



Synagogue Covid-19 Reopening Plans Frequently Asked Questions

We are happy to announce *Kehillat Shaarei Torah* will reopen for services on **Shabbat, August 8, 2020, at 10am.**

Our Synagogue has put in place a series of protocols to provide the highest level of safety possible under the circumstances; However, it is important to know that it is impossible to eliminate risk.

This FAQ has been written to provide those members wishing to attend with an overview of the requirements to keep everyone safe.

Who can be accommodated in Synagogue?

Only members will be allowed to attend, and they must pre-register online (or if necessary, by calling the office in advance) and complete a Covid-19 pre-screen.

We currently can provide seating in the main sanctuary for up to 30 male members and up to 20 female members. This takes into consideration the square footage of the sanctuary in both sections to allow us to comply with the government guidelines that require social distancing of 6 feet of space between each chair. The board asks the kehillah to understand we cannot accommodate children under bar or bat mitzvah for now.

If you are at increased risk due to age or underlying medical conditions, you should consult with your physician and assess your risk level and tolerance before attending Synagogue.

Rabbi Kanofsky wishes to emphasize to those with any health concerns that there is no pressure to currently attend Synagogue. Our existing Synagogue programs on Zoom will continue. Our intention is to balance reasonably serving the needs of our members and adhering to our responsibility to ensure that our members are safe, healthy, and protected.

How will our services look?

There will be an abbreviated Shacharit and Musaf Service on Shabbat mornings. ***It will begin at 10am and take approximately 90 minutes.*** Doors will open at 9:45am and only stay open until 10:30 for those registered.

There will be a simplified Torah reading without calling up people to the Torah or for a Mishaberech. **We will NOT** have a live drasha (rabbi's speech), be able to carry the Torah around the Synagogue, nor have Kiddush following services.

What safety precautions are being put into place to mitigate the risk of transmitting disease?

The entire building is being sanitized with antiseptic cleaning products. Hand sanitizer will be made available at all access points. ***Wearing a mask is mandatory within the Synagogue.*** By pre-registering, we can ensure that physical distancing within the sanctuary is possible. Washrooms will be open with some facilities in the larger washrooms blocked off to promote distance. Guidelines are based on Ontario Health and Toronto Public Health recommendations.

What should I bring to Synagogue?

It is highly recommended to wear your own cloth mask to Synagogue. For those that forget theirs, we will have a limited supply of non-medical disposable masks. Please bring a Tallis (if applicable). **A Chumash and Siddur will be left at each chair**, feel free to bring your own.

What are we unable to do?

No mingling or gathering in hallways, the social hall, coatroom, foyer, or washrooms. We, unfortunately, cannot offer any food service at this time.

I want to come to Synagogue! What do I do now?

Pre-Register on the website: <https://www.shaareitorah.com/minyan-registration.html>, the weekly e-mail link, or if you require, call and speak with the office ***no later than 10am Friday morning*** of the week you wish to attend services. Voicemail alone is not sufficient.

Every weekly service you wish to attend will require a pre-registration. One per person per week. Registration opens on Thursdays at 10am and closes on Friday at 10am.

To our Kehillah, the board wants to keep our warm, welcoming family together. We are a strong kehillah, even though it will not be the same, we will be together. Hopefully, these changes will only be temporary.

Remember best practices: Wear Mask, Hand Sanitize, and Stay Physically Distant.