**Policy Statement for Covid-19 Prevention at Ohev Yisroel Congregation**

**The members of Ohev Yisroel Orthodox Congregation (“Ohev Yisroel”) deeply value the health of all participants attending our religious services, programs and events (each such service, program and event being an “Ohev Yisroel Event”). To support one another to achieve this goal, if you wish to attend an Ohev Yisroel Event, you must submit proof that you have received:**

1. **Two or more doses** **of a Health Canada approved Covid-19** vaccine. The latest dose needs to have been administered at least two weeks prior to the Ohev Yisroel Event you wish to attend;

**OR**

b) **A negative PCR Covid-19** test, administered no more than 72 hours prior to the

Ohev Yisroel Event you wish to attend (required prior to each such attendance);

**OR**

c) **A negative rapid antigen Covid-19** test, administered no more than 36 hours prior

to the Ohev Yisroel Event you wish to attend (required prior to each attendance).

The above includes children age 5 and over as well as adults.

**Please email your proof of vaccination/negative COVID-19 test result as well as a photo ID to** [ohevyisroel@gmail.com](mailto:ohevyisroel@gmail.com) **by 9 pm the night *before* the Ohev Yisroel Event you wish to attend. So for example, to participate in Shabbat services we require the above-noted proof by Thursday night. In addition, please wait for your authorization in an email reply.**

Please copy and paste into your email the following statement:

**“I agree to continue to abide by the COVID-19 health and safety regulations set out by Ohev Yisroel Congregation and Ottawa Public Health. I confirm that I do not have any COVID-19 related symptoms”.**

**Without the above verification, we regret that you will not be allowed to enter.**

**Notes:**

* If you have received authorization to attend an Ohev Yisroel Event, you will NOT be required to show your proof of vaccination/negative COVID-19 test result and identification again on the date of the Ohev Yisroel Event;
* Children under five are exempt from the above-noted requirements.

**Rules for Attending Ohev Yisroel**

We understand that even if you have been vaccinated or tested, anyone may carry or contract the Covid-19 virus and it’s variants. Therefore, anyone attending Ohev Yisroel accepts some degree of risk of spreading or contracting Covid-19. To mitigate this possibility, **everyone** attending services at Ohev Yisroel is required to:

* **Wear a mask. Medical grade masks are preferable to cloth.** The mask must fully cover the mouth and nose;
* **Enter the shul via the back door**;
* **Wash your hands** at the kitchen sink;
* **Do not move** any chairs or furniture;
* **Sit only** where designated in order to maintain a safe social distance;
* **Maintain a social distance of at least 2 metres** from other congregants before, during, and after services. The Bimah and lectern areas have plexiglass barriers installed to protect readers and service leaders. If you have been given an Aliyah, you may come to the Bimah or recite the prayers from your seat;
* **If you must sneeze or cough**, try to do so outside or in the washroom or in the crook of your arm (in your mask). Please wash your hands and disinfect them with hand sanitizer afterwards. We are running an air purifier to enhance the air quality;
* **Do not eat** food or drink at your seat. Kiddush and food items are to be consumed at a distance of 2 metres from one another in the kitchen area of the shul. Those not comfortable with this may leave before Kiddush, or sit in another part of the shul until eating is over;
* **If you have had Covid-19,** please adhere to the isolation policy outlined at the following Ottawa Public Health page before coming back to shul or any other place where people congregate:

<https://www.ottawapublichealth.ca/en/public-health-topics/information-for-those-who-test-positive-for-covid-19-and-high-risk-contacts.aspx>

**Note: If you are not abiding by these guidelines, you will be gently and quietly reminded. If you do not wish to comply, you will be asked to leave. Caring for our congregants is of primary importance, so we hope you understand.**

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING US TO HELP ONE ANOTHER REMAIN HEALTHY**

**Further resources:**

**Covid-19 Guidance: Faith Based Organizations from Ontario Public Health**

<https://www.toronto.ca/home/covid-19/covid-19-reopening-recovery-rebuild/covid-19-reopening-guidelines-for-businesses-organizations/covid-19-guidance-faith-based-organizations/>

**Ottawa Public Health Guidance for Social Gatherings:**

<https://www.ottawapublichealth.ca/en/public-health-topics/hosting-postponing-or-cancelling-mass-gatherings.aspx?fbclid=IwAR15ntEQ-gyYSIdEYUQczVNwunDpP9poYsv9gX05whQaDTv23yIF1UeGRDg>

**Covid-19 Screening Tool**

**1. Do you currently have one or more of the COVID-19 symptoms below that are**

**new or worsening?**

Symptoms should not be chronic or related to other known causes or conditions.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| • fever and/or chills  • cough or barking cough (croup)  • shortness of breath  • decrease or loss of smell or taste  • fatigue and/or muscle aches/joint  pain (for adults)  • nausea/vomiting, and/or diarrhea (for  <18 years of age) | **If you received a COVID-19**  **vaccination in the last 48 hours and**  **are experiencing mild fatigue,**  **muscle aches and/or joint pain**  **that only began after vaccination,**  **select “No.”** |

**2. Has a doctor, health care provider, or public health unit told you that you should currently be isolating (staying at home)?**

This can be because of an outbreak or contact tracing.

**3. Do you live with someone who has been told by a doctor, health care provider,**

**or public health unit that they should currently be isolating?**

If you are fully immunized or have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days

and since been cleared, select “No.”

If the individual experiencing symptoms received a COVID-19 vaccination in the

last 48 hours and is experiencing mild fatigue, muscle aches and/or joint pain

that only began after vaccination, select “No.”

**If you answer YES to any one of the questions above, PLEASE DO NOT enter this location** AND contact either your health care provider or Telehealth Ontario (1-866-797-0000) to get advice or an assessment, including if you need a COVID-19 test.

Source: <https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/COVID_19_bus_orgs_question_signage.pdf>