

Introduction

At The Jewish Center, it is our priority to keep our members, our employees, and their families healthy, especially in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a Jewish organization, we will be guided by the values of:

1. **Pikuah Nefesh** – “Safeguarding Life” is a bedrock principle of Jewish law and supersedes most other obligations or mitzvot. To that end, we must ensure that any steps towards restoring physical proximity place preserving life first and foremost.
2. **Sakanat Nefeshot** – “Endangering Life” – members, staff, and clergy should not be in positions where they will be unduly endangering their own lives or the lives of their families due to pressure to restore activities. We must honor the needs of those who lead or participate in our communities when they have individual circumstances requiring the need to reduce risk to themselves or to those with whom they live.
3. **She’at Hadehak** – “Extraordinary Moment” – Jewish life has always made adjustments in times of emergency and crisis. We will need to come to terms with the fact that this crisis may last for well over a year, and that we will need to continue to change our expectations and operations. We will need continued flexibility in Jewish practice informed by our commitment to authentic modes of interpretation of our tradition.
4. **Kol Yisrael Areivim Zeh Bazeh** – “We Are Responsible for One Another” – It’s our job to look out for the mental and physical health and safety of one another. Those who have resources need to give tzedakah to help others and to sustain our institutions. Our members are connected to others outside our community, and our policies and activities affect the broader rate of infection.
5. **Hesed** – “Profound Love and Kindness” – Decisions around our operations and the risks involved create uncertainty, grief, and anxiety, and we must act with tremendous love and kindness towards the members of our families, communities, and the world at large.

The phased reopening plan of The Jewish Center has taken into account these principles as well as gathered as much information about the SARS CoV-2 virus as possible. We have reviewed the state and local guidelines as well as looked at the reopening plans of other institutions. We have watched closely as some states and localities have begun reopening and monitored the infection rates in these communities. The plan that has been developed recognizes the safety of our congregation and community as our primary priority. The plan that follows is meant to reopen The Jewish Center’s activities in a slow and methodical manner allowing continued monitoring of the number of COVID-19 infections.

High Risk Conditions

- People greater than 65 years old
- People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility
- People with underlying medical conditions (any age)
 - o Chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma

- Serious heart conditions
- Immunocompromised
 - Cancer treatment
 - Smoking
 - Bone marrow transplantation
 - Immune deficiency
 - HIV or AIDS
 - Prolonged use of steroids
 - Immune weakening medications
- Severe obesity
- Diabetes
- Chronic kidney disease
- Require hemodialysis
- Liver disease

PHASE ONE:

State and local COVID numbers declining (Will use NJ state numbers and Mercer County Cases)
 State government allows business reopening

Overall Procedure:

- All those in high-risk demographics are encouraged to stay home.
- No members under the age of 13 permitted in the building
- TJC will limit the number of people in the building at any one time.
 - No more than 25 people can be in the building at any time and no more than 10 people in a single room.
- Everyone must wear a mask prior to entering the building
 - Acceptable masks include surgical masks, and cloth masks.
 - Masks must cover both your nose and mouth at all times that you are on the premises.
 - Knitted masks are not accepted. (no visible openings in the fabric)
- Social Distancing should be maintained at all times.
 - Minimum distance of 6 feet between people must be observed.
 - NO singing during services by members other than clergy
 - 10 feet social distance must be maintained if singing
- No food will be served
- No hand shaking, hugging or kissing
- No kissing of the Torah or Prayer books
- No Talit will be available for congregants – Bring your own.
- Kippot shall be single use (or bring your own)
- Temperature checks at the door. No admittance with temp >100
 - Infrared thermometer will need to be obtained and utilized.
 - Single entrance will be used to ensure all temps are checked

- Questions must be answered upon entering (Yes to any means no entrance)
 - Have you had any fevers in the last 72 hours?
 - Have you been ill or sick in the last 72 hours?
 - Have you been diagnosed with Covid 19 within the past 10 days?
 - Have you been exposed to someone with Covid 19 in the last 14 days?
- Must be amendable to sign in for contact tracing.
 - Sign-up sheet and health questionnaire to be filled out and collect prior to entering TJC
- Mandatory “sanitizing” of hands upon entering the building and sanctuary

