Am Tikvah COVID Protocols for In-Person Shabbat Services and In-Person Events in our Buildings

This is a responsive policy which is adapted as the COVID situation evolves

In consultation with our Am Tikvah medical experts, we are happy to be able to invite you into the buildings for Shabbat services and other community events.

As always, the health of our community – physical, emotional, and spiritual – is our top priority. Please adhere to the following protocols when attending in-person services and events:

- Everyone in your group, including children 12 years old and over must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (if eligible for vaccine).
- You have not tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 10 days.
- You have not had close contact with a person with COVID-19 in the past 10 days.
- You do not have COVID-19 symptoms or any signs of illness.
- You will wear a well fitting mask over your nose and mouth while inside the building. (Ages 2 and up).
- Please attempt to maintain a 6 foot social distance inside the building from those not in your group.
- We ask all present to sing softly or hum along. Careful research shows that full-voiced singing, indoors, is among the riskiest activities. Please refrain from singing loudly to minimize the risk of COVID.
Shabbat Services

In-Person Saturday services are open to members and non-members who agree to abide by the policies stated above. The Taraval Street Sanctuary chairs will continue to be set up in small-distanced groupings, and each group may, of course, choose where to sit. In Brotherhood Way Sanctuary seating is open in every other row, and we ask that groups keep 6 feet apart from each other. All outdoor facing windows and doors will be kept open to allow for maximum fresh air circulation.

Kiddush

We are now serving community Kiddush after services, and “nosh” at other activities, which you can enjoy seated outside the building while schmoozing with others! We are not yet eating indoors, although our medical team hopes that will be able to change soon. Outdoors we encourage people to mask when they are not able to maintain a distance of 6 feet.

If you are preparing food in the synagogue please wash hands and maintain social distancing. As much as possible, food will be in
individual self-serve portions or served by a minimum number of individuals in order to minimize gathering at serving areas.

**Virtual Programming**

We continue to share all sanctuary services on Zoom and invite you to participate in person or virtually. If you do participate by Zoom, please consider turning on your video so that we can interact more completely. Some services and other activities will remain on Zoom only for the time being.

We recognize that the pandemic has affected us all differently. We reach out to everyone who has lost a loved one or who has suffered illness, economic hardship, and disruption. We also recognize that everyone has their own levels of readiness and comfort with joining in-person events. If you join us in-person, we ask you to be mindful and aware of other people’s comfort, before giving a hand. Please check in to be sure of the other person’s comfort with contact or closeness. We ask that when inside the building you continue to social distance from those not in your family group.
We encourage everyone to get vaccinated. If you need help getting to a vaccination site, let us know and we will find you a ride. If you seek guidance or advice, one of our medical experts, or Rabbi Barth will be glad to speak with you.

We are so excited to see everyone back, laughing, praying, shmoozing together. We have really accomplished so much in maintaining, caring for, and growing our community during these difficult straits. We look forward to the next steps in our coming back together!