Temple Beth El COVID-19 Phased Opening Response Plan

Here is a proposed plan to set hard criteria for temple activities (excluding The Learning Tree) as we work our way out of the COVID pandemic over the next many months.

As we approach the final phase of getting back to the building, we should take lessons from this pandemic to promote healthier congregation of our community and implement some best practices for use routinely:

- Provide sufficient sanitizer stations in all areas of the building for hand hygiene
- Sanitize our hands before picking up a siddur
- Sanitizing our hands before and after an oneg or other food-based activity
- Consider long-term that all food activity is either served or packaged single serving for appropriate food hygiene
- Monitor our own state of wellness and participate in events virtually when we are not feeling well
- Providing air sanitizing equipment for employees who work in office space all day

The response plan:

- There are **4 phases** through which our building and grounds can be open or closed to congregants and staff for worship, office/administration, adult education, and meetings in numbers appropriate for the evolving pandemic situation. We will move forward or backward through the phases as indicated by key criteria. With a goal of a **5th** phase when we are through the pandemic and applying our pandemic lessons learned for a healthier TBE community
- Based on guidance from CDC, the WHO, and national epidemiologic experts we will establish our movement through the phases on: (as detailed in the table below)
    - Rolling 7-day average of COVID-19 test positivity rates for Lee County as reported on CovidActNow.org to indicate if testing in Lee County is adequate.
    - Rolling 7-day new daily cases per 100,000 population of newly reported COVID-19 cases in Lee County as reported on CovidActNow.org
    - Rolling 7-day average COVID-19 transmission rate R(t) for Lee County as reported on CovidActNow.org, When understanding how COVID is spreading in a state or county, Covid Act Now focuses on a variant of R_0 called R(t). R(t) is the actual spread of the virus, taking into account the effects of changes such as public health measures or the development of a vaccine. R(t) is therefore a more accurate representation of how fast COVID is spreading in a state or county.
    - 2-week trend of Lee Health report of COVID-19 hospital admissions and resource capacity
- Movement to higher phase requires at least 2 weeks of meeting the criteria for the phase.
- Movement to a lower phase will occur when pandemic monitoring criteria worsens; 2 weeks of data NOT required to respond in nimble manner
- When discrepancies between measures exist, we will use the preponderance of data to inform the appropriate phase.

	Positivity Rate	Cases/100,000 in Lee County	IN rate	Local Hospital Resources
Phase 1	> 20%	>25	>1.4	<10% of Hospital or ICU resources available; rapidly rising local admissions for COVID-19
Phase 2	≤20% and >10%	10 to 25	1.1 to 1.4	≥10% of Hospital or ICU resources available; significantly slowing increase in local hospital admissions for COVID-19
Phase 3	≤10% and >3%	1 to 10	0.9 to 1.1	≥10% of Hospital or ICU resources available; no increase (or decline) in local hospital admissions for COVID-19
Phase 4	≤3%	1 or fewer cases	<0.9	≥10% of Hospital or ICU resources available; declining local hospital admissions for COVID-19
Phase 5	Recovery phase. Learning from best healthy practices as noted above		Criteria based on national and local public health advisory that pandemic is ended	

In all cases in phases 1 through 4:

- Non-vented face masks for participants age 2 and older are required for participation in TBE activities according to the CDC transmission classification for Lee County
- minimum 6 feet physical distance between non-household members will be maintained
- Communal singing/chanting indoors will be avoided

Since the introduction of effective vaccine against severe illness from the SARS-CoV-2 virus TBE may adjust the reopening strategies and be guided by the CDC recommendations for gathering in public groups for vaccinated and non-vaccinated individuals. In most cases, TBE recommends that non-vaccinated individuals participate in temple activities from virtual settings to avoid risk of virus transmission and illness.

As of November 2021, when an area has a substantial or high COVID transmission rate CDC recommends that all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, wear a high-quality, well fitting mask when present at any public in-door venue.Click the box below to see updated transmission rates.

LINK TO CDC COUNTY LEVEL TRANSMISSION DATA

PHASE 1

WORSHIP

- Worship will remain virtual on website & social media platforms
- Clergy will lead from their homes

LIFE CYCLE EVENTS

- Will occur outside only with fewer than 12 people in adherence to the outdoor precaution guidelines (attached below)

STAFF

- No members or visitors in the building
- The staff and the Rabbi will be permitted (but not required) to enter the Temple as needed and based on schedule that minimizes contact with other workers. They may not be present without clarifying schedule to minimize contact.