Specific Situations:

- General Worship and Religious Activity
 - Worship will continue exclusively virtual and no members/visitors will be permitted in the building.
 - Clergy can broadcast from the sanctuary (max. of 2 clergy members at a time) as long as at least 6 ft. of space exists between speakers and a minimum distance of 10 feet of distance between those singing (clergy).
 - Support staff must be able to attend and technology must be in place and working.
- Bar/Bat Mitvah services
 - Will be conducted virtually via Zoom
- Appointments with Clergy
 - Available by phone and by Zoom
 - No in person meetings
- Office/administrative staff
 - Limit administrative duties in TJC to essential jobs
 - Conduct work remotely whenever possible
- Education
 - Will be done virtually via zoom
 - No in person classes indoors/outdoors to occur
- Outdoor Activities
 - Outdoor activities can be performed with the same restrictions and social distancing as indoor activities. (advantage is potential for overall larger capacity and improved circulation of air)
 - Maximum number of outdoor participants limited to 50

PHASE TWO:

Continued decline in state and local COVID infections

No resurgent infections in the state or in local region

Continued availability of PPE for clergy

Continued availability of hand sanitizers, soap, cleaning and disinfectants

Availability of contact tracing at TJC for all who enter the building

No infections that can be traced to TJC

Overall Procedure:

- All those in high-risk demographics are encouraged to stay home.
- No members under the age of 13 permitted in TJC for services
 - Members under 13 may participate in specific supervised activities with their parents for educational purpose
- TJC will limit the number of people in the building at any one time.
 - Maximum number of people in the building of 50 at any one time
- Social Distancing should be maintained at all times.
 - Minimum distance of 6 feet between people must be observed.
 - 10 feet social distance must be maintained if singing
- Everyone must wear a mask prior to entering the building
 - Acceptable masks include surgical masks, and cloth masks.
 - Masks must cover both your nose and mouth at all times that you are on the premises.
 - Knitted masks are not accepted. (no visible openings in the fabric)
- No food will be served
- No hand shaking, hugging or kissing
- No kissing of the Torah or Prayer books
- No Talit will be available for congregants – Bring your own.
- Kippot shall be single use (or bring your own)
- Temperature checks at the door. No admittance with temp >100
 - Infrared thermometer will need to be obtained and utilized.
 - Single entrance will be used to ensure all temps are checked
- Questions must be answered upon entering (Yes to any means no entrance)
 - Have you had any fevers in the last 72 hours?
 - Have you been ill or sick in the last 72 hours?
 - Have you been diagnosed with Covid 19 within the past 10 days?
 - Have you been exposed to someone with Covid 19 in the last 14 days?
- Must be amendable to sign in for contact tracing.
 - Sign-up sheet and health questionnaire to be filled out and collect prior to entering TJC
- Mandatory “sanitizing” of hands upon entering the building and sanctuary

Specific Situations:

- General Worship and Religious activity
 - Worship will be available in person BUT virtual worship will be available for the majority of the congregation.
 - Members will be permitted in sanctuary.
 - No visitors will be allowed.

- Clergy can broadcast from the sanctuary (max. of 2 clergy members at a time) as long as at least 10 ft. of space exists between speakers and a greater distance between those singing.
- Clergy that are closer than 10 feet to either congregants or other clergy for functional reasons (handing torah, etc) will wear N95 Masks
- Support staff must be available to clean sanctuary post services wearing appropriate PPE.
- Bar/Bat Mitvah services
 - In person services available with the following restrictions:
 - Immediate family members only present in sanctuary
 - Social distancing between family and clergy will be maintained
 - Mask must be worn at all times
 - Virtually by Zoom
- Appointments with Clergy
 - Available by phone and by Zoom
 - No in person meetings
- Office/administrative staff
 - Limit administrative duties in TJC to essential jobs
 - Conduct work remotely whenever possible
- Education
 - Will follow local recommendations and plan per Princeton public schools
 - Zoom classes will continue to be the preferred method of teaching
 - For those classes that cannot be performed by Zoom (young children) classes can be conducted outside with social distancing and masking
 - Parents will be required to attend classes with children to help maintain social distancing and limit person to person contact
 - No indoor classes until Princeton public school plan reviewed
- Outdoor Activities
 - Minimum six feet social distancing with masks
 - Singing can occur with 6 ft distance and masked
 - Groups up to 100 members can gather

