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Dear Congregants,

We are thrilled to let you know that we will be returning to our Sanctuary for in-person services after more than a year. During the pandemic, our re-entry committee has met at least monthly. Since we moved quickly into the virtual realm, our top priority has been to return to in-person activities safely. At this time, the vaccination rate is increasing, and the cases of Covid-19 in our area are decreasing. Now is the time. Our first indoor service will be Friday, June 18 at 7 PM.

We caution that the pandemic is not over. It is unknown what will happen to Covid caseloads in the fall or what will happen when a more virulent variant arrives in our community. We will be taking several precautions in the meantime. When you consider coming to the Temple for services, please keep the following items in mind. They are based upon State of Connecticut guidelines and CDC recommendations.

- Please be vaccinated if that is medically possible for you.
- If you feel unwell or have a fever, please stay home.
- You will be asked to sign in for contact tracing purposes. When you sign in, you will be asked to check a box to attest that you are vaccinated. If you cannot check this box, please wear a mask.
- Masks and social distancing are not required for vaccinated individuals, but please do what makes you comfortable.
- Singing is permissible.
- Zoom and Youtube Live will still be available for those who cannot join us in person.

We strongly recommend that everyone who is medically able gets vaccinated. All indications are that available vaccines are safe and effective. Being vaccinated protects you from sickness. More importantly, a high vaccination rate protects those in our community who cannot get vaccinated or whose immune systems are not as protective even with a vaccine. During the pandemic, we have consistently operated under the Jewish value of p'kuach nefesh - to save one life is as if to save an entire world. As the pandemic abates and we return to regular activity, we must remain vigilant.

The re-entry committee will continue meeting to consider important issues such as handling High Holy Day services, returning to in-person religious school in the fall, and adjusting our policies as we move forward. We will also work toward returning to regular functions like oneg and other events that include food or meals.

We appreciate your patience and support during the pandemic. Please continue to communicate with us if you have concerns or questions about our policies and practices.

L'shalom,

Jo-el Fernandez, President
Rabbi Marc E. Ekstrand