



COMMUNITY REOPENING LETTER

Over the past fifteen months, the agencies and synagogues of Shalom Park have made the health and safety of our community a priority. During the COVID-19 pandemic we have followed the recommendations of the Center for Disease Control (CDC), North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS), and our Shalom Park medical advisors. We have also adhered to all Executive Orders from the North Carolina Governor, such as mask mandates, social distancing guidelines and mass gathering limits.

In the earliest phases of COVID-19 Shalom Park suspended nearly all in-person operations. This was challenging, as the agencies and synagogues of Shalom Park are vital community institutions. The ability to work, learn, play and pray together is made robust by our person-to-person engagement. The Shalom Park institutions adapted, however, by moving fitness classes outdoors, upfitting classrooms and offices, zooming religious services and programs, implementing COVID-19 protocols and other risk mitigations to ensure Shalom Park could stay open safely and Jewish life could continue uninterrupted.

Responsibly reopening Shalom Park has been a priority since the early days of the pandemic. We maintained the same stringent criteria throughout the reopening process, taking our cues from the CDC, NCDHHS and NC Executive Orders. On May 14, the North Carolina Governor lifted all mask mandates, social distance requirements and gathering limits enabling Shalom Park to safely and responsibly resume full operational capacity.

We are taking a phased approach to reopening, as we collectively make reopening decisions based on health data, science and safety for our community. We ask for your patience and cooperation as we implement the following changes on Shalom Park.

- Masks are not required if you are fully vaccinated. However they are strongly recommended for those who are not vaccinated, minors, elderly, those suffering from chronic health conditions or those who are not ready to enter a mask-less environment. While one's vaccination status will not be monitored upon entry, we do expect those who are recommended to wear a mask to follow the CDC recommendation.
- Health checks have been discontinued, except in certain environments.
- Gathering limits have been lifted. However, agencies and synagogues are conscious of the need for space and are creating thoughtful seating plans when holding events and services.
- Schools, camps and events with groups of minors will continue to operate with traditional COVID-19 protocols – masks, social distancing and enhanced cleaning protocols.
- In-person and hybrid board and committee meetings and third-party business events are underway.
- Reservations for in-person celebration events are currently being accepted, e.g. – anniversary parties, b'nei mitzvah parties, etc.

Please note that the reopening protocols and timing may vary among the various Shalom Park agencies and synagogues, while still complying with the general Shalom Park protocols. Therefore, it is important to contact the institution that you plan to visit to understand its unique situation, protocols and timing.

Security of Shalom Park has always been a priority, as evidenced by the growing Shalom Park Security team and protocols. Security is also a critical component to our return to in-person communal gatherings and as such, we have made the following enhancements to our security policies and procedures.

- The Blumenthal Lot / Portico entrance is currently a Shalom Park staff entrance.
- Everyone entering a Shalom Park facility will be greeted by a Shalom Park staff member.
- All Shalom Park staff, LJC members and credentialed volunteers / vendors must present their credential upon entry. Staff and credentialed volunteers / vendors shall wear their agency badge at all times when on Shalom Park. LJC members shall wear their wrist bands when in the facilities.
- All Shalom Park guests will be provided a guest or agency specific badge upon entry which must be worn at all times while enjoying the facilities.

The status of the pandemic in our region, state and nation will be critical to decision-making now and in the future. We will continue to monitor the situation in the weeks and months ahead and make necessary adjustments to ensure the continued health, safety and security of our community.

We'd like to thank the Shalom Park leadership, staff, volunteers and medical advisors for their hard work, commitment and dedication during the past fifteen months. Your steady and dependable presence made it possible for us to overcome unprecedented challenges and difficulties, and collectively navigate a shared path forward for our Shalom Park community. Thank you!

Thank you for your continued patience and cooperation as we work to provide a successful Shalom Park environment – one committed to the health, safety and well-being of all members of the community.

With appreciation,

Shalom Park Senior Leadership Team

