

Congregation Brith Shalom

Reopening Frequently Asked Questions

Updated August 9, 2021

MASKING

Q: What are the requirements for mask-wearing?

A: Everyone entering the building over the age of 2 will be required to wear a mask covering their nose and mouth, and keep the mask on at all times, except for certain exceptions on the bimah. *Olim, gabbaim*, and Torah chanters will be given the procedures ahead of time.

Q: Since we must remain masked at all times in the building, what measures are in place for non-compliance?

A: If someone removes their mask, they will be asked by an usher, staff member or board member, to comply with the mask rule. If they refuse, they will be asked to leave the building.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Q: Where can we sit during services?

A: Every other row of pews will be closed. You can sit next to members of your household and/or a small "pod" of friends/family to whom you feel safe being in close proximity. Please remain in that area unless you have a role on the bimah or you have to use the restroom.

Q: What about hugging and shaking hands?

A: We encourage everyone to do their schmoozing before and after services outdoors and not in the sanctuary or lobby.

FOOD AND DRINK

Q: Will there be either a kiddush or a sit-down lunch after services?

A: At this point, there will not be food or drink service before/after services. When we restart kiddush options we will likely do so outside.

VACCINATIONS

Q: What is the CBS position on vaccination?

A: As communicated to the congregation, the Board of Trustees has endorsed the position of the Rabbinical Assembly rules committee, that those who are medically eligible to be vaccinated have a halakhic obligation to do so. We therefore ask for the safety of our community and in line with our congregational values, that those who are medically eligible to vaccinate but are not yet fully vaccinated join us remotely for services online through Zoom or streaming.

VACCINATIONS (Continued)

Q: Are COVID-19 vaccinations required to attend services?

A: As stated above, Brith Shalom asks those who are medically eligible to vaccinate but have not done to join us remotely via zoom or YouTube streaming. Those who are not medically eligible to vaccinate are welcome to join us in person, masked and socially distanced but may want to consider remote participation.

GUESTS

Q: Can I bring friends who are not members of CBS?

A: Yes. Services will be open to all, but please review our vaccination policy as described above.

OTHER SERVICES

Q: Will there be morning minyans or other services?

A: Friday evening and Saturday morning services are the current in-person services held in the sanctuary. The morning minyan has returned to operating via Zoom.

Q: Will High Holiday services be in-person this year?

A: Yes. We will offer hybrid in-person/online services, and the number of seats in the sanctuary will be reduced to avoid unsafe crowding. We will also be offering an outdoor family service on both Rosh Hashanah Day 1 and Yom Kippur morning.

PROCEDURES AND FUTURE PLANS

Q: Will there be a screening process to enter the building?

A: Everyone who enters the building will be asked to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms.

Q: What if someone does not comply with the rules?

A: We sincerely hope that everyone will follow the outlined policies. Those who are uncomfortable with the guidelines have the option of participating via Zoom or YouTube. Persons who attend and do not follow the rules will be asked to move their participation online.

Q: How were the reopening guidelines and rules established?

A: The staff and board of Brith Shalom have been in frequent consultation with our own Medical Advisory Committee and Reopening Committee. Members of these committees include doctors, other health care researchers and professionals, and ventilation experts. Those working together to make sure that we reopen in a safe manner consulted CDC literature, COVID-19 statistics, medical research, and halakhic guidelines from the Conservative Movement. We will continue to monitor all of these sources to keep our procedures in line with scientific and community developments.