

Ohr Torah Health Safety Guidelines (Updates on 5/7/2021 indicated in [blue](#).)

FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

Should I Attend Minyan?

Even though minyanim are now permitted, no one is obligated to attend a minyan. It is up to each individual to decide if he/she will attend a minyan. When deciding whether to attend minyan, please keep the following guidelines in mind:

1. It is strongly urged that you daven at home and not attend minyan if one of the following applies to you:
 - a. You are immunocompromised.
 - b. You are on hemodialysis, have heart disease, lung disease including asthma, or liver disease.
 - c. You are healthy but live with someone who meets one of the above criteria.

You are encouraged to consult with your physician to determine if it is wise for you to join a minyan.

2. Although the U.S. Coronavirus task force considers those aged 65 or older to be at an increased risk, those in this demographic are welcome to join any of our minyanim. As with anyone who attends, we ask that he/she carefully evaluate his/her situation individually and use his/her own discretion before attending.
3. Do not attend if:
 - a. You are sick, have a fever and/or cough.
 - b. You have a change in sense of smell or taste.
 - c. You are feeling differently than usual.
 - d. You are placed under quarantine.

I attended minyan but later tested positive for Covid. Who should I tell?

If you test positive within 14 days of attending minyan at Ohr Torah, please alert Rabbi Spivak (spivakm@gmail.com), Rabbi Grosberg (bgrosberg@aol.com), Bruce Schlanger (bruce.schlanger@gmail.com) or David Goldstein (davesmail@golddave.com) – whichever you are most comfortable with - as soon as possible. Your test status will remain private but reporting it to us will help us warn those who may have attended minyan with you.

What if someone who attended minyan tests positive for Covid?

We are tracking who attends each minyan and will notify all those who attended a minyan with someone who subsequently tests positive for Covid. All affected attendees should self-quarantine for 2 weeks.

I tested positive for Covid. When may I attend minyan again?

Anyone testing positive for Covid should NOT attend minyan and should not return to minyan within 11 days of the positive test and should not attend minyan until they have had 72 hours free of fever or respiratory symptoms. Furthermore, you must first be cleared by a doctor before coming to minyan.

Someone I live with is under quarantine due to a co-worker, classmate, etc. who tested positive for Covid. May I attend minyan?

As long nobody within your household has tested positive you may attend minyan. Only the person/people under quarantine should not attend.

I was ill but not with Covid. May I attend minyan?

If you have been sick with any illness, please do not return to minyan until you get clearance from your physician.

What is the minyan schedule and will it be inside or outside?

The minyan schedule may be found on the shul calendar and in the weekly newsletter. It is advised that you join our Minyan Whatsapp for the latest information on minyan status. This group may be joined by going to <http://congregationohrtorah.org/minyanwhatsapp> on your phone with WhatsApp installed.

As of this writing, the schedule for Shacharit is as follows:

Shacharit – Sunday: 8:15 am; Monday/Thursday: 7:20 am; Tuesday/Wednesday/Friday: 7:30 am;
Shabbat: 9:00 am

Mincha followed by Maariv - Sunday through Thursday and Shabbat afternoon: different times based on when Shkia is that week. See calendar or newsletter.

Friday evening Mincha/Kabalat Shabbat/Maariv: 7:00 pm

Where are minyanim held?

All weekday minyanim are held in the shul (sanctuary). Shabbat and Chag will be held in either the shul or the Social hall depending on how many people sign up. Additionally, there will be a Shacharit minyan in the parking lot behind the shul on Shabbat and Chag mornings. The outdoor Shabbat and Chag Shacharit will be offered as long as there is a need for it.

Are there youth groups for children on Shabbat and Chag?

As of this writing, there are still no youth groups. There will be an announcement when youth groups begin again.

Minyan Guidelines

General Guidelines

The following guidelines apply to all minyanim held at Ohr Torah (outdoor, indoor, weekday, and Shabbat).

