



Meir Bargeron, Rabbi
Richard B. Safran, Rabbi Emeritus

Interim Practices for Worship and Lifecycle Events (As of 3/18/2021)

At its February 2021 meeting, the Temple Board voted to begin a phased reopening of our building for in-person worship, with the total number of participants/attendees limited to 50 people, beginning on April 1st. Based on the recommendations of the Temple's COVID Task Force, the following key practices will be in place for as long as attendance limits are required, and will be revised as needed.

Admittance & Service Access

1. Attendance is limited to 50 people, **including** service leaders, ushers, staff and congregants.
2. In order to protect the health of attendees (*Pikuach Nefesh*), and to facilitate contact tracing, congregants will be required to RSVP for services in advance, following published procedures. For some special services (e.g., services with Religious School student participation) and lifecycle events, RSVP preference will be given to service participants and their family members. In these situations, other congregants may make a reservation on a space-available basis.
3. Members of Congregation Achduth Vesholom will have preference for making reservations. Non-members will be given reservations on a space-available basis.
4. In order to provide access to all congregants who wish to attend services, all Shabbat Services will continue to be offered virtually. Virtual access will be provided to other worship services (e.g., Yizkor) when possible. Virtual access to life cycle events will be by arrangement.

Safety Protocols

1. All worship and lifecycle events will take place in the Sanctuary in order to ensure safe social distancing. The Goldstine-B'nai Jacob Chapel remains closed.
2. Masks are required for everyone. Social distance of at least six feet is required.
3. The duration of services will continue to be abbreviated to limit potential exposure.
4. No hugging, shaking hands, or other close physical contact is permitted. Smiles (they show in the eyes!), waves, and gracious bows are encouraged!
5. Service leaders/participants may sing from the bimah. To maintain a safe distance, all congregant seating will be at least 30 feet from the bimah. There will be no congregant singing, consistent with research and best practices on maintaining safe worship spaces.
6. Physical distance of at least 6 feet (30 feet if singing) will be maintained between service leaders/participants on the bimah.
7. Ushers will designate seating for family/household groups.
8. No kippot or tallitot will be provided. Service attendees must bring and use their own and they may not be stored at the Temple.
9. Congregants are encouraged to bring (and take home) their own prayer books and chumashim. Siddurim and chumashim will remain available for use at the Temple.
10. There will be no oneg or social activities in the building before or after services.