



June 12, 2020

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PATTIE WOOD
Administrator

Members and Friends of Congregation Ahavath Sholom,

I hope you are all safe and healthy. It is my pleasure to write this as the new administrator of CAS. I look forward meeting you in person and hearing from you in the future.

On June 11, the Executive Committee met to discuss reopening our doors for in-person meetings at CAS. We are moving forward on our plans to phase into in-person meetings and services at the shul. I know that you are looking forward to seeing friends and getting a new normal. At the same time, we want to ensure that we do this as safely and as cautiously as is needed to protect human life by not spreading COVID-19.

All services will be held in the Barnett Sanctuary. In light of our new normal, please bring your personal tallits and kippots for use in services.

Here is our checklist of expectations:

- Facial mask/covering over nose & mouth is required to enter the building, with the exception of those with known medical conditions that do not allow facial covering and children under the age of 2 years old.
- Hand sanitizer is available at the entrances for your use. Please take the extra time to use the sanitizer, rub it in, and allow it to air dry before continuing.
- Gloves can spread the germs just as easily as your hands. Gloves are not required to enter, but if you choose you use them, you must also use hand sanitizer.
- You will need to register your attendance. If a COVID-19 case surfaces, we will have your attendance registered to notify you.
- Books for minyan and shabbat have been covered. Please use only those books for minyan and Shabbat that have a plastic cover. We added these covers so we can disinfect after each use. Books will be returned to a "used" book cart for disinfecting.
- We have created a seating section by the north door (near the kitchen) of the Barnett Sanctuary designated for those unable to have facial masks/coverings. We will dismiss those sitting in this section before dismissing the remainder of attendees.
- To create necessary social distance as recommended by the CDC, we have opened only every third row. On an open row, we ask that you leave THREE (3) seats between family units residing in the same house.
- Congregants will be dismissed from the back to the front to facilitate social distancing.
- You will take your kippot home with you and bring it back with you the next time you enter. Ziploc bags will be available for your use.
- All will exit the building following services, being dismissed by row to ensure appropriate social distancing. Socializing following services is encouraged **OUTSIDE** of the building.
- Although we cannot eat together, boxed kosher lunches are available for you to pick up and take home to enjoy.

Bringing God and the Community Closer Together

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I cannot overstate this: the leadership of the synagogue and I want to keep all safe and healthy. Following services, the Barnett Sanctuary will be cleaned and prepared for its next use. The restrooms, of course, will be sanitized prior to and between events.

The CAS demographic includes many at-risk groups, including those 65 and older. Your safety is most important. These measures have been developed with doctors, including infectious disease specialist Dr. Murray Cohen, with postings from the CDC & State of Texas officials. We suggest everyone read and follow the CDC guidelines and take actions you feel appropriate.

List of Services (these are open to change based upon medical developments):

July 2	Morning Minyan	Evening Minyan
July 4	Shabbat, morning only	
July 6	Morning Minyan	Evening Minyan
July 9	Morning Minyan	Evening Minyan
July 10		Shabbat, Evening only
July 13	Morning Minyan	Evening Minyan
July 16	Morning Minyan	Evening Minyan
July 18	Shabbat, morning only	
July 20	Morning Minyan	Evening Minyan
July 23	Morning Minyan	Evening Minyan
July 24		Shabbat, Evening only
July 27	Morning Minyan	Evening Minyan
July 30	Morning Minyan	Evening Minyan

Enclosed are copies of relevant guidelines from the State of Texas and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Thank you for your continued diligence. I look forward to meeting you!

Stay Safe,

Pattie Wood
 Congregation Ahavath Sholom, Administrator
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