



REOPENING GUIDELINES

WELCOME BACK!

Congregation Or Ami looks forward to reopening to serve our community with Shabbat services! The reopening committee has developed many new procedures for your safety. Following these guidelines will allow us to reestablish our community for those who are comfortable going to a public space. The online services many of you have attended will continue to be offered after we reopen.

Our first service is planned for Friday, October 23, 2020. We will begin slowly with Friday night services every other week, barring virtual B'nai Mitzvah services. We will notify you in advance of any in-person services planned.

BEFORE YOU GO TO SERVICES

The maximum capacity of our services will be 40 people in order to maintain safe distancing. Every person who wants to attend services will have to pre-register in order to attend. The deadline for registration is Thursday evening at 10 p.m. The registration form, other reopening information and risk factors are on our website at <https://oramihouston.org/about-our-reopening/>.

Attendance is restricted to Or Ami members. You will need to provide member information, contact info and number attending. You may consent to being “bumped” to the next available service if registrations exceed capacity. If we need to “bump” additional people beyond the volunteers, we will choose by lottery. In either event, those with a *yahrzeit* that week will not be asked to reschedule. You’ll be notified Friday morning if you have been moved to a guaranteed list for the next service. (This issue comes into play only if more than 40 people register for one service.)

Next on our form are COVID-19 screening questions. If you answer “yes” to any question, you should stop filling out the form and stay home. We ask that you check your temperature before you leave for the synagogue to make sure you are fever-free.

You **must** check three consent boxes before you can submit your registration:

- 1) You acknowledge that you understand wearing a mask while at the synagogue is mandatory for anyone aged 5 and up. We will not be able to accommodate people who can't wear a mask due to health considerations.
- 2) You agree that if you should test positive for COVID-19 in the two weeks following attendance at Or Ami, you will alert the synagogue office so that we may properly perform contact tracing.
- 3) You acknowledge that, although the synagogue is taking precautions to limit potential exposure to COVID-19, you assume risk by attending services.

ARRIVAL AT OR AMI

All persons aged 5 and up will be required to wear a mask from the time they enter the building until they leave. There will be no exceptions. Those who do not wish to wear a mask should attend services via our online platform.

No kippot will be available for general use. Please bring your own. If you do not have one, we will issue you a kippah to wear. Please do not return it. Take it home and use it the next time.

All prayerbooks will be in the social hall. Your last name will be displayed on a table section in the social hall so that you may store the book you use in that section. You will always use the same book when you come to services. If you own a prayerbook, please bring it with you and take it home. If you don't have one, but would like to buy or borrow one, please contact the office.

If we resume Saturday services, please bring your own tallit if you have one. The synagogue's tallitot will be in the social hall. If you use one, please put it in your divided table section. Do not return it to the unused tallit stack.

INSIDE THE SANCTUARY

Enter and exit the sanctuary through the divider wall of the sanctuary and social hall. Please use this exit if you leave for the restroom as well. This setup will reduce the high touch area of the regular synagogue doors.

Members of the same household may sit together in the sanctuary. **People who are not within households should leave three empty seats between themselves and the next person.** The second and fourth row of every section will be unavailable.

If you have a child who participates in the conclusion of our service, he or she will stand in front of the bimah, rather than behind. Blue X's on the carpet will mark locations where each child should stand.

Mainly due to the Torah service, the Saturday morning service will require more social distance management than Friday night. When we schedule the first Saturday service, we will issue specific guidelines for that portion of our service.

OUTSIDE THE SANCTUARY

The playground is closed. Parents should make this clear to their children. A sign noting the closure is posted on the door leading to the playground area.

The water fountain is covered to prevent use. Small water bottles are available outside the social hall. As you drink water, you may lift your mask. Used or empty bottles should be placed in the box next to the water bottles.

Maximum capacity of the restrooms is 2. If you enter the restroom and two people are already inside, please wait where the sign and X on the floor direct you. If you approach the restroom and someone is waiting, please stand on one of the markers in the hallway outside the restroom. The restroom doors will be propped open. A modesty wall in each restroom blocks the view inside the restroom from the hallway.

The education wing is closed. Children may not play inside the classrooms, nor remove any of the supplies or games.

When Saturday services resume, no Kiddush luncheons will be provided. We do not know when we may be able to reintroduce food service.

Hand sanitizer will be available in the foyer and social hall. Please always use proper hand hygiene procedures in restrooms.

Please maintain posted social distancing requirements as you move about the hallway, foyer, and social hall. Please do not congregate in the foyer as distancing is difficult.

QUESTIONS

If you have any concerns or questions regarding the reopening of Congregation Or Ami, please contact the synagogue office or either of the following:

Allan Quiat, President, Or Ami
abquiat@yahoo.com

Anne Perlmutter, Chair, Reopening Committee and Ritual Practices Committee
ampvideo@aol.com

For a complete list of symptoms of COVID-19, please go to this CDC website page:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

For a list of higher-risk groups, please go to this CDC website page:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/index.html>