



כ' בשבט תשפ"א

Tue, 2 February 2021
20th of Sh'vat, 5781
From the Board of Elders

Dear Tikvat Family,

This message serves as our official announcement of Tikvat's Reopening for in-person services beginning this Saturday, February 6, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. The Board of Elders is pleased to be able to make this announcement; however, there are some changes and New Guidelines that will be implemented so please carefully review the new terms in which Tikvat will be able to reopen. These New Guidelines were written from consultation from the last "Members Meeting" that took place last Sunday, Jan. 31st via Zoom. We also consulted two physicians who are members of Tikvat, and the data we used to make the decision to reopen was sourced from The Ohio Dept. of Health: (<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/dashboards/current-trends>) and the CDC Guidelines for Faith Based Communities (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/faith-based.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fcommunity%2Forganizations%2Fchecklist.html). The New Guidelines are written in the spirit of Philippians 2:3-5, which says:

"Do nothing out of selfishness or conceit, but with humility consider others as more important than yourselves, looking out not only for your own interests but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves, which also was in Messiah Yeshua."

**WE ARE ASKING YOU TO FOLLOW THE NEW GUIDELINES BY
CONSIDERING OTHERS MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOURSELVES.**

#1. WHO MAY ATTEND?

On Feb. 6th All Members, Regular Attendees, and Guests whose Last Names begin with **A-L AND...** those who will follow the safety measures including: Social Distancing, Handwashing, AND – WEARING A MASK **PROPERLY OVER THE NOSE**; AND ONLY THOSE **WHO DO NOT HAVE SYMPTOMS** OF ANY SORT, **MAY ATTEND**. IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING **ANY SYMPTOMS – EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT DIAGNOSED WITH COVID – PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND SERVICES IN PERSON – STAY HOME**.

Compliance with this is how we “love our neighbor” and are being “considerate of others as more important than ourselves”. The Board of Elders is considering a NEW RSVP SIGN UP RESERVATION SYSTEM FOR YOU TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT. THIS SYSTEM WILL REPLACE THE “ALPHABET” SYSTEM WE’VE BEEN USING. FOR THIS COMING WEEK ONLY, PLEASE FOLLOW THE ALPHABET (A-L), TO GIVE US TIME TO SET UP THE NEW RSVP SYSTEM. WE JUST NEED A FEW DAYS; WE APPRECIATE YOUR COOPERATION IN THIS MATTER. After this we will not have to follow any Alphabet schedule. We will make announcements when the reservation system is up and running.

ATTEND AT YOUR OWN RISK – If you have pre-existing conditions or are currently fighting a disease, or you are in a high-risk age bracket – Tikvat Yisrael strongly advises you NOT TO ATTEND IN PERSON FOR NOW. For those in this condition, it is ultimately your decision, and if you choose to attend under these circumstances you are attending at your own risk. Please choose carefully.

#2. MASKS WORN PROPERLY – You will be approached either by an usher or a security officer if you are not wearing your mask properly OVER THE NOSE. This is a new policy. If you have difficulty wearing the mask properly you have two options: 1) You can purchase yourself a “Mask Bracket” (before coming) which is worn under the mask to make breathing easier. There are many different designs and one example is here: (https://www.amazon.com/Silicone-Bracket-Internal-Support-Frame/dp/B08HHKHDMV/ref=asc_df_B08HHKHDMV/?tag=hyprod-20&linkCode=df0&hvadid=475794949169&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrnd=5608429232788828852&hvpon=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9015338&hvtargid=pla-1088096138873&psc=1) OR OPTION 2) Please do not attend services until masks are no longer required. AGAIN, WE

WILL ENFORCE THIS SAFETY MEASURE – PLEASE CONSIDER OTHERS MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOURSELF.

#3. SEATING – There will still be “limited seating” in the Sanctuary, only 70 chairs, and they are first come, first serve, HOWEVER, we now have an OVERFLOW ROOM in our former “Keshet Kafe” room which now has a large screen and will project the Livestream in the case that we may run out of seats. NOTE: Once the new RSVP system is up and running, reservations will be limited to the number of chairs available in the entire building. You will be able to make a reservation for seating both on our website or by calling the office. Once those reservations are full, there will be no more people allowed in the building. If a visitor comes and seating is full – we may ask some MEMBERS to kindly give up their seat for a visitor – THIS IS CONSIDERING OTHERS MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOURSELF.

NOTE: WHEN THE NEW RSVP RESERVATION SYSTEM IS IMPLEMENTED YOU WILL NEED TO “CHECK IN” WHEN YOU ARRIVE IN THE FOYER TO LET US KNOW.

