



## **Policies for Reopening Bolton Street Synagogue COVID-19 October 2021**

Decisions about re-opening our indoor and outdoor spaces for services and other communal activities will be based on national and local data, on recommendations from State and local sources, and on the advice of our own Coronavirus Prevention Task Force of medical and epidemiological experts.

Bolton Street Synagogue will be open for small life-cycle events, programs, meetings, events, and services.

The policies and protocols incorporate these principles:

1. The Bolton Street Synagogue Mission serves as a guide for decisions with the primary focus being the safety and well-being of our community and our commitment to repairing the world by doing our part to end the COVID-19 Pandemic.
2. Recognition that state and local recommendations and restrictions are based on priorities, risk assessments, and goals that may differ from those of Bolton Street Synagogue.

### **Indoor Events and Services**

#### **Symptoms:**

Those who have experienced any of the following symptoms in the 48 hours preceding the life-cycle service: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, may not attend an event in the BSS building.

Those who have been in close physical contact, in the last 14 days preceding the life-cycle service, with a person who is known to have laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 or with anyone who has any symptoms consistent with COVID-19, may not attend an event in the BSS building. \*Close physical contact is described as- within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.

Those who are isolating or quarantining because they may have been exposed to a person with COVID-19 or are worried that they may be sick with COVID-19, may not attend an event in the BSS building.

Those who are at risk because of an underlying health issue or who are 60 years of age or older are strongly encouraged, for their own health, to avoid the risk of attending public celebrations at the synagogue until all restrictions have been lifted. Any such persons attending assumes some personal risk.

### **Restrictions:**

- Attendance for services/events taking place in the BSS sanctuary and social hall combined will be **limited to 100 participants**, plus the rabbi and an usher when applicable.
- **Masks must be worn at all times**, including by an usher, a B'nai Mitzvah child and their family members, a wedding couple and their family members, and including children ages 3 and older. Masks must cover the mouth and nose.
- The Torah scroll will be handled only by the rabbi or by the B'nai Mitzvah family.
- Restrooms will be available, and all safety protocols, including mask wearing and social distancing, will apply in the restrooms. More than 2 people should not be in the restroom at one time.
- While at Bolton Street, individuals/families are to maintain **at least 6 feet** between themselves and other individuals/families. Ushers will help to manage appropriate distancing in the Sanctuary. Because small children might find it difficult to maintain physical distancing, parents should consider whether to bring them to services where physical distancing is required.
- No Oneg Shabbat, Kiddush or any food or drink will be served indoors.
- The use of Zoom, Facebook Live, or other streaming service will continue so that those who can't be physically present will be able to participate remotely.

### Check-In/Arrival/Dismissal Procedures

- Congregants and guests are asked to arrive in the front parking lot 15 minutes prior to services in order to check in and to be seated by ushers.
- Congregants and guests must check in upon arrival and complete the sign-in sheet.
- Ushers will seat congregants, guests and families **at least 6-feet apart** in the Sanctuary.
- Please no handshakes or hugging. **Social distancing is required.**
- **Socializing should be restricted to outdoor areas.**

### Synagogue Procedures

- **At least one usher (staff member or volunteer) must be present** while a life-cycle service is taking place to enforce compliance with the gathering restrictions and hygiene protocols.
- Hand sanitizer and face masks will be available in easy-to-access locations.
- The Bolton Street Synagogue building will be kept clean and sanitized.
- Sanctuary pews will be clearly marked to indicate where people can sit/stand while meeting physical distancing requirements.
- For better ventilation, the doors between the Sanctuary and the Social Hall will be kept open. Windows will be opened, weather permitting.
- Entrance doors will be propped open before services, and exit doors will be propped open at the end of services.

**\*Bolton Street Synagogue reserves the right to cancel an indoor life-cycle event in the case of heightened and significant COVID risk, based on the recommendations of Baltimore City, the State of Maryland, and the BSS COVID Task Force.**

**Thank you for your part in keeping us together yet distanced. Please note that this guidance may be updated at any time based on available information.**