



23 Heshvan 5781
November 10, 2020

Subject: UPDATED OC Minyanim Guidelines

Dear OC Community and Friends,

With the change in weather, we plan to move services indoors beginning this week. We fully recognize increasing Covid-19 cases in King County and Washington State in general, and will continue to follow all applicable governmental and public health guidance, including specific Washington State religious gathering requirements which are available [here](#) to download. We will continue to use a sign-up sheet and require masks and social distanced seating. The windows will be open during services, and we recently installed MERV-13 filters to clean the air as much as possible. Nothing is perfect, but we are taking many precautions so we can daven together as safely as possible.

In order to ensure as safe of an environment as possible, we are adjusting our guidelines as we move indoors. Going forward, all attendees for indoor minyanim and any other events or programs must wear a proper fitting mask, including children. Newborns and infants without a mask held by a parent or in a stroller are welcome to continue attending outdoors under a covered area adjacent to our shul. If an older child or adult is unable or unwilling to wear a proper fitting mask while at OC, we will respectfully ask them to leave.

In addition to our indoor weekday and Shabbat minyanim, we will have a limited number of outdoor seats adjacent to the windows on the north side of our shul. Those attending Shabbat services whether indoors or outdoors will continue to sign up in advance.

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

- **A sign-up sheet and pre-arranged seating 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**. Guests and those members signing up should note guest email addresses in case we need to reach them prior to or following Shabbat services. Seating will be pre-arranged prior to 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.

- 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.
- We ask all participants to self-assess and not attend services if, in the past two weeks, you have:
 - Traveled by plane, train, bus, etc. in which you were within six feet of other people not part of your household for an extended period of time.;
 - Attended large social gatherings, such as a wedding, funeral or a party;
 - Attended a mass gathering such as a sporting event, concert or parade;
 - Been in crowds such as restaurants, bars, airports, bus and train stations or movie theaters; or
 - Traveled on a cruise ship;
 - Other Covid-19 policies remain the same;
 - If you find yourself in one of the categories above, you are welcome to sit under the eaves outside the windows (which will be open).
- **Children** are welcome to attend indoors with their parents if they are masked and able to sit comfortably with or next to a parent. All children regardless of age must be masked indoors; unmasked newborns and infants are welcome outdoors in a stroller or held by their parents. There will be no youth Shabbat groups downstairs. Parents will be asked by an OC volunteer to take children home if children are unable to stay in their seats and wear a mask.
- Those over the age of 65 or in a high-risk group (i.e., diabetic, high blood pressure, heart or lung disease, immunocompromise state, 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 indoor minyan, but they do not obligate one to attend. You acknowledge that you are attending OC's indoor 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 indoors with all our members soon.

Ohr Chadash Reopening Committee

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