

Congregation Shir Hadash

Rabbi Melanie Aron

Values

Kehillah- Congregation

We are people not a building

Pikuach Nefesh- Saving Life

Other rules can be violated in order to save a life

Kol Yisrael- Inclusivity

At least 1 in 3 members of our community is vulnerable by age, illness or by whom they live with or care for

May 22, 2020; New York, NY – Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President of the Union for Reform Judaism, issued the following statement:

“Mr. President, we have known for millennia that **houses of worship are essential institutions**. While we **long to gather in person**, we believe that there is no higher value than *pikuach nefesh*, saving a life. We are entrusted with the **holy responsibility of being God’s partners in that work**. The Reform Jewish Movement will continue to look to the **wisdom of medical professionals** to guide us on when reopening our synagogues can **be done safely [in keeping with our values](#)**.”

Congregation Shir Hadash

Educational Institution

Early Childhood Day Care- currently open for children of essential workers- all precautions as recommended by the County

Early Childhood Center may expand opening for other parents

Religious Education (normally 6 ½ hrs wk)

Combined approach- some will be all virtual (language instruction includes singing), some may be a combination of out of doors and virtual depending on the situation in the county in the fall

Religious Worship / Adult Learning / Social Gatherings/ Meetings/Back Office Support

Currently all virtual- heavily streaming and zoom

Major Holy Days in the Fall- likely to continue in that way

Major Obstacle to Live Services, even out of doors- importance of singing to our liturgy

Potential for small group outdoor gatherings

**QUESTIONNAIRE RELATING TO THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY
PHASES OF COVID-19 AND PLANS, GUIDELINES, AND NEEDS
RELATIVE TO THE SAFE OPENING OF BUSINESSES AND OTHER
INSTITUTIONS**

Company/Organization Name: Congregation Shir Hadash

Industry/Sector:Religious

Date:June 5th

1. Are you open or partially open? Open but not in our building- all is remote

a. Are you an essential business?

b. Are you open under an exception such as:

i. Outdoor Business?

ii. Pickup/Delivery?

iii. Curbside Retail?

iv. Food Distribution?

b. Have employees and customers cooperated with the health safety protocols?

YES THE BOOKKEEPER IS IN THE BUILDING TWO DAYS A WEEK TO PAY BILLS AND IF ANYONE ELSE IS AROUND WEARS A MASK, THE RECENTLY REOPENED EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER COMPLIES WITH ALL REGULATIONS.

d. To your knowledge, have employees or customers become infected with COVID-19? **NO**

2. How many of your activities can be moved outdoors? **ONLY THE CHILDREN PLAYING OUTDOORS**

3. For indoor activities:

a. How can social distancing be maintained at points of ingress and egress, where people normally cluster? **WE STAGGER ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TIMES FOR THOSE WHO NEED TO BE IN THE OFFICE**

b. How can employees and visitors be protected from transmission of the virus (e.g., no-touch temperature checks, hand sanitizer, masks, and face shields)? **WE CURRENTLY HAVE NO VISITORS IN THE OFFICE**

- c. How will Personal Protective Equipment (such as face covering and gloves) and hand sanitizer be provided before entry? FOR THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER WE HAVE A SINK BY THE ENTRANCE, THEY REMOVE THEIR SHOES AND HAVE THEIR TEMPERATURE TAKEN
- d. Can the times of activities be staggered to reduce the amount of people gathered at any one time? FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD AND OFFICE YES
- e. Can customers make appointments to gain entry while inside capacity is restricted? FOR OFFICE AND MEETINGS
- f. How can social distancing be maintained inside your premises? WE DO NOT THINK THAT SOCIAL DISTANCING IS SUFFICIENT FOR WORSHIP IN THAT IT INCLUDES SINGING SO THAT HAS REMAINED VIRTUAL

1.

4. What is your plan to acquire and distribute Personal Protective Equipment (like masks and gloves) and testing to your employees? WE HAVE PURCHASED EQUIPMENT FOR OFFICE STAFF AND EARLY CHILDHOOD

5. How can you adapt to accommodate different size gatherings that may be allowed by the Public Health officer? (Smaller gatherings are likely to be allowed before very large ones.) WE HAVE HELD BURIALS WITH UNDER TEN PEOPLE AND THEN HAD LARGER MEMORIAL SERVICES ON LINE

6. To meet the need for possible contact tracing, how would you maintain lists of employees and visitors with their contact information for contact tracing? (It is understood that lists of attendees would only be provided in the event of an infection that needed to be traced, and then only to public health personnel trained in medical confidentiality.) WE DO HAVE MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION LISTS

7. In order to assist safe and productive re-opening, what are your needs relative to:

- a. Regulation?
- b. Licensure?

- c. Childcare? THE COUNTY IS PROVIDING A GREAT DEAL OF INFORMATION
- d. Housing?
- e. Digital Inclusion?
- f. Commute-Free Working? WE HAVE DONE THIS WITH ALMOST ALL OUR STAFF, EXCEPT THE BOOKKEEPER WHO NEEDS TO PICK UP CHECKS AND THE CUSTODIAN WHO CHECKS ON THE BUILDING AND CLEANS FOR THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

8. If you have been opened or partially opened, what challenges have you experienced?

9. If you have been opened or partially opened, how has the community's adherence and response to the COVID health safety protocols been?

WE BELIEVE STRONGLY IN ADHERING TO ALL THE PROTOCOLS. THERE IS SOME CONFUSION AS TO WHETHER CHILDREN BETWEEN 2-6 NEED TO WEAR MASKS, IN DIFFERENT PLACES THERE ARE DIFFERENT RULES