



March 9, 2022
6 Adar II, 5782

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to share that Congregation Shir Shalom's team of medical advisors has recommended **optional masking for everyone at our synagogue, effective immediately**, including congregants, ECC and religious school students and teachers, visitors, and guests. Our medical advisory team is led by Dr. David Pazer and includes medical professionals in our congregation with diverse specialties, and is tasked with reviewing updates from the CDC, State of Connecticut, and the Ridgefield Public Schools to inform our practices. Their recommendations take into account local infection and vaccination rates as well as availability of new treatment options.

Please note:

- Under some circumstances, masking is still required, consistent with CDC, the State of CT, and Ridgefield Public Schools guidelines. For example, someone with (or experiencing symptoms of) COVID-19 is required to mask for five days (after five days of isolation) or for ten days following close contact exposure.
- Consistent with the Jewish value of *pikuach nefesh* – the preservation of life – and position statements from leaders of every Jewish denomination, we continue to encourage full vaccination and boosters for those able to receive them.
- Anyone concerned that they are at high risk of developing serious illness is strongly encouraged to attend with high quality masks and spacing. We will have masks available and will ensure that spaced seating is available.
- If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, WE LOVE YOU AND WANT YOU TO FEEL BETTER AND NEED YOU TO STAY HOME. Check with your personal health care provider for medical guidance based on your symptoms.
- We are an inclusive community, committed to supporting your decisions regarding masking and spacing.

The health and safety of our congregants, students, staff, and clergy is our highest priority.

We wish to thank everyone for their patience as we demonstrated care for one another the last few months during the omicron surge and throughout the pandemic. Our collective welfare is a responsibility we share with one another.

Thank you,

Jeff and Larry

Jeff Gorelick & Larry Brooks
Co-Presidents

David Reiner

Rabbi David Reiner
Senior Rabbi

Mark Block

Mark Block
Executive Director