

Guidelines & Protocols for Public Worship, Shabbat Services and Torah Study

To ensure our members, clergy and staff may worship in a safe and healthy environment, we are taking an “above and beyond” approach to comply with local and state guidance. If you will be attending Services at Congregation Beth Israel, we ask that you fully comply with all guidelines and requirements, keeping in our core value of *Kedushah* (“Holiness”). **This includes wearing a mask fully covering your mouth and nose, remaining at least eight feet apart from anyone outside of your family unit, signing a liability release waiver and following all instructions upon check in.**

This plan for reopening for worship was created in consultation with medical professionals, including those who specialize in epidemiology and have been providing treatment to patients with COVID-19. We have included (and exceeded) detailed guidance from the [Center for Disease Control](#) and [Arizona Department of Health Services](#) along with following the Governor’s most recent Executive Orders.

Our protocols will be strictly enforced; anyone who cannot comply will not be permitted to attend. If we are unable to achieve compliance and/or if community spread of Covid-19 increases significantly above current levels in Maricopa County, the synagogue will close again until it is deemed safer.

Guidelines/Protocols

1. Friday evening Shabbat Services will be held (*Ba’chutz* – Outdoors) in the Courtyard (weather permitting) or the Goldsmith Sanctuary and will be limited to 80 people outside and 60 people inside. No members or guests under 13 years of age will be permitted to attend any in person Services or classes. Participants must pre-register by the prior Thursday at 5 o’clock PM. Priority will be given to members first and then guests. If there are more requests than available seats, a lottery system will be used.
2. Saturday morning Shabbat Services worship will continue on livestream. B’nei Mitzvah families will continue to follow our protocols (emailed over the summer) until further notice.
3. Torah Study will resume in person (*Ba’chutz* – Outdoors) on Shabbat morning, October 17, 2020 at 8:45 AM and limited to 18 participants. Reservations will be required by Thursday prior with outdoor seating (weather permitting) in the Courtyard. As the weather changes we will move either into the Ballroom or Museum with socially distant seating.
4. We highly recommend that anyone who is sixty-five (65) years or older, considered “high risk” or might be at “increased risk” per the [CDC Guidelines](#) should not attend Services. Risk factors include:

High Risk:

- Cancer
- Chronic kidney disease
- COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
- Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from solid organ transplant
- Obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 30 or higher)
- Serious heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies
- Sickle cell disease
- Type 2 diabetes mellitus



Increased Risk:

- Asthma (moderate-to-severe)
- Cerebrovascular disease (affects blood vessels and blood supply to the brain)
- Cystic fibrosis
- Hypertension or high blood pressure
- Liver disease
- Neurologic conditions, such as dementia
- Smoking
- Thalassemia (a type of blood disorder)
- Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from blood or bone marrow transplant, immune deficiencies, HIV, use of corticosteroids, or use of other immune weakening medicines
- Pregnancy
- Pulmonary fibrosis (having damaged or scarred lung tissues)
- Type 1 diabetes mellitus

5. Pre-registered congregants will receive a confirmation email indicating the predetermined time at which they may enter the synagogue.
6. Upon arrival, congregants will first visit a screening station for a temperature and general welfare check. Congregants with a temperature of over 100.4 degrees, have traveled on a commercial airplane within the past two weeks, have been exposed to someone with Coronavirus within the past two weeks, and/or who are experiencing coronavirus-related symptoms will be asked to return home.
7. Congregants are requested to maintain at least 8 feet from those who do not live in their household at all times. We will not be able to permit any “schmoozing” once you enter the building. Congregants will be seated by a member of our staff directly to their assigned seats and return directly to their cars upon exit.
8. Congregants must bring a mask from home and wear it inside and outside the synagogue at all times (fully covering your mouth and nose). Masks will be required for outside services. Masks with valves cannot be worn. If you do not bring a mask, one will be provided for you.
9. Food or drink (other than a personal water bottle) are not permitted in the building or courtyard; there will be no “*nosh*” before Services and no “*oneg*” following Services.
10. *Siddurim* (Prayer books) will be provided for Services and will be sanitized between uses. Prayer Books will be stored for at least three weeks between uses.
11. *Tallitot* (Prayer Shawls) **will not be made available** for use at Services. However, you may bring your own Tallit
12. All chairs, exposed surfaces and worship areas will be cleaned between all Services. One set of restrooms will be available off the hallway of the Diamond Rotunda for one person at-a-time and will be sanitized by a member of our staff between uses.
13. Congregants will be required to sign a Liability Release Waiver prior to attending services. Please download the [waiver](#), sign and email to rroeder@cbiaz.org or bring with you to services.

Thank you for your cooperation and support as we join together for the High Holy Days

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