

Shaar Shalom Covid-19 response plan

At Shaar Shalom we are consulting with the Atlantic Jewish Council, USCJ and following provincial and federal guidelines. For more information on Covid-19 please refer to the Nova Scotia Public Health website <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/>

Immediate action, effective March 13:

1. We hope that people will still attend services, but we ask that congregants who have been out of the country in the last 14 days stay home this Shabbat. If you are in a category of “elevated risk,” you should think carefully before deciding to attend. Those who exhibit any symptoms of illness, who have knowingly been in contact with someone with the virus, or who have recently traveled internationally, should please stay home. While communal prayer is an important part of our tradition, staying healthy and not endangering others (“Piku’ach Nefesh”) is an even higher one. Please remember that one can always pray at home, or in any and every place.
2. We will be increasing the frequency of disinfecting high touch areas such as bathrooms, door handles and other common surfaces. We will ensure there is lots of soap, paper towel and hand sanitizer on hand.
3. Handwashing with warm water and soap for 20 seconds is the best way to protect yourself and others. We ask that people wash their hands upon entering the building and again before Kiddush. We will take a short break to allow everyone to do this before the Kiddush begins.
4. A light kiddush will be modified to have only individually wrapped items for everyone’s comfort and safety.
5. We are asking people to increase their social distancing by not shaking hands or kissing the Torah or any *mezuzot*. This applies when the Torah is circulating in the congregation, and when taking an *aliyah* as well. Congregants are asked to leave two or three chairs between family groups,

Contact Us





The Office is open regular office hours. If you wish to visit us in person please make an appointment. For everyone's safety, the rabbi will not be conducting pastoral visits, but is happy to connect by phone.

Rabbi Gary Karlin, 902-444-7798 or email rabbi@theshaar.ca

Tamara Daiman, Office administrator, 902-444-4868 or email shaarshalom@eastlink.ca

Kate Burgess, our general manager, 902-580-5535 or email generalmanager@theshaar.ca

Please contact Andrea at andrea@hilchie-pye.com to volunteer to take on a few calls to connect, or if you are available to pick up groceries and other essential items for those in need.

In House Synagogue Policies:

- 1- Synagogue policy for staff: If you are sick, please stay home
- 2- Emergency contact information for all employees on file will be updated
- 3- People who have been out of the country in the last 14 days need to work remotely
- 4- Disinfection of high touch areas (door handles, bathrooms, etc...) will happen before, during and after services. General disinfection, including chairs will happen weekly.

Criteria for canceling services

Services Friday night are temporarily suspended. If a case is found in our active Shaar Community, exposure to members of our synagogue is likely and suspension of Shabbat services will be considered at that time.

Criteria for postponing Hebrew School:

Hebrew school will follow public school guidelines, closing if schools close. As of March 16, Hebrew school will open on Tuesday, April 7th.

Criteria for postponing events and meetings

Events such as dinners, clubs and programs outside of services will be postponed until April 2020 and will be assessed as the situation evolves





Meetings will occur online by Zoom. Please contact Joanna to set up a Zoom hosted meeting if you need assistance.

Caring for our seniors and most vulnerable population

We have compiled a list of members who are seniors and/or live alone and may require help or be at risk for food security if they become ill or placed in isolation. To maintain the rabbi's health and protect vulnerable members, it is preferable to maintain pastoral care by phone rather than visiting people in hospital or nursing homes and eldercare facilities.

A phone tree will be established to create a system to check in on the most vulnerable members of our community. Andrea Hilchie Pye is coordinating this effort. Please contact Andrea at andrea@hilchie-pye.com to volunteer to take on a few calls to connect, or if you are available to pick up groceries and other essential items for those in need.

If you or someone you know may need assistance in this challenging time, please let us know. We are here to help.

