



## **Kehillah North London – risk assessment for returning to in-person service on Saturday October 17th**

*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.*

*It is now ~three months since places of worship were first permitted to re-open their physical doors, and therefore it is now appropriate to carry out this risk assessment which will enable us to return to in person services for Shabbat October 17<sup>th</sup>. 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>.*

*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 a service 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 website), we will remind people not to attend in-person services if:

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

- Anyone who is quarantining having returned from a 'high-risk' area

*Risk rating*

Low

## 2) Risk of transmission of Covid 19 infection at a service

*The risk*

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

*Risk reduction strategies*

- All attendees will be requested to wash their hands on arrival to the service with soap and water, or with hand sanitiser
- St Mary's Church have planned to clean the rooms after each group rents the space – therefore reducing the risk of transmission in the event that an individual who is infected with Covid 19 attends a meeting at the Community Rooms hosted by a different organisation
- Services will be "social distanced" – i.e. 2 metres between each chair, other than people from the same household, who could sit together
- Face masks will be mandatory unless a participant has a medical exemption
- Maximum of 25 people will be attending the service to allow the necessary social distancing
- Only the service leader will be singing, other participants will be requested to hum with their mouths closed
- Only one person on the Bimmah at a time
- There will be no procession of the Torah scroll
- Wardens will be reminded to wash their hands prior to passing round siddurim
- Announcement at the beginning of the service to remind attendees of the above measures
- At the end of the service, participants will be asked to leave the room by segments to prevent a crowd forming by the exit

*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 a service. 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 services.

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 a service.

### *Risk rating*

Low

- 4) Risk of community members who do not feel comfortable to attend in-person services feeling isolated

### *The risk*

There will likely be some community members that do not feel safe attending in-person services. The experience for them of "looking on" at others meeting in person, while they remain online, may leave them feeling isolated and not fully part of the community.

### *Risk reduction strategies*

The services will be streamed via Zoom. In addition to streaming the services, a laptop will be set up in the service from which in-person attendees can communicate with those who are logging in remotely.

Members who are logging in via Zoom will be invited to lead parts of the service, or read certain segments, to ensure that they are included in the service.

Feedback will be sought after each service from the Zoom attendees.

### *Risk rating*

Low to moderate - will need to continue to be reviewed

### Review process

Following the service, there will be a de-brief with the service leaders, Rabbi and warden. 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.

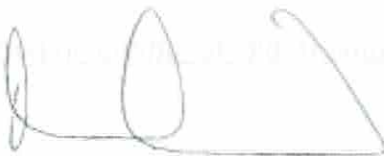
In addition, particular attention will be taken to debrief with people that may be excluded from the event - eg the experience of those who are logging in remotely via Zoom, and of those that decided not to come to the service. Attention will also be taken to ensure that

those excluded from the service are not excluded along lines of race, gender, physical or mental disability, age, or other characteristics.

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This risk assessment has been reviewed by the Kehillah North London management committee, and 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 chair

9<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Signature 2:



Ken Smith  
Covid 19 officer