

Congregation Shaarei Kodesh – Reopening Plan or religious services

As Proposed by the CSK Covid Task Force – August 10, 2021

The synagogue re-opening will take place within a framework of קבוד הבריוט *Kavod HaBriyot* – Honoring One Another. This Plan incorporates established guidelines for minimizing the transmission of COVID-19. It is critical that we take stock of our collective actions order to ensure the continued health of all individuals who enter our synagogue.

The decision to attend services is an individual one. Each individual will need to carefully evaluate his/her risk factors to determine whether attending services is appropriate for that individual and in the interest of our community. Regardless of the precautions put forth by CSK in this Plan and enacted in the synagogue, a decision to venture into communal gatherings is not without risk. It is likely that transmission of COVID-19 will continue in our community for some time.

CSK cannot guarantee that its building or the religious services conducted within its building will be completely safe or free of risk. Regardless of precautions, it is possible that employees, congregants or visitors will be unknowing carriers of COVID-19, including variants. While the guidelines provide a framework for management of COVID-19 risk within our community, the virus is highly transmissible and persons may still be at risk even if all guidelines have been followed.

This plan reflects various stages of COVID-19 within our community and marks the committee's effort to manage reopening within the constraints of a pandemic. The Plan marks the progression of the virus and provides current guidelines. Importantly, the Plan takes into account local COVID-19 circumstances. The current stage of the Plan is marked by the phrase THIS IS THE CURRENT STAGE under 'Phase'.

אחריות זה על זה בקהילה *Achreiot Zeh I'zeh B'Kehelah*. We are each responsible to one another in the community. There is a halakhic obligation for Jews to vaccinate themselves and their children, unless their doctors determine that it is dangerous for that specific person to be vaccinated due to a pre-existing condition. Similarly, it is halakhically permissible for a school or a synagogue to enact a requirement that one must receive a vaccination and to prevent an unvaccinated person from entering a synagogue or a school. See *Responsa by Rabbi Prof. David Golinkin dated January 20, 2021*. Recognizing the obligations of one to another in our CSK community, this Plan requires those who officiate and attend religious services to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

This Plan will be reviewed and revised (as appropriate) by the Task Force on a regular basis.

Stages of Reopening

Phase	Community Health Requirements to Reach this Stage	Number of individuals permitted at services and/or percentage of occupancy	Standards for Employees, Congregants and Visitors	Service Details
<p>One</p> <p>This phase applied until May 12, 2021.</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p>Maximum of 10 individuals in the chapel area.</p> <p>Maximum of 20 individuals in the sanctuary.</p> <p>Outdoor Activity as separately provided.</p>	<p>Masks required at all times.</p> <p>Social distancing required.</p> <p>Access acknowledgment required for all congregants and visitors to the building and for outdoor services.</p>	<p>Online only services strongly encouraged.</p> <p>B'nai Mitzvah and special events permitted within capacity and distancing guidelines.</p> <p>Physical Space Considerations to be strictly monitored.</p>
<p>Two</p> <p>This phase applied from May 12 – June 9, 2021.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Downward trajectory of COVID-19 cases in synagogue zip codes for 14 continuous days 2. Vaccination rates in Palm Beach County above 20% 3. COVID-19 positive tests consistently below 7% in Palm Beach County 	<p>Maximum of 15 individuals in chapel area.</p> <p>Up to 15% capacity in sanctuary (45 individuals). Actual attendance to be determined by Synagogue Director, Rabbi, President and Exec. VP.</p> <p>Recommend gradual increase in attendance to gain comfort with setup.</p>	<p>Masks required at all times.</p> <p>Social distancing required and seating in pods.</p> <p>Access acknowledgment required for all congregants and visitors to the building and for outdoor services.</p> <p>Fully vaccinated persons only for indoor services (full series of shot(s) plus two weeks waiting period). Voluntary disclosure of vaccine status in Wavier.</p> <p>No participants under age 16.</p>	<p>Seating may be reserved by Synagogue Director for persons with specific roles or special occasions.</p> <p>CSK may offer Family Service at a time other than the main service which is open to persons who are not vaccinated (including those under age 16).</p>

Phase	Community Health Requirements to Reach this Stage	Number of individuals permitted at services and/or percentage of occupancy	Standards for Employees, Congregants and Visitors	Service Details
<p>Two B.</p> <p>This phase applied from July 20, 2021 – August 10, 2021</p>	<p>Based on advice of medical professionals taking into consideration current community conditions of COVID-19.</p>	<p>Maximum of 15 individuals in chapel area.</p> <p>Up to 40% capacity in sanctuary (118 individuals). Actual attendance to be determined by Synagogue Director, Rabbi, President and/or Exec. VP.</p>	<p>All participants and clergy to wear masks at all times, except if clergy are within plexiglass area.</p> <p>Social distancing encouraged and attendees select their own seating.</p> <p>Written acknowledgment requested for all congregants and visitors to the building.</p> <p>Fully vaccinated persons only for indoor services (full series of shot(s) plus two weeks waiting period). Voluntary disclosure of vaccine status.</p> <p>No participants under age 12.</p> <p>Enhanced signage to enunciate attendance requirements – vaccination, good health, no COVID exposure, etc.</p>	<p>Seating may be reserved by Synagogue Director for persons with specific roles or special occasions.</p> <p>CSK may offer Family Service at a time other than the main service which is open to persons who are not vaccinated (including those under age 12).</p> <p>Religious school in-person participation in education wing of building.</p> <p>B’nai Mitzvah and special events permitted within capacity and distancing guidelines.</p>

