

May 11, 2020



To our Jewish Community,

We hope this finds you safe and healthy during this extremely challenging time. Like you, we too miss our families, our friends, our colleagues and our synagogue and congregational communities. We all yearn for a return to the regular rhythms of our life.

Our state and city officials, healthcare professionals and community leaders are working hard to get our cities back up and running. We are in regular communication with them and we are closely monitoring all the guidelines and the impact of the first phase of our city's reopening.

Our Jewish tradition teaches that the preservation of human life is the supreme value. The sanctity of life is what guides us in our decisionmaking regarding the reopening of our synagogues.

Throughout this crisis, our congregations have been meeting regularly to share information and best practices and to support one another. As our city undergoes a phased reopening, we continue to go slow in reopening our synagogues. We are guided by our Jewish values, by the expertise of our medical professionals and by the myriad of governmental screening and safety protocols needed to be in place for any reopening of our congregations.

At this point, we are not yet ready to reopen our synagogues for in-person services, classes and programs. We will all work together to try to coordinate our reopenings.

And, after consultations with medical professionals in our community, we urge everyone to continue to shelter in place, wear masks and maintain social distancing when going out for essential needs, continue to maintain social distancing when walking and exercising outside, refrain from communal gatherings and continue to be vigilant with hand washing.

We look forward to a time when we can all be together again.

Anshei Sphard-Beth El Emeth Congregation  
Rabbi Joel Finkelstein  
Eric Mogy, President  
Alan Goldkin, Executive Director

Baron Hirsch Congregation  
Rabbi Binyamin Lehrfield  
Mary Trotz, President  
David Fleischhacker, Executive Director

Beth Sholom Synagogue  
Rabbi Sarit Horwitz  
Danny Schaffzin, President  
Geo Poor, Executive Director

Chabad Lubavitch of Tennessee  
Rabbi Levi Klein

Or Chadash Conservative Synagogue  
Rabbi Cantor David Julian  
Sanford Fenton, President  
Arlene Myers, Executive Director

Temple Israel  
Rabbi Micah Greenstein, Senior Rabbi  
Rabbi Bess Wohlner, Associate Rabbi  
Rabbi Jeremy Simons, Assistant Rabbi  
Laurie Meskin, President  
Stacy Canales, Executive Director

Young Israel of Memphis  
Rabbi Akiva Males  
Jonathan Kaplan, President  
Eileen Segal, Executive Director