

COVID Safety Gathering Guidelines for Havurah Shalom

As of September 2, 2021

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 medical and public health professionals within Havurah who have shared their expertise with us.

As we move into late summer and fall 2021, vaccines are more available, but the Delta variant has created greater risk and uncertainty. Havurah’s Guidelines will be regularly revisited and revised in the weeks and 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.

Mask – For purposes of these Guidelines, a “mask” means a well-fitted cloth or disposable mask and does not include a bandana, scarf, or other makeshift face-covering.

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. In the last 14 days, have you commenced a home quarantine/isolation due to contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case?

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. Remain 3-6 feet from others in the building who are not in your pod.

4. B’nei Mitzvah in Havurah. The Havurah Building and sanctuary may be used for B’nei Mitzvah. The following requirements must be met:

- A. All attendees have answered “no” to the preliminary questions above.
- B. Only the B’nei Mitzvah student’s family and invited guests are permitted to attend the B’nei Mitzvah in the sanctuary. Invited guests should be limited to extended family and close family friends, not to exceed 30 total people.
- C. The B’nei Mitzvah student’s family shall make arrangements to Zoom stream the celebration in the sanctuary so that others may attend the event remotely.
- D. The Rabbi may be present in the sanctuary.

E. The bima:

- 1) The B'nei Mitzvah student may be unmasked on the bima, regardless of vaccination status.
- 2) The Rabbi may be unmasked on the bima.
- 3) Vaccinated guests may be on the bima, and should remain masked.
- 4) Unvaccinated guests on the bima must be masked and remain 6 feet or more from any other unvaccinated guest.
- 5) Unvaccinated guests may not sing on the bima.

F. Seating.

- 1) Vaccinated guests should sit 15 feet or more from the bima, sit with other members of their pod, and attempt to keep pods 3 to 6 feet apart.
- 2) Unvaccinated guests should sit 20 feet or more from the bima, sit with other members of their pod, and space their pod 6 feet or more from any other pod.

G. Singing.

- 1) The B'nei Mitzvah student may sing.
- 2) All vaccinated guests may sing with masks on.
- 3) Unvaccinated guests must remain masked and may only sing in their seating area at least 6 feet from other guests.

H. There will be no eating in the sanctuary or the building.

- I. Organizer agrees to contact Rachel Pollak if anyone who attended a B'nei Mitzvah in the Havurah building tests positive for COVID-19 within 14 days after the event.

5. High Holiday leading, singing, and instrument-playing in the building. The building may be used for High Holiday service leading, singing, and instrument-playing (which will be broadcast via a virtual platform) provided that the following requirements are met:

- A. All attendees have answered "no" to the preliminary questions above.
- B. All attendees shall be vaccinated.
- C. Attendance and Distancing:

1. Total attendance in the building is limited to 30 people.

2. Everyone in the building who is not on a bima singing, leading, or playing an instrument must remain masked, and must:
 - a. Stay 15 to 20 feet from any unmasked leaders, singers, or musicians.
 - b. Maintain six feet from any other person not in their pod.

D. Contact Information Sheet.

1. Each day, a Contact Information Sheet will be set out for attendees to fill in.
2. The completed Contact Information Sheet will be turned in to Rachel Pollak or the Havurah Office.
3. Attendees agree to contact Rachel Pollak if they test positive for COVID within 14 days of attendance at the building for any portion of the High Holidays.

E. Space.

1. There will be three bimot in the sanctuary, physically separated from each other.
2. Air purifiers will be in the sanctuary.
3. To the extent it feels safe and appropriate, windows and doors can be open to promote air circulation.

F. Leaders, singers, and musicians.

1. The only persons in the building who may be unmasked are service leaders, singers, and musicians while they are on a bima and while they are leading, singing, or playing.
2. Leaders, singers, and musicians from different pods will be located at separate bima locations – not on the same bima.
3. Unmasked leaders, singers, and musicians agree to make their best effort to use extra precaution in the days leading up to their High Holiday participation by masking, avoiding crowds, and maintaining social distance from persons outside their pods.

G. Torah Service. Only one unmasked person may be on a bima at any one time. Masked persons on the bima will maintain 3 to 6 feet of distance from any unmasked person, unless they are in the same pod.

H. Shofar Service. The in-person Shofar service will take place at least 15 feet from any other persons and shofar blowers will be at a distance from each other, unless they are in the same pod.

- I. Testing. In order to promote a greater sense of safety and security among those in the sanctuary:
 1. Anyone who will be unmasked as part of High Holiday services is asked to be tested for COVID-19 prior to such unmasked participation.
 2. The method and timing of testing will depend on the circumstances at the time of the person's participation.
 3. Reliability of test results and availability of testing services will be considerations in determining testing methods.
 4. Not every unmasked participant needs to use the same test method.
 5. High Holidays Leadership is authorized to eliminate or revise this testing provision in light of circumstances at the time of High Holidays.

6. Youth Education: Shabbat School, Middle School, and High School. The following guidelines are to be followed during regularly-conducted Youth Education activities. They shall be applicable to Youth Education activities held in the Havurah Shalom building and in any other facility used or rented by Havurah Shalom for Youth Education. Attendees include both adults and youth.

