

Dear Congregation Family,

As winter comes to an end and the warmth of spring begins to appear, we are blessed with declining infection rates and deaths due to Covid and the Omicron variant. As the data changes we are committed, as ever, to serving the spiritual, religious, educational and emotional needs of our congregation in a safe and inclusive manner.

Given this good news, we are opening up more and more:

- The Temple office is fully open.
- We hosted a Purim Carnival with food.
- Several B'nai Mitzvahs are scheduled for the spring with Kiddush luncheons planned.
- The Rabbi Jerome Weistrop Religious School continues to have in person classes.
- Religious services are attended in person, while zooming and Live streaming continues.

UPDATED GUIDELINES – EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2022

- Indoor programs/services: Masks and physical distancing are optional for those who are fully vaccinated. Proof of vaccination will not be required. We will rely on the honor system. Anyone can choose to wear the mask of their choice and social distance.
- Those who are not fully vaccinated are required to wear masks and physically distance a minimum of 3ft at all times.
- Social distancing sections (seats 3' apart) will be provided at every public event.
- The Library and Memorial Room are available, on a first come, first served basis for those who wish to participate with more protection. Contact the office to make arrangements on a weekly basis.
- Communal eating will be allowed inside the shul. Whenever possible eating will be outside and when eating inside provision will be made for those who prefer physical distancing. Food service tables will be spread out.
- Our Bimah Sukkot will be removed on or about May 1st. Until the Sukkot are removed: When more than one person from different families will be in a Sukkah, masks are to be worn by all while in the Sukkah.

Religious School:

We will continue to hold in person classes of the Jerome Weistrop Religious School. We will shift to remote learning if the Milton Public School system does so. To attend in person the following guidelines apply:

1. All students and staff are required to be vaccinated (2 shots received, with the second one received at least 15 days before an event)! Email proof of vaccination for your child, aged 5 and older to: eddirector@bethshalombluehills.org.
2. Masks will be optional. If your child requires mask and distancing or any other needs please contact Cantor Lisa.
3. Stay at home if you feel ill, have symptoms of Covid, have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid or have had a positive Covid test. You may return to Religious School 5 days after showing no symptoms. We encourage taking a Covid test with a negative result before returning to school.

In the building during Religious School:

- * Eating will be allowed outside and in the building when weather prevents outside eating.
- * Windows will be kept open where possible to increase fresh airflow. Students have the option of sitting with 3 feet of physical distancing.

Covid Resources

[Click Here](#) to access our Covid Resources list for support in any area of life that you need support in.

Support

We are here to support all of our congregants. Our Deeds of Lovingkindness Team is ready willing and able to support any congregant with needs: technology support, a Siddur (prayer book) or Humash (Torah book), tallis, food delivery, prescription pick up, please call or email the office. Thanks to CJP, emergency financial assistance is also available from Rabbi Benjamin's Discretionary Account. Once you let us know, we will do our best to have someone who can help.

Our goal is to make the shul as safe, secure and inviting as possible within the boundaries of science as we understand it at the given moment, getting input from our Health Team and you the members of our Kehillah (community). We will continue to adapt and modify as the conditions and the science dictate.

Chazak, Chazak, V'nitchazek – Be strong, be strong and let us strengthen one another.

Paul Cooperstein, President

Alfred Benjamin, Rabbi