

December 5, 2021

Dear CSAIR Members:

With the onset of winter, we wanted to share some Covid related changes that will be coming. Notably, 1) starting next Shabbat December 11, we will start having kiddush indoors 2) all children's services and 3) Kivinu services will also be taking place indoors.

These changes were recommended by CSAIR's Covid Medical Advisory Committee which continues to provide us with guidance as to how we can gather as a community AND best protect the health and safety of our congregation. We know the Omicron variant is now in New York and there will likely be other variants in the future. These guidelines may change as circumstances change. We will of course keep you updated with any changes.

Indoor Services

- Masking is required at all times for all those that attend any of our indoor services or programs.
- All three children's services will now be taking place indoors.
- Our sanctuary/social hall main service will remain unchanged. All are welcome to attend with both dense and distanced seating available.
- Kivinu (an alternative CSAIR minyan) will be meeting in the library every other week. Due to the small space with limited air flow and the inability to offer socially distanced seating, all Kivinu attendees must be fully vaccinated (two weeks must have passed since the completion of the primary Covid vaccine series) and masked at all times. Unfortunately, this means that children under the age of five will not be able to attend this service.

Kiddush

- Kiddush will be taking place indoors in the social hall.
- Everyone who is eligible for a vaccine must be fully vaccinated to attend Kiddush (all those 5 years of age and above). Children under five (who are not yet vaccine eligible) may attend and there will be a special seating area where they can remove their masks to eat.
- There will be a fifteen-minute transition period between the end of services in the sanctuary and the beginning of Kiddush so that anyone who feels uncomfortable staying for kiddush has ample time to schmooze for a few moments and then depart before people remove their masks to eat.
- We ask that everyone help us move aside the chairs in the social hall after services to make space for kiddush
- Everyone's mask must stay on while they are not actively eating. Please do not remove your mask until after Kiddish has been recited by the Cantor and you have gotten your food from the buffet tables.

- We will have four food stations set up around the social hall and one on the porch outside the sanctuary to prevent crowding.
- You are encouraged to enjoy Kiddush, but please limit your maskless eating time Kiddush to 15 minutes or less. You are welcome to continue schmoozing with friends with your mask on after you have finished eating.

Private Simchas

Families planning private meals for celebrations in the synagogue should speak with Estefany regarding the new policies in this area.

Please Remember

The pandemic is not yet over. If you are experiencing any Covid-19 symptoms (shortage of breath, sore throat, fever, etc.), please stay home and take care of yourself.

If you have any questions about any of these changes, please do not hesitate to reach out to [Rabbi Greenberg](#).

We look forward to seeing you in shul in-person soon!

Shabbat shalom!

Barry Dov Katz, Rabbi

Ephraim Edelman, President