- A. All attendees have answered "no" to the preliminary questions above.
- B. All attendees (adult and youth) remain masked indoors and outdoors.
- C. Attendees (adult and youth) maintain social distancing of at least 3 feet from all persons outside their pod whenever possible indoors and outdoors.
- D. Indoor Space. These Indoor Space rules apply to the Havurah Building and to any other facility that Havurah Shalom may use for regularly-scheduled Youth Education activities.
 1. Furniture and activities in indoor space will be adapted to maintain 3 feet of social distance (9 square feet).
 2. Only space that allows for this amount of social distancing will be utilized.
 3. Air purifiers will be used when feasible and appropriate.
 4. To the extent it feels safe and appropriate, windows and doors can be open to promote air circulation.
 5. No more than 30 total attendees should be gathered in any indoor space at one time.

6. Nothing in these Indoor Space rules prevents Havurah Shalom from following different, potentially more restrictive rules that may be in place at other facilities rented or used by Havurah for regularly-scheduled Youth Education activities.

E. Outdoor space.

1. Shabbat School. As provided below, attendance at Shabbat School outdoor events should be limited to 30 people.
2. Middle School. Attendance at outdoor Middle School events should be limited to 30 people.
3. High School. Because there is unlikely to be a high percentage of unvaccinated children at a High School event, there is no attendance limitation for outdoor High School events.

F. Eating and Food.

1. Snacks and other food-related activities will not be regularly-scheduled.
2. Shabbat School teaching teams and other Youth Education teachers or coordinators choosing to schedule a snack activity shall do the following:
 - a. Eat food and drinks outdoors.
 - b. Seat attendees 6 feet apart while eating.
 - c. Only permit removal of masks while actively eating or drinking.
 - d. Serve snacks and drinks that individual families have provided for their child or family.
3. Middle School and High School.
 - a. There will be no Middle School or High School dinners.
 - b. Jewish Cooking will not be offered as a class option.

G. Havdallah. There will be no community gathering for Havdallah at the end of Shabbat School.

H. Attendance and Notification.

1. Attendance of adults and youth will be taken at each Shabbat School, Middle School, or High School gathering.

2. Parents, teachers, and volunteers agree to notify Deborah Eisenbach-Budner if anyone in their household who attended a Shabbat School, Middle School, or High School gathering tests positive for COVID within 14 days of such attendance.
3. Affected families, teachers, and volunteers will be contacted if there has been an exposure event at a Shabbat School, Middle School, or High School gathering.

7. Wednesday Morning Minyan in Havurah. The Wednesday Morning Minyan group (“WMM”) is permitted to meet in the sanctuary provided that the following requirements are met.

- A. All attendees have answered “no” to the preliminary questions above.
- B. All attendees remain masked, except that vaccinated service leaders may be unmasked on the bima. Only vaccinated persons may be service leaders.
- C. Attendees sit 3 to 6 feet from other attendees not in the same pod.
- D. Attendees are seated 15 feet or more from the bima.
- E. Attendees agree to fill out a Contact Information Sheet which shall be returned to Rachel Pollak or to the Havurah office.
- F. Attendees agree to contact Rachel Pollak if they test positive for COVID within 14 days of attending a Wednesday Morning Minyan.
- G. Arrangements should be made to Zoom stream the service so that others may attend remotely.

8. Use of kitchen and eating in the building

- A. At this time, the kitchen is only open to Havurah staff.
- B. At this time, only Havurah staff may eat in the building. Staff should remain at least six feet from others when eating in the building.

9. Outdoor Activities in public spaces – including B’nei Mitzvah and Shabbat School.

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

- A. All attendees have answered “no” to the preliminary questions in Section 2 above.
- B. All attendees should remain masked and maintain 3 to 6 feet of social distancing between pods whenever possible.

- C. Due to the high vaccination rate of our members, there is no limit on attendance at non-Shabbat School events.
- D. Attendance at Shabbat School-related events should be limited to 30 people. A Shabbat School-related event is a gathering whose attendance is focused primarily on Shabbat School families or classes and where it is likely that a high percentage of the attendees will be unvaccinated children under the age of 12.
- E. Contact Information Sheet:
- 1) A Contact Information sheet will be provided at outdoor events for attendees to fill out.
 - 2) The organizer of the event (or his/her/their designee) will send the Contact Information sheet to Rachel Pollak at the Havurah office after the event.
- F. Singing:
- 1) Song leaders must be vaccinated.
 - 2) Song leaders may be unmasked during song leading.
 - 3) Song leaders should try to be at least 15 feet from other attendees when singing.
 - 4) All attendees must wear masks while singing.
 - 5) Unvaccinated attendees should try to maintain at least 6 feet of distance from other attendees.
- G. Eating:
- 1) Any food and drink provided to or shared with others at an outdoor event should be in individual servings.
 - 2) Each pod may bring its own food and drink to be consumed by the members of the pod.
 - 3) Masks may be removed while eating.
 - 4) Attendees should remain in their pods when eating and attempt to maintain 3 to 6 feet of social distance.
- H. Attendees agree to notify Rachel Pollak if they test positive for COVID-19 within 14 days of attending an outdoor Havurah event.

10. 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; or,
- 3) Neighborhood events held at a public park or outside public space.

B. These Guidelines are not intended to cover events held at or in private homes or privately-rented space, even if those events are directly connected to and/or affiliated with Havurah (such as shtiebels, 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 or privately-rented space.

- 2) Current public health guidelines and information can be found at the following websites:

- i. [OHA Mask Recommendations & Requirements](#)
- ii. [Multnomah County Mask Mandate August 2021](#)
- iii. [Multnomah County Faith Based and Community Groups COVID-19 Guidance](#)
- iv. [CDC Delta Variant information](#)

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 Havurah-associated group. Examples of such events and/or activities include marches, protests, parades, or other gatherings organized by others.