



## Queens Jewish Center COVID-19 Guidelines Updated as of August 5, 2020

### The following guidelines are in place out of respect for everyone's safety:

- Individuals must wear a mask or equivalent apparel that *fully covers the mouth and nose* at all times while in the QJC building.
- Individuals must maintain *at least six (6) feet of distance* from others at all times, and when singing or talking, that distance should be twelve (12) feet.
  - While both of the above rules are crucial for maintaining safety, it is especially imperative that if one needs to approach or pass an individual that a mask is fully on. The most dangerous situation is when someone gets into close proximity of another individual *and* is not wearing a mask.
  - Please note that following these guidelines is matter of respecting others. While these rules may feel restricting, following them demonstrates respect for those who wish to be able to attend shul and to feel safe.
  - In order to avoid potential situations of prolonged gathering, we ask people to come to shul close to the starting time of davening and to leave promptly afterwards.
- Anyone who attends must show **ZERO** symptoms of COVID-19 (new loss of sense of smell or taste, cough, fever, chills, malaise, GI symptoms) for 14 days.
  - Anyone who has a positive COVID-19 test may not attend.
  - Anyone who is exposed to individuals with symptoms or who tests positive may not attend.
  - If you attend and are exposed, show symptoms, or test positive, you must inform QJC leadership immediately.
- Please *wash your hands/use hand sanitizer* regularly and sanitize upon entering the building.
- Handshakes and other forms of physical contact are not permitted under any circumstances. Waves and "air" handshakes can be encouraged!
- Individuals should bring their own tallis, chumash, and siddur.
  - If one needs to use siddur/chumash from the shul, they should ensure that they are the only ones who use that item for the duration of one week.
  - *Outside the main shul, there will be a place to leave used siddurim/chumashim. Please place your used books there so that others will not take them the rest of Shabbos.*
  - A tallis will not be required for kibbudim if a personal one is not available.
- Bathrooms should be used only in a case of emergency.
- Individuals over 65 or with preexisting or immunocompromising health conditions are strongly encouraged to speak with their doctor before attending.

## **Davening Protocol (subject to change at various points)**

- *Limiting exposure remains a principle in how minyanim are conducted.* While this involves some subjectivity, we continue to follow an overall guideline that suggests that a proper halachic davening ought to be held while avoiding unnecessary prolonging.
- Because singing can be an effective way of transmitting potential virus, we try to limit singing to certain essentials.
  - Friday night: Yedid Nefesh and Yigdal are omitted. Lecha Dodi should be the only tefillah sung by everyone.
  - Shabbos morning: Only Kel Adon should be sung. Anim Zemiros should be omitted.
- All morning minyanim should begin with Rabbi Yishmael Omer. Berachos and Korbanos can and should be said at home before coming to shul.
- To begin chazaras ha-shatz, wait for a majority of the minyan to begin (minimum six men). One need not wait for the rabbi to begin.
- Baal korei receives all kibbudim related to krias ha-Torah, including aliyos.
- Sifrei Torah and Mezuzahs should not be kissed.
- Divrei Torah and Shiurim can take place at this point. However, ideally the length is kept short unless there's a halachic need to fill time.
- Of course, it is an extra imperative to daven with kavvanah even with these guidelines. We pray that the virus be brought under control and we pray on behalf of those communities that are undergoing severe crisis.

We thank everyone for your cooperation in advance.

With Hashem's help, by following these guidelines, we will keep transmission low in our community and will be able to gradually return to a more normal shul experience.