



16 Tammuz 5780  
July 8, 2020

**Subject: OC Outdoor Courtyard Minyanim**

Dear OC Community and Friends,

While we have recently held indoor services for Shabbat and weekday mornings, we plan to hold services in our outdoor courtyard this coming Shabbat. We are moving outdoors due to increasing Covid-19 cases in King County and Washington State in general, and an emerging scientific consensus that outdoor gatherings are safer from a Covid-19 perspective than indoor. We will continue to follow all applicable governmental and public health guidance, including specific Washington State religions gathering requirements which available [here](#) to download.

We are delighted to announce that Ohr Chadash will meet in our lovely courtyard for Kabbalat Shabbat, Shabbat morning and Shabbat afternoon minyanim. Men and women are welcome to attend; unfortunately we generally cannot accommodate children below Bar/Bat Mitzvah age at this time. Due to the need for social distancing, Ohr Chadash's courtyard capacity will be limited to approximately 45 attendees (men and women).

In accordance with State guidance and those of the Vaad HaRabanim of Greater Seattle, our courtyard minyanim at Ohr Chadash will adhere to the following standards:

- **A sign-up sheet and seating chart will be used. Please see this [link](#).** The sign-up sheet will be distributed on Wednesdays, and members are expected to note their **attendance by Thursday at 6pm**. A seating chart will be prepared for each Shabbat in order to properly seat members of the same household.
- Attendees must be completely free of any COVID-19 symptoms, including but not limited to: cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever (a temperature above 100.4°F), chills, muscle pain, sore throat, Congestion or runny nose new loss of taste or smell, or other symptoms as may be found at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html).
- Attendees are requested to take their temperature before attending minyan. A mercury thermometer is recommended for taking temperatures on Shabbat.
- Anyone with a household member who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or with symptoms of COVID-19 (including a fever above 100.4°F) may not attend.
- If one has been infected with COVID-19 or has self-quarantined because of exposure to an individual infected or suspected to have been infected with COVID-19, you must be symptom free for at least 2 weeks to attend.

- Generally, attendees must be over the age of bar/bat mitzvah. There will be no youth programming.
- Those over the age of 65 or in a high-risk group (i.e., diabetic, high blood pressure, heart or lung disease, etc.) should consult with their physician before attending.
- Attendees must wash hands with soap and water before coming to the minyan.
- Attendees must arrive and leave in a timely manner. There will be no socializing before, during, or after minyan. Attendance is for the sole purpose of Tefilah B'tzibur.
- In an effort to minimize respiratory droplet spread, we will curtail most singing during davening. We realize that many people enjoy the singing during davening, and we hope that it can be expanded in the covid-free future.
- Attendees must wear a face mask at all times and bring their own mask.
- Seating will be at least six feet apart except those sitting next to members of their own household. Moving chairs is not permitted.
- Attendees must avoid touching surfaces unnecessarily.
- Attendees should bring their own Siddur, Chumash and Tallit.
- Restroom access will be limited to one person at a time, and social distancing and mask wearing must be maintained at all times. You must wash your hands with soap and water before returning to services.
- Abundant hand sanitizer and paper towels will be available for use after touching any door handles, knobs or other items.
- A minyan supervisor will keep track of those who attend in order to enable contact tracing, should it become necessary.

**Please note: These standards allow one to attend OC's outdoor minyan, but they do not obligate one to attend. You acknowledge that you are attending OC's outdoor minyan at your own risk. In addition, we will appoint a supervisor to assure that attendees adhere to all the standards. If you attend OC's minyan but do not follow these standards, you will be asked to leave. We empathize with those who are not able to attend due to the need to follow these standards.**

We pray that we are able to hold minyanim in our newly remodeled shul with all our members soon.

Ohr Chadash Reopening Committee