



Returning to Sanctuary Update

As the prevalence of the COVID 19 virus has dropped to low numbers and the percentage of vaccinated people continues to rise, we at TCS would like to welcome you back to the sanctuary. We understand that our entire community may not be ready to return in person, and the Rabbi, David, the Ritual Committee, and the Tech Team have worked to develop service plans that will allow people to continue to join us remotely as well as in person.

The Tech Team and Rabbi Ken will hold our Welcome Back service July 2nd and we hope to see you there! Some new technology will be purchased and set up to make this experience inclusive of both those members in person in the sanctuary and those who need to attend from home.

Starting in July, TCS will remove the seating capacity limit for indoor services. At TCS we have two main types of services, those geared specifically to children and families and those geared to the general congregation. We will have two mask policies to reflect those two types of services.

Tot Shabbat and Family Services

In support of those ineligible for the vaccine, Tot Shabbat services and Family services will require everyone to wear a mask unless actively leading the service. This decision is based on the Jewish principle of *Kol Yisrael Areveim Zeh BaZeh*, which means that all Israel is responsible one for the other. Much like we stand in loving support of mourners, we ask everyone to wear a mask to help protect those who cannot receive the vaccine.

General Services

For all other services, vaccinated individuals may choose to unmask, but unvaccinated individuals are required to wear a mask.

As a reminder, before you come to TCS, please monitor yourself for COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling ill, do not come into the building. If you have been exposed to COVID-19, do not come into the building. If you are subject to quarantine, do not come into the building.

For our indoor services we will continue to increase our air circulation and ventilation by having our windows open. This allows for an air exchange approximately every half hour and is a driving force in our ability to lift the seating capacity limit.

David Rothberg is excited to welcome back his vaccinated singers and musicians. He will be in contact with our musicians to make plans that take into account everyone's comfort level.

While we no longer require people entering the building to fill out an attestation form, we will keep a log of who has been in the building in case it needs to be used for contact tracing purposes. This form will simply ask for your name and contact information.

The kitchen is now open. Outdoor eating is welcome at this time. Indoors, we will resume shared food in August provided we continue to see a low prevalence of the virus. This allows us to monitor our successes and make informed decisions.

Shared items such as siddurim, tallit, and kipot will all return as previously.

At this time, our school program will follow the lead of DESE and our local school districts in regards to COVID-19 policies, including social distancing and masking. As of now, all social distancing requirements have been lifted. We expect that a decision with respect to masks for elementary school students will be made later in the summer. This means it might be late August when we have real answers on whether SULAM, GESHER, and Oasis will be masked or unmasked. We thank you for your patience.

If you have further questions on how our return to the sanctuary will look, please let us know. We are happy to answer all questions. TCS encourages all who are vaccine-eligible to trust the science and get vaccinated.

June 15, 2021