not they were planning to come with you to services) tests positive or has even mild symptoms:

- Neither that individual nor anyone one in your Family Unit may come into the synagogue.
- You must alert Rabbi Werbow right away. He needs to know in order to offer comfort and he may also need to find someone to substitute for your part in the service or to ensure a minyan.

On the day of the service, if you or anyone in your Family Unit (whether or not they were planning to come with you to services) receives a positive test result or has even mild symptoms, neither you nor anyone in your Family Unit may come into the synagogue.

THE DAY OF THE SERVICE - STAYING HEALTHY!

Given the risk to the community, we ask that you take the responsibility for following these COVID guidelines extremely seriously. Your healthy behaviors will not only make others feel safer and more comfortable, it will also show the importance of prevention activities.

- Everyone will need to remain in the area assigned to your Family Unit.
- If you need to leave the area to go to the bimah, use the restroom, etc., please maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from others not in your Family Unit.
- Everyone is required to wear a mask at all times, except when leading services.
- If you are leading services, you must wear your mask until you are at your lectern or on the bimah and at least 6 feet from others. Replace your mask before you leave your station.
- While on the bimah, if you need to approach within 6 feet of someone (i.e., to help them find their place in the Torah), you must first put on your mask. Please try to move to a distance of 6 feet or more as soon as possible.

One Important Caveat

Since the situation regarding COVID-19 can change, please be aware that TI's requirements may also change, even within days of the service. If there are changes, the COVID Committee will do our best to convey them to you in a timely manner. Please also check the DC government's website (<https://coronavirus.dc.gov>) to make sure you are aware of the most up-to-date local requirements.

It is truly a group effort to keep us all as healthy as we can. Thanks in advance to everyone for observing these guidelines. Please do not hesitate to contact Rabbi Werbow at mwerbow@tifereth-israel.org if you have any questions or concerns.