New Ways to go to High Holiday Services:

Going to High Holiday Services Outside

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The High Holidays are a special time when we begin a new Jewish year.
On the High Holidays we say High Holiday prayers and sing High Holiday songs. We wish each other 'shana tova,' a good new year, and gather as a community.
This year is an unusual year because of COVID-19. We are doing many things in new ways so we can keep ourselves and the people around us healthy and safe.

For example, this year many people have found new ways to shop, visit their friends, and go to school.
This fall, Jewish people all over the world will go to High Holiday services in new ways. Some people might go to High Holiday services at their synagogues, but do new things to keep each other healthy and safe. Some people might go to High Holiday services outside. And some people might take part in High Holiday service on computers at home.
My family plans to go to High Holiday services outside if the weather is nice. Some synagogues may set up chairs outside of their buildings. And some small groups might get together for services in their yards.
When my family goes to High Holiday services outside, we will wear masks that cover our noses and mouths. We will also wash or sanitize our hands several times.
When my family goes to High Holiday services outside, we will be careful not to sit or stand too close to people who don't live with us. We can wave to the people we know instead of shaking hands or giving hugs.
We might bring our own tallitot, kippot, and prayer books to High Holiday services outside.
If I see the Torah at High Holiday services outside I can point to the Torah or wave at it. This is how I can show that I love the Torah without touching it or kissing it.

Some High Holiday services outside might not have a Torah scroll, and this is okay.
Going to services outside is a new way of celebrating the High Holidays.

But we will still be able to say High Holiday prayers and sing High Holiday songs. We can still wave to each other and wish each other 'shana tova,' a good new year. And we will still be able to gather as a community.
People have a lot of feelings about High Holiday services being different this year. Some people may feel excited to celebrate services in new ways or in new places.

Some people may feel sad because they like the way we used to celebrate services. It's okay to feel sad because things are different this year.

Some people may feel nervous about staying safe and healthy. But if the people in our community wear masks, wash or sanitize their hands, are careful not to get too close to other families, or stay at home, they will help us to stay safe and healthy.
We will have High Holiday services in new ways this year, but some things will stay the same. We will still be able to say High Holiday prayers and sing High Holiday songs. We can still wish each other 'shana tova,' a good year, and gather as a community.

When we have High Holiday services in new ways, we will help keep ourselves and our community safe.