

COVID-19 Updates

Dear beloved members and friends,

With the announced permission for the reopening of religious institutions we are happy to inform you that we will be moving forwards with the gradual reopening of services at Beth Tikvah. We wish to begin with a cautious note that the easing of restrictions necessitates that we can operate our minyan by adhering to strict safety measures and protocols to minimize the risk to our congregants.

The following guidelines are meant to minimize the risk to any within our community. While we hope to have covered all scenarios we realise that once the reality comes into effect, we may need to make additional alterations. All of the reopening steps will be in accordance with the government's guidelines.

We will reopen gradually. To that end, at first we will gather for Mincha/Maariv services outdoors only beginning Wednesday June 24th, in the HFS schoolyard at 8:30pm. You will need to sign up daily for this evening service. Please [email Rabbi Fishman](#) (or [WhatsApp](#)) daily to register your attendance.

Please note that even as we begin our "in-person" prayer services we will continue with our nightly zoom services and all who wish to join us virtually are welcome. For the zoom ID please reach out to Rabbi Fishman and he will provide it to you.

WHO MAY ATTEND SERVICES

In order to attend services you must be free from any Covid-19 symptoms. You must not have been in close contact with someone who has recently shown such symptoms. You must not have traveled outside of Canada within the last 14 days. Those who attend must be in good health and have done everything they can to minimize their exposure to Covid-19.

Although we will not turn down anyone based on their age it must be understood that people with multiple medical conditions and especially those over age 70 are at the highest risk for a negative outcome should they develop the virus. As such members must use their own judgement and should consult with their physician to decide if they are willing to join services under these circumstances. We must protect those most vulnerable within our community. No one under the age of 18 is at this time allowed to attend.

All attendees must wear masks. Please bring your own. You will not be admitted without wearing one. The reason we will be turn away people without exception is that individuals coming to shul without a mask already demonstrates a lack of compliance or respect for the recommendations of the government as well as our expectations. That individual would represent too high a risk for our community.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT THE SERVICES TO LOOK LIKE

Services will begin for **mincha/maariv (Sunday-Thursday) at 8:30pm, beginning on Wednesday June 24th June.** They will take place in the HFS schoolyard. If initial steps go well, and we have enough people to form a Minyan, a **Shacharit service will commence the week beginning Sunday 28th June.** Shacharit services will be confirmed and announced at a later time.

In order to attend services each day you must **register by 10:00am** for same day evening services. If, based on registration on any day, it is apparent that we will not be able to form a minyan the services will be held by Zoom only.

Once we decide to hold indoor services we will take many steps to ensure physical safety, limiting our exposure to another and avoiding as much physical contact with objects and surfaces as possible. Including:

will be disinfected after each service.

- Unfortunately, there can be no socializing before or after services. This will help reduce the amount of time we are spending together in the same space.
- We will do everything possible to keep our services brief, to minimize possible exposure.
- Please bring your own siddur.
- Everyone is expected to follow these rules and no exceptions will be made.
- Initially as we return, in the event of rain we will cancel services giving enough notice.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT SHABBAT (FRIDAY NIGHT) TO LOOK LIKE

Services for Shabbat will begin with Kabbalat Shabbat on Friday June 26th at 7:00pm. For Kabbalat Shabbat we will be in the HFS schoolyard. The rules and regulations applied to our weekday prayer service will be applied in the social hall.

- Doors will be propped open.
- Use hand sanitizer.
- Walk directly to a seat.
- Seats will be two meters apart.
- No socializing before or after services.
- Services will be brief.
- Please bring your own siddur.
- Please exit immediately afterwards through the Westpark doors only.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT SHABBAT (SATURDAY MORNING) TO LOOK LIKE

The same protocols for our services for Friday Nights will also be in place for Shabbat mornings. Services for Shabbat mornings will begin on Saturday June 27th (at 9:00am). While the government is limiting the number of people who are allowed inside a house of worship to 50 people, **we will nevertheless prayer outside this first Shabbat back**. As such, for Shabbat morning people will be required to register and ONLY those who are registered will be given permission to participate [click here for registration form](#). Priority will be given to those who are saying kaddish or who have a chiyuv. Everyone must register through our system, **with no exceptions**. The form will allow you to sign up for one week at a time. To ensure that we can accommodate everyone who wants to attend, you must sign up for Shabbat services by Thursday night.

GUIDELINES FOR TORAH READING – KRIYAT HATORAH

- Only the Bal Koreh is involved, from beginning to end.
- Bal Koreh opens the ark and takes out the Torah.
- Bal Koreh makes the Bracha for seven aliyot. He will be called up by gabbai for the first aliyah, and make the brachot for the rest without being called up.
- The Bal Koreh does hagbah and galila. After hagbah, the Torah will be placed back on the bima for galila.
- Bal Koreh makes the brachot on the Torah, which he himself reads.
- There are no mishebeirachs to be said.
- No one is to be at the bima other than the Bal Koreh.
- The Torah can remain on the bima after galila during the haftorah to minimize the number of people involved.
- The Bal Koreh will return the Torah to the ark at the regular time during Musaf.

We are so eager to see you. We ask for your patience as we progress through this new-normal phase that we are entering into. There may be changes, steps both forwards and back. Safeguarding our health and preserving the physical wellbeing of each person in our community is our highest priority and we feel these guidelines help position us to take the necessary and responsible steps forwards. We will keep updating you on our progress, changes and developments. No doubt this will be a most challenging time and we appreciate your help, support and understanding.



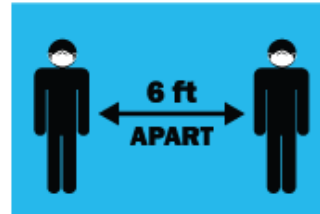
CONGREGATION BETH TIKVAH
AHAVAT SHALOM NUSACH HOARI



Do not come to shul if you have experienced any symptoms associated with Coronavirus in the past 14 days



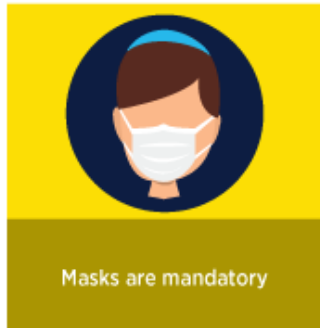
Do not come to shul if you have been asked to self-isolate by a healthcare provider or Public Health



Keep social distance of at least 6 feet between participants



Bring your own tallit



Masks are mandatory



No loud or forceful singing



Wash hands or use hand sanitizer frequently



Limit conversations and leave the shul immediately after davening



Avoid crowding and contact with door handles



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#CBTFamily