

COVID Policy Update - August 23, 2022

Dear Members,

The Health and Safety Committee met on July 5 to review the COVID policy survey we sent to the community and discuss possible changes. The survey found that almost 70% were satisfied with the policy as it stands and provided useful feedback. In addition, some realities have changed with regard to the COVID pandemic. For one, nearly all adult Adath members have been vaccinated. While we will continue to highly recommend full vaccination and current boosters, we will not check vaccination cards at any CDC COVID-19 Community Level. Additionally, because attending a kiddush or oneg after services is an optional choice, the committee felt it was reasonable to allow food during the "orange" high level as we now do during the "yellow" medium level. Finally, the committee recommends making masks optional during the "yellow" medium level, which aligns with the CDC's recommendations for that zone.

As a result, we recommended the following alterations, and the Board of Trustees approved them on August 22. As always, our policy continues to meet CDC recommendations.

If CDC COVID-19 Community Levels in Mercer or Bucks County is in the **“high” (orange)** range:

Everyone attending Adath programs, services, and meetings must wear a mask (N/KN95). Food will be served only at kiddush and oneg following services (except the High Holy Days). You may remove your mask to eat only when seated.

If CDC COVID-19 Community Levels in Mercer or Bucks County is in the **“medium” (yellow)** or **“low” (green)** range:

The wearing of masks will be optional, and no restrictions will apply to the serving of food.

Please refer to the following chart for a summary of changes:

	Former Policy	New Policy
Category High: Orange		
• Masks	KN95 or N95	KN95 or N95
• Vaccines	Verify full vaccination	Recommended
• Food	None served indoors	Food served only at kiddush and oneg following services (except High Holy Days). Remove mask to eat only when seated.
Category Medium: Yellow		
• Masks	KN95 or N95	Masks optional. Consult healthcare provider.
• Vaccines	Recommended	Recommended
• Food	Remove mask to eat only when seated	No restrictions
Category Low: Green		
• Masks	Optional	Optional
• Vaccines	Recommended	Recommended
• Food	No restrictions	No restrictions

For more information on the CDC’s COVID-19 Community Levels and transmission levels in our area, visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>

As always, the Health and Safety Committee will continue to monitor the situation and make adjustments as necessary. Please let me know if you have any questions. Stay safe and be well.

Rabbi Benjamin Adler – Chair, Health and Safety Committee