MEETINGS/EVENTS

- All meetings and events will be held virtually via Zoom and/or other electronic methods.
- If required, outdoor meetings are allowed with fewer than 12 people in adherence to the outdoor precaution guidelines (attached below)

ADULT EDUCATION

- Education will be conducted virtually

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

- All classes are held virtually

PHASE 2

WORSHIP

- Worship will remain virtual on website & social media platforms
- Rabbi may lead from the temple building as it is available, technology allows and if desired
- Support personnel for AV/technology/musical accompaniment permitted with physical distancing and non-vented masks
- Mask not required for Rabbi if distance of 15 feet is fully maintained
- Chanting/singing by reader at the bima only when minimum 15 feet is continuously maintained

LIFE CYCLE EVENTS

- May occur outside with fewer than 25 people in adherence to the outdoor precaution guidelines (attached below)
- May occur in the building with up to 10 people maintaining at least 6 feet distance between all non-household member and all participants wearing non-vented face masks with same criteria as noted for worship. May use dual podiums to facilitate distancing between 2 readers
- No food may be consumed indoors

STAFF AND CONGREGANTS

- No visitors in the building.
- Staff and clergy are permitted (but not required) to work onsite based on a mutually created schedule that minimizes physical contact
- Limited non-staff will be permitted in the building, using the same safety procedures as staff (e.g. Sisterhood gift shop volunteers, AV or Ritual committee members, etc.) - Numbers determined by distancing logistics, but not to exceed 10 people, staff inclusive

MEETINGS/EVENTS

- All ordinarily indoor meetings/events will be held virtually via Zoom and/or other electronic methods
- Outdoor events/meetings may occur outside with fewer than 25 people in adherence to the outdoor precaution guidelines (attached below)
- “Extreme distancing” in drive-in events may facilitate larger activities

ADULT EDUCATION

- Education will be conducted virtually

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

- All classes are held virtually or outside in accordance with the outdoor precaution guidelines (attached below)

PHASE 3

WORSHIP

- Worship will be held in the sanctuary, allowing for 6-ft social distancing.
- Limited in-person attendance with all participants wearing non-vented face masks for worship: Congregants must sign-up online or call and register for a limited number of available seats in the sanctuary. Contact information must be current.
- Congregants and visitors 65 and older and/or with underlying health issues who have not been fully vaccinated will be encouraged to continue participating via online methods.
- Readers may unmask to lead service, sing, or chant while maintaining 15-foot continuous distance (dual podiums may be used to facilitate distance) No congregational singing,
- Congregants must provide their own kippot/tallitot.
- Prayer books will not be used; A/V projection of siddurim will substitute
- Attendees will be required to wear non-vented face coverings and maintain 6 feet between non-household members.
- Attendees will be asked to use hand sanitizer upon entrance to the building.
- Attendees will check-in with entry attendant confirm they meet all criteria to be present based on the TBE COVID-19 Entry Questionnaire (attached below) and to confirm current contact information upon entering the building.
- No food will be consumed inside the building

LIFE CYCLES

- Lifecycle events may be held in the building with no more than 50 people meeting the same criteria as for worship (prayer books may be used if pre-distributed to seats)
- No food or drinks may be consumed in the building; may use the outdoor precaution guidelines for food service outside (attached below)

STAFF

- Staff should work onsite as appropriate for Temple operations, except those who are 65 and over and/or with high risk factors who have not completed vaccination series.
- Individual congregants permitted inside wearing non-vented face masks for individual appointments with prior arrangements made (maintaining 6-feet distance)

EVENTS, MEETINGS & GIFT SHOP

- Indoor gatherings of up to 10 people wearing non-vented face masks with 6-ft social distancing, permitted unless meeting may be held just as effectively by virtual means.
- No food or drinks may be consumed at meetings
- Larger meetings will continue to be held via Zoom or other electronic platforms
- The gift shop will be able to hold limited "by appointment only" hours.

