Adath Israel
CONGREGATION

COVID Policy Update – Frequently Asked Questions

March 7, 2022

To help clarify Adath's new COVID policy, we have prepared the following list of frequently asked questions. If you do not find an answer to your question, please contact Rabbi Adler at rabbiadler@adathisraelnj.org or 609-896-4977.

What criteria are used to determine Adath's COVID policies?

As has been the case since the start of the pandemic, Adath's COVID policies have met or exceeded the recommendations of the CDC. The new policy will be guided by the CDC's COVID-19 Community Level for our area (Mercer and Bucks Counties). Here is a chart that describes the metrics used to determine these levels.

COVID-19 Community Levels – Use the Highest Level that Applies to Your Community				
New COVID-19 Cases Per 100,000 people in the past 7 days	Indicators	Low	Medium	High
Fewer than 200	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	<10.0	10.0-19.9	≥20.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	<10.0%	10.0-14.9%	≥15.0%
200 or more	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	NA	<10.0	≥10.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	NA	<10.0%	≥10.0%

The COVID-19 community level is determined by the higher of the new admissions and inpatient beds metrics, based on the current level of new cases per 100,000 population in the past 7 days

Where can I find more information on the CDC's COVID-19 Community Level?

To check the COVID-19 Community Level in any county in the US, visit: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html

For more information on how the CDC measures the COVID-19 Community Level, visit:
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html

I am not comfortable taking off my mask in public settings. If the synagogue is in the "low" (green) range, can I still wear a mask when I come to Adath?

Yes, everyone should feel comfortable wearing a mask at Adath even if it is not required. As a community guided by the Jewish value of *kavod habriyot*, respect for all people, it is important that we treat each other with kindness and compassion regardless of the choices others make.

If Mercer and Bucks Counties are in different COVID-19 Community Levels, which guidance will Adath follow?

If Bucks and Mercer counties are at different COVID-19 community levels, Adath will follow the more restrictive level between the two. That is, if one county is in the low range but the other is in the high range, Adath would be considered in the high range.

How will Adath communicate which level the community is in?

Each week, the Adath office will monitor levels, publish the information in the Adath weekly email, and post it at the entrance to the building. If there are any questions, please contact the Adath office.

Why does Adath require N/KN-95 masks in the "high" (orange) or "medium" (yellow) range? Why can't I wear a cloth or surgical mask in those situations?

In periods of higher COVID transmission, Adath will continue to require masks that have been proven to provide adequate protection. At the beginning of the pandemic N/KN-95 masks were difficult to come by and mostly reserved for health care workers. Now that such masks are widely available, the Health and Safety Committee requires them for the protection of everyone in our community.

Why does Adath require masks in the "medium" (yellow) range when the CDC only recommends them for those who "are at high risk for severe illness"?

The CDC suggests considering the wearing of masks in the "medium" (yellow) range if you have "social contact with someone at high risk for severe disease". It is

impossible for Adath to know the individual medical status of our community. However, a key vulnerability described by the CDC is being over age 65. Since many in our community fall into this category, masks are an effective way to protect those members of our synagogue.

Does this policy apply to both Adath-sponsored services/events/meetings and private events?

This policy only applies to Adath programs, services, and meetings. Organizations that rent space from Adath may have their own policies and guidelines that differ from Adath's. Please check with those organizations when attending their events. Individual, private events that are by invitation only do not need to conform to this policy as well.

Will attendance numbers affect Adath's COVID policy?

Adath's COVID policy is not affected by the number of people attending a particular program, service, or meeting.

Who can I contact if I have more questions?

Please feel free to contact Rabbi Adler at rabbiadler@adathisraelnj.org or 609-896-4977