



Thanks to the guidance of our Health Task Force, the amazing responsiveness to health science and vaccinations in our community, and vaccine eligibility for younger children, we are pleased to bring you the following updates to our Covid Policy.*

*Please note that although these updates are effective immediately, booster requirements, food service options, and other guidelines that follow King County recommendations may change based on new variants or if Covid numbers in our area demand a new response.

In The Gan:

Children over the age of 5 registered for The Gan in-person will be required to be fully vaccinated by January 16th. This will enable us to be more flexible and creative as we plan for the next Shmita. We are excited about what this means for our students and the flexibility in the choices of activities we are able to offer them. Once children turn 5, they will have eight-weeks to get fully vaccinated to continue attending in-person.

Children Attending Services:

We look forward to welcoming more children back to our worship services without the burden of testing. For clarity, we have separated protocols by age range:

Children ages 5-12 will be required to show proof of vaccination by January 16th. Until then, any child who has had their first vaccine dose is welcome to attend with proof of the first shot, without needing to test prior to services. Any children who have not had their first vaccine shot in this age range will still need to show proof of a negative antigen or PCR test before attending services.

Children under age 5 will no longer be required to show proof of a negative Covid test to attend services.

By increasing the number of vaccinated attendees, we are able to make access to services less burdensome, while also providing better herd immunity to our youngest and most vulnerable community members.

On The Bima:

While we will still be practicing social distancing and requiring masks for all attendees, we will no longer be requiring masks on the Bima. This will allow those watching services from home to better hear and feel an emotional connection with our service leaders.

Kiddush Lunches:

Again, we will still be practicing social distancing and other safety protocols, but we are thrilled to be able to bring back this wonderful opportunity to nosh and schmooze together after services. We will be providing both indoor and outdoor seating options so that our congregants may choose whichever option is most comfortable for themselves and their families. RSVP's will be required to lessen food waste and to make sure that we have proper and safe seating available for all attendees. Please note that masks will still be required when you are not physically seated and eating.

We are eager to continue to safely welcome you to the Temple in person. We look forward to sharing a meal, connecting with each other, and creating new memories with you soon!

FAQs:

How is Beth Am defining “vaccinated”? Does this definition include boosters for those that received their first vaccine more than eight months ago?

At this time, we are defining vaccinated as any person who has received their second shot (or first in the case of Johnson & Johnson) of a COVID-19 vaccine. When are widely available and recommended by our Health Task Force, we will reevaluate our definition.

Are masks required outside at Temple Beth Am?

Yes. Masks must be worn at all times any in-person Beth Am activity except when seated eating and/or drinking outside. We ask that you put your mask back on after you are done eating and/or drinking. This will allow you to both enjoy spending time with others and minimize the risks of spreading Covid.

Is this the final set of COVID-19-related changes?

We anticipate that Beth Am Covid Safety Guidelines may continue to change as cases rise, fall, boosters become widely available and vaccines become available for children under 5. We will review these guidelines on an ongoing basis and keep you all up to date.

As much as this pandemic can feel overwhelming, we will continue to find ways to bring our members together. We appreciate your continued commitment to making Beth Am a place where all people—including vulnerable populations—feel safe as well as stopping the spread of COVID-19 in our community. We are proud to partner with each of you as we live our Jewish values and create a safe place to connect in person with others in this difficult time. With many blessings in 5782!

Updated November 30, 2021