ADULT EDUCATION

- Indoor Gatherings of up to 10 people wearing non-vented face masks with 6-ft social distancing permitted unless class may be held just as effectively by virtual means
- No food or drink may be served or consumed in the building

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

- Religious School may meet in-person indoors with all participants wearing non-vented face masks if with 6-ft physical distancing can be accommodated
- No food or drink may be consumed in the building

PHASE 4

WORSHIP

- Religious services held at the temple, following best practice guidelines determined for safe capacity and number of attendees with all participants wearing non-vented face masks
- Prayerbooks may be used (request hand hygiene prior to use)
- Onegs and kiddush may with single serve food or food service (no communal buffet)

Lifecycle events

- Lifecycle events may be held based, following same guidelines as for worship

STAFF

- All staff will work onsite as appropriate to temple needs

MEETINGS

- Committee meetings may be held onsite with all participants wearing non-vented face masks
- Food and drinks may be served using best practice guidelines (single serve food or food service - no communal buffet)
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ADULT EDUCATION

- Classes with greater capacity held onsite with all participants wearing non-vented face masks

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

- Religious School will meet in-person with all participants wearing non-vented face masks and physical distancing in place
- Individually packaged food or drink may be served in the building

PHASE 5 – The New Healthier TBE Community

WORSHIP

- Religious services held at the temple and offered for online viewing for congregants who prefer to stay home
- Masking is not required; congregants may prefer to wear a mask
- Congregational singing will resume
- Onegs and kiddush may with single serve food or food service (no communal buffet)

Lifecycle events

- Lifecycle events will resume with joyous community celebrations

STAFF

- All staff will work onsite as appropriate to temple needs

EVENTS/MEETINGS

- Congregational events and meetings will occur to best meet the needs of the congregation
- Consider avoiding any communal self-serve buffets and provide service or pre-packaged food

ADULT EDUCATION

- Classes held onsite or remote as determined by leaders of classes

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

- Religious School will meet in-person
- Consider avoiding any communal self-serve buffets and provide service or pre-packaged food

	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
Worship	Worship will remain virtual on website & social media platforms Clergy will lead from their homes	Worship will remain virtual on website & social media platforms Rabbi may lead from the temple building as it is available and if desired	Worship will be held in the sanctuary, allowing for 6-ft social distancing. Limited in-person attendance with all participants wearing non-vented face masks for Friday night Shabbat worship: Congregants only will be able to sign-up online or call and register for a limited number of available seats in the sanctuary. Congregants and visitors 65 or older and/or with underlying health issues will be encouraged to continue participating via online methods. Congregants must provide their own kippot/tallitot. Prayer books will not be used; A/V projection of siddurim will substitute Attendees will be required to wear non-vented face coverings and spread apart following social distancing standards Attendees must enter the building through the main entrance only Attendees must confirm to entry attendant that they meet all criteria to be present* Worshippers will be asked to use hand sanitizer. Worshippers will be required to check-in and provide current contact information upon entering the building No food will be consumed inside the building	Religious services held at the temple, following best practice guidelines determined for safe capacity and number of attendees with all participants wearing non-vented face masks Prayerbooks may be used (request hand hygiene prior to use) Onegs and kiddush may with single serve food or food service (no communal buffet)

	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
Life Cycle Events	Will occur outside only with fewer than 12 people in adherence to the outdoor precaution guidelines	May occur outside with fewer than 25 people in adherence to the outdoor precaution guidelines May occur in the building with up to 10 people maintaining at least 6 feet distance between all non-household member and all participants wearing non-vented face masks No food may be consumed indoors	Lifecycle events may be held in the building with no more than 50 people meeting the same criteria as for worship No food or drinks may be consumed in the building; may use the outdoor precaution guidelines for food service outside	Lifecycle events may be held based, following same guidelines as for worship
Staff	No members or visitors in the building Office staff and the Rabbi will be permitted (but not required) to enter the Temple as needed and based on schedule that minimizes contact with other workers. They may not be present without clarifying schedule to minimize contact.	No members or visitors in the building Staff and clergy are permitted (but not required) to work onsite during their specified two days based on a schedule that minimized physical contact Limited non-staff will be permitted in the building, using the same safety procedures as staff (e.g. Sisterhood gift shop volunteers, ritual committee members, etc.)	Staff should work onsite as appropriate for the Temple operations, except those who are over 65 and/or with high risk factors Individual congregants permitted inside wearing non-vented face masks for individual appointments with prior arrangements made	All staff will work onsite as appropriate to temple needs

