

Dear AJ Community:

In March 2020, the beginning of the COVID pandemic, the AJ building was closed in an effort to keep our community safe. Since that time, AJ COVID protocols have been reviewed and updated on an ongoing basis to keep pace with the changing landscape of the pandemic. It is again time for a change. After careful consideration, review of current CDC guidelines, and consultation with outside medical experts, the AJ COVID policy has been updated. While all those eligible to receive COVID vaccinations and boosters are **strongly encouraged** to do so, vaccination against COVID is no longer a requirement to attend AJ services and events.

Currently, the community COVID level in Montgomery County is "Medium." As long as the level remains either "Medium" or "Low", masking will be **optional**. Should the level become "High," masking will be **mandatory**. For current community levels according to the CDC, please click on the link below and use the drop-down menu there to check for Montgomery County. This link will be posted on the AJ website and weekly AJ email.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>

Wearing a mask is at the discretion of the individual. High-filtration (N95/KN95) masks are recommended as they provide the best protection.

No one with COVID symptoms (fever, chills, coughing, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea) is permitted inside the building.

If you have had COVID or have been exposed to someone with COVID, click on the link below and use the CDC COVID calculator there to determine whether you need to isolate or mask. This link will be posted on the AJ website and weekly AJ email.

[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/isolation.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fyour-health%2Fquarantine-isolation.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/isolation.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fyour-health%2Fquarantine-isolation.html)

If you tested positive for COVID, and are not able to utilize the CDC COVID calculator, here are the isolation/masking guidelines:

You may not come into the AJ building for 5 days following the day you develop symptoms or, in the absence of symptoms, the day you test positive.

You may come into the AJ building on day 6 following the day you develop symptoms and/or test positive, provided that you are feeling better and have been fever-free for 24 hours. (Per CDC, the day you first have symptoms, or, if you were asymptomatic, the day you test positive is considered day "0".)

You must wear a high-filtration (N95/KN95) mask inside the building through day 10 following the day you test positive.

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AJ leadership, clergy, and staff recognize the difficulty that this period of time has imposed on all of us. We sincerely thank you for your understanding and cooperation throughout. As always, we will continue to monitor the state of the pandemic and will respond accordingly should circumstances change.

*Howard Levin*

*Robert Atkins*

*Judith Stutman Izes*