

Orthodox Kehillah/Beth El Outdoor Services Reopening Guidelines - Phase 1

Preamble - These guidelines are being adopted to enable the OK to hold Shabbat services, with limited participation, and to hold other services that require a minyan, during the COVID-19 pandemic, with precautions to protect the health and safety of the Beth El community. These guidelines will apply as of June 30, 2020 and may be modified at any time based on circumstances on the recommendation of the COVID-19 Taskforce or the Beth El Board.

Services:

The OK may hold weekday morning; Friday night, or Shabbat morning (9am) services pursuant to these guidelines.

Venue

All services will be conducted outdoors, on the patio behind the Orthodox Kehilla Sanctuary. Access will be from the Beth El parking lot or W Markham St.

Capacity

- No more than 15 people will attend any service.
- Because of the limited attendance, sign up or pre-registration is required. All participants will be provided with a copy of these guidelines either before attending or, if necessary, when they arrive.
- In the event of rain, the service will be cancelled.

Restrictions

- No children under the age of 13 will attend.
- Attendance of people in vulnerable groups, including those 65 years and older or with underlying medical conditions such as heart or lung disease or diabetes, is strongly discouraged, but is not forbidden.
- Participation is barred for individuals presenting symptoms consistent with COVID-19.
- Individuals exposed to someone with COVID must observe a quarantine for 14 days since exposure before they may attend.
- No out of town visitors will be allowed
- If someone has had COVID-19, that person must have clearance from a doctor to attend and have had 10 days since resolution of their symptoms prior to attending.
- The OK will compile a list of the participants at each service and their contact information prior to the service. These lists will be maintained for contact tracing purposes and to allow Beth El to inform the participants should an attendee test positive within 14 days after the service.

Participants are required to notify Beth El if the participant or a household member is being tested or tests positive for Covid-19.

Social distancing and setup

- Chairs will be placed in advance with at least 8 feet distance from each other.
- A table/bimah and reading stander for the prayer leaders will be in place at least 8 feet from any chair.
- All participants are required to observe social distancing and to wear masks at all times. The OK will provide a mask to any participant who needs one.
- The OK will provide hand sanitizer, which will be available at every service.
- No participant will have access to the synagogue building other than the service leader. The service leader will bring out the Torah, when appropriate, and will return it to the OK Sanctuary.
- There will not be a kiddush.

Services

- Siddurim: Participants will bring their own if possible. The OK will provide one for a participant who needs one and the participant will keep that siddur for the duration of the pandemic.
- Tallitot: Participants will bring their own if possible. If a participant requires a tallit, he or she will take one from a table where they will be laid out individually and keep it for the duration of the pandemic
- Tefillin: Participants will bring their own.
- Torah Reading Procedure: There will only be one person in the area of the Torah table during the Torah reading. The Gabbaim will stand at 8 feet from the Torah reader. When people are called “up” for aliyot, they will stand and say the brachot from their seats, and then follow along with the Torah reading from a Chumash.

Staff

- No Beth El staff will be in attendance at these services/events.
- Set-up will be done prior to the event by Beth El staff. All proper cleaning and sanitizing will take place prior to each event.
- After the service is completed and the participants have left, Beth El staff will clean up and properly clean and sanitize the space including all tables, chairs, etc.