



High Holy Days 5781

Shir Tikvah High Holy Day In-Person Gathering Guidelines

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Our Jewish Values:

In this time of the COVID19 pandemic when everything in our world feels upside down and out of sorts, we turn to our sacred Jewish values to guide us through the chaos, to anchor us in what matters most.

1. *Pikuach Nefesh* - “Safeguarding a Life” is a bedrock principle of Jewish law, and supersedes most other obligations or mitzvot. To that end, we want to ensure that any steps towards restoring physical proximity place preserving life first and foremost.
2. *She’at Hadehak* - “Extraordinary Moment” - Jewish life has always made adjustments in times of emergency and crisis. We will need to come to terms with the fact that this crisis will persist, and that we will need to continue to change our expectations and operations. We will need continued flexibility in Jewish practice informed by our commitment to authentic modes of interpretation of our tradition.
3. *Kol Israel Aravim zeh l’zeh* – All the Jewish people are responsible for one another – Where gathering is not possible for individuals and families, then the community must provide for their spiritual needs over the High Holy Days through available technology. Progressive Judaism particularly embraces technology to carry out this mitzvah.



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4. *Chesed* “Profound Love and Kindness” - Decisions around our operations and the risks involved create uncertainty, grief, and anxiety, and we will act with tremendous love and kindness towards the members of our families, communities, and the world at large.
5. *Gam zeh ya'avur*- This too shall pass: Decisions we make this year are specific to this situation. We really look forward to a time when we can be back together for our beloved High Holy Day experiences. We will hold on to lessons and technology from this moment even as we move through and past the crisis.

Our Guidelines:

And under these Principles, we have created the following guidelines for in-person gatherings during High Holy Days. If you are unable to comply with any one of the below guidelines, we ask that you participate remotely. All in-person High Holy Day offerings will also be available via zoom:

1. Do not attend in person if you are feeling unwell, have tested positive for COVID-19, or have been in contact within the past 14 days with someone who has symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19.
2. Everyone attending is required to wear a mask except babies and children younger than 2 years old. We ask those who aren't comfortable with this requirement to participate remotely to protect yourself and others.
3. Please exercise social distancing by maintaining at all times a **minimum of 6 feet apart**, preferably more, from those not in your household. We understand multiple households may be part of a larger community pod, but to prevent confusion as we work to keep everyone safe, we ask you to keep gatherings to individual households.



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4. Please bring what you need and take what you bring. Instead of distributing materials on-site, we will provide any handouts ahead of time for you to print or display on a device. We also ask that you clean up after yourselves out of respect for each other and our outdoor spaces.
5. While we long for the sound of our collective voices in one space, we will not include communal singing, and ask you to refrain from singing, at in-person events due to its exceptionally high risk nature.
6. Please understand that at this time, we are limited to gatherings of 250 people. We do not anticipate reaching capacity, but in the event we do, we will need to limit attendance. This will be a difficult task, and we are grateful for your understanding.
7. Please do not share food, drink, or other items with those outside your household. We also ask those planning a picnic or other activities that prevent consistent use of masks do so outside of official Shir Tikvah event times.
8. Our clergy and staff miss you and are excited to gather in person, but we recognize it will be different, and may feel awkward or difficult to maintain social distancing. Thank you for understanding and partnering with us through this difficulty. We cannot wait for the day we can again shake hands or embrace!
9. We will follow all state and local guidance, and may need to change requirements or cancel in-person gatherings on short notice. If we are unable to gather in-person, we will let you know by 12 pm the day of the event. Please check our High Holy Days Hub: ShirTikvahHighHolyDays.org for updates.