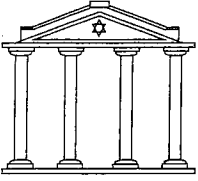


Temple Ohev Sholom



May 17, 2021

To Members and Staff of Temple Ohev Sholom:

We are pleased to share the “Back to Shul” plan recently approved by the temple board. As coronavirus infection rates decline and vaccination rates increase, the temple leadership is ready to put Temple Ohev Sholom on a path towards normalcy. You have already seen the first steps on that path, as we tested our ability in April to conduct Friday night services with a limited number of people in the sanctuary and live-streamed to the rest of the congregation. That test, along with the purchase of necessary technology products and services, has given us the confidence and ability to move forward.

On **Friday, June 11, at 6:00 p.m.**, we will hold the first sanctuary service that will be open to the general membership. Members who pre-register can participate in person, while the services are live-streamed to the rest of the congregation on our Facebook and YouTube pages, with the recording available immediately afterwards. The guidelines for participation are as follows:

- Participation is available for a maximum of 20 household units (and no more than 80 people total) that register and agree to comply with the health and safety protocols described later in this letter.
- **You must register with Michelle Darr by telephone or email by noon on Monday, June 7.** Registration for this and future services will be on a first-come, first-served basis, with preference to those members who are vaccinated or low risk, as well as to those who have not participated in previous in-person services.
- We will follow-up with all prospective participants later that week so that it is clear who will be coming to the service.
- Participants must follow the health and safety protocols listed later in this letter.

Assuming that all goes well and the trend lines of the pandemic continue to move in the right direction, we will provide advance notice of additional hybrid in-person/live-streamed services in the sanctuary. We also hope to increase the number of people allowed in the sanctuary in the future. Pre-recorded services will be provided during the other weeks.

We know that weekly services are only one part of what our members are looking forward to returning to. The following are the current plans for other events of interest:

- **Summer picnic:** We will be having a picnic on Sunday, June 6. Details, including specific health and safety protocols for this event, are in the enclosed flyer.
- **Annual congregational meeting:** This meeting will be held via Zoom as scheduled on June 9, just like last year. Please see the materials in this same mailing.
- **High Holidays:** We will determine the plan for this fall by June 15 because the High Holidays are very early this year (starting on September 7, the day after Labor Day). We will share that plan with the congregation as soon as possible.

- **Religious School:** We will determine the plan for the 2021-22 school year by July 15 in order to mail out registration forms with an August 15 deadline.
- **Adult Classes (PEP, book review, etc.):** We will continue these classes online through the end of May, and determine the plan for Fall 2021 by August 15.
- **Bar/Bat Mitzvahs:** For Fall 2021, families have the option of *either* a home backyard service *or* a traditional Saturday morning in-person service in the sanctuary with or without live-streaming. In-person participation in the b'nai mitzvah services will be limited to the family's invited guests only. If the family chooses not to live-stream, we will provide a pre-recorded service that week for the rest of the congregation. The COVID-19 Response Committee will recommend to the board by August 15 whether it is safe to hold events in our social hall or other eating/drinking on-site. We will determine the plan for Spring 2022 b'nai mitzvahs by November 15.
- **All other life cycle events (funerals, shivas, weddings, conversions, etc.) after May 30:** To be determined jointly by the COVID-19 Response Committee and Rabbi as they come up depending on circumstances.
- **Sisterhood events after May 30:** To be determined jointly by the COVID-19 Response Committee and Sisterhood President as they come up depending on circumstances.

Finally, we present some general guidelines that require everyone's cooperation in order to make this whole plan work:

- **The board encourages all members to get vaccinated as soon as you are eligible and to make use of the COVID Alert PA anonymous contact tracing smartphone app.** These steps are not only for your benefit, but also for the benefit of our whole temple family and the community at large.
- **Members have first priority over non-members for all in-person events.** Non-members, even if accompanied by a member, may participate in the in-person events only if there are slots available after the member registration deadline. There can be no unregistered walk-ins, regardless of whether the person is a member or non-member.
- **Health and safety protocols for all in-person events:**
 - ✓ Members cannot enter or stay in the building unless they are wearing a face mask covering their nose and mouth. The mask can only be removed while on the pulpit for a speaking part. **Masks are still required for everyone for now, despite the recent CDC guidance that allows organizations to adopt more liberal policies. We will revisit and revise our policy as appropriate in the future.**
 - ✓ Everyone who enters any part of the building must **sign in/out**, with a certification that they have not experienced the listed symptoms of COVID-19 within the previous 48 hours.

- ✓ Members who had entered the building must advise the temple office if **they subsequently test positive** for COVID-19 or become aware of exposure to someone who tested positive.
- ✓ Members who need to use the **elevator** to enter the sanctuary must use the eastern side of building (closer to Annex Building). If you don't need the elevator, use the western side (closer to Front Street).
- ✓ Must use **hand sanitizer** upon arrival (will be available).
- ✓ All unnecessary items that could be touched will be **removed** from the sanctuary.
- ✓ Bring your own **kippah and/or tallis** if it is your custom to wear them.
- ✓ **Prayer books** to be deposited in bins after services and sequestered for 72 hours.
- ✓ **Spread out** in household unit pods at least six feet apart, and sit only in seats designated by the ushers.
- ✓ **No** shaking hands, kissing, hugging, touching Torah, etc.
- ✓ **No** eating/drinking.
- ✓ **Quiet** (not loud) singing.
- ✓ Parents must **supervise and accompany children** and ensure that they are following all rules, especially children under age 13.
- ✓ **Bathrooms** will be open, but occupancy will be limited to one person at a time.
- ✓ We will maintain **constant non-recirculating air flow**. Windows will be open if possible. The doors will be closed at all times.
- ✓ Appropriate sections of the building will undergo a **deep clean** following in-person events.

Please note that the temple office continues to be closed to non-employees until further notice. If you have business to conduct, please make appropriate arrangements by phone or email.

We appreciate your patience and support as we continue to work our way through all of these issues. Thank you in advance for doing your part to help our temple family get "Back to Shul" as safely and quickly as possible. In the meantime, stay healthy and safe, be kind to yourself, and see you soon!

Sincerely,



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