

Congregation Ohr Tzafon Reopening Plan

We have conducted a risk assessment and developed the following re-opening plan specific to Congregation Ohr Tzafon. We have completed the San Luis Obispo County “Ready to Reopen Self Certification Form” and a signed version is posted in our building.

We will re-evaluate our policy and procedures for compliance with the SLO County guidelines and will adjust as needed. We will communicate necessary information about COVID-19 outbreaks among staff and congregants/visitors to the San Luis Obispo County Health Department. This reporting will be ongoing. We will determine if any site-related factors could have contributed to risk of infection and will update the plan as needed to prevent further cases. Our clergy, lay leaders, ‘Greeters,’ security personnel, Torah school teachers and cleaning personnel in these policies and procedures.

Communication with Congregants:

We will provide the following information to our congregants:

1. Information on COVID-19, how to prevent it from spreading, and which underlying health conditions may make individuals more susceptible to contracting the virus.
2. The importance of self-screening at home and the importance of not coming to the building or participating in activities if congregants have symptoms of COVID-19 as described by the CDC, such as a frequent cough, fever, difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, recent loss of taste or smell, or if they or someone they live with has been diagnosed with COVID-19.
3. The importance of frequent handwashing with soap and water, for 20 seconds or using hand sanitizer (with at least 60% ethanol or 70% isopropanol) per CDC guidelines. Signs will be posted in restrooms.
4. The importance of physical distancing, both at COT and when out in the public. Signs will be posted throughout the building.

We will comply with the State of California Blueprint for a Safer Economy. Guidelines for houses of worship are listed below:

| SECTORS | Widespread Tier 1 | Substantial Tier 2 | Moderate Tier 3 | Minimal Tier 4 |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Places of Worship | Outdoor Only with modifications | Open indoors with modifications <input type="checkbox"/> Max 25% capacity or 100 people, whichever is fewer | Open indoors with modifications <input type="checkbox"/> Max 50% capacity or 200 people, whichever is fewer | Open indoors with modifications <input type="checkbox"/> Max 50% capacity |

COT building capacity is 248 so our attendance numbers are:

Red tier – 62

Orange tier – 124

Yellow tier – 124

(Large gatherings such as concerts and life cycle celebrations are not allowed in the Red tier).

Face coverings are required when in the building. Face coverings must not be shared. COT will provide face coverings for people that do not have them. Signs will be posted in strategic and highly-visible locations to remind congregants/visitors that face coverings are required. Babies and children under age two should not wear face coverings, in accordance with CDC guidelines. When there are more than 30 people in attendance at a service, there will be directional foot traffic, with entry through the east/garden door and exit through the side double door. For groups of less than 30 people, the east/garden entry door will be used for entry and exit with the observance of physical distancing always.

Congregants will be informed via social media, website, email, and newsletters about the steps being taken to protect congregants/visitors and staff so that they are familiar with these policies before arriving at the facility.

Greeters, lay leaders and the Rabbi will remind congregants/visitors not to hug or shake hands but to wave instead.

We will continue to support non-in person attendance of services and other related activities by those who are vulnerable to COVID19 including older adults and those with co-morbidities. We will continue to provide services through alternative methods (such as YouTube livestreaming or Zoom meetings). We will hold in-person meetings and in-person services outside whenever possible.

Physical Distancing Guidelines

Synagogue seating has been configured to maintain physical distancing of six feet or more between congregants/visitors from different households. Members of the same household may be seated together but should maintain at least six feet of distance from other households.

Entry sidewalk is marked with tape at 6 foot intervals to remind congregants/visitors to remain physically distant upon entry.

Children should remain in the care of those in their household unit and avoid interaction with children of other parties while visiting facilities. The playground will be open per SLO County guidelines but children must be under the supervision of parents always.

The rabbi will be stationed 16 feet from congregants during the worship service.

Employees and Lay Leaders

Rabbi and lay leaders are to self-screen at home before coming to the building. Rabbi, lay leaders and congregants/visitors who are sick or exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, or who have family members who are ill, should stay home.

Rabbi should have a face covering when making home visits as part of providing services but she should not enter the home or visit someone who has tested positive for, exhibited symptoms of, or has been in contact with someone infected with COVID-19 for an appropriate waiting period as described by CDC guidelines.

Greeters

A Greeter will be stationed at the junction between the parking lot and the entrance sidewalk at each service or in-person program to remind congregants/visitors of these policies and procedures. The Greeter may give announcements during services or upon welcoming guests.

A Greeter will be stationed at the entry door to monitor and control access to the synagogue before the start of services and after services are completed. This greeter will provide masks if needed, note attendance of congregants and visitors (including visitor phone numbers for contact tracing purposes). Greeter will also direct attendees to the Screening Questionnaire (see attached) and permit entry if all questions can be answered satisfactorily. Attendees will be asked to use hand sanitizer upon entering the building and that face coverings are recommended and preferred.

Cleaning and Disinfecting Protocols

The building will be thoroughly cleaned once a week, with special attention to areas of ingress and egress and bathrooms. Commonly used surfaces (including doorknobs, light switches, and thermostats) will be wiped down with antiseptic wipes or spray following each worship service and meeting. The Greeters will be tasked with this following services and committee chairs/meeting organizers will do this following the meeting time.

Siddurim/prayer books can be picked up by each individual and then left on the chairs once services are complete. Sharing siddurim is not permitted. People are welcome to bring their own copies of the siddur from home if they prefer.

Where such items must be shared (including shared office equipment -copiers, printers, telephones, keyboards, staplers, etc.), they are to be disinfected by the user after each use. Microphones and stands, music stands, instruments and other items on pulpits and podiums should not be shared and will be disinfected by the user after each use.

COT will insure an adequate supply of hand sanitizer, soap, paper towels always. Gloves, masks, disinfectant wipes will also be on hand. Hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol) will be located throughout the building, especially at entrances and contact areas.

Other Considerations

The entrance door will remain open when congregants/visitors are entering and exiting facilities, in accordance with security and safety protocols.

The kitchen will remain closed for shared food service. Oneg Shabbat and other self-service food and beverages will be discontinued for now. There will be no potlucks or similar family-style eating and drinking events that increase the risk of cross contamination.

Public drinking water fountains will be disconnected and signs placed informing congregants/visitors they are inoperable. Congregants/visitors are encouraged to bring their own water bottles from home as the kitchen will be closed.

Only one person, or one family unit, will be allowed in the restroom at a time to allow for physical distancing. Upon entering the restroom, please lock the deadbolt on the outside door. Others will know the restroom is occupied if the deadbolt on the door is locked.

During the initial phase of re-opening, congregational singing will be discontinued. Responsive readings and group reciting will be limited as there is increased likelihood for transmission with group recitations. At their discretion, the service leader may sing if he/she is greater than 16 feet away from congregants but prerecorded music is the preferred method for now. Rabbi and lay leaders will use microphone amplification to prevent loud speaking and voice projection.