Phase	Community Health Requirements to Reach this Stage	Number of individuals permitted at services and/or percentage of occupancy	Standards for Employees, Congregants and Visitors	Service Details
<p>Two C.</p> <p>This phase applies from August 11, 2021 – Including High Holidays 5782</p> <p>THIS IS THE CURRENT PHASE</p>	<p>Based on advice of medical professionals taking into consideration current community conditions of COVID-19.</p>	<p>Maximum of 15 individuals in chapel area.</p> <p>Up to 20% capacity in sanctuary (60 individuals). Actual attendance to be determined by Synagogue Director, Rabbi, President and/or Exec. VP.</p>	<p>All participants and clergy to wear masks at all times, except if clergy are within plexiglass area.</p> <p>Social distancing encouraged and attendees select their own seating.</p> <p>Written acknowledgment requested for all congregants and visitors to the building.</p> <p>Fully vaccinated persons only for indoor services (full series of shot(s) plus two weeks waiting period). Voluntary disclosure of vaccine status.</p> <p>No participants under age 12.</p> <p>Enhanced signage to enunciate attendance requirements – vaccination, good health, no COVID exposure, etc.</p> <p>For High Holidays, <i>Brit</i> to incorporate requirements and recommendations.</p> <p>Recommendation to have PCR testing prior to high holiday in-person attendance.</p>	<p>Seating may be reserved by Synagogue Director for persons with specific roles or special occasions.</p> <p>CSK may offer Family Service at a time other than the main service which is open to persons who are not vaccinated (including those under age 12).</p> <p>Religious school hybrid options: in-person participation in education wing of building and remote school.</p> <p>B'nai Mitzvah and special events permitted within capacity and distancing guidelines.</p>

Phase	Community Health Requirements to Reach this Stage	Number of individuals permitted at services and/or percentage of occupancy	Standards for Employees, Congregants and Visitors	Service Details
<p>Three</p> <p>This phase applied June 9 – July 19, 2021.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Downward trajectory of COVID-19 cases in synagogue zip codes for 30 continuous days 2. Vaccination rates in Palm Beach County above 30% 3. COVID-19 positive tests consistently below 5% in Palm Beach County 	<p>Maximum of 15 individuals in chapel area.</p> <p>Up to 30% capacity in sanctuary (90 individuals). Actual attendance to be determined by Synagogue Director, Rabbi, President and Exec. VP.</p>	<p>Services for all individuals without regard to vaccination status. No restrictions as to participant ages.</p> <p>All participants and clergy to wear masks at all times, except if clergy are within plexiguard area.</p> <p>Seating by socially distanced pods but participants may establish pods as desired.</p> <p>Reservations strongly requested to provide adequate seating and to solicit Waiver.</p>	<p>Seating may be reserved by Synagogue Director for persons with specific roles or special occasions.</p> <p>Services offered virtually.</p>

Participant Considerations

- If you do not feel well, please stay home. Remember that the health of the community is the responsibility of each of us.
- Reservation Requested but not required. Congregational Director will have discretion to reserve attendance for those having honors or saying kaddish.
- Attendees requested to sign Access Acknowledgment. This may be physical document or electronic document (particularly for Shabbat and holidays)
- Face masks are required for all attendees and clergy at services. Clergy may remove masks within plexiglass area.
- Please no handshakes, hugging, kissing or touching those outside of your family group. Clergy will also follow these guidelines and will not be shaking hands, hugging or kissing.
- Minimize movement around the room. To use the restroom, please leave and return directly. The only persons circulating in the room will be the Rabbi, Cantor and Ushers.

- No food or drink except as provided. Each attendee is encouraged to bring his/her own water bottle.
- Congregants will provide their own kippot and tallit. Prayer books will be provided.
- Kiddush may be provided 'to go'.

Communication

Communication of the guidelines to the congregation is key. Communication should emphasize the Jewish value of preserving health and the obligations to keep neighbors and community safe. It may be appropriate to provide a forum for feedback, questions and concerns about the guidelines and procedures. Signs should be posted on all doors stating requirements for all individuals who enter the building. Signs should include information on how to properly wear a mask.

All attendees requested to provide the online the acknowledgment at least once.

Outdoor Activity

Risk of transmission of COVID-19 in outdoor spaces is reduced in comparison to indoor spaces. Keeping in mind that Florida weather can be hot, buggy and unpredictable, services may be held outdoors.

The number of individuals who may participate should be limited according to the space utilized for activity and social distancing maintained. Masks required at all times.

Outdoor activity should avoid physical touching of another individual. Ritual objects should not be passed from one individual to another. There will need to be a means of access to utilize restrooms which avoid close contact with other individuals.

Protocol for Notification

If CSK becomes aware that any person who has recently attended services or was present in the building has tested positive for COVID-19, CSK will undertake best efforts to notify others who also attended services at that time or were present in the building with the person who tested positive.