PHASE THREE:

Continued decline in state and local COVID infections

No resurgent infections in the state or in local region

Continued availability of PPE for clergy

Continued availability of hand sanitizers, soap, cleaning and disinfectants

Availability of contact tracing at TJC for all who enter the building

No infections that can be traced to TJC

Minimum of 4 weeks in Phase 2

Overall Procedure:

- High risk demographics can enter TJC at their own discretion – however still encouraged to participate virtually
- No members under the age of 13 permitted in TJC for services
 - Members under 13 may participate in specific supervised activities with their parents for educational purpose
- TJC will limit the number of people in the building at any one time.
 - Maximum number of people in the building to 25% of capacity at any one time
 - Social distancing of at least 10 feet for all congregants participating in service
 - Social distancing of 6 feet for congregant not participating in service
 - Will allow family units to be grouped allowing increased numbers in sanctuary (family units counted as those living in the same household)
- Everyone must wear a mask prior to entering the building
 - Acceptable masks include surgical masks, and cloth masks.
 - Masks must cover both your nose and mouth at all times that you are on the premises.
 - Knitted masks are not accepted. (no visible openings in the fabric)
- No food will be served
- No hand shaking, hugging or kissing
- No kissing of the Torah or Prayer books
- No Talit will be available for congregants – Bring your own.
- Kippot shall be single use (or bring your own)
- Temperature checks at the door. No admittance with temp >100
 - Infrared thermometer will need to be obtained and utilized.
 - Single entrance will be used to ensure all temps are checked
- Questions must be answered upon entering (Yes to any means no entrance)
 - Have you had any fevers in the last 72 hours?
 - Have you been ill or sick in the last 72 hours?
 - Have you been diagnosed with Covid 19 within the past 10 days?
 - Have you been exposed to someone with Covid 19 in the last 14 days?
- Mandatory “sanitizing” of hands upon entering the building and sanctuary

Specific Situations:

- General Worship and Religious activity
 - Worship will be available in person BUT virtual worship will be available for the majority of the congregation.
 - Members will be permitted in sanctuary.
 - Visitors allowed with pre-approval by TJC administration
 - Clergy can broadcast from the sanctuary (max. of 2 clergy members at a time) as long as at least 10 ft. of space exists between speakers and a greater distance between those singing.
 - Clergy that are closer than 10 feet to either congregants or other clergy for functional reasons (handing torah, etc) will wear N95 Masks

- Support staff must be available to clean sanctuary post services wearing appropriate PPE.
- Bar/Bat Mitvah services
 - In person services available with the following restrictions:
 - Immediate and extended family members present in sanctuary
 - Max Occupancy of sanctuary maintained
 - Social distancing between family and clergy will be maintained
 - Mask must be worn at all times
 - Virtually by Zoom
- Appointments with Clergy
 - Zoom and telephone appointments continue as appropriate
 - In person meetings with masks and social distancing can occur
 - No in person meetings where signing is occurring
- Office/administrative staff
 - On site work can resume with social distancing
 - Masks to be worn at all times unless alone in office
- Education
 - Will follow local recommendations and plan per Princeton public schools
- Outdoor Activities
 - Minimum six feet social distancing without masks
 - Singing can occur with 6 ft distance and masked
 - Groups up to 100 members can gather

PHASE FOUR:

Reached when vaccine is available and widely distributed, herd immunity is obtained, or antiviral medication is available to effectively treat COVID-19.

Overall Procedure:

- Return to pre- COVID activity

Specific Situations:

- General Worship and Religious activity
 - Return to normal pre COVID Function
- Bar/Bat Mitvah services
 - Return to normal pre COVID Function
- Appointments with Clergy
 - Return to normal pre COVID Function
- Office/administrative staff
 - Return to normal pre COVID Function
- Education
 - Return to normal pre COVID Function