



Jewish Community of Amherst
742 Main St., Amherst MA, 01002

JCA Procedures and Protocols for Indoor Programming Effective as of February 3, 2022

The following is the current Covid Protocol of the Jewish Community of Amherst (JCA). This may be modified by the executive committee/board according to current guidelines as needed. Please know that the health and safety of everyone is our first priority. The mitzvah of *pikuach nefesh*, saving a life, takes precedence over all other mitzvot.

Overview

It is important for all our congregants and persons using JCA facilities or attending JCA functions to adhere to the actions listed below to prevent COVID-19 transmission.

1. **Stay home if you are sick.** Typical symptoms of flu or cold, headache, loss of smell, cough, fatigue, fever, etc. could be Covid or another communicable disease. If you or anyone in your household has COVID symptoms, we highly recommend that you get tested promptly; this is the only way currently to diagnose a Covid infection.
2. **If you or a household member has recently been in "close contact" with someone who has COVID-19, please stay home.**
3. **All eligible persons** (currently all persons over 5 years of age) must be **vaccinated and boosted** if you do not have a medical exemption, in order to participate in activities within the building. Medical exemptions should be discussed confidentially with a member of the Executive Committee or the Rabbi.
4. **Wear a well-fitting, high-efficiency face mask** covering the nose and mouth (N95, KN95, KN94, etc.); cloth masks or loosely fitting masks are not acceptable. **All persons**, ages 2+, including congregants, teachers, parents, staff, students and non-congregants using JCA facilities, **must wear an excellent quality face mask** (see above), regardless of vaccination status when entering the JCA. This includes for services, school activities, meetings, classes, etc. Persons leading services or reading Torah may be temporarily excluded from mask wearing during services, if social distancing can be maintained.
5. **Practice healthy hand hygiene:** Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough, sneeze or use the inside of your elbow. As soon as possible after coughing or sneezing, wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
6. **Practice social distancing and minimize close physical contact with persons from a different household.**
7. **No food is to be consumed inside the building, with the exception of JCA staff.**