



The Temple Emunah COVID Guidelines / Updated 3/21/2021

The health, safety, and well-being of employees, congregants, and community are of primary importance to Temple Emunah. Given the health risk that COVID-19 poses, the Temple Emunah building is, and will remain, fully closed to all other communal activities until further notice.

As the situation evolves, we will continue to update our policies.

Events are limited in size in accordance with state and local regulations. The only people who may enter the building are staff members, and community members who have received explicit permission to enter at a specific time for a specific purpose.

In order to limit the spread of COVID-19, we have placed limitations on attendance at outdoor events, and on who may attend outdoor events or enter our building.

Anyone who receives prior permission to enter the building must do the following:

Wear a mask covering both your nose and mouth at all times while on Temple property, including the parking lot.

Fill out our Health Questionnaire online or in the main lobby upon entry to the building. This is critical both for contact tracing and for health attestation.

Use hand sanitizer or wash your hands before or upon entering the building. Sanitizer is available in the main lobby.

Maintain social distancing at a minimum of six (6) feet at all times.

Notify the office if you develop any symptoms or are exposed to someone who develops symptoms and/or tests positive for COVID within two (2) weeks after visiting the building.

Detailed information about who may enter the building or attend in-person events is below, including information about sanctuary usage.

L'shalom,

COVID-19 Emunah Health Safety Committee

With any questions, contact [Raveetal Celine](#), Executive Director

Restrictions on entering the shul or participating in an in-person event.

The size limit for events will be no higher than the state and local recommendations, and may be lower than that, depending on factors including current local COVID numbers and other health factors.

The following **unvaccinated** people are restricted from entering the synagogue or participating in an in-person event:

1. People who have close contact (see definition below) with a person who is COVID-19 positive;
2. People who report feeling unwell per the health questionnaire (below);
3. People who do not complete the health questionnaire (below);
4. People who have returned from travel from a high-risk state or internationally in the past ten days
<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-travel-order#lower-risk-states->
5. People in close contact (see definition below) with a person who returned from travel by public transportation (bus, train, airplane);

Vaccinated people are restricted from entering the synagogue or participating in an in-person event if they report feeling unwell per the health questionnaire (below).

What to do if you are in one of the above categories?

Quarantine for eight (8) days, then take PCR (molecular) test, and wait for a negative test result, watch for symptoms through Day 14. OR quarantine for 14 days.

Day 0 is defined as the day you had contact with someone who developed or has COVID-19, or the day you returned to your home from gatherings or were in contact with a person who traveled via public transportation.

This definition is stricter than the ones being used by the CDC and the state, in accordance with our balancing of the risks as we understand them.

Outdoor Events

Outdoor events are currently restricted to 50 people in any one location. Such events require masks, distancing, and filling out the Covid questionnaire.

Sanctuary Usage

A family may use the sanctuary for their Bar, Bat, or B'Mitzvah service with the presence of a floor gabbai (who is not part of the family's household) under the following circumstances:

- The total number of people in the sanctuary may not exceed 20 people.
- Anyone not in the household of the b'nei mitzvah family must be fully vaccinated. Fully vaccinated is defined as having waited 2 weeks after receiving all of the recommended doses of a Covid 19 vaccine.
- A household is defined as a group that lives together or has quarantined together in the same house for 14 days, without leaving the house for errands, visits, etc OR have quarantined together in the same house for 8 days plus the amount of time needed to take PCR tests and get back negative results. The people must stay quarantined together until the service, but must monitor symptoms through Day 14.
- Everyone in the sanctuary must wear a well fitting mask except that one person at a time may unmask while reading or leading, and distancing between households is required.
- If the total number of people in the sanctuary is enough to constitute a minyan, the family will consult with the rabbis about the liturgical implications, which include:
 - Pesukei D'zimra may be done from home.
 - Shacharit and Musaf should be led by people in the sanctuary.
 - 3 aliyot will be reserved for members of the congregation.
 - Aliyot which are done from home will be done in a modified manner.
 - Torah and Haftarah may be done from home.
- One of the 20 people may be a floor gabbai approved by the Religious Committee. If there is more than one household present, the floor gabbai must be fully vaccinated.

Resources and definitions:

PCR (Molecular) Test Method. The most reliable test method to determine if a person is a COVID-19 positive.

Mass Gov: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-updates-and-information>

Lexington MA

<https://www.lexingtonma.gov/public-health/pages/everything-you-need-know-during-covid-19-state-emergency>

Close Contact: Defined by Massachusetts Department of Public Health as being within 6 feet of another person for at least 15 minutes, indoors or outdoors, with or without masks. Other situations may be considered close contact, for example, in a room with poor ventilation at a distance greater than 6 feet.

Temple Emunah Covid questionnaire:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdRUNGBSmp1RQxBzIXfUWg578NeTcl_JjZju5x4KAWffJj9jA/viewform?usp=sf_link