



# SHIR CHADASH CONSERVATIVE CONGREGATION

## Holding Minyan Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

**DEBORAH SILVER**  
RABBI

**KENNETH KLEIN**  
PRESIDENT

**RICARDO TOTAH**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**MERYL ZIMMERMAN**  
INTERIM EDUCATION DIRECTOR

### **OFFICERS:**

**PETER TITLE**  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

**EDWARD BLUTH**  
MEMBERSHIP VICE PRESIDENT

**HENRY WEBER**  
RITUAL VICE PRESIDENT

**DANIEL MINTZ**  
EDUCATION VICE PRESIDENT

**STEVEN LEW**  
PROGRAMMING VICE PRESIDENT

**JAN MILLER**  
RECORDING SECRETARY

**TERRY JACOBSON**  
TREASURER

**BENJAMIN HORWITZ**  
TREASURER

**ANDREA RUBIN**  
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

**HAL LEVKOWITZ**  
MEN'S CLUB PRESIDENT

**CHARISSE SANDS**  
SISTERHOOD PRESIDENT

### **What do I need to do to be part of a *holding minyan*?**

You will need to request a place at a *holding minyan* by either calling the synagogue office at (504) 889-1144 in advance or by completing an online registration form.

### **What will happen when I arrive at the synagogue?**

You will stand outside on one of the indicated spots to maintain social distancing while you wait to enter the building. You will then be asked to review a symptom checklist and your temperature will be taken. You will also be asked to sanitize your hands before entering the building, and to put on a mask if you are not already wearing one.

### **Must I wear a mask?**

Yes. Everyone entering Shir Chadash must wear an appropriate mask or face covering, covering both mouth and nose, while in the building.

### **What if I need a break from wearing my mask?**

You should step outside if you need to remove your mask for a few minutes.

### **What if I don't have an appropriate mask or I forget to bring one with me?**

As you enter the building, a greeter will give you a single-use disposable mask. Please place it in the trash receptacle by the door when you leave the building.

### **What if I or someone in my party is medically unable to wear a mask or face covering?**

Please send an email with the specifics in advance to our Executive Director ([execdir@shirchadash.org](mailto:execdir@shirchadash.org)).

### **Is social distancing required at all times?**

Yes. Individuals who are not members of the same household should maintain a minimum distance of 6 feet from others. Please do not congregate in the hallways, bathrooms, foyer, or parking lot.



3737 West Esplanade Avenue, Metairie, LA 70002-3145

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## **Where will *holding minyanim* take place?**

*Holding minyanim* will be held in the Sanctuary to best accommodate the need for social distancing. In addition, whenever possible, windows and doors will be opened to maximize ventilation.

## **What will social distancing look like in the Sanctuary?**

Some rows in the Sanctuary will be blocked off and the areas designated for seating will be clearly marked. Only members of the same household may sit together. Extended family members who interact regularly can be considered part of the same household.

## **May I bring my children to a *holding minyan*?**

Children (13 and older) are welcome as long as they are able to remain in the Sanctuary for the duration of services. They will be asked to sit with members of their household only.

## **May our out-of-town guests be part of the *holding minyanim*?**

Regretfully, we cannot accommodate out-of-town guests, but they are welcome to join us for services online.

## **What about books? *kippot*? *tallitot*?**

We encourage everyone to bring their own prayer books, *kippot*, and *tallitot*. If you need a *kippah*, a greeter will hand you one when you enter the building. If you do not have your own prayer books, they will be available by your seat. Please do not share books. As you exit, please leave the books on your seat, and place your borrowed *kippot* in the designated receptacle.

## **How long will services be?**

Abbreviated services will be conducted and will last no more than two hours.

## **What about *aliyot*?**

Rabbi Silver will call the *aliyot*. Those taking an *aliyah* in the Sanctuary may choose to do so either from their seat or come up to the *bimah* and stand directly in front of the Ark, facing out. Please return to your seat after taking an *aliyah*.

## **What about other honors?**

The prayers for the community and the country will be offered to attendees as usual. Readers will recite the prayers from their seats.



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## **Will there be singing?**

Since singing is known to spread the virus, we ask (very sadly) that you hum quietly into your mask.

## **If I participate in services from home, how can I make it feel more like *shul*?**

Put on your *shul* clothes, and try creating a special place in your home for worship. You might decorate a table with Jewish objects that inspire you or some nice flowers and then place your computer on it.

## **What about *Kiddush* lunch?**

We will not be having *Kiddush* lunch or serving food of any kind at this time.

## **Can I stay at the synagogue and socialize even if there is no food?**

We are sorry, but no. At the end of services, rows will be dismissed one by one to facilitate social distancing. Please wait until your row is dismissed before leaving the Sanctuary. After exiting, please proceed directly to your car. Do not stop and congregate in either the synagogue or parking lot.

## **What if someone who has attended a *holding minyan* tests positive for COVID-19?**

We have a contact tracing protocol in place. **Anyone who has attended a holding minyan and tests positive for COVID-19 should notify our Executive Director ([execdir@shirchadash.org](mailto:execdir@shirchadash.org)) as soon as possible.** Rest assured that the information will be treated with proper discretion.



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