

BRIT KEHILLAH

Balancing Columbia Jewish Congregation's (CJC) commitment to inclusiveness with an overriding concern for the health and safety of our members, CJC has established the following Brit Kehillah ("Community Code of Conduct"). This Brit is meant to ensure that we are able to share in communal simcha and spiritual life while keeping one another, and ourselves, as safe as possible.

This Brit - along with our full COVID policy - will be in effect for any in-person CJC event taking place at Oakland Mills Interfaith Center (OMI), including events sponsored by CJC (i.e., services, life cycle events, social/educational events, and meetings) and events reserved through CJC (i.e., parties associated with life cycle events, such as baby namings, weddings, B'nai Mitzvah, funerals).

This Brit takes into account evolving scientific knowledge, current public health data for Howard County, and guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The CJC Board worked with an internal COVID Reopening Committee and stresses that this Brit will evolve in accordance with evolving knowledge and guidance from local, state, and federal public health authorities.

As we continue to navigate COVID-19, and in creating this Brit, CJC remains committed to these foundational Jewish values:

Pikuach nefesh (saving a life)

Our top priority is ensuring the physical health and safety of all members of our community. We will continue to monitor advances in the scientific understanding of COVID-19 transmission and vaccine efficacy. We will be as strict or stricter than CDC guidelines and local regulations.

Kehillat Yisrael (diversity within community)

As a diverse community, we each have different physical, emotional, and spiritual needs and desires. We have each experienced and been impacted by the pandemic in different ways. Our relationship with Zoom is also varied - for some it has increased access, while for others it has been prohibitory. We are committed to taking these various needs into account and balancing them as best we are able.

Tzedek (equity and accessibility)

Jewish tradition teaches that everyone is b'tselem Elohim (made in the divine image, with inherent dignity); we are committed to living this value. While many of us are now vaccinated, not everyone is able to get a vaccine - children under 5 remain ineligible and people with certain health conditions are advised not to get the vaccine. Furthermore, vaccinated people with autoimmune disorders may be less protected by the vaccine. Therefore, as we begin to have in-person events, we will continue to follow COVID safety precautions, and we will continue to offer virtual options. We will also take physical accessibility into account when choosing in-person locations.

Shmirat HaNefesh (emotional well-being)

While physical health is paramount, we also take emotional and spiritual health seriously. The pandemic has been an isolating time for many. It has been full of uncertainty, anxiety, loss, and grief. As a community, we strive to help each other find connection, solace, grounding, and joy.

Emet (communicating with integrity and transparency)

As decisions change, we will be transparent about those decisions and the decision-making process.

Grounded in these core Jewish values, we ask you now to carefully read and sign CJC's Brit Kehillah - our community code of conduct:

As of April 1, 2022, and until further notice, we ask you to agree to the following COVID-19 guidelines:

1. I certify that **I and everyone in my party who is eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine based on age and medical conditions is up to date on COVID-19 vaccination** (vaccinated and any eligible boosters).

2. I will **wear a face mask covering my nose and mouth at all times when indoors** and will ensure that any children in my household age 2 years and older will do so as well (and I agree to leave the sanctuary if I need to remove my mask for any reason).

(We recommend using **well-fitting face masks with high-filtration efficacy**, such as surgical masks, N95, KN95, KF94, respirators or masks with a PM0.1 filter. Face masks with vents are not allowed.)

- a. I understand that individuals leading services may remove their masks only when at the bimah, when significantly distanced from congregational seating and only after a negative COVID test.
- b. Persons who have difficulty wearing a mask due to a disability will have socially distanced seating available.

3. I will **pre-register for all CJC events** to assure proper room preparation and to provide important data for any follow-up exposure notification.

4. I understand that CJC will not provide any food or drink for any indoor events/gatherings.

5. All events are subject to cancellation or being shifted online on short notice (if appropriate). In the case of such a change, registered attendees will be notified via email.

6. I will NOT attend a CJC event if, in the five days before attending a CJC event:

- a. I have had the **onset** of one or more symptoms of COVID-19 and have not received a negative COVID-19 diagnostic test or other diagnosis. Symptoms include fever OR coughing OR loss of sense of taste or smell OR difficulty breathing.
- b. I have had a positive diagnostic test for COVID-19, even if I did not develop symptoms. Symptoms must be improving and fever free for 24 hours without the help of a fever reducer in order to **attend** on day six or later after diagnosis.
- c. I am instructed to quarantine for any reason (e.g., a possible exposure etc.).
- d. I have been in close contact (within six feet for at least 15 minutes) with someone who has subsequently tested positive for COVID-19.

7. I will alert CJC as soon as possible (cjc@columbiajewish.org / 410-730-6044) if I develop COVID-like symptoms, test positive for COVID-19, or am otherwise diagnosed with COVID-19 within 48 hours after attending a CJC event.

- I have read and agree to these terms.
- I certify that I and everyone in my party who is eligible for the COVID vaccine based on age and medical conditions is up to date on COVID-19 vaccination (vaccinated and any eligible boosters).
- I am also signing this form on behalf of the following people attending with me:
