



21 July 2021

Dear Kehilla,

This week marked the beginning of stage 4 of the Government's Covid roadmap, with the majority of legal requirements for social distancing having come to an end on July 19. Nonetheless, we are all too aware that we are currently in the midst of a third wave, as cases continue to climb, and severe illnesses and hospitalisations are on the rise too (albeit thankfully at a much lower rate than in previous waves).

Our guidelines for shul services in the weeks ahead therefore reflect this reality. Whilst we are all eager for a return to completely "normal" shul life as quickly as possible, we need to proceed gradually and with caution. As the Chief Medical Officer and others have made clear, an end to legal requirements of distancing does not indicate an end to the pandemic, and a level of caution, particularly in enclosed spaces, remains a sensible and responsible course of action.

It has been wonderful to welcome so many people back to shul in recent weeks and months, some after prolonged absences, and we trust that all will play their part in ensuring that the shul environment remains one in which **all who wish to do so feel comfortable to attend**.

These guidelines have been formulated based on government and US guidance and expert medical opinion. As the situation is constantly changing, they will be kept under **regular review**, and all will be informed as and when changes occur.

- Spacing between households will be reduced from 2m to 1m
- Doors and windows will remain open in order to provide the maximum air flow.
- We **strongly encourage** the use of face masks indoors, particularly when singing.
- All are required to use hand sanitizer upon entry and exit from shul.
- Communal Siddurim and Chumashim are available for use for those who do not wish to bring their own – please use hand sanitizer before taking and upon returning them.
- The procedure for Aliyot remains unchanged at present.
- Anyone who is currently ill with Covid, experiencing symptoms or otherwise required to self-isolate should not attend.

We thank everyone for your patience and understanding over the past year, for your continued support and co-operation and we look forward to (continuing to) see you in shul!

With warm best wishes,

Simon Bentley and Rabbi Kenigsberg