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# MCSC – Friday, Ramadan Taraweeh & Daily Prayer Guidelines

Daily Prayers: 26 New Amwell Road Hillsborough, NJ 08844

Friday Prayers: Temple Beth El, 67 Route 206 Hillsborough NJ 08844

Ramadan Taraweeh Prayers: Temple Beth El, 67 Route 206 Hillsborough NJ 08844

## Objective re-entry triggers

- ✓ Government with CDC/NIH backing mandates re-opening and occupancy
- ✓ Building, employee, and congregant spaces are safe and equipped for reuse
- ✓ Data indicates confirmed cases as decreasing

## Regular enhanced cleaning routines/standards

Establish enhanced cleaning protocols of the facility, work with MCSC and Temple Beth El (TBE) Management to define a focused cleaning of high-traffic and high-touch common areas—designed to prevent the spread of germs and help congregants, visitors and employees feel at ease. Identify the right scope and frequency of cleaning to suit your specific needs and ensure you have a decontamination plan in place, to guard against the spread of future outbreaks. Since our use is for Daily (5 times) and Friday (12 pm – 2 pm), the facility needs to be cleaned twice, before and after the prayer.

- ✓ Every surface that has the potential to be touched must be sanitized.
- ✓ Establish protocols for deep cleaning by janitorial vendors (Material, Brands, Equipment, Frequency, Quality control criteria)
- ✓ Ensure proper training, PPE, and products for all cleaning staff
- ✓ Establish cleaning frequency with a focus on high traffic/touch spaces, door handles, common areas, elevator buttons, kitchenettes, bathrooms, etc.
- ✓ Make janitorial services more visible
- ✓ MCSC to work with TBE to identify and communicate who is going to come and clean the facility before and after each prayer

## Identify Capacity for Daily and Friday Prayers

- ✓ Start with small congregation and gradually increase number (10, 25 or 40 max) of congregants and number of prayers depends on anticipated headcounts and space capacity

## Floorspace reconfiguration

- ✓ Redraw floor plans and reconfigure prayer rugs to keep distancing between congregants
- ✓ Incorporate more touchless technologies for restrooms and trash receptacles
- ✓ Define cleaning and transition protocols for any shared workspaces
- ✓ Consider repurposing underutilized spaces

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## Leverage technology

- ✓ Assess existing (or implement) building technology that could help in providing and monitoring access and occupancy

## Spatial distancing strategies - How to manage pedestrian traffic flow

MCSC should send out information for screening those who should NOT come to the Daily and Friday Prayers i.e. people suffering from fever, cough, diarrhea, direct contact with known COVID or caring for someone with COVID etc.

In the prayer hall congregation will be spread out. Other items to factor in:

- ✓ Orderly Entry into the facility (Start with only 10 people for Daily Prayers to test the system/processes in place and then expand)
  - Facility should open to the public at a specific time frame before the prayer time (10-20 minutes) may need to allow more time especially if screening and close within 5 minutes of the actual prayer service being completed. Optional prayers should be done at home.
  - If viable come up with sign up process or plan for first come first serve process
  - Elderly, Children, people at high risk would be those who are age 60 or more with high blood pressure, diabetes, chronic lung or heart conditions
- ✓ Orderly Exiting after prayer – Depart 1 row at a time. Imam will explain standing shoulder to shoulder is not required and all required to wear masks
- ✓ Limit on-site meetings with clear guidelines (Limit number of attendees and maintain social distancing)

## Plan for and manage congestion in common areas

Entrance and exits, hallways, ablution and bathroom areas, prayer halls. We must help our congregants seamlessly navigate common spaces according to social distancing guidelines and mitigate the risk of non-compliance in the process. Use signage to clearly communicate new one-way circulation patterns and provide queuing guidance where bottlenecks typically occur.

Event programming and frequency will vary based on state and local ordinances, building occupancy and/or management discretion. Consider the types of events, social distancing at events and sanitation processes when determining if and when to open the spaces to events. Also, limit occupancy using clear guidelines and shifts. Items for consideration are as follows (Not all items will be applicable for every facility):

Holding multiple two Friday Prayer service with 15-30 mins between each service.

