

# Hebrew Institute of White Plains Reopening & Social Distancing Guidelines

**Effective:** August 10, 2020

*Updates noted with **highlighting***

Each phase of our reopening continues to be guided by our basic Torah values of safety and health, welcome and inclusion, and a meaningful embrace of Torah u'mitzvot.

Please review the following guidelines that we have put in place for our tefillah services and programs.

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Limitations on Attendees at Tefillah Services and Programs

- **Individuals with COVID-19 Exposure or Symptoms:** If, in the past 14 days, you have tested positive for COVID-19, have had exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, or have any symptoms of COVID-19, you **may not** sign up for or attend any minyanim or programs. If you have questions regarding symptoms or exposure, please consult with your physician.
- **Children at Tefillah Services:** Children who are able to sit through the entire service, and comply with masking guidelines, are invited to accompany a parent to services at this time. If a child is unable to remain in his/her seat, the parent and the child will be asked to leave.

- **Children at Youth Programs:** Children above the age of two must wear masks at all times and maintain social distancing. Parents who do not feel confident that their child will be able to comply with these requirements in their absence should stay with their child for the program. If a parent drops off a child and the child does not follow the masking and distancing guidelines, the parent will be called and asked to pick up the child immediately.
- **Adults Programs:** Adults must arrive and depart with a mask, and masks must be worn the entire time, even when seated and socially distanced from others.
- **Individuals over Age 65 or With Underlying Medical Conditions:** At this time, individuals above age 65 or those with underlying medical conditions are discouraged from attending minyanim or events. These conditions may include lung or heart disease, kidney or liver disease, hypertension, diabetes or an immunocompromised condition. In addition, if you live with another person with any of these conditions you are similarly discouraged from attending minyanim or events. If you have any questions regarding these matters, please consult with your physician.
- **Regardless of age, physical condition or other circumstances, no congregant should feel compelled or under any obligation (halachic or otherwise) to attend minyanim. Based on the guidance of our Rabbi, if you feel uncomfortable attending a public minyan for any reason during this pandemic, you have no halachic obligation to participate, and it is preferable to daven at your own home.**

### Safety Protocols for Attendees or Tefillah Services and Programs

- **Taking Your Temperature:** We ask that all attendees monitor their health for any symptoms prior to attending minyanim or programs, and ensure they do not have a fever.
- **Masks:** Minyan and program attendees must wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth the entire time. Anyone who is not wearing a mask will not be permitted to enter or will be asked to leave. At services, the *baal tefillah* may remove the mask while leading services as long as no one else is at the shulchan.
- **Social Distancing:** Attendees must sit or stand at least 8 feet apart at all times. There should be no shaking of hands, sharing of food or drinks.
- **Chairs:** Chairs will be set up to match the capacity of the minyan and required spacing of at least 8 feet. You may move chairs together in order to sit with your family group.
- **Siddurim and Chumashim:** Minyan attendees must bring their own siddur and/or chumash to minyan. The shul will not be providing communal siddurim or chumashim at this time.
- **Rain:** In the event of inclement weather, minyanim at 20 Greenridge will be moved indoors. There are chairs spaced 12 feet apart set up inside the 20 Greenridge building

for such circumstances. For the Backyard Services there will be no indoor options. Due to the prohibition of using an umbrella on Shabbat, in the event of rain on Shabbat during the scheduled time for minyan at a Backyard Service, there will be no minyan at that location.

## Changes to the Format of the Davening

- **Beginning of Shacharit:** Our Shacharit minyanim will begin on weekdays with *Mizmor Shir* and on Shabbat with *Nishmat*. If attendees are saying kaddish, we will start with *Mizmor Shir* and the chazzan will say an abridged *Pesukei D'Zimra*. Regardless, minyan attendees should daven through *Pesukei D'Zimra* at home prior to arriving at minyan.
- **Amidah:** We will say the full amidah with *Chazarat haShatz*.
- **Singing:** Singing will be limited in order to keep the overall time of davening to approximately 1.5 hours.
- **Torah Reading:** To ensure social distancing, our initial plan is that the *baal koreh* will be the only person permitted to handle the Torah during Torah reading; he will remove and return the Torah, and perform *hagbah* and *gelilah*. The *baal koreh* will open the Torah to the spot of each aliya, and each *oleh* will step forward, recite the blessings, and then step back, standing at an appropriate distance from the Torah while the *baal koreh* reads. The *baal koreh* may remove the mask while reading from the Torah as long as there are no other people at the shulchan.
- **Tzedakah:** There will be no tzedakah collection during minyan. Please continue to give tzedakah in other ways.

## Required Sign Up and Contact Tracing

**Advance sign up for minyanim or program is extremely important** to provide a means for contact tracing, and is required for attending minyanim and programs. Additionally, if you sign up for a minyan, it is critical that you actually attend and arrive on time. Signup links for upcoming minyanim will be sent separately.

Additionally, it is important from a contact tracing and public health perspective to limit your exposure by being consistent with the minyan you attend. If you start with one minyan, we encourage you to continue davening with that minyan rather than switching to a different one.

**If after attending a minyan, you test positive for COVID-19, become aware that you had exposure to someone with COVID-19, or develop symptoms of COVID-19, it is critical that you contact the Rabbi or Gabbaim so that appropriate notifications and/or quarantine procedures can be implemented.**

## Minyan Times and Locations

We will be coordinating minyanim both on the property of 20 Greenridge and on the properties of members.

### Friday Night

Friday night in-person services will take place in the Playground area at 20 Greenridge Avenue. Signup sheets will be made available by email.

### Shabbat Day

Shabbat morning services will be taking place in the Playground area at 20 Greenridge Avenue and in a number of members' backyards. Details and links to sign up will be sent out weekly.

Based on evaluation of demand and changes in capacity limitations, it is possible that we will add additional minyanim or alter the schedule to best serve the needs of the community. Any changes will be communicated via e-mail from the shul.

Shabbat Afternoon pre-sunset minyan will be taking place in the Playground area at 20 Greenridge Avenue.

### Weekday Minyanim

Minyanim in person will be held for **Shacharit** and **Mincha/ Maariv** in the Playground area at 20 Greenridge Avenue.

#### **Shacharit**

- **Sunday** - 8:30 am
- **Weekdays** - Mondays and Thursdays - 7:20AM, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays - 7:30AM (Rosh Chodesh - 7:15AM)

#### **Mincha/ Maariv**

- **Sunday-Thursday** - 10-15 minutes before sunset

We will attempt to broadcast the in-person minyan over Zoom for any attendees who are not able to attend in person.

We will send out sign up sheets by email.

### Friday Night Satellite Minyanim

As has been the practice in our community, satellite minyanim meet in the Soundview and Rosedale areas. These minyanim have resumed and are following all of the safety protocols outlined above. For example, it is the responsibility of each satellite minyan to require attendees to sign up in advance, wear masks, cancel in the event of rain, etc.

### Celebrating Smachot

The shul is supportive of assisting in organizing special minyanim in the event of a bris, baby naming, Bar or Bat mitzvah or aufruf either outdoors at the shul or outdoors at the family's home, provided that all of the safety protocols outlined above are stringently followed. Please contact the Rabbi or the Gabbaim if you are interested in organizing such a minyan.

***We thank you all in advance for your compliance with the above procedures and look forward to gathering together as a community soon.***