

Rosh Hashanah, Kol Nidrei and Yom Kippur at Hampstead Synagogue

🌀 Special Provisions for 2020 🌀

Track and Trace

The NHS Track and Trace Programme requires us to know who is in the building at all times. Congregants must pre-book for each and every service they wish to attend. Please go to myus.theus.org.uk/events and choose Hampstead as your community, tick services and press go. You will then need to log in to book your seats.

Entry

Congregants who have registered will enter through the usual entrance; those who have not registered will be turned away. (On Kol Nidrei, you will be assigned one of two doors to enter the building).

Face masks

Everyone must provide and wear a mask at all times they are in the building. Masks should not be carried to Shul on Shabbat or Yom Kippur but they may be worn on the way. We are not providing masks.

Prayer Books and entry into the sanctuary

As cloakrooms will be closed; hats and coats can be deposited into bags and placed on the seat next to you.

Once masked, you can pick up a prayer book from the 'clean' supply. You will be directed to the correct door to enter the synagogue sanctuary.

Seating

It is highly unlikely that you will be sitting on your normal seat. Everyone will be assigned to a particular zone and this may change for different services. You can sit on any seat in your zone with a GREEN card on it. (People in the same social 'bubble' can sit next to each other). If you leave at any time you should turn over the card to RED and on your return sit in the same seat. Leave the sanctuary by the same route you entered it.

Rituals

Gentlemen will not be asked to open the Ark. There will be no procession of the Torah. Those called to the Torah will remain at a distance and not kiss it. Those asked to lift and dress the Torah will be from the same social 'bubble' and only need to wear gloves while on the Bimah. Communal singing will not be encouraged.

Children

There will be no children's services organised for under 11s. There will be youth discussions for school years 7 – 13.

Maximum attendance

At all services, the congregation will not exceed 200 people. Social distancing rules will apply.

Toilets

Toilets will be accessible with a 'one in, one out' policy.

Leaving the building

At the end of the service we will stagger the exit to ensure social distancing continues until everyone has left. You should leave the same way you entered the building.

Rosh Hashanah, Morning Service (Day One and Day Two)

Due to the size of our building, it is considered safe for the shofar to be sounded indoors.

Cohanim will be encouraged to recite the traditional Priestly Blessing but they should maintain social distancing as they make their way to and from the Ark and when they are on the bimah. Each Cohen should wash his own hands as Levi'im cannot do it for them this year.

Kol Nidrei

To aid security you should bring a printed copy of your ticket confirmation with you if you intend to arrive before Yom Tov comes in (ie before 6.33pm). It will be taken from you at the door.

There will be no Kol Nidrei Appeal in shul. It will take place online.

Yom Kippur

There will be two hour-long intervals between services when everyone will be required to leave the building. The reasoning is that it is not considered safe for people to be indoors with other people for too long. It will also give us a chance to arrange a deep clean before the next service. You should vacate your seat and take your book to the vestibule 'used' table, as we cannot guarantee that you will get the same seat when you return. Personal books and tallasim can be left in the shelves available in the vestibule.

Cohanim will be encouraged to recite the traditional Priestly Blessing but they should maintain social distancing as they make their way to and from the Ark and when they are on the bimah. Each Cohen should wash his own hands as Levi'im cannot do it for them this year.

Due to the size of our building, it is considered safe for the shofar to be sounded indoors at the end of Yom Kippur.

Gentlemen who require access to their tallit bag or prayer shawl can arrange for it to be stored at the back of the synagogue before the high holyday season. Please call Hayley on 020 7435 1518 for assistance. **Communal prayer shawls will not be available.**

Succot

You will be required to use your own set of arba minim (four species) as they cannot be shared. Please contact Rabbi Harris now via the office as he can purchase a set for you. Sadly, the shul succah will not be constructed this year.