

# COVID GUIDELINES UPDATE

July 12, 2021

updates to previous guidelines are in blue

Dear Emanuelites,

The COVID-19 Task Force met and reviewed our current operating procedures, along with data from the CDC and Illinois Department of Public Health. **As of July 12th, we updated our policies** that more closely align with the recommendations put out by the CDC and State of Illinois. **The changes are in blue below.** We are hopeful to continue to removing restrictions as appropriate. Again, our goal is to keep all congregants, staff, and guests safe.

Thank you for your participation in keeping our community protected. We hope to see many of you for Share Shabbat on July 9<sup>th</sup>!

Sincerely,

Emanuel Congregation COVID-19 Task Force  
David Rakofsky, President  
Leah Jones, Immediate Past President  
Cantor Michelle Drucker Friedman  
Sarabeth Salzman, Executive Director

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## How, and when, will we reopen?

Emanuel works in collaboration with our COVID task force, CDC guidelines, City of Chicago guidelines, and Chicago-area synagogues to put best practices in place, keeping everyone's safety at the top of our list. This includes our congregants, our staff, and all visitors.

Please read below for the update on Emanuel's re-opening, which are applicable to all onsite and offsite Emanuel events.

## Current Specifics (as of July 12th, 2021)

- We can begin hosting in-person meetings (that do not need to be streamed) beginning June 15<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to schedule a time for a meeting, please contact the office.
- For anyone who has Temple business and needs to come into the office, please contact the Emanuel office to schedule a date and time. This will allow us to control the number of people in the building and ensure we are available to help you.
  - You will also notice a partition at the front desk of the office. This is in place to protect our staff, and our visitors. Please do not come further into the office without permission. This allows us to control the number of people in office space for safety reasons.
  - One person in the bathroom at any time. Please use the downstairs restrooms only.
- For all worship services and congregational or general programs that will be in person and live online ("hybrid" approach), we are working to be in person beginning August 1, **full capacity inside the building.** We strongly encourage adults who have not been immunized to continue to join us virtually until they can be immunized. We are working diligently to enhance our streaming capabilities so that we may also keep our virtual doors open.
  - More information will be sent as we get closer to this opening, including sign-up for joining us in person for different worship services and programs.
- **Masks will still be required to be worn when inside the building, regardless of vaccination status.** This is because we will not be verifying whether individuals have been fully vaccinated and we wish to protect children, immunocompromised members, and those who may not yet be fully vaccinated. As vaccination rates rise further and infection rates continue to fall, we look forward to a further loosening of our mask requirement. Masks must always cover the nose and mouth.

- **For outdoor events, we encourage masks still be worn and to continue social distancing practices to keep everyone safe.**
- We will allow **full capacity** for worship and other events in the facility. Events taking place outdoors will follow the state's guidelines.
  - We are working on a system to ensure that all who want to worship in person receive the opportunity.
- Guests need to bring their own tallit and kippah. Prayer books will be available to use and may be safely stored after use.
- The building will continue to follow stringent entrance and safety procedures which include:
  - Complete a COVID questionnaire when you enter the building ("have you traveled in the last 14 days; have you run a fever in the last 48 hours") to reduce exposure in anyone in the building.
  - If you have any symptoms (cough, cold, sneezing, fever, etc.), do not attend in-person events. Please stay home and call your doctor if symptoms worsen.

All worship and programming being held within the physical building will continue in a digital on-line format when possible.

We will also follow these guidelines if the clergy are officiating at a lifecycle event at a different location, such as a funeral or wedding. These guidelines will remain in effect until new information has been released by the Governor, CDC, or health officials. We look forward to the opportunity to be in person with all of you again. Until then, know that we are doing everything we can to keep our community safe and connected.