	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
Meetings	All meetings will be held virtually via Zoom and/or other electronic methods	All meetings will be held virtually via Zoom and/or other electronic methods	Gatherings of up to 10 people wearing non-vented face masks permitted unless meeting may be held just as effectively by virtual means No food or drinks may be consumed at meetings Larger meetings will continue to be held via Zoom or other electronic platforms The gift shop will be able to hold limited "by appointment only" hours. Watch for information on how to make an appointment	Committee meetings held onsite with all participants wearing non-vented face masks Food and drinks may be served using best practice guidelines
Adult Education	Education will be conducted virtually	Education will be conducted virtually	Gatherings of up to 10 people wearing non-vented face masks permitted unless class may be held just as effectively by virtual means; other classes will remain online/virtual during this period No food or drink may be served or consumed in the building	Classes with greater capacity held onsite with all participants wearing non-vented face masks
Religious School	All classes are held virtually	All classes are held virtually or outside in accordance with the outdoor precaution guidelines	Religious School may meet in-person with all participants wearing non-vented face masks if physical distancing can be accommodated No food or drink may be consumed in the building	Religious School will meet in-person with all participants wearing non-vented face masks and physical distancing in place Individual food or drink may be served in the building

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Temple Beth El Covid-19 Entry Questionnaire

As a *Kehillah Kedosha*, a sacred Jewish community, we prioritize the health and wellness of all who are a part of our congregational family. It is our goal at Temple Beth El to keep you and everyone entering our building safe and healthy from COVID-19. Face coverings, maintaining proper social distance of 6 feet, having good hand and respiratory hygiene and answering the questions below are required of each visitor.

Yes	No	
		Have you or anyone in your household had any of the following symptoms in the last 14 days: sore throat, cough, chills, body aches for unknown reasons, shortness of breath for unknown reasons, loss of smell, loss of taste, fever or feeling feverish?
		Have you or a member of your household attended any indoor gathering of 10 or more people who were without face coverings or who did not maintain minimum 6 feet social distancing in the past 10 days?
		Have you or anyone in your household visited or received treatment in a hospital, nursing home, long-term care or other health care facility in the past 14 days?
		Have you or anyone in your household cared for an individual who is in quarantine or is a presumptive positive or has tested positive for COVID-19?
		Have you or any from your household tested positive within the past 10 days or awaiting results of COVID testing?
		Do you have any reason to believe that you are asymptomatic with COVID-19?

We ask that if you answered "Yes" to any of the above questions, please do not enter TBE and, if appropriate, contact your healthcare provider.

Please contact Temple Beth El at (239) 433-0018 if you are diagnosed with the virus so that we can begin contact tracing within TBE.

Thank you for your cooperation as we try to navigate this health concern. Please stay safe and stay well.

Outside Precaution Recommendations for Use during Phases 2 and 3

- Stay home if feeling in any way feeling unwell have temperature greater than 100.4^{o}F or if you had any exposure to someone with COVID19 in past 14 days
- Consider your risk level and that of your household members before attending; unvaccinated people 65 and older, with health conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes, or lung disease are at higher risk of serious illness from COVID19
- Attendance at any TBE event requires onsite registration in the event contact tracing for an exposure is necessary
- Signage for unidirectional foot traffic for larger events should be posted
- Signage and oral reminders for social distancing, avoidance of handshakes and hugs should be present
- Attendance limit of outdoor should be determined by current level of community prevalence based on DOH reports and ability to maintain 6 feet of distance between any non-household sharing participants
- Events should not last longer than 2 hours in duration
- Singing or chanting is permissible in the outdoor venue provided at least 6 feet distance is maintained between attendees from different households and universal mask wearing is present
- Non-vented masks must always be worn by all attendees age 5 or older while present at any event (exception during eating or drinking)
- All food and beverages served must be in non-sharable form; no buffets allowed. Only prepackaged or pre-plated food items may be served
- Touchless or open trash receptables should be available
- Hand hygiene must be available outside
- If restrooms are available, oversight must be maintained to ensure single use only and that distancing is preserved in event of line formation.