

# Machzikei Hadas Protocols

## —Introduction—

This protocol was developed in accordance with guidelines and advice provided by the Ontario Ministry of Health, Ottawa Public Health, Toronto's Kol HaCovid and local healthcare professionals. The consultation process was facilitated and coordinated with the Jewish Federation of Ottawa and CIJA.

This protocol is designed to balance your experience at shul with Public Health best practices to minimize health risks and protect against the spread of COVID-19 within and beyond our doors.

Our protocol will be applied uniformly – whether on Shabbat or weekday services.

As the outcomes of the gradual lifting of restrictions cannot be predicted with any certainty, this process is fluid and may be modified to adjust to emerging circumstances according to public health guidelines.

## —Registration for Minyan—

**All attendees MUST register for services.** Attendees must register either online or by calling the shul office at 613-521-9700 during regular business hours. Registration is required to ensure that in the event of a case of COVID-19, contact tracing can be undertaken. This is being done to ensure your health.

Click here to register: <https://bit.ly/services-june26-july9>

Registration will also allow us to appropriately set-up services to strictly adhere to social distancing protocols.

Registration must be done 48 hours in advance of any specific service. Office administration will identify and reach out to members who may need assistance with registration.

### Admission Criteria:

Everyone who wishes to attend must be symptom-free. Symptoms include: Cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, flu-like symptoms, sudden loss of taste or smell. If you are not feeling well, even without any of the above symptoms, please do not attend.

If you have any questions please self-assess using Ontario's self-assessment tool: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/>

If you are showing any symptoms please do not come to shul for two weeks and please get tested for COVID-19 before your return to shul.

To attend our services, one must a) have not been in close contact with someone who has recently or currently displays any of the above symptoms or has been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last 14 days; or b) have not traveled outside of Canada within the last 14 days.

If, subsequent to participation in a service you test positive for COVID-19, you are required to contact the shul office immediately at [office@cmhottawa.com](mailto:office@cmhottawa.com) or 613-521-9700.

We ask that you arrive at least five minutes prior to the start of services so that we can ensure a minyan with the utmost safety at exactly the start time of services.

### —Service Times—

Our prayer service times will be slightly changed for the foreseeable future. The following are the prayer times for our first week back:

- *Minhah Friday afternoon:* 7:30 PM
- *Shabbat Morning:* 9 AM
- *Minha Shabbat Afternoon:* 8:45 PM. We will have a short break for personal learning of Pirkei Avot and continue with Maariv at 9:25 PM.
- *Shaharit during the week:* 6:45 AM
- *Minha/Maariv during the week:* 8:45 PM

Please see our weekly schedule for updated prayer service times:  
<https://www.cmhottawa.com/serviceslearning/weeklyschedule>.

### —Changes to the Services—

The length of services will be modified, where possible, to help mitigate the chance of transmission. For example, for morning services, participants are asked to recite the morning blessings and korbanot at home, allowing us to focus on the parts of the service that can only be done with a Minyan.

At this time, we will not include any singing in our prayer service.

Torah reading will be done by one person, who will read *all* the aliyot, including haftarah, as well as take out and return the Torah to the ark.

No kissing of the Torah or the Mezuzot.

## **—Entering and Exiting the Shul—**

Entry will be through the front entrance. Signage will be posted regarding the flow of traffic. Everyone is expected to adhere to this procedure.

It is essential that all participants respect and follow proper physical distancing procedures, including no crowding at the entrance, and by observing the new two-metre markings on the sidewalk and entry walkway.

All doors inside the building will be kept open (to minimize touching of common elements).

## **—Socialization and Congregating—**

There is no doubt that people will be happy to see one another.

However, there will be no Kiddush or congregating before, during or after minyan inside the shul building, even if physical distancing is observed.

We ask that everyone please leave the shul immediately at the end of services while maintaining 2 metres of physical distancing.

## **—Service Location—**

In our first phase of reopening we will open the partition and have seats available in the sanctuary and social hall for Shabbat services.

During the week we will be praying in the social hall.

## **—Children—**

Children must be 11 years old or older to attend any Minyan.

## **—Hygiene—**

Attendees will be required to disinfect their hands with hand sanitizer upon entry to the shul building and be vigilant about their hygiene. Hand sanitizing stations will be available throughout the shul.

## **—Masks and Physical Distancing—**

All attendees must wear a mask covering the mouth and nose at all times within the building and maintain a space of at least 2 metres between attendees at all times.

We ask that everyone bring their own masks.

The Shul has increased the frequency of cleaning of surfaces, but please touch as little as possible and not beyond the seat in which you sit.

### **—Siddurim and Chumashim—**

Please bring your own Siddur and Chumash. If you do not have your own a table will be set up with a limited number of siddurim and chumashim that will be disinfected before and after use.

### **—Kippot and Talitot—**

No Kipot or Talitot will be provided at shul. Please bring your own.

### **—Restrooms—**

We will make an effort to modify the length of the services in order to ensure limited restroom use. However, our maintenance staff will clean the restrooms regularly and it will be one person at a time. Signs will be posted on restroom doors indicating, available, in use, or cleaning.

---

## **Noncompliance**

Should anyone in attendance not comply with any of the rules set out, services will conclude immediately, even amid prayers.

## **Disclaimer**

While we will be implementing wide-ranging limitations and multiple protocols to create what we have been professionally advised is a safe environment, we cannot take any responsibility for anybody's physical health or wellbeing. Each individual attending bears the responsibility of their own actions.