



TEMPLE BETH SHALOM
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Temple Operations Subcommittee Report

Temple Beth Shalom COVID-19 Task Force

*These recommendations are based on the prevailing conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic in Central Ohio as of August 2020. **These recommendations are in effect through at least November 1, 2020.** The Task Force will review its recommendations in late October, at which time potential changes may be considered based on the course of the virus.*

The primary goal of the Task Force was to protect the congregants, clergy, and staff of Temple Beth Shalom (TBS). While TBS has been operating in a virtual state since mid-March, some employees have chosen to continue to work at the Temple's office. These employees have daily exposure to vendors and mail carriers. Furthermore, popular events like the Drive-In Shabbat - with staff interacting in close proximity to congregants - present potential opportunities for COVID-19 transmission. Thus, when the Temple Operations Subcommittee first met on June 29, 2020, its immediate goal was to implement policies and procedures to protect TBS's staff in its interactions with congregants and the broader community. The work highlighted below was implemented before the July 17, 2020 Drive-In Shabbat.

As soon as it became clear in mid/late March that COVID-19 would be a serious issue, the TBS clergy and staff took precautions like mask wearing and social distancing very seriously. However, there was no protocol formalizing these practices, in addition to what a TBS employee should do in the event of a positive COVID-19 test or exposure to COVID-19. The Temple Operations Subcommittee formalized these concepts in the [COVID-19 Workplace Health & Safety Protocol](#). Furthermore, by entering the Temple office on a daily basis, employees are certifying that, to the best of their knowledge, they are [free of COVID-19 symptoms](#).

To supplement these internal policies, the Temple Operations Subcommittee spent time thinking about how congregants or visitors would interact with the building, and ways to reduce possible points of COVID-19 transmission. As a starting point, all scheduled visitors to TBS are now required to do the following:

- Wear a mask while in the Temple building. If a person does not have a mask, one will be provided via a mask and hand sanitizing station located just within the lower entrance
- Sign a health acknowledgement at least 48 hours before entering the building

In addition, the Temple Operations Subcommittee implemented the following supplemental measures:

- **More signage to maintain a heightened level of COVID-19 awareness:** from the Temple's lower level doors and throughout that portion of the building, bright, easy to read signage provides a constant reminder of important preventative measures and COVID-19 symptoms. Examples of signs include proper mask wearing and hand hygiene.
- **Directing the "flow" of people in and out of the Temple building:** the lower entrance now has a door marked "Entrance," with the other marked "Exit." As visitors enter the building, they will have a limited number of places that they can access. The upstairs is closed unless an individual is accompanied by clergy and staff (consequently, use of the elevator is also prohibited). Furthermore, because transmission of COVID-19 via airborne droplets is a concern - especially in enclosed places this Fall - the **Social Hall will be closed through November 1, 2020.**
- **Creating COVID-safe bathrooms:** the bathroom environment presents a multitude of opportunities to spread COVID-19. It is challenging to maintain social distancing in a bathroom, and there are many surfaces that require diligent cleaning on a daily basis. TBS's Facilities Manager is particularly at risk in his efforts to maintain the cleanliness of the Temple building. To provide a bathroom environment in which social distancing can be maintained, and direct contact with bathroom surfaces is minimized, the following changes were implemented:
 - ◆ TBS's bathrooms are now gender-less and limited to one person at a time (except in the case of an adult helping a young child)
 - ◆ The bathroom doors have been outfitted with a chain lock for privacy, and "Occupied/Vacant" signs
 - ◆ All bathrooms now feature contactless faucets and soap dispensers