

Dear Friends,

We're excited to announce immediate plans for reopening our synagogue for daily and Shabbat services, for those who wish to attend in person!

Services will be held outdoors, in the Gabay Garden, weather permitting, and in the Sanctuary on other days. In organizing these services, we'll be following New York State and CDC guidelines, to minimize the risk to attendees. We'll continue to Zoom every service for those joining from home and continuing to improve the virtual experience.

Our reopening schedule:

1. Daily minyan, as an in-person service at Temple Beth El, resumes on Sunday morning, June 14 at 8:30 AM and will be held Sunday through Friday morning (7:30 AM on weekdays) and every evening at 6 PM.
2. Starting on Friday June 19, we'll hold a small, in-person Kabbalat Shabbat service each week, limited (at least initially) to 25 participants. **If you wish to participate, please contact Carol Konuksever in the office at ckonuksever@tberochester.org or call 585-473-1770 in advance to coordinate.** You can leave a message if necessary.
3. Starting on Saturday morning, June 20, we'll have Shabbat morning services limited to 25 participants (at least initially) each week. **Again, please contact Carol Konuksever in the office at ckonuksever@tberochester.org or call 585-473-1770 in advance so we can maintain a list of participants.**

In this new age of Covid-19, we recognize that there is no completely "safe" situation and indoor gatherings that involve singing are inherently risky. Our reopening model is designed to minimize that risk as much as possible, while acknowledging that we cannot eliminate it entirely. We urge each and every one of you to consider your own personal health concerns as you weigh whether returning to Shul is right for you or whether you prefer to participate through Zoom and streaming video.

For the safety of each and every one of us, please note the following guidelines and requirements:

1. No children under the age of 13 will be allowed at these services. At Temple Beth El, we see our children as crucial to our community and our Jewish future, but, much like other organizations, we do not believe there is currently a safe way to have children on the premises during services.
2. We discourage individuals over 65 and those with chronic health issues and other risk factors for severe illness from participating in in-person worship. We encourage you to stay at home and participate virtually, but we leave the decision in your hands. If you are in one of these risk groups and want to participate in in-person worship, please reach out to your doctor to discuss your health risks. Please know that our clergy are here for you should you have religious or spiritual concerns. We're ultimately guided by *pikuach nefesh* – your safety is paramount to us all.
3. If you or anyone in your household has any symptoms (including fever, cough, or loss of taste or smell), if you have been exposed to any sick persons, if you travelled out of Western

New York, or if you were tested for Covid-19 and are awaiting a result, please stay at home. Even if you have previously made plans to attend, please do not show up if you are feeling ill in any way.

4. We love your *punim*, but for your safety and ours, a mask is strictly required at all times, including during prayer.
5. Please bring your own kippah, tallit, and siddur. If you don't have these available, just contact the Temple Beth El office in advance, and we'll gladly set these out for you. Once you borrow an item, we'll ask you to take these home with you, to be returned in the future.
6. Social distancing is strictly required. People who live together will sit together, of course. But, otherwise, you will sit at least six feet apart from each other and from the Bimah (when services are in the sanctuary) in designated seats only. We'll close off areas to ensure this is marked clearly and accessibly.
7. No one, except the Rabbi and Hazzan, will approach the Bimah. Everyone should remain in their seats, including during aliyot.
8. No refreshments will be offered – there will be no kiddush lunch and no coffee, and the water fountains will not be accessible. Please bring your own water if you believe you might need it. It's warm out and we want you safe and hydrated. This is a temporary state and we look forward to resuming these wonderful Shabbat traditions in different formats when the timing is appropriate to do so.

We realize that this is a transition and that the in-person experience will be different than what were used to pre-COVID. We hope to once again embrace, break bread, and schmooze together soon. We're continuing to explore new programs to engage the congregation this summer and beyond, while remaining careful to sustain the health community.

We hope to see you back in the Gabay Garden, in the Sanctuary, or as circumstances allow!

L'shalom,

Marty Spokony, President
Gerald Gamm, Chair – Reopening Committee
Leonardo Bitran, Rabbi
Randall Levin, Hazzan
Deborah Zeger, Executive Director