



### Opening Criteria

#### Jewish Values:

- ***Pikuach Nefesh*** – – the saving of life – The highest Jewish obligation that overrides almost every other law.
- ***Ush'martem Et Nafshotaichem*** – – and you shall protect your health – The obligation to protect the general health of oneself and one's society.
- ***V'Shinantam L'Vanecha*** – – and you shall teach your children – The mandate to teach and transmit the Torah to one's own children, one of the most important tasks of any Jewish parent
- ***Ma'akeha L'Gagechah*** – – erect a railing for your roof – The obligation to ensure that your own home does not prove dangerous and, more generally, to provide safe living conditions for others.

#### Values from the TSTI Mission Statement:

- **Diversity:** What groups within our community are negatively impacted, both by opening and by remaining closed? Can those parts of the community be served in an alternative manner?
- **Inclusivity:** Are we doing everything we can to incorporate and to support everyone in our community? Are we addressