



Kehillah North London – risk assessment for outdoor shofar blowing on Rosh Hashannah Saturday 19th September 2020

This risk assessment is completed on the basis of the available Public Health information. Throughout the pandemic Kehillah North London has been following the Public Health advice closely, and of erring on the side of caution where appropriate. We have proactively decided to follow a principle of “not being the first” – we did not wish to expose our members to any unnecessary risks and therefore decided not to re-open our physical doors at the first opportunity, rather we felt it prudent to wait and observe from other communities and organisations if they were able to re-open safely.

This risk assessment is informed by government guidance that can be located here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic-from-4-july/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic-from-4-july> and <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic-from-4-july/high-holy-day-services-and-gatherings-covid-19-checklist>

This risk assessment follows the format of listing the risk, attempting to quantify the risk, outlines our risk reduction strategies, and gives an estimated judgement in the likelihood of the risk occurring.

1) Risk of an individual attending shofar blowing who is infected with Covid 19

The risk

An individual attends the event who has the Covid 19 virus and therefore may be at risk of infecting others.

Individuals who have symptoms will be isolating at home and will be instructed not to come, as will higher risk individuals (i.e. those who are contacts of positive cases, those whose household contacts or people in their ‘social bubble’ have developed symptoms, or those that have returned from higher prevalence countries and are in quarantine). Nevertheless there remains a risk that an asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic individual with Covid 19 attends the event.

Risk reduction strategies

In our communications (e-bulletin and google booking form), we will remind people not to attend the event if:

- They have any coronavirus symptoms
- They have had contact with anyone who has tested positive

- They are quarantining having returned from a 'high-risk' area

Risk rating

Low

2) Risk of transmission of Covid 19 infection at the shofar blowing

The risk

An asymptomatic, or pre-symptomatic individual, who is not aware that they have been exposed to Covid 19, attends the shofar blowing, would be at risk of transmitting the virus to other members.

Risk reduction strategies

- The shofar blowing will take place fully outside, where the risk of transmission is significantly reduced
- The shofar blowing will be "social distanced" – i.e. people will be requested to keep 2 metres apart from each other, other than people who are in the same household or social bubble
- The shofar blower will stand six metres apart from all the other attendees
- Face masks will be mandatory
- Maximum of 25 people will be permitted to attend to allow the necessary social distancing
- Announcement at the beginning of the event to remind attendees of the above measures

Risk rating

Low

3) Risk of Kehillah North London contributing to local coronavirus hotspot

The risk

Covid transmission at our service, or the increased social contacts that may be involved in an individual taking transport to our service, may contribute to a localised outbreak.

Risk reduction strategies

Members will be required to pre-register before attending the shofar blowing. The contact details will be kept for the purposes of contact tracing should it be necessary. Only Kehillah members, "friends of Kehillah", or carers of Kehillah members [if their attendance is necessary to enable the member to attend] will be able to register and attend the shofar blowing.

Participants will be reminded of the importance of informing the synagogue should they subsequently test positive for coronavirus, or develop coronavirus symptoms, within 48 hours of attending the shofar blowing.

Risk rating

Low

Review process

Following the shofar blowing, there will be a de-brief with the Rabbi, chair, and Covid response officer. Purpose of de-brief will be to insure that risk reduction strategies have been adhered to, and to decide if any additional measures are necessary for future events.

This risk assessment is valid once it has been signed by the Covid response officer [or a delegated individual] and a member of the Kehillah North London management committee

Signature 1:



Robert Freudenthal
Kehillah North London chair
16th September 2020

Signature 2:

KS [signature pending]

Ken Smith, Covid response officer