



May 20, 2021

Frequently Asked Questions About COVID-19

General questions about the reopening of Temple Israel Center

Is TIC open for in-person services and programs?

We are offering in-person weekday and Shabbat services at TIC. The Mikveh is open as well and we are offering in-person programs at TIC in a socially distanced, safe manner..

[Sign-up](#) for weekday evening services.

[Sign up](#) for Shabbat services.

[Email](#) to schedule a Mikveh appointment.

Our Re-Opening Task Force has developed appropriate protocols and will be adjusting them as needed in line with the NYSDOH and CDC guidelines.

Services and Activities

What time are Shabbat morning services?

Our Shabbat morning services begin at 9:45 am. The services can be attended in person or viewed via Livestream. Please refer to the weekly email for the Livestream link.

Does TIC offer weekday morning and evening services and how do I access them via Zoom if I am not comfortable coming to services in person?

We offer weekday services in-person and via Zoom. Please refer to the weekly email for the Zoom link and password.

Can children attend services in the building?

Anyone under 18 will need to be accompanied by someone over 18 who lives in their home. Children and adults are required to wear masks at all times.

What is the current plan for Kiddush, Friday night dinners and catered events at TIC?

In order to insure the health of our community, we are not able to serve any food in the building at this time. This includes both communal as well as private events. If this should change as the pandemic situation evolves we will let you know immediately. Members wishing to sponsor a kiddush are welcome to provide pre-packaged, take-away food parcels that can be eaten once people are no longer on the TIC campus.

What is going to happen with B'nai Mitzvah ceremonies through 2021?

B'nai Mitzvah services continue to take place in our main sanctuary on the dates previously assigned, under the guidelines set by the Re-Opening Task force. Please contact [Sue Safir](#), Operations Manager, with any b'nai mitzvah questions.

How are we observing lifecycle events?

The clergy have officiated at funerals and weddings, complying with all social distancing, masking, and other health protocols.

Is the Mikveh open?

The Mikveh is open. Please use this [email](#) address to schedule an appointment.

What about other activities and events?

TIC is offering a robust schedule of activities and classes in person and via Zoom. Please refer to our weekly email for a full list of programs and services.

Is Religious School in session?

Religious school is in session. Please refer to our [website](#) for further information.

Is there programming for youth?

Absolutely! While youth programming looks different than it has in the past, TIC is committed to creating meaningful and engaging opportunities for youth at every age and stage. Mara Braunfeld, our Director of Learning and Engagement, and the entire Education Team are hard at work developing plans for fun, socially distanced in-person as well as virtual programming for our youth for the fall. For *Chalutzim* (Kindergarten-2nd grade) & *Ruach* (3rd-5th grade) contact [Cathy Deutchman](#). For *Kadima* (6th-8th grade) & USY (9th-12th grade) contact [Adam Bender](#).

General Covid Questions

What will happen if the incidence of COVID changes?

All of our plans are being carefully monitored by the Re-Opening Task Force and are subject to change. The paramount consideration for our members is *Pikuach Nefesh*. If the leadership of TIC feels that there is an increased risk, then it may be necessary to revert back to a full lockdown once again. If the situation improves we will adjust our plans accordingly.

What Screening and Safety Measures are in effect?

Based upon current information from the CDC and State of New York, and in consultation with members of this community who are physicians and public health specialists, the Re-Opening Task Force has worked to develop safety protocols and procedures for all those entering the building. Anyone entering the building must first complete a COVID-19 symptom screener which can be found [here](#). For certain services, this symptom screener need not be completed electronically in advance of arrival and instead you will be asked at the door to attest to the fact that you meet the requirements of the symptom screener in order to enter the building.

Communications

How can we stay up to date as conditions change?

We are committed to communicating regularly with the most up-to-date information in our regular emails, and we have the most current information on our home page.

How can we stay connected to each other during these times?

Please consult our weekly calendar of events to learn what is happening at TIC. Consider joining our [Facebook group](#) to keep up with all of our exciting programming and virtual events. The Hesed Circle is also available to help the community connect with things like friendly phone calls and/or socially distanced visits with senior members or those recovering from illness/injury; grocery shopping and pharmacy runs, and an intergenerational time capsule project. To contact the Hesed Circle please e-mail hesedcircle@templeisraelcenter.com.

Who do I contact if I'm having issues accessing online services or events?

We have members who are available to assist in accessing Zoom and other virtual services. To request assistance please e-mail Zoom@templeisraelcenter.org

Who is monitoring the situation and making these decisions?

Representatives from the Re-Opening Task Force, which includes members of the Executive Committee, professional staff and the Board of Trustees have been monitoring the situation with the pandemic and evaluating when and how to safely resume in-person activities.