

Tiferes Israel Synagogue
Covid-19
Operational Plan

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Tiferes Israel Synagogue COVID-19 Operational Plan

Tiferes Israel Synagogue
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Tiferes Israel Synagogue is following provincial and federal guidelines for Covid-19. For more information on Covid-19, please refer to the New Brunswick Government's website:

<https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/corporate/promo/covid-19.html>

1. Provincial Alert Levels & Faith Venues

Red

- Outdoor (drive-in) religious services only. Since Tiferes Israel Synagogue is a Modern Orthodox synagogue and driving and the use of electronics are forbidden on the Sabbath and High Holidays, the synagogue will be closed when in this level.
- Funerals are limited to a single-household bubble

Orange

Faith venues can operate under a COVID-19 operational plan. In-person services are limited to **50 participants**, or fewer depending upon the size of the facility, with two metres of physical distancing.

- Continuous mask wearing is **required**.
- **No singing** is permitted.
- Other indoor religious observances, funerals, celebrations of life, marriage ceremonies, receptions and social gatherings of more than **25 people** are prohibited.

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Yellow

Faith venues can continue to be open as long as two meters of distance is maintained between people outside of their household or **Steady15** at a **maximum of 50%** of the venue, and **everyone is wearing a mask**. Masks must be worn, and two meters of distance must be in place, for singing to be permitted – otherwise, **no singing is allowed**.

2. Illnesses & Travel

Anyone who has traveled outside the province the province must self-isolate for 14 days upon return. No one may enter the synagogue until their self-isolation period is over. Likewise, any member who has been told by Public Health that they must isolate or quarantine may not attend the synagogue.

Any members who have any symptoms related to Covid-19 are asked to stay home until such time as they are feeling well and/or they receive a negative Covid test.

Symptoms of Covid-19 include:

- new or worsening cough
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- temperature equal to or over 38°C
- feeling feverish
- chills
- fatigue or weakness
- muscle or body aches
- new loss of smell or taste
- headache
- gastrointestinal symptoms (abdominal pain, diarrhea, vomiting)
- feeling very unwell

Members are reminded to cough or sneeze into the crook of their elbow.

3. Physical Distancing

During Services: People must stay 2 meters apart from those outside their household. Handshaking and other close contact with members outside your household is not permitted.

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4. Mask Usage

Under Red, Orange and Yellow level masks are **mandatory** in indoor public spaces, including the synagogue.

An officiant may remove their mask while talking or singing **ONLY** if they are at least 4 meters away from everyone and they must replace their mask as soon as they are finished.

5. Enhanced Cleaning & Disinfection of Shared Areas & Surfaces

Cleaning removes visible soil and/or dirt from surfaces. Cleaning works by using soap and water to physically remove germs from surfaces.

Disinfecting kills germs on surfaces. Disinfecting works by using chemicals to destroy germs.

In addition to increasing the washing and sanitizing of high touch surface areas, such as bathrooms, doorknobs, and other common surface areas, soap, paper towel and sanitizer will be available.

Location	Frequency ¹
Doorknobs, Light Switches, Alarm Key Pad	Daily
Washroom taps and flush handles	Daily
Bimah	Once a week
Railings	Once a week
Mezuzot	Daily

6. Hand Washing / Sanitizer Stations

Anyone entering the building must either sanitize their hands at the provided station or wash them with soap and water for at least 20 seconds in one of the washrooms.

A sanitizing station has been set up just inside the entrance. All members must stop here upon entry, sanitize their hands and sign the contact tracing sheet.

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We all have to do our part to prevent the spread of illness. We know that practicing good hygiene is an essential part of preventing the spread of COVID-19. To protect yourself and others from getting sick, take the following precautions:

- wash your hands often (in addition to routine times such as after using the washroom, before eating, when handling food for the public),
- cough/sneeze into your elbow or tissue and throw away,
- avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with your hands,
- use alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Location of Hand Sanitizing Stations

Hand Sanitizing Stations	Location
Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Library• Office• Bimah
Congregants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lobby entrance• Bimah

Additionally, hand washing can be done in the men's and women's bathrooms in the lobby as well as the kitchenette in the kiddush room.

7. Capacity Limits

Per the New Brunswick guidelines, faith venues are allowed to have up to 50 participants or as determined by the size of the venue (whichever is smaller). Indoor and outdoor gatherings such as funerals may have up to 25 people attend and must adhere to the operational plan.

8. Services

Every second row in the sanctuary is closed. No members may sit together unless they belong to the same household (or Steady10 in Orange, Steady15 in Yellow).

There will be no hand shaking, kissing of the Torah or any mezuzot. The Torah will not be circulated until we reach Green level.

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9. Indoor observances such as funerals, bar Mitzvahs and any other gatherings or celebrations

Under Orange level, no more than 25 people are permitted.

Under Yellow level, occupancy is limited to 50% of the facility's capacity.

Under Yellow level, funerals are limited to 50 people with social distancing.

10. Hebrew School

Hebrew school will follow public school guidelines, closing if schools close.

All students are currently being taught online.

11. Other Considerations

Under Red level, the synagogue is not permitted to be open.

Under Orange level singing is not permitted.

Under Orange and Yellow level, Kiddushes will not take place.

Kissing of the mezuzot is forbidden at this time.

12. Contact Tracing Records

Tiferes Israel Synagogue is obligated, by the **Mandatory Order**, to collect names and phone numbers of attendees to any event (services, funerals, meetings, etc.) for contact tracing.

Each member **must** record when they have attended services or other gatherings within the synagogue. Due to restrictions placed on writing on the Sabbath and other High Holidays, a sheet with members' names will be located outside the sanctuary. A sheet of stickers is located beside it and all attendees **must** place a sticker next to their name to indicate they were in attendance. Should someone attend who is not a member and whose name is not on the sheet, they are **obligated** to place their name and phone number on the sheet.

The contact tracing records will be kept securely by the Office Administrator until such time as they are no longer needed and can be safely disposed.

Final Note: As the pandemic evolves, Covid-19 measures are sometimes revised by the New Brunswick government. This document will be revised to reflect any changes made by Public Health.