

Temple Beth El, Lancaster, PA – COVID-19 Guidelines, August 18, 2021

The TBE Pandemic Task Force met on August 18, 2021 to identify conditions under which the synagogue building will be re-opened. This supersedes all previous guidelines.

Pandemic Task Force Attendees: Steve Gordon, Bob Matlin, Lori Taber, Hal Koplin, Al Gore, Steve Kleinman, Dolly Shuster, Diane Penchansky, Lori Taber, Lloyd Goldfarb, Rabbis Rami & Daniela.

These guidelines will continue to be revised as conditions and knowledge evolve and conditions may require changes with limited notice.

ALL THREE WEEKLY SERVICES at Temple Beth El- Friday Night, Shabbat Morning, and Sunday Morning- are being conducted both in the Sanctuary and on Zoom, subject to the guidelines in this document.

ALL Congregants and visitors are required to wear masks while in the building.

- **We strongly recommend that only people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 enter the building.**
- **Those who are not fully vaccinated should consider joining us via Zoom.**
- **Parents should use their discretion regarding bringing unvaccinated children into the building. Children under the age of two (2) are prohibited from entering the building**

Building Access: TBE has a “locked doors-security system” in place at all times, with the only regular entrance into the building from the rear/administrative entrance.

- **Any congregant who plans to attend services should become familiar with how to enter the building using the AirAllow APP on a smart phone, or by making other arrangements.**
- Contact the Temple Office or Steve Gordon at president@tbelancaster.org for assistance if required.
- *If you do not have this access, you will not be able to enter the building.*
- **Exception:** for Holidays and special occasions, open entry will be through the main/chapel doors, with a security guard present.

A. GENERAL BUILDING RULES:

In accordance Temple Beth El policies:

1. The number of people in the building may be limited.
2. **It is recommended that only people fully vaccinated against COVID-19 enter the building.**
 - Those not fully vaccinated should consider joining us via Zoom.
 - Parents should use their discretion regarding bringing children into the building.
 - Children under the age of two (2) are prohibited from entering the building
3. Sanitizer should be used upon entering the building and at other appropriate times, such as after handling prayer books.
4. Everyone should continue to maintain social distance unless part of the same family unit. (i.e. living in the same household)
 - Please, no handshaking, hugging, kissing, elbow bumping or physical contact.
5. Anyone who is sick should not enter the building; anyone coughing or sneezing (except from allergies) is urged to leave the building.
6. Water fountains are not in use. You may bring water bottles, but please take them with you when you leave.

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B. SERVICES:

1. Services will be conducted in the Sanctuary.
 - The Social Hall can be opened and utilized to provide socially distanced seating.
 - The chapel is not large enough for social distancing.
2. People should take seats that socially distance themselves from others, when possible. Families and those living in the same household may sit together.
3. **Singing by congregants should continue to be in a low-level, muted voice.** The service leader and haftorah reader, being fully vaccinated against COVID-19, have the option to sing in a full voice, without a mask..
 - Low voice singing is to reduce the high risk caused by projection of droplets which occurs with singing and loud speaking, even through face masks.
4. Specific temporary procedures have been established during services to avoid close contact, including some participation from the pews, the use of the Rabbis' lectern and participants going onto the bimah sequentially. See details at the end of this document.

C. FOOD & BEVERAGE

- NO food or beverage may be served in the building until further notice.
- Religious School: Individual snacks (food and drink), individually wrapped with children socially distanced would be permitted, preferably outdoors when possible

D. OTHER POINTS

- No changes to Religious School procedures regarding Zoom and outdoor classes when in session.
- Office Hours- To be determined.

E. POLICY STATEMENT

- By entering the building, congregants are agreeing to follow all guidelines and rules identified, along with using common sense for other situations.
- Anyone entering Temple Beth El is doing so at his or her own risk. Temple Beth El is not responsible if someone becomes infected with COVID-19, even if it is believed or demonstrated that the infection occurred while at Temple Beth El.
- It is expected that congregants and guests will be self-compliant with these guidelines under the honor system.
- Any individual presenting obvious dissent from this policy will be asked to leave.

F. SHABBAT MORNING/HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICE DETAILS

- The Rabbis will lead from the Cantor's lectern.
- Congregants who lead other parts of the service also will lead from the Cantor's lectern, only going to that lectern after the Rabbis have moved away. If fully vaccinated against COVID-19, they have the option to remove their mask, with the exception of Torah reading where the mask must be worn. Haftorah readers have the option to remove their mask.
- There will be no procession of the Torah through the sanctuary.
- Generally, the Rabbis will open/close the ark and remove/return the Torah.

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- If a congregant is leading one of the Torah services, he or she may lead without holding the Torah. Alternatively, the Torah may be set on the table and the congregant can touch it while leading.
- Hagbah and Gelilah will be performed by the Rabbis, or by couples who are qualified.
- Congregants who have aliyot, including Maftir, will chant the blessings from the Rabbis' lectern, special lectern at the base of the steps, or from their seats
 - For a special occasion, such as a bar/bat mitzvah, fully vaccinated honorees also have the option to recite the blessings at the Torah Table, *but they must wear masks the entire time they are there.*
- The Rabbis will act as Gabbai for each other.
- To reduce exposure time, Shabbat morning services will begin with the Shacharit service.
- During the High Holidays, the shofar will be blown outside of the emergency doors to the left of the bimah. If inclement weather, we may opt for the Social hall furthest distanced from the Bimah. There will also be a shofar blowing in the parking lot prior to Tashlich.
- The moveable walls at the back of the Sanctuary and Social Hall will be removed for additional seating
- Concluding Yom Kippur, the children's Havdalah procession will be eliminated