

Dear Skokie Valley,

With the good news that COVID-19 cases are on the decline in our area and our move to Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois plan next week, we are sharing with you an update on our next, careful steps towards gathering together.

We are a community that prays, learns, and connects with each other. We are striving to ensure that our re-gathering reflects these values. We are grateful to our medical committee, reopening committee, and to God that our efforts so far at gathering together have been successful and that we continue to have no active cases in our community.

We have now been davening outdoors together for over a week and this past Shabbat we launched Tot Shabbat and Pirkei Avot in the park. All programs so far have been smooth, with people signing up, following the guidelines, wearing masks, and maintaining social distancing. It is crucial that each of us does our part to adhere to these guidelines moving forward so we can continue to expand our offerings.

### **Next Steps**

We will continue to monitor what is happening in Illinois, in Skokie and in the Jewish community and, under the guidance of our medical committee and re-opening committee, move forward in our plans with communal tefillah, learning and family programming.

### **Communal Tefillah**

Next week we will move indoors for weekday shacharit and mincha maariv, beginning Monday morning, June 29th.

All tefillot will be held in the social hall with safety procedures in place, such as windows open and HVAC systems circulating to maximize ventilation, chairs and tables set at a minimum of six feet apart, hand sanitizer stations throughout the building, and more. All participants will be required to be masked. We will also continue to offer all our tefillot on zoom as we have thus far. More details and a sign up form will be sent later this week.

Assuming this re-entry process goes smoothly and we do not see a rise in cases, we will open for Shabbat morning services on July 11. As with all our programming, sign-up will be required to attend.

### **Learning and Family Programming**

For families with children, we sent an email announcing that Rachael Gray-Raff will be leading weekly outdoor, socially distanced family and teen programming. We are grateful for Rachael for stepping up and helping our community in this time of need!

We will also continue our outdoors Pirkei Avot and Tot Shabbat. Please click on the links to sign up.

Also a reminder that Rav Ari is available for pastoral visits, to take a walk or speak by phone - feel free to sign up here: <https://calendly.com/rav-ari/check-in-with-rav-ari>

In addition to these in-person opportunities, we will continue to offer robust online programming, including some exciting new adult education initiatives. Stay tuned for more information.

As always, our plans are subject to change based on updated information from the health department and current events, so please keep reading your emails and announcements. We thank you for your patience and understanding in these ever changing times.

With God's help, we are looking forward to taking these next steps together!

Reopening Committee: David Rubin, Rachel Stein, Doug Klein, Peter Price, Sarah Gryka, Noam Stadlan, Tammy Pretekin, Allan Burstyn, Paula Landau, Alexander Brown, Rav Ari Hart, Debbie Eisenstein

Medical Advisory Committee: Dr. Avery Hart, Dr. Ben Katz, Dr. Dan Eisenstein, Dr. Karen Zimmerman, Elie Hale, RN

Debbie Eisenstein - President

Rav Ari