

GLT COVID-19 PHASE PLAN

NOTE: Due to the different nature of the preschool and religious school populations and circumstances, they will function under their own specific protocols. Both schools will operate exclusively on the building's lower level.

PHASE ZERO

This is the level we are at when there are high and/or rising levels of infection in our community.

- No Indoor gatherings
 - Exception: Lifecycle events, such as Bar/Bat Mitzvahs. Attendees can only include immediate family members of no more than 10 people. (Immediate family is defined as the parents and siblings of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah child and any others that reside in their household). All social distance and PPE protocols will be observed. List of attendees must be presented and each must answer standard CDC health related questions before entering GLT. There will be no oneg or Kiddush.
- No outdoor gatherings
- All services and events are online, streamed or recorded from individual homes or from GLT (with staff only present, social distancing and PPE protocols observed).
- Staff meetings are online or via phone.
- All individual appointments are online or via phone.
- Minimal, drop-in staffing sufficient for essential operations (deposits, mail processing, etc). Additional office time must be coordinated with the Executive Director.
- We are anticipating that High Holidays will be conducted virtually no matter if we are at this level or have advanced to a later phase.

Decisions on moving to the different Phases will be based on statistics gathered from the Georgia Department of Health and other dependable sources, specifically as they inform data relating to Fulton and Forsyth Counties and to Alpharetta, Johns Creek, Roswell, Cumming, Suwanee and other nearby municipalities.

In order to meet the flexibility required by individual events or circumstances, GLT may allow or disallow an activity or function even if the current active phase may indicate differently.

PHASE ONE

Criteria

- Downward trajectory of documented cases within a 14-day period
- Downward trajectory of positive cases as a percent of total tests within a 14-day period (flat or increasing volume of tests)

- Number of positive tests per 100,000 (population of Georgia) less than 200 over the previous 14 days.
- Hospitals can treat all patients without crisis care
- Robust testing program in place for at-risk healthcare workers, including emerging antibody testing.
- All members of high-risk groups encouraged to stay home.

Guidelines

- No Indoor gatherings
 - Exception: Lifecycle events, such as Bar/Bat Mitzvahs. Attendees can only include immediate family members of no more than 10 people. (Immediate family is defined as the parents and siblings of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah child and any others that reside in their household). All social distance and PPE protocols will be observed. List of attendees must be presented and each must answer standard CDC health related questions before entering GLT. There will be no oneg or Kiddush.
- Outdoor gatherings will be limited to the number of individual households that can maintain at least six feet of distance between each other. Maintaining this social distancing required and masks required. Attendees must RSVP and answer standard CDC health related questions before joining the gathering.
- All services and events are online, streamed or recorded from individual homes or from GLT (with staff only present, social distancing and PPE protocols observed).
- Office staff may return to the facility for longer periods based on consultation with the Executive Director. Social distancing protocols must be observed. Anyone present in the office must be logged in at entry station with temperature check and standard CDC health questions answered.
- All meetings will be held virtually or via phone.

PHASE TWO

Criteria

Reached after successfully sustaining Phase One criteria for at least 4 weeks. Should Gesher L'Torah become aware that a person infected with COVID-19 has been a participant on campus or at a GLT function, the staff will notify the congregation (excluding the name of the infected attendee) and the building will be closed for 48 hours while it undergoes disinfecting.

- Services may be streamed from the GLT sanctuary with a small group of congregants present in person under the following conditions:
 - Everyone present must wear a mask.
 - Attendees must RSVP beforehand and answer standard CDC health questions.
 - Those attending will be asked to enter through the main doors and exit through the other set of double doors.
 - Whenever possible, the gathering will be held outside.

- Chairs will be spaced in the sanctuary such that those who live together will sit together, and there will be at least 6 feet of distance between each household. Estimated capacity in the sanctuary is limited to 24 people in this circumstance.
 - The best information we have as of this writing indicates that singing poses a particular risk by creating aerosols that carry the virus a significant distance and remain suspended in the air for a significant period of time. A cloth mask is unlikely to be enough to protect you or your neighbor. Therefore, we will not sing yet when a group is gathered.
 - There will be no food served, and no time set aside for community mingling after the service.
 - Because of the similarity between singing and chanting the Torah and its blessings, we expect that both the *parsha* and the blessings will be read and not chanted. Holding and touching the Torah scroll should be minimized with an eye toward safety. Distance should be maintained during *aliyot*; people might simply rise from their seats to reduce congestion at the *bima*.
 - Communal *siddurim*, *kippot*, *yad*, and *tallitot* will not be used (though people may bring their own personal items).
 - Only clergy members will handle ritual objects (including Torah scrolls, prayer books, and other printed materials). Prayer books will be removed from the Kramer Sanctuary and some version of “Visual Tefilah” will be used for all worship services.
- Lifecycles events in the Kramer Sanctuary can take place with careful attention to the following:
 - Social distancing must be observed, which may create additional limitations on the number of guests in a smaller venue. Depending on household groupings, the GLT sanctuary can safely accommodate an estimated 24 people plus staff.
 - Guests from out of town -- i.e. a different viral environment than Atlanta’s -- may participate only virtually.
 - All present must wear masks.
 - We will carefully attend to the most current guidelines on singing/ chanting. Our guidance right now indicates that these are not safe group activities.
 - There will be no oneg or kiddush.

Operations

- Regular office functions could resume more or less safely while maintaining social distancing and wearing masks, or employees can continue to tele-work. Continue to attend to cleaning and sanitizing the office. Pay particular attention to high-touch surfaces and handwashing.
- Individual meetings with the rabbi could resume, or could continue virtually.
- Leadership teams might consider meeting in person while wearing masks and maintaining social distancing, or continue meeting online.

- General Building
 - Post signs indicating symptoms and urging people to stay home/seek medical attention if they have symptoms.
 - Maintain a good stock of tissue, soap, hand sanitizer and disposable paper towels for drying hands.
 - Clean the building regularly and between user groups, paying extra attention to high-touch surfaces.
- For higher risk individuals, currently defined as people over 60 and those with underlying conditions, the risk during this phase is still significant. We recommend that these individuals, whether staff or congregant, remain at “base” - i.e. continue to shelter in place.

PHASE THREE

- Once Phase Two conditions have been met for at least two weeks, Phase Three may begin. NOTE: It is possible that we move back to Phase Two after Phase Three begins. Should that occur, Phase Two conditions will apply once again. CDC guidelines and GLT requirements as related to social distancing, the use of signage and facility enhancements must be observed. Face masks must be worn by all attendees over the age of two unless medically unable to do so.

Overall Procedures: All Phase Two guidelines are observed in Phase Three with the exceptions below:

- Worship gathering may take place as in Phase Two with the addition of social hall space made available to accommodate additional visitors. Social distancing and masks will be required.

PHASE FOUR

The only way to reach Phase Four is with herd immunity, the widespread availability of a vaccination or anti-viral medication, and in accordance with CDC guidelines.

Overall Procedures:

- Worship, classes, and gatherings return with no restrictions (pre-COVID-19)
- Allow building users/renters to resume operations with a plan to address cleaning needs and agreement to observe gathering and distancing protocols.