



Temple Beth El COVID-19 Task Force

Facility Pandemic Protocols

Eff. September, 2020 (Subject to Change)

As Approved by TBE Board on 8/20/2020

The Temple Beth El (TBE) COVID-19 Task Force (CTF) has been charged with providing protocols and guidance to ensure the safety and health of its congregants, clergy, and staff when inside and in the areas immediately surrounding the building during the current pandemic. Out of an abundance of caution, the CTF's directions will be consistent with prevailing Centers for Disease Control (CDC)/State of Massachusetts guidelines, but in many cases may be stricter. These protocols are subject to change as conditions of pandemic change. **Please understand that the building remains essentially closed, except for specific events and observances that require pre-registration.**

Until conditions change, we would ask you to study and observe the rules and requirements we are providing for individual events you plan to attend. **Unfortunately, you can't "just show up" (without planning!) for the foreseeable future.**

The following policy covers **building and event procedures, health and personal responsibility guidance, and hygiene protocols.**

Building and Event Procedures

Current guidance from the State of Massachusetts continues to remind you that you are "[safer at home](#)." You should plan to call ahead if your needs require a visit to the building. It is still preferred for you to continue to **conduct regular business with TBE via telephone** or online.

When there is an in-person event, following are the CTF guidelines, based upon the State of Massachusetts guidelines published [here](#).

- **Pre-registration will be required** for all services and events at the synagogue, whether inside or outside.
- You will be required to **complete and bring a form** that attests that you do not have symptoms of illness (outlined below), have not been exposed to Covid-19, and understand the risks of attending at any event (indoor or outside.)
- **Sign-in will be required**, and your attendance will be recorded for contact tracing purposes.
- Staff and volunteers will monitor entry and exit.
 - Since there will be sign-in required, please plan for some delays as we facilitate an orderly entry and exit from the building.
 - Please **observe appropriate social distancing while waiting in line** (appropriate spacing will be marked.)
 - Staff/volunteers will direct attendees in high-traffic areas, and will be **discouraging lingering** in common spaces.
 - Your **entry** into the sanctuary will be directed, as will a successive row-by-row **exit**.
 - For the foreseeable future, **the chapel will be closed.**
- The maximum attendance in the sanctuary, dictated by the State of Massachusetts [here](#), is the lesser of 50% of sanctuary capacity or 10 people per 1,000 sq.ft. While the state's guidelines allow for more, out of an abundance of caution, the **CTF is limiting attendance to 50 people** at any one time in the sanctuary
- Signage will indicate the direction of one-way traffic in hallways and inside the sanctuary.



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- Seating will be well marked, and certain rows blocked off.
- **You must not sit within 6' of people** with whom you do not live.
- TBE will ensure appropriate ventilation of the room.
- **Face coverings that cover the mouth and nose will be required** for the duration of your stay; Shields are not sufficient. (Prayer leaders may remove when speaking, but will maintain extra distance.)
- Children under the age of 2 are not required to wear masks; Children from 2-5 years old will be at the discretion of the parent/guardian.
- **Children must be able to sit** with their family throughout the service and may not walk around the room or building.
- **Entry will be denied** for those who refuse to wear a mask
- **Please adhere to signage**, new traffic patterns, and posted protocols concerning restroom use.

Health and Personal Responsibility Guidance

A note about your health: You are the best source for knowing your personal wellness. TBE will not impose age restrictions upon attendance at its events, however, it is well known that **underlying conditions, co-morbidities, and age** appear to indicate a higher susceptibility to contracting [COVID-19](#). We understand you would like to be with us, but please perform an objective assessment of your personal health before signing up to attend an event. Do it for yourself, and do it for others. Your signature on the release form indicates you understand the information above, and attests to your good health.

- **Do not attend any event at TBE if:**
 - Member or worker is experiencing **any symptoms** such as fever (100° and above) or chills, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, fatigue, headache, muscle/body aches, runny nose/congestion, new loss of taste or smell, or nausea, vomiting or diarrhea.
 - Member or worker has had “**close contact**” with an individual diagnosed with COVID-19. “Close contact” means living in the same household as a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, caring for a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, being within 6 feet of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 for 15 minutes or more, or coming in direct contact with secretions (e.g., sharing utensils, being coughed on) from a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, while that person was symptomatic.
 - Do not attend if you have been asked to **self-quarantine** by a medical professional, or according to the mandates of the State of Massachusetts.
- TBE is REQUIRED to notify the City of Springfield, Health and Human Services Department of any positive test involving someone who attended an event at TBE within the last 14 days, and to have records of attendance to assist in contact tracing.

Hygiene Protocols

It is documented that increased handwashing, facemasks, and social distancing are effective means of curbing the spread of Covid-19.



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- TBE has incorporated enhanced disinfection protocols for the protection of its staff, clergy, and congregants.
- We are plan to clean and disinfect utilized areas between each service, including disinfection of heavy transit areas and high-touch surfaces (e.g., doorknobs, bathrooms, microphones, shared items) if there is less than 72 hours between uses of the sanctuary or ritual texts.
 - The sanctuary and texts are considered disinfected if they are left unoccupied and/or unused for 72 hours.
- TBE will not provide face masks, so please plan to bring (and wear) your own.
- TBE will provide ample supplies for hand washing and hand sanitization, and encourage their use.
- TBE may not serve refreshments, as per the State of Massachusetts.

If TBE learns that an individual with COVID-19 attended a service or otherwise entered the building, we must conduct a deep cleaning and disinfecting, consistent with the Centers for Disease Control guidance, and thereby incurring increased cost.

TBE is REQUIRED to notify the City of Springfield, Health and Human Services Department, of any positive test by any attendee of an event, and to assist that department in contact tracing.

This document is subject to update at any time, based upon CDC or state recommendations. Individual events at TBE may have their own additional guidelines and restrictions. Please ensure you are aware of them before you come to the building.