

Dear Skokie Valley,

We are pleased to share that our indoor tefillot have been successful. We have been maintaining strict mask usage, social distancing, and the rest of our safety protocols (you can read them [here](#)).

Following our plan of carefully returning to shul activities on two week schedules, this Shabbat we will hold Shabbat morning services.

While this is exciting, it is also important to note that this will not be a return to what our Shabbat experience was before. Services will be less than 90 minutes: we will be starting at Shochen Ad (Psukei Dezimra should be recited at home), there will be no dvar Torah, and there will not be communal singing. This is all following the guidance of our medical committee that the risk of being together escalates greatly with communal singing and extended periods of time.

In addition there will not be groups for children in this phase, though children who can strictly follow the protocols and remain seated with their parents for the duration of tefillah are welcome to attend.

Because of its larger space, flexible seating and superior ventilation, the social hall is set up as our sanctuary and likely will be for some time. The current room set-up allows for one household per table, with capacity for 28 households (8 on the women's side and 20 on the men's side). This seating arrangement is flexible and can respond to demand.

For those members who wish to participate, there are two steps you must take:

First: All participants MUST register for tefillah participation at Skokie Valley [here](#). If you already registered for weekday tefillot, you do not have to register again.

Second: Sign up! We have updated our sign-up page to include Shabbat tefillot.

We are not sure how much demand there will be. If the 9:00am fills up, we will add an additional tefillah at 10:45am.

As always, we will be closely monitoring what is happening in Illinois, Cook County, Skokie, our local Jewish community, and in our shul as we enter this new phase. We continue to urge all members of our community to follow the medical directives of the

Illinois Department of Public Health and the Village of Skokie in all their activities to stay healthy and safe.

May our expanded communal prayers be a source of healing and strength for our community, our people and the whole world,

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