ANYONE WITHOUT A RESERVATION WILL NEED TO WAIT UNTIL THE USHERS CAN SEAT ALL THOSE WITH RESERVATIONS FIRST. IF SEATING IS AVAILABLE OR IF A RESERVATION DOESN'T SHOW UP AT A REASONABLE TIME, THAT SEAT WILL BE FORFEITED TO THE VISITOR OR GUEST WHO ARRIVED WITHOUT A RESERVATION, OR A MEMBER WILL BE ASKED TO GIVE UP A SEAT FOR A VISITOR.

NOTE: If you need to have chairs moved in the Sanctuary to accommodate your family, **PLEASE FIRST ASK AN USHER.** Just as it is appropriate to ask first when visiting a person's home as a guest, do not just move their furniture in their home. THIS IS CONSIDERATION OF OTHERS MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOURSELF.

#4. CONTACT TRACING – Until the new RSVP System is in place, everyone will be asked to fill out a guest card as we did before our November closing. It is most convenient to do this when you arrive and when you also fill out your prayer card. Either put it in the offering basket or give the guest card to an usher.

#5. PRAYER CARDS/LINES – We still want to pray for everyone. We will continue to use the Prayer Card System for now and ask you to fill out those cards upon arrival before service and drop them into the offering basket. **HOWEVER, FOR NOW, THERE WILL BE NO PRAYER LINES UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.** NOTE: Eventually, the RSVP Seating System will also allow you to submit your PRAYER REQUESTS ONLINE OR BY CALLING. So, in the near future we will eliminate the handling of the cards as well.

#5. CHILDREN & NURSERY – The Shabbat School: Club Maccabee will remain suspended until further notice. Children 5< will remain with their parents in the sanctuary. Parents with children under 5 will be permitted to use the Nursery themselves with their own children, however there can only be two parents there at a time. A radio is in the nursery with our own frequency provides a way for parents there to listen to the service while in their own nursery.

#6. PREVENTATIVE MEASURES – all best practices that were implemented back in June when we reopened the first time will remain in place: 6 feet social distancing, please no hugging or hand shaking, please no congregating in groups, please leave the building at the conclusion of the service. Outside lingering is permitted as weather conditions allow. Handwashing in the bathrooms and the use of hand-sanitizer located in the foyer is provided. Only 2 adults in the bathroom at a time please.

#7. FINAL DISCLOSURE – There is no place that is completely 100% risk free from the potential to contract this virus. Tikvat Yisrael makes every reasonable effort possible to ensure reduction of risk, we cannot make any guarantee when we open our doors to the public. The safety of all is dependent on EVERYONE’S COMPLIANCE WITH THESE MEASURES.

Again, please follow all guidelines in the spirit of Philippians 2:3-5 and consider others more important THAN YOURSELF. **Everyone attending services in person is at their own risk.**

LASTLY – We are fully aware that the Covid-19 virus has been highly politicized in our society, there are many who take it seriously and there are many others who have different opinions regarding the virus and our guidelines of mask wearing etc... **We respect the opinions of everyone and made that clear in our members meeting last Sunday Jan. 31st.**

THE DECISIONS THE BOARD OF ELDERS HAVE MADE IS TO ERROR ON THE SIDE OF CAUTION. EVEN IF YOU ARE OF THE OPINION THERE IS NO NEED FOR A MASK, WE UNDERSTAND THAT, AND WE RESPECT YOUR OPINION. EVEN IF MASKS ARE DEEMED UNNECESSARY, WEARING THEM FOR NOW WILL NOT INCREASE ANYONE’S RISK. MASKS MAY MAKE SOME FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE, **BUT YOUR OWN PERSONAL COMFORT SHOULD NEVER SUPERCEDE THE HEALTH OF OTHERS AROUND YOU** – LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR AND CONSIDERING OTHERS MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOURSELF IS WHAT THE ELDERS ARE ASKING OF EVERYONE ATTENDING. Whether it be conducting a criminal background check on a volunteer who will work with minors, to having armed security at our doors, the Board ALWAYS assess risk and every decision is evaluated in this way: “Are we increasing or are we reducing risk”? We always avoid a decision that will increase someone’s risk in any way.

We have heard everyone’s opinions in the meeting, we have heard both sides of the Covid-19 debate, and the Elders have decided that if we are going to make a mistake in judgement, it will be on the side of caution/risk reduction, rather than increasing any potential of risk to anyone and everyone.

We are asking for your understanding, the same mutual respect we have afforded you, and your compliance if you choose to attend services in person at this time. Livestream will continue to be offered and classes and prayer meetings online during the week for all, and those who choose not to attend in person at this time for “WHATEVER REASON”. We ask that you do not judge others for their decisions to either attend or refrain from in person attendance at this time.

Gal. 6:3-5 For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he is fooling himself. Rather let each one examine his own work. Then he will have pride in himself alone and not in comparison to anyone else. For each one will carry his own load.

All questions may be submitted by either email at: tikvatyisrael@sbcglobal.net or calling 216-297-9929.
POSTED February 2, 2021 TIKVAT YISRAEL BOARD OF ELDERS.