

Stages of Recovery Guiding Metrics

We look forward to the day that we may safely welcome everyone to congregate within our second Jewish home to worship, study and gather. We miss greeting each other a Shabbat Shalom with a handshake, hug or a kiss. We miss celebrating, eating and kibitzing with one another in the sanctuary lobby, social hall or anywhere on the Temple Emanuel campus. We miss volunteering with one another on social action initiatives, creating holiday events or celebrating lifecycle simchas. We miss being together. As we reflect on the past few months, our values as Jews and as a congregation have become very transparent. We truly value the engagement we cultivate with each other through our ritual, learning and social activities. We value our Temple Emanuel kehillah. We can only hope that the day we can be together once again comes soon. Until then, we need to heed the following guiding metrics to ensure everyone's safety. Please read the explanation behind the metrics and the four stages which we will use to guide us in developing the recovery plans for Ritual, Learning, Engagement and Operations.

Judaism suspends required practices under the concept of pikuach nefesh/saving a soul when lives are threatened, even if the risk is not certain. Thus, when fused with science and medical evidence, our approach becomes governed by the belief that even though a person may show no signs of illness (being asymptomatic), we have to act knowing there is a good possibility that very person may carry COVID-19 and thus inadvertently infect others. Science and medical evidence will accompany Jewish values as central and governing guides for our decision-making.

As will be evident to many Temple members, the metrics we have chosen are stricter than those put forward by the CDC and many state governments. In each case, these metrics are built on scientific knowledge that has been heavily influenced by economic and political factors. The weakness of CDC and state government metrics is clearly evidenced by the rising number of Covid-19 cases and deaths across the country and in our own state and county.

It is also important to emphasize that the threat of Covid-19 for individuals over 65 may not end with the availability of a vaccine. Why? Because responsiveness to vaccines markedly decreases with age and thus the level of protection afforded vaccinated individuals under the age of 50 will not be likely for older individuals. Thus, continuing to make use of mitigating practices will help to limit the potential of serious disease in older Temple members.

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<p>One: Coping with Crisis</p>	<p>Numbers of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths are rising in our community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temple offices remain closed to non-essential personnel, and, whenever possible, work takes place from home. • Congregation continues to hold virtual worship, livestreamed and/or recorded. • Torah studies, social gatherings, and meetings take place via telephone or online. • Graveside services of 10 or fewer people observing physical distancing are allowed. • Small groups of 10 or less observing physical distancing and wearing masks when gathering outdoors is allowed. The physical distancing and wearing masks are maintained when arriving and departing from area of gathering. • Weddings and other religious celebrations will be postponed or done virtually. • Rabbinical care takes place via telephone or online. • The Recovery Strategy Team continues to monitor the Covid-19 situation in the community and make appropriate modifications to its Recovery Plan. • The Recovery Strategy Team will work with Temple Committees to ensure all activities are done in a manner consistent with the Recovery Plan.

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Two: Turning the Corner	<p>Number of cases, hospitalizations and deaths have declined by greater than 60% from peak levels AND show a consistent pattern of decline (no upward spikes or leveling off); Vaccines are readily available to all Temple members; Testing and tracing is readily available to evaluate Temple members attending events in Temple buildings; Quality masks (e.g., N95) are readily available to all Temple members</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendees at indoor Temple services, meetings, and events MUST have completed the protocol for a given vaccine (e.g., > 2 weeks after the 2nd dose of the two-dose series, Moderna or Pfizer and >2 weeks after the one dose, Johnson & Johnson vaccine • The Temple continues to follow health and safety protocols, including using masks at all gatherings, posting signs indicating symptoms, urging people to stay home and seek medical attention if they have symptoms associated with Covid-19 infection. • Non-vaccinated Temple members will be provided with access to services via Zoom or livestreaming. • Attendees at services, meetings, or events must wear a mask until the Recovery Task Force removes this requirement. • Office and classroom gatherings may occur with a requirement for masks and no physical contact (e.g., hugging, handshakes, or any form of touching); the requirement for masks may be relaxed if deemed safe by the Recovery Task Force • Worship services will restart in the Sanctuary with individuals or families seated at least 6 feet apart from other congregants; Everyone must wear a mask; Entering and leaving the Sanctuary will be done in an orderly fashion such that physical distancing is maintained. • Children (0-17) may attend services with their fully vaccinated parents. • Weddings, bar and bat mitzvahs, etc. may take place in the Sanctuary using appropriate safety precautions (attendees must have completed vaccination protocol, masks, no physical contact, etc.) • Non-vaccinated Temple members may attend outdoor worship services, events, and meetings with physical distancing and masks
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<p>Three: The New Normal</p>	<p>A consensus is reached by the scientific community on the length of immunity from immunization and whether booster immunizations are required to continue protection against Covid-19. Herd immunity is present in the community (at least 80% of the population are vaccinated) cases of Covid-19 are rare in our community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If booster vaccinations are recommended to maintain protection against Covid-19, attendees at Temple services, meetings and events are strongly encouraged to obtain such an immunization. • There is no limit to the number of worshipers who may attend worship and other activities, except for those who are known to be infectious, are actively sick or who display any of the symptoms of being ill. • Although not required of vaccinated Temple members, they may continue wearing a mask at services, meetings and events • Non-vaccinated Temple members MUST wear a N95 quality mask and preferably be seated away from other attendees • Although we can gather without limitations, worship and meetings continue both in person and virtually. • Emergency preparedness plans and strategies are in place and the Recovery Strategy Team continues to monitor the status of Covid-19 occurrences in the US and in our community and provides Temple leadership with recommendations to ensure the safety of the Temple community.
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