

Temple Emanu-El COVID-19 Policy

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is Temple requiring proof of vaccination and continuing mask wearing inside the building beginning with the High Holy Days?

According to our Medical Advisory Task Force, as well as guidance from the CDC and Dallas County Public Health, those who are not vaccinated against Covid-19 are at increased risk of infection to themselves and others. Many conditions, with or without vaccination, are associated with increased risk of infection and worse outcomes of Covid-19 infection. In approving the policy, the Board of Trustees believes that vaccination for all those eligible and wearing masks help ensure the safety of our community.

Who advises the Board?

Temple is fortunate to have a Medical Advisory Task Force and a Covid Advisory Task Force, both of which have provided invaluable input during the entire course of Temple's pandemic response. We made every effort to accommodate the diverse needs of our congregation and believe that this policy is the best way to ensure the health and safety of our members and staff while offering the full range of in-person experiences to our members.

Can you tell me what to expect during in-person services for the High Holy Days and how will that compare to online services?

We are fully committed to a multi-access experience of Temple's beautiful services and do not differentiate between them. Of course, some people will feel most spiritual at the in-person services and others will enjoy the solitude and safety of their homes. However you participate, we are all part of one sacred community.

How will this policy affect registration for the High Holy Days?

Those who have registered for in-person services are required to upload their proof of vaccination as well as sign Our Brit: Covenant of Care. The record will be part of the digital admission card and allow access once the photo of the vaccination card has been uploaded.

What do I need to bring with me to High Holy Days services to enter the building?

Two pieces of emailed information need to be presented upon entrance: Your digital admission card plus the email you will receive confirming your submission of the Brit and vaccination proof.

What does this mean for our families with children ages 12-18?

We recognize that families with vaccination-eligible teens are in various stages of securing inoculations for their children. We have provided the following exceptions:

The vaccination requirement does not apply to Temple youth, ages 12-18, attending the following services:

- Rosh Hashanah: 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. family services in Stern Chapel, 12 p.m. congregational service in Olan Sanctuary
- Yom Kippur: 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. family services in Stern Chapel, 12 p.m. congregational service in Olan Sanctuary.

Proof of vaccination will not be required of students attending Youth Learning + Engagement classes and programs, which will primarily take place outdoors. Information about Covid-19 safety protocols for YL+E and for b'nai mitzvah families will be sent directly in separate communications.

What services require proof of vaccination?

The following services are for vaccinated members only (regardless of age and eligibility):

- Erev Rosh Hashanah
- Rosh Hashanah Day 9:30 a.m.
- Kol Nidre
- Yom Kippur Morning 9:30 a.m.
- Yizkor and N'ilah services

What is Temple's policy on wearing masks?

Masks are required to be worn at all times inside the building for all congregants over age 2.

I'd like to update my plans for attending services. What are my options?

If you wish to update your reservation, whether changing the service time or moving online, please email us at hhd@tedallas.org or call 214.706.0000 and we will be happy to assist you with your changes.

How will we show proof of vaccination to enter the building after the High Holy Days?

Temple's staff is working on a process so that your proof of vaccination and acceptance of Our Brit: Covenant of Care will continue to allow access after the High Holy Days. Watch Temple communications for more details.

How do I get technical assistance?

Technical help will be offered by Temple staff at the following times and dates: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, Aug. 30-Sept. 2, and 1 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 3.

Are there any rules on what type of mask is acceptable?

Any mask that is secure and covers the mouth and nose is acceptable. The Medical Advisory Task Force recommends the use of medical grade N-95 masks.

What happens if I arrive at the building for services without registering or providing proof of vaccination beforehand?

Entrance to Temple for High Holy Days service requires proof of vaccination for all those ages 18 and up (with exceptions noted above). If you do not have a digital admission card but have proof of vaccination, please visit the Reception Desk for assistance. If you do not have proof of vaccination or a digital admission card, you will be invited to experience services online.

If I forget my mask, will Temple have masks available for me?

Yes. Please visit the Reception Desk.

How will social distancing work?

Our Temple staff has prepared our worship spaces for appropriate social distancing. We request that you sit with members of your household. We also ask that you maintain social distance from other congregants, clergy and staff who are not members of your household.

How does this policy affect my children who are enrolled in ECEC or YL+E?

With the exception of the High Holy Days services noted above, children in the schools are exempt from the proof of vaccination policy.

Are there any exceptions?

Please contact Executive Director Meredith Fried for questions about exemptions to the policy. mfried@tedallas.org