

## **Kol Ami COVID Procedures for Re-opening November 14, 2021**

**Introduction.** We are excited to return to in-person services at the UUCA, in addition to continuing virtual options for those unable to attend in-person. However, because COVID is unfortunately still with us, there need to be rules for those who attend in-person to keep us all safe. As a Kol Ami community, each of us must do our part. As members, we trust that you will read carefully and follow the procedures outlined below which are based on a combination of guidelines from the UUCA, the CDC, and the Arlington and Fairfax public school systems.

### **Part 1: What am I expected to do before attending services at the UU?**

**Part 1a. COVID Vaccination.** We expect that everyone will be fully vaccinated before attending in-person services at Kol Ami unless they are under 5 years of age or have been advised by their primary care provider not to take the vaccine. At this time, fully vaccinated means that there have been at least 14 days since the second dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine or since the single dose of J&J.

**Part 1b. Self-health check.** Most importantly, if you feel unwell, stay home. Symptoms of concern include fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, chills, muscle pain, headache, and loss of taste or smell.

### **Part 2: What should I expect when I attend religious services at the UU?**

Per UUCA rules, everyone in attendance indoors will be masked and socially distanced. No food or drink is allowed indoors. Masks must cover your nose and mouth completely. Masks are recommended but not required outdoors, especially in large groups. Services will also be accessible via Zoom or livestreaming for members who do not wish to meet in-person.

Members have also asked about the quality of the ventilation at the UUCA. During 2020, the UUCA conducted a detailed building assessment to help determine safe occupancy limits and other safety protocols for use of the building. In addition:

- After modernizing the HVAC systems in different parts of the building over the last decade, the systems are now all under centralized computer control. The system creates positive air pressure which keeps all the air moving in the direction desired to maintain control over the indoor environment. (This means windows and doors cannot be opened to “facilitate” air flow.)
- Our Shabbat services will be held in the Activity Room, which is a newer part of the building where there is no manual control over the fresh air dampers. Fresh air enters these rooms through the HVAC system regulated automatically by CO2 levels. These spaces do get significant air flow and exchange, but the lack of manual control means that safe occupancy is set to a maximum of 40.
- All air filters are being upgraded to MERV-13, recommended to help mitigate the transmission of infectious aerosols.

### **Part 3: What should I do if someone in my household has been diagnosed with COVID-19, or if a family member has been exposed to COVID from someone outside my household?**

#### Notes:

1. Exposure is defined as spending more than 15 minutes within six feet of a person with COVID-19 or having exposure to the person's respiratory secretions (for example: coughed or sneezed; shared a drinking glass or utensils; kissed or hugged) while they were contagious.
2. A person with COVID-19 is considered contagious starting two days before they became sick, or two days before they tested positive if they never had symptoms. That person's contagious state will last 10 days since their symptoms first appeared, and local school health organizations advise that people who have been exposed to COVID quarantine for 14 days.

If someone in the household develops fever, new cough, shortness of breath -- or two of the following: sore throat, chills, muscle pain, headache, new loss of taste or smell -- that person should be evaluated and tested for COVID-19. While waiting for the results of a COVID-19 test, no one from the affected household should attend services in-person. If that person tests positive, no one from the family should attend services in-person until two weeks after that person is no longer contagious. Further, if someone in the household has been exposed by someone outside the household who develops COVID-19, do not attend services until two weeks after the person's last exposure.

### **Part 4: What should I do if someone in my household unknowingly attends services while asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic?**

As soon as it is determined that a family member has COVID-19, notify Amy Medrick, Kol Ami's Communication and Administrative Coordinator by email at [coordinator@kolamivirginia.org](mailto:coordinator@kolamivirginia.org) or by telephone at 571-336-5544. Amy will notify by email the whole congregation and the UUCA that someone in attendance contracted COVID-19, only sharing the affected person's name if the family grants permission. Services will continue on Zoom for two weeks following notification from the member.

Also, the infected person should not return to services until it has been at least 10 days since first experiencing symptoms AND the person receives a negative COVID-19 PCR test.

### **Part 5: What happens if/when there is another wave of COVID-19?**

We will follow the Church's guidance about whether to cease in-person services should we experience another wave of infection in the Washington, DC area. We will also continually monitor the Virginia Health Department and CDC websites and, with Steering Committee input and approval, we may choose to revert to Zoom sooner than required by the UUCA. We will notify everyone as soon as possible using the members' listserv with the news that services will revert to Zoom, should the need arise.