1. Attendees are required to observe social distancing at all times.
 - a. Please stay a minimum of 6 feet away from other attendees at all times (before, during, and after minyan).
2. Bring your own siddur, chumash, tallit, tefillin. There should be no sharing and no borrowing.
3. Talesim and tefillin may be put on at the minyan.
4. On laining days, the Torah should not be kissed before or after making Brochot for an Aliyah.
5. No congregating at the minyan location, in front or in back, before or after the minyan.
6. If there are multiple people in the same household who wish to attend minyan, it is best that they attend the same minyan together.
7. Bathroom access is allowed on an 'emergency' basis. Only 1 person will be allowed in the bathroom area at a time.
8. Security
 - a. Everyone is asked to be mindful of security at all minyanim.
 - i. Always BE ALERT for suspicious activity.
 - ii. Attendees are urged to watch out for anything unusual or suspicious and call law enforcement immediately.
 - iii. Trust your instincts. If something strikes you as being out of place or problematic, then call the police or alert the security guard (if it is Shabbat) ASAP.
 - iv. Unusual behavior, suspicious packages and strange devices should be reported to police or security guard ASAP. Requests for information about your gatherings, particularly by non-residents, should be considered suspicious and be reported to police ASAP.
 - v. Report surveillance immediately. Watch for people who:
 1. Record data about your gatherings by note taking, video-taping, or picture taking.
 2. Sit in a vehicle for an extended period of time.
 3. Loiter near the minyan location.
 4. Arrive at the minyan location seeking to daven, without prior notification or membership.

5. Remember that many of these behaviors may be consistent with innocent behavior. Report to police or security guard and let them assess the threat.
- b. There will be a security guard for Shabbat Shacharit only.

Outdoor Guidelines

All of the General Guidelines listed above apply to outdoor minyanim in addition to the following:

1. Minyanim will be held in the shul parking lot behind the building.
2. Those who are fully vaccinated may attend without wearing a mask. According to the CDC, fully vaccinated is defined as anyone who is either
 - a. 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or
 - b. 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine
3. Those who are not fully vaccinated are required to wear a mask at all times.
 - a. The mask should cover both mouth and nose.
 - b. People who are not able to wear a mask at all times, should consider not attending the minyan.
4. If it rains, or rain is in the forecast, minyan may need to be canceled. We will send notification whenever possible but use your best judgement if it looks like rain on Shabbat or Chag.
5. Please be respectful of our neighbors and keep the noise level to a minimum.

Indoor Guidelines

All of the General Guidelines listed above apply to indoor minyanim in addition to the following:

1. Minyan location.
 - a. Weekday minyanim will be held in the shul (sanctuary).
 - b. Shabbat/Chag minyanim will be held either in the shul or the Social Hall depending on how many people have signed up.
2. Building entry.
 - a. For minyanim held in the shul, entrance to the building may be gained through the front door of the building.
 - b. For minyanim held in the Social Hall, entrance to the building may be gained through the back door that enters directly into the Social Hall.
3. All attendees are required to wear a mask at all times.
 - a. The mask should cover both mouth and nose.
 - b. People who are not able to wear a mask at all times, should consider not attending the minyan.
 - c. The Chazan and Baal Kree'ah should also wear a mask at all times.
4. Minyan size is legally limited based on room capacity and social distancing.
 - a. Priority will be given to those saying Kaddish.

Weekday Guidelines

All General Guidelines and Indoor Guidelines apply to indoor weekday minyanim.

Shabbat Guidelines

All General Guidelines apply to Shabbat minyanim. If you are joining an indoor minyan, all Indoor Guidelines apply. If you are joining an outdoor minyan, all Outdoor Guidelines apply. Additionally, the following also apply:

1. Sign up for all minyanim is strongly urged.
 - a. While signup is not required, signing up helps us maintain a record of attendees for contact tracing purposes.
 - b. An email notifying of when the signup form is available will be sent to the listserv each week. The form will usually open on Wednesday night or Thursday morning.
 - c. Sign up is different for each week. Signing up one week does not carry over to the following week.
2. Shacharit will begin with **רבי ישמעאל**. It is advised that you daven up to that point before arriving at your minyan.
3. Chairs will be set up for all attendees.
 - a. Families may sit together. If a chair must be moved to allow this, please move a chair from the same row (not from behind or in front) so social distancing may be maintained from row to row.
 - b. Please do not use a chair to put your things on (especially outside). Limited seats will be set up so using a chair in this manner may deprive another attendee of his/her seat.