

[COVID-19 PROTOCOL TEMPLATES FOR SFS EVENTS & ACTIVITIES as of March 31, 2022](#)

All events and activities will have these primary objectives:

- Hold in-person gatherings that, to the best of our ability, protect the health and safety of the members of our Sacred Community
- Recognize that there may be individuals within our congregation who are not vaccinated or who still feel vulnerable to COVID-19 even if they have been vaccinated
- Provide virtual options, when feasible, to accommodate those who cannot attend events in person
- Follow NY State DOH and CDC guidelines and the advice of the medical professionals on our COVID Task force.

COVID-19 continues to be detected with various intensities in different communities and is subject to changing prevalence. We will continue to update protocols as necessary.

Template to be applied to ALL in-person events and activities, whether outdoors or indoors, unless differences are specified:

- **Discretion** - Whenever reasonable, the clergy and the lay leadership will be allowed maximum discretion in implementing these protocols.
- **Size** - Maximum size determined by NY State guidelines.
- **Vaccination Status:** SFS confirms the vaccination status of attendees of in-person events. This is done by checking proof of vaccination status and tracking that information. With the exception of children not eligible for vaccination, we require all in-person attendees at services and community events to be fully vaccinated and have received a single booster shot if eligible. Attendees are exempted from the booster shot requirement if they have contracted COVID within the past three months. Individuals who have tested positive for COVID must be symptom-free for at least five days prior to attending an in-person event.

Anyone not meeting these requirements will be welcome to join virtually.

As of this writing, while we recommend that every individual be up to date with their inoculations, we suggest that people who are eligible for a second booster check with their doctors as to whether or not, and when, to get it.

- **Physical Distancing:** Spaces will be configured to allow for distancing, especially if children not yet eligible for vaccination are expected to attend. This may include having separate sections designated specifically for families with unvaccinated children. We will inform attendees when there are separate sections and ask families with unvaccinated children to sit in the appropriate section. We will not assign seats and the amount of distancing will depend upon conditions at the time.
- **Face coverings** We follow NY State DOH and CDC guidelines and the advice of the medical professionals on our COVID Task Force. The clergy and leadership will determine masking requirements based on conditions at the time and their assessment of the best interests of the congregation as a whole. Anyone with special concerns should feel comfortable continuing to mask if they choose for their own added protection.

We encourage the use of N95 and KN95 masks and have them available at all in-person events.

- **Children** under the age of 5 who are not yet vaccine eligible may be seated, with a vaccinated adult
- **Singing and chanting:** The congregation is encouraged to sing or chant quietly
- **Ventilation:**
 - The HVAC system has been upgraded to M-11 filters. We keep track of when they need to be replaced.
 - The system is monitored to ensure a satisfactory mix of fresh air while providing a comfortable environment.

- Wherever reasonable, all windows and doors are opened.
 - Whenever reasonable, events should continue to be held outdoors. However, clergy and leadership have discretion deciding where to hold events.
- **Food:**
 - The clergy and leadership have the discretion to allow indoor eating for congregational events, onegs, and lifecycle events if they deem it is safe to do so. If masking is required to attend an event, attendees will be strongly encouraged to wear their masks at all times except when seated at a table eating.
- **Registration:**
 - Pre-registration is required for all events so that we can manage capacity and be sure of vaccination status.
 - We obtain and record the names and contact information for all attendees.
 - We require screening that follows NY State regulations, whether self-administered or by SFS.
 - For lifecycle and family-oriented events and services, we request that, for those eligible for vaccination, only those who are fully vaccinated attend. If a child who is too young to be vaccinated will be at an event, we will include a warning in our communications that it is reasonable to expect that not everyone in attendance will be vaccinated.
- **Pre-event communications** will briefly describe the protocols everyone is expected to follow.
- **Day of the event:** Any person who has any symptoms, such as coughing, sneezing or fever should not attend.
- **Staff, tenants, licensees and small groups of volunteers:**
 - Staff and tenants and licensees may work in their designated spaces at their discretion.

- Everyone using the building, including tenants and licensees, is expected to follow the SFS COVID protocols for vaccination, masking, distancing and sharing of food.
- With the approval of Rabbi Morris Barzilai or one of the co-Presidents, Elizabeth Spiro or Ann Rolett, groups of staff and/or volunteers who are up to date with their inoculations can choose to work together unmasked if they all agree. Physical distancing is encouraged.
- **Closing of the Building:** The Clergy and Leadership, in consultation with the medical professionals on the COVID Task Force, can choose to close the building for in-person events and services if they feel the COVID risk warrants it. When that occurs, they will work with staff, tenants, licensees, the Religious School, and anyone else requesting use of the building to determine acceptable uses.
- **Religious school students, teachers, assistants and staff:**
 - The Religious School will adhere to the congregational protocols outlined in this document
 - The Religious School Director, Clergy and Leadership, in consultation with the medical professionals on the COVID Task Force, will have discretion on deciding when to meet in person and how to ensure COVID safety.