

COVID Safety Guidelines for Havurah Shalom

As of December 15, 2020

Introduction. The COVID-19 pandemic has created numerous challenges, compelling Havurah Shalom to balance multiple concerns, including (1) our need to avoid infecting ourselves or others, (2) our need for social connection with, and often physical proximity to, one another, and (3) our need to attend responsibly to the diverse needs of our fellow community members.

We continue to be guided by our values of preserving life, caring for our most vulnerable, being safe, and following public health guidelines. These COVID Safety Guidelines for Havurah Shalom ("the Guidelines") have been created by and discussed in depth with staff, the Co-Presidents, the Vice President, the Immediate Past President, and public health experts within Havurah who have shared their expertise with us. Though Oregon guidelines allow larger gatherings for Faith Institutions than we propose, we decided not to follow those guidelines, but have erred on the side of being more cautious.

These Guidelines will be regularly revisited and revised in the months ahead as we respond to changing circumstances and public health recommendations. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we attempt to responsibly address this unprecedented situation.

Definitions:

Pod - For purposes of these Guidelines, a "pod" is a group of one or more people who are regularly sharing living space and have been doing so for at least 14 days. It may be a household, but it may also be larger than a household if others in the pod do not live in the household, but regularly and consistently share living space with the household.

1. The Havurah Building is generally closed.

The Havurah Building is generally closed and not open for meetings, services or events. We will continue to utilize Zoom for our meetings, services, and other events. There are certain, limited exceptions to this rule as specified below.

2. Preliminary questions for anyone seeking to participate in an indoor or outdoor Havurah activity or event.

A. Are you experiencing any recent onset of the following COVID-19 SYMPTOMS:

- Fever or chills
- Headache
- Cough
- New loss of taste or smell

- Diarrhea
- Sore throat
- Fatigue
- Congestion or runny nose
- Muscle or body aches
- Nausea or vomiting
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

B. In the last 14 days, have you had contact with anyone with COVID-19?

C. Within the last 14 days, have you been on home quarantine/isolation due to contact with possible or confirmed COVID-19?

If the answer to any of these preliminary questions is “yes,” you are not permitted to enter the Havurah Shalom building or participate in any indoor or outdoor Havurah activity or event.

If you answer “no” to these preliminary questions, you may participate in an indoor or outdoor Havurah activity or event as specified below.

3. Entering the building for specific tasks or errands. Individuals who answered “no” to the preliminary questions may enter the Havurah Building provided that they comply with the following guidelines:

- A. Wear a mask at all times.
- B. Wash hands when entering the building.
- C. Use the Havurah-provided hand sanitizer, sanitizing wipes and surface sprays to clean your hands and to wipe down the door handles, tables, faucets and light switches that you touch.
- D. The maximum number of people in the building shall not exceed six and no more than two pods may be present in the building.

4. B’nei Mitzvah in Havurah. The Havurah Building and sanctuary may be used for B’nei Mitzvah provided that:

- A. All attendees have answered “no” to the preliminary questions above.
- B. The maximum number of people in the building does not exceed six and no more than two pods are present in the building.
- C. The Rabbi will not be present in the sanctuary.

- D. Everyone is masked at ALL times during the event, except
 - 1) Students and their pod may be unmasked on the bima.
 - 2) Any pod that is eating in the building (as provided in 5C and 5D) may remove their masks while eating.
- E. No more than two pods are allowed in the sanctuary at one time.
- F. Each pod in attendance remains 20 or more feet apart at all times.
- G. There is no singing, other than from the bima.
- H. The Havurah-provided hand sanitizer, sanitizing wipes and surface sprays are used to clean and wipe down door handles, tables, faucets, light switches touched by attendees.
- I. All attendees are listed on the Havurah-provided [Contact Information Sheet](#) which includes date, time, and contact information. The Contact Information Sheet will be left at Havurah at the conclusion of the event.
- J. Organizer agrees to contact Rachel Pollak if anyone who attended a B'nei Mitzvah in Havurah tests positive for COVID-19 within 14 days after the event.

5. Use of kitchen and eating in the building

- A. Only persons within the same pod may be in the kitchen together.
- B. Kitchen surfaces are to be wiped and sanitized after use.
- C. Only persons within the same pod may eat in the building together.
- D. If more than one pod is present, no eating is permitted in the building.

6. Outdoor Activities in public spaces – including B'nei Mitzvah and Shabbat School.

Outdoor gatherings, events, or activities in public spaces that are connected to or affiliated with Havurah Shalom (Shabbat School, outdoor B'nei Mitzvah gatherings, neighborhood gatherings, etc.) must meet the following requirements:

- A. All attendees have answered “no” to the preliminary questions in Section 2 above.
- B. The maximum number of people in attendance does not exceed six.
- C. No more than two pods may be in attendance.
- D. Each pod remains at least 12 feet from every other pod at all times, except that during an outdoor B'nei Mitzvah ceremony, the outdoor bima space shall be at least 15 feet from every other pod at all times

E. Everyone is masked at all times during the event, except:

- 1) During an outdoor B'nei Mitzvah ceremony, students and their pod may be unmasked on the outdoor bima space.
- 2) A song leader may remove his/her/their mask while singing (as provided in Section 6F(1)).

F. Because of the high risk of infection, singing is not permitted, except:

- 1) A solo song leader is permitted to sing with a microphone and without a mask, provided that the song leader is at least 15 feet away from others in attendance.
- 2) During an outdoor B'nei Mitzvah ceremony, singing is permitted on the outdoor bima space.

G. Organizer agrees to coordinate the collection of contact information for all attendees (adults and children) at the event.

- 1) In order to minimize the risk of infection from passing around pen and paper, one or more attendee will be asked by the Organizer to fill out the Havurah-provided [Contact Information Sheet](#) on behalf of all attendees.
- 2) The Contact Information Sheet will be forwarded to Rachel Pollack at Havurah following the event.

H. Organizer agrees to contact Rachel Pollack if anyone who attended a Havurah-organized outdoor event tests positive for COVID-19 within 14 days after the event.

7. Scope of these Guidelines

A. These Guidelines are only intended to cover events and/or activities that are organized by Havurah or by Havurah members in Havurah's name and under Havurah's oversight which are held at the Havurah Building or in a public space, such as a public park.

Examples of such events and activities include:

- 1) Shabbat School events or activities; or,
- 2) B'nei Mitzvah ceremonies, services, events, or activities that are held inside the Havurah Building or outside in a public space.

B. These Guidelines are not intended to cover events held at or in private homes, even if those events are directly connected to and/or affiliated with Havurah (such as B'nei Mitzvah, weddings, or other life cycle events).

- 1) Havurah requests that its members follow public health recommendations for social gatherings when organizing a Havurah-affiliated event in or at a private home.
 - 2) At this time, current public health guidelines on indoor and outdoor social and at home gatherings can be found at the following websites:
 - i. [State of Oregon Sector Guidance - Gatherings](#)
 - ii. [State of Oregon Sector Risk Level Guidance Chart](#)
 - iii. [Multnomah County COVID-19 Guidance](#)
- C. These Guidelines are not intended to cover events and/or activities that Havurah members attend outside Havurah that are organized by other organizations, even if such attendance is related to a Havurah committee or other Havurah-associated group. Examples of such activities and/or activities include marches, protests, parades, or other gatherings organized by others.