



As we come back together (finally!) there are many questions to answer and details to work out. Take a look at these FAQs and email [411@ikar.org](mailto:411@ikar.org) if you have any additional questions or concerns. And start practicing your most exuberant socially distanced greeting! (For now, save those hugs and handshakes for your households.)

**Q: Where are services taking place?**

**A:** For now, we will be davening outside on the Shalhevet roof. There are tents for shade that are open on the sides so air can flow through. We are also exploring how to safely meet inside.

**Q: How many people will be there?**

**A:** We are as eager as you to be back together with our full community, and will take steps to get us there safely. For now, we are starting with 50 to 60 people and will increase that number as we go.

**Q: What will the COVID precautions be?**

**A:** Our highest priority is to keep everyone safe. Here are some of the protocols and practices we will have in place:

- All attendees (age 2 and up) will be required to wear a mask covering their mouths and noses at all times;
- Temperature will be checked at the front gate;
- Households will have assigned spots at least 6 feet apart from others;
- Bathrooms will be cleaned frequently.

**Q: Can I bring the kids?**

**A:** Yes! Children will be required to wear masks (age 2 and up) and observe social distancing rules. They must either stay with you or in the designated kid area. For now, we will not have separate programming or services.

**Q: Must we be vaccinated to attend?**

**A:** Receiving a vaccine—for those eligible and medically able—is the single most important thing one can do to engage in *pikuah nefesh*, the imperative to save a life. We have all seen this past year as the number of COVID cases and deaths rose and fell based on the actions and decisions of individuals. We believe that there is a Jewish and moral imperative for all who are able to get vaccinated to do so as soon as possible—for your



own sake, and for the sake of the broader community.

Since full eligibility for 16+ has just opened, we recognize that not all have yet been able to be fully vaccinated. Therefore, our initial gatherings will remain small, and we will encourage but not require that everyone present is fully vaccinated. Beginning June 11<sup>th</sup>, once vaccines have been widely accessible, we will only make services available to adults (16+) who are fully vaccinated and their children, as well as those medically unable to vaccinate.

If you have concerns or questions about the safety and efficacy of the vaccine, we encourage you to speak with one of the medical professionals in our community who is happy to have a frank and confidential conversation. Please reach out to [411@ikar.org](mailto:411@ikar.org) and we will connect you.

**Q: Let's get to the important stuff. Will there be pretzel hallah?**

**A:** Sadly, pretzel hallah is off the table for a little while longer, and we are not able to provide any food or drink (so BYO water and coffee) for now. But we are monitoring the situation closely. Trust us.

**Q: How about singing?**

**A:** Our clergy and daveners are excited to sing together again. They are all fully vaccinated, and will be following masking and distancing protocols, removing masks only when permitted to do so by the Medical Task Force.

We know you can't wait to belt out *Barkhu* or let your *Halleluyah* fly—for now you'll have to do so masked and distanced, and (uncharacteristic for IKAR) with a little bit of restraint.

**Q: Anything else?**

**A:** This process will take time, so let's all commit to being patient and kind. We can't wait to find our way back to you.