

GGG Return to Shul Guidelines July 2020

We are delighted to welcome members back to our lovely Shul as we begin the process of reopening. Please come along, help make a warm atmosphere and bear with us as we do our best to create a friendly ambiance while mitigating the risk. We are carefully following Government and United Synagogue guidelines.

The following policy and suggested phased opening reflect current guidelines, but as the situation is fluid, they will be subject to constant revision as the restrictions ease.

Phase 1: Weekday Minchah and Ma'ariv, commencing Sunday 5th July

General

- The Minyan will be held in the Rimon playground (behind the Shul building) unless it is raining.
- If it is raining, the Minyan will be held (or move) inside the Shul building.
- We are looking into ways of streaming the weekday Minyan for those unable to attend.

Before Arrival

- Please indicate your intention to attend in advance by email, WhatsApp or text message to Rabbi Belovski (rabbi@ggshul.org.uk / 07932669195); only those registered can be admitted. When RHB is not available, you will be given another way to confirm your attendance. Messages will be sent in advance to encourage people to register and to allow us to confirm there will be a Minyan before going ahead.
- In the event that fewer than a Minyan have registered by an agreed cut-off time, the service will be cancelled.
- Please bring a Siddur / suitably equipped phone, as none will be provided.
- Please bring a mask or other face-cover in case it is necessary to move indoors.
- As the toilets will not be available, please prepare accordingly.

Arrival

- Please arrive by 7.25pm and stand at an appropriate distance from others outside the central pedestrian gate, but do not enter the site until asked to do so. Latecomers cannot be admitted.
- Only RHB or another designated steward will admit people to avoid unnecessary contact with locks and handles.
- Please proceed to the Rimon playground (dry weather) via the path that runs to the left of the building or Shul (wet weather).
- Hand-sanitiser will be provided for use on arrival and departure.

Dry weather (Rimon playground)

- Please stand two metres from others.
- No face-covers are required.
- No chairs will be provided.
- Should it rain during the service, attendees will be marshalled by RHB (or another designated person) through the door adjacent to the secretary's office into the Shul
- Please use hand-sanitiser on entry.
- Inside the Shul, please sit no less than two metres from the nearest person.

GGG Return to Shul Guidelines July 2020

- Please wear a face-cover (except for Baal Tefillah).
- At the end of the service, please leave promptly and in a socially distanced manner through the central gate.

Wet weather (Shul)

- Entry is through the double doors at the front of the building.
- Please use hand-sanitiser on entering the building.
- Inside the Shul, please sit no less than two metres from the nearest person.
- Please wear a face-cover (except for Baal Tefillah).
- At the end of the service, please leave promptly and in a socially distanced manner through the central gate.

Phase 2: Friday Night and Shabbat Morning; plan is to commence 17th / 18th July; depending on weather, may be 10th / 11th July [TBC]

Friday night

- Same principles as weekday Minchah and Ma'ariv (see above).
- The Minyan will be held in the Rimon playground.
- Pre-booking to Rabbi Belovski (or alternative who will be identified) is required, as above.
- Please bring a Siddur as none will be provided.
- Please bring a mask or other face-cover in case it is necessary to move indoors.
- As the toilets will not be available, please prepare accordingly.
- Please arrive by 7.25pm, following procedures above.
- Please stand two metres from others.
- No face-covers are required.
- No chairs will be provided.
- At the end of the service, please leave promptly and in a socially distanced manner as directed.

Shabbat Morning Logistics

Pre-Booking

- On Sunday 5th July a link will be distributed for you to access the US online booking system. This will enable you to register your confirmed attendance for the first shabbat morning service on the 18th (or 11th) July.
- We will only be taking bookings week by week. We hope to accommodate as many people as our capacity allows, within the social distancing rules.
- If the demand exceeds our capacity, in the first week places will be prioritised for those who need to say kaddish, are celebrating a simchah, have a yahrzeit or need to bench gomel.
- Priority will be given to members.

General

- Chairs will be arranged two metres apart in the Rimon playground behind the Shul.
- We are confident that we can accommodate at least 60 people safely in this space.

GGG Return to Shul Guidelines July 2020

- The Baal Tefillah / Keri'ah will be positioned so that the maximum number of people can see and hear him, with a three-metre space around him.
- The layout and position of the mechitzah will be decided based on the numbers of women and men who pre-book.
- If rain or very hot weather is forecast we will take a view in advance, but likely we will move inside the Shul. Please see sections on indoor hygiene, toilets and entry /exit.
- Service will start at 'Ein Kamocha' at 10.00am prompt.
- If hot weather is forecast, the service may be moved to 8:30am start to avoid sitting in the heat.
- **Please bring the following items, as the Shul will not be able to provide them: Siddur, Chumash, Tallit (if appropriate), face-cover (ideally mask), hand-sanitiser, water and hat (if hot weather forecast) and a bag to put all your belongings in under your chair**
- If you live outside the eruv, please arrange to deposit these items before Shabbat with someone who lives within it.

Security

- In accordance with CST guidance, we will have three security guards: one at the Rimon gate, one across the road and one patrolling the back boundary with the park.
- Please don't stop and chat to the guards, even though you may just want to say a friendly greeting and welcome back. They are at higher risk and want as little contact as possible.

Hygiene

- Social distancing, hand washing and use of hand sanitiser are key to reducing the spread of Coronavirus.
- Please use the hand-sanitiser when you enter the Shul premises at any time.
- Please ensure good respiratory hygiene by following the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- The Shul will be cleaned more frequently than usual to remove the virus from frequently touched surfaces, such as door handles, handrails and tabletops.
- Chairs will be wiped between each use.

Masks

- In accordance with current US guidelines, when the service is held inside, we are asking you to wear a mask.
- Please bring your own mask as the Shul is not able to supply them.
- On entering the Shul, please use the hand sanitiser and then put on your mask.
- Please do not remove your mask while inside the Shul.
- When the service is finished, please remove your mask when you have left the Shul building.
- Foot pedal dustbins will be provided outside for disposal of masks if appropriate.

Entering and Leaving the Shul Premises on Shabbat

Dry Weather (Rimon Playground)

- Please book as you will only be able to enter if you have done so.
- Entry will be for 20 minutes before the start of the service and for 15 minutes afterwards.

GGG Return to Shul Guidelines July 2020

- If you are part of a family group or a social bubble you must come together, so please come early so we can seat you and free space for others.
- When approaching the Shul please ensure you do not meet with those already waiting outside the Shul. You may need to approach the Shul on the opposite side of the road
- We are operating a one-way flow system in and out of the Shul premises.
- Entry will be via the Rimon gate (left-hand gate if you are facing the Shul) and egress via the right-hand gate, again if you are facing the Shul.
- The middle gate will not be in use.
- The pavement outside will be marked at two metre intervals and we ask you to wait at the first "empty" slot as you will have seen outside shops
- A steward will ensure you have booked, have a mask and will ask pertinent questions about COVID.
- When the gate opens you will enter in groups of four and wait at the marked spots.
- You will then progress into the hand sanitiser area when places become available, maintaining social distancing. A steward marshal will ensure the area is clear and safe for you to enter.
- Please walk round to the Rimon playground where the service will be held.
- We ask when taking your seat for a service you fill them up from the back to the front of the playground.
- Seats will not be individually allocated and cannot be reserved.
- Please do not move your chair unless advised to do so by a steward
- Please place bags under your seat and do not drape clothes over the backs of your chair.

Egress

- Egress will be via the right-hand gate if you are facing the Shul.
- The back rows will lead off first and subsequent rows will file out again in groups of four.
- Stewards will advise you when it is safe to move into the next area.
- Please hand sanitise on leaving the premises.
- Please maintain social distancing at all times.
- It may take some time for everyone to leave, so please be patient.
- Once you have left please do not linger or socialise outside.
- If you are meeting someone please do so away from the Shul environs.
- Once you have left the Shul, you will not be able to re-enter the premises.

Toilets when we're using the Rimon playground

- There will be a one-way system for accessing the toilets.
- Entry will be via the door at the back of the Rimon playground and egress through the double doors at the front of the Shul.
- If you require the facilities please access them via the gangway, following round to the back wall to access the vestibule.
- Only one person will be able to use the toilet facilities at any time even if there is more than one cubicle.
- There will be a notice on the door which will indicate if the toilet is vacant or not.
- Please wait at an appropriate social distance (currently 2m) if it occupied. Leave sufficient room for the occupant to leave.

GGG Return to Shul Guidelines July 2020

- When the facilities are vacant turn the sign round to “occupied” and on entering please wash your hands for 20 seconds with running water and soap.
- After using the toilet please flush it with the toilet seat down if possible.
- Before leaving the facilities, wash your hands thoroughly using the same basin as before.
- Then wipe off all the taps you’ve touched with one of the antibacterial wipes provided and dispose of it in the dustbin.
- Please turn the sign to vacant and then hand sanitise before leaving via the double doors.
- For women, the hand sanitiser will be at the bottom of the stairs.
- If the service is still in progress turn right along the nursery garden and wait until the area is clear for you to enter.
- On passing through the gate hand sanitise again and return to your seat immediately.
- If the service is finished turn left out of the double doors and wait until a steward advises you to leave the premises.

Raining

- Should it rain during the service, please remain seated until advised what to do by a steward.
- Entry to the Shul will be via the double doors at the front of the building.
- Please walk round to the front of the Shul, in groups of four though socially distanced, enter and hand sanitise in the vestibule. You may need to wait at designated points until the next area is vacant.
- After using the hand sanitiser, please put on your mask when you enter the building.
- Entry to the Shul itself will be via the glass-panelled doors, which will be open; a steward will advise you when it is safe to do so.
- Please fill the seats from the top of furthest blocks on both sides and when these are full the nearer blocks again starting at the top rows.
- Only sit on the marked seats as these are measured for social distancing.
- There will be allocated family seating, so please alert the steward if you need this and for how many.
- Place bag and coat (turned in on itself) under your seat.
- Egress will be the reverse of this system.
- Please wait in your seat until asked to leave.
- Exit via the glass-panelled doors, hand sanitise in the vestibule and leave the premises via the double doors and gates outside.
- Please leave promptly, maintaining social distance and disburse without lingering to chat with others

Wet Weather (in the Shul)

- The conditions for entry will remain the same as above until you have entered the Shul grounds.
- Enter the area in front of the Shul via the nursery garden, waiting at the designated spots until the next area becomes free.
- When advised by the steward, enter the vestibule and use the hand sanitiser.
- After using the hand sanitiser, please put on your mask when you enter the building.

GGG Return to Shul Guidelines July 2020

- Entry to the Shul itself will be via the glass-panelled doors, which will be open; a steward will advise you when it is safe to do so.
 - Please fill the seats from the top of furthest blocks on both sides and when these are full the nearer blocks.
 - Please sit on the marked seats as these are measured for social distancing.
 - There will be allocated family seating, so please alert the steward if you need this and for how many.
 - Place bag and coat (turned in on itself) under your seat.
 - Egress will be the reverse of this system.
 - Please wait in your seat until asked to leave.
 - Exit via the glass-panelled doors, hand sanitise in the vestibule and leave the premises via the double doors and gates outside.
 - Please leave promptly and in a socially distanced manner.
 - Use of the toilet facilities will be as above, except that you will leave and re-enter the Shul via the glass-panelled doors only.
 - When leaving and returning to your seat please try to do so in a socially distanced manner.
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Over 70s and those shielding

- If you are shielding, please do not come to Shul
- The risks of Coronavirus increase with age
- If you are over 70 and have other medical issues such as diabetes, heart disease, chronic lung problems or are taking certain drugs, please do not come to Shul (though these guidelines may change in the near future).
- If you are over 70, in good health and are aware of the risks of Coronavirus with increasing age, we ask you to make your judgement as to whether to come.

When not to attend

- If you or any member of your household currently has symptoms of coronavirus do not come to Shul and follow the NHS guidelines
- We ask that anyone who has attended Shul develops COVID symptoms to inform the Shul office. This information will be held in the strictest confidence but will enable us to monitor any possible outbreak within the community
- If you become ill during Shul with the symptoms of COVID, please leave the service and wait in the vestibule. Please inform one of the marshals and you will be shown to the isolation room for appropriate assessment.

Children

- Unfortunately, in the early phases of opening, in accordance with US guidelines, we are not able to accommodate children (under 12).
- We are working on a solution to this issue and will reintroduce provision for children as soon as possible.

Naomi Verber, Dr Dina Kaufman and Rabbi Dr Harvey Belovski, July 2020