- ✓ Those returning from travel
- ✓ Prayer demarcation lines with distance between each person
- ✓ Cleaning of Prayer carpet
- ✓ One-way entry, one way exit for pedestrian
- ✓ Come with ablution performed at home\*
- ✓ Keep bathrooms closed
- ✓ Remove paper towels

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- ✓ Cleaning schedule
  - ✓ Bring your own prayer mats
  - ✓ Wear PPE (masks at the minimum)

\*Congregants should come with ablution performed at home and if their ablution becomes invalid they should simply leave the facility. This reduces the need to clean and disinfect not only the bathrooms but various touch surfaces in between the prayer areas and the bathroom. Additionally, reducing the bathroom capacity for social distancing may create long bathroom lines and folks spending more time in the facility than necessary.

## Screening people and Enforcement

MCSC should send out information for screening for those who should NOT come to Daily or Friday Prayers i.e. people suffering from fever, cough, diarrhea, direct contact with known COVID or caring for someone with COVID etc

At-risk populations (such as those over the age of 65) are still advised to stay home even with a reopen policy.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/guidance-correctional-detention.pdf#page=26&zoom=100,46,42> (Page 26)

- Verbal and documented screening process for symptoms of COVID-19 and contact with COVID-19 cases should include the following questions: (If yes to any question or failure to follow-entry should be denied)
  - Today or in the past 10 days, have you had any of the following symptoms? People can be asymptomatic carriers as only 2.5% of infected people will have symptoms in 2-3 days so by extending this to 10 days as 97.5% would have symptoms by then
    - Fever, felt feverish, or had chills?
    - Cough?
    - Difficulty breathing, shortness of breath?
    - Stomach pain or diarrhea
    - In the past 14 days, have you had contact with a person known or suspected (based on questions above) to be infected with the novel coronavirus (COVID-19)?
- The following is a protocol to safely check an individual's temperature: MCSC need to decide if this will be done on everyone and where this would be done allowing for safe distancing.
  - Put on a recommended face mask, eye protection (goggles or disposable face shield that fully covers the front and sides of the face), gown/coveralls, and a single pair of disposable gloves
  - Check individual's temperature
  - If performing a temperature check on multiple individuals, ensure that a clean pair of gloves is used for each individual and that the thermometer has been thoroughly cleaned in between each check. If disposable or non-contact thermometers should only have these are used and the screener did not have physical contact with an individual, gloves do not need to be changed before the next check. If non-contact thermometers

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are used, they should be cleaned routinely as recommended by CDC for infection control

- Remove and discard PPE once done with screening
- Perform hand hygiene as instructed by health professionals
- Announcement before every prayer mandating mask be worn with specific instructions to cover nose and mouth. No one should be let in without one
- All individuals are required to bring their own prayer mat; no entry without one
- Prayer rugs that are traditionally used and available in the facility should not be used, these should not be accessible to the congregants
- Have forms that volunteers need to fill out while asking these questions (that's for the validation part)
- When Capacity is reached, close entrances and have volunteers cease all testing
- Risk Assessment Process will be developed to identify individuals who need to be Quarantined if we learned about any known Covid case in congregation who visited the facility in last 24-48 hrs. Contact tracing mechanism needs to be developed. This may mean full names and contact information of every attendee. This may lead to lines and delays. May want to have people register online and would need to validate they attended prayer

## **Communications with Congregation**

- ✓ Begin communications with congregation a minimum of 1 week prior to opening
- ✓ Communicate new protocols around cleanliness and gathering in common areas, as well as return-to-facility timing and scenarios
- ✓ Share best practices for maintaining safe and clean spaces and reinforce based on observed behaviors
- ✓ Communicate frequently and clearly any changes in protocol
- ✓ If we fail to enforce precautionary measures due to lack of community cooperation then we will close the facility.

## **Review protocols for re-closing**

Revive "quick-close" procedures for facility shut down if reopening fails or virus reoccurrence forces new closures. Close spaces and facilities, as required, following safety and insurance protocols. Refer to original Covid Protocols Document.