



High Holidays

5782

at



August 30, 2021
22 Elul 5781

New Changes to High Holiday Services and Programs

Due to recent developments with the rate of transmission of COVID-19, along with recommendations from medical professionals, Temple Beth El has made the difficult decision to cancel the public indoor option for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services this year. To ensure a minyan while drastically limiting capacity, indoor participation will be limited to those who have already accepted an honor for this year's services, as well as their immediate family members.

After careful consideration from leadership, including Rabbi Braun, staff, and the Board of Directors, the following options will be available to our community this holiday season:

Select Outdoor Options

- Outdoor seating with an audio stream from the sanctuary will be available for all services, except Kol Nidre, which will be held entirely outdoors.
- Combined family services will be held in the TBE Kids' Tent on Wadsworth St. on September 7 (Rosh Hashanah I) and September 15 (Yom Kippur) around 10am
- Tashlich will be held at Jewell Falls on September 7 at 5:00pm
- **Kol Nidre will be held entirely outdoors with unlimited capacity on September 15 at 6:15pm**

Livestream

All high holiday services will be livestreamed on Youtube.

Use [this link](#) to join online.

If you will be participating from home and would like to borrow a machzor, please let us know so we can arrange a time for you to pick it up from the synagogue. Give us a call at (207) 774-2649 or email the office with the button below

Answers To Your Questions

Why are you making the decision to limit indoor capacity now?

The decision has been taken to limit indoor capacity to approximately 36 people due to the virulence of the delta variant that has caused a spike in case counts, the strain that spike is placing on our hospitals, the unpredictability of how many people will come to high holiday services, and the likelihood that conditions may continue to worsen after Labor Day weekend and the beginning of the school year.

How are you deciding which 36 people get to participate in services?

This is the most agonizing part of taking the decision to limit capacity. In the absence of any kind of equitable way to make this decision, we are focusing on those who have already committed to help lead the services by accepting an honor. Seating will also be available in the courtyard with an audio feed from the sanctuary, and ushers will notify those davening in the courtyard if spaces become available in the sanctuary for those who wish to come inside.

How can I participate in services if I don't have an honor?

There are three outdoor participation options: Seating in the courtyard with audio feed from the sanctuary available for all services (except Kol Nidre, which will be entirely outdoors); Tashlich at Jewel Falls; an unlimited capacity outdoor Kol Nidre service, rain or shine.

No pre-registration or tickets are required to take advantage of any of these outdoor in-person options.

Additionally, a livestream of all services will be available at [this link](#).

What if I have already accepted an honor?

If you have already accepted an honor for a service this year, please come to services as planned. We have already accounted for you to bring immediate family members in the capacity limit. Masks will be required at all times indoors by anyone ages 3+.

What about children?

We are still offering an abbreviated, combined children's service (for children of all ages) on the first day of Rosh Hashanah 9/7 and Yom Kippur morning 9/16, both at 10am in the TBE Kids' Tent on Wadsworth St.; masks required for ages 3+. We are still offering supervised outdoor playtime from 11am to 1:30pm 9/7, 9/8, and 9/16.

If I'm participating from the courtyard, will I be able to come inside to use the restroom?

Yes. An usher will be stationed at the courtyard entrance to allow people inside to use the restroom. Masks will be required to enter the building.

Why aren't you offering all services outdoors?

There are insurmountable logistical hurdles to offering *all* services outdoors, so the decision was taken to focus on one service that holds deep meaning for many congregants, and has the fewest logistical challenges. As a result, we will be holding Kol Nidre entirely outdoors with unlimited capacity, rain or shine.

What if I already paid for reserved seats?

We will be making phone calls this week to anyone who has already purchased reserved seats to offer a refund.

Have you thought about security?

Yes. Armed Portland police officers will be staffing all services.

Are masks required at outdoor services?

Masks are only required outdoors for those participating in children's services; in all other cases masks outdoors are optional and social distancing is strongly encouraged.

Preparing for the Holidays

Ushers Needed

We are still in need of several volunteer ushers for services. Click [here](#) or call 207-774-2649 to sign up for a shift, and thank you!

Celebrating New Children During the Holidays

Did you welcome a child or grandchild into your family sometime between 2019 and now? Unfortunately, we are unable to schedule a COVID safe Birkat HaYaledim during the High Holidays this year, but we still want to acknowledge and celebrate this incredible *simcha*! Please send their name to office@tbemaine.org and we will add them to our list.

Maine Needs Mitzvah Project 5782

Maine Needs is a local organization that strives to help individuals and families in Maine meet their basic, material needs by providing donated clothing, hygiene products, household items, and other necessities. In 5782, **TBE has committed to donating 100 Cleaning and Toiletry kits**, which Maine Needs will distribute through social workers, educators, and others to families and individuals that need them. We will launch this effort at Rosh Hashanah and hope to reach our goal of 100 kits by Simchat Torah. Click [here](#) to learn more!

For More Information

[High Holidays 5782 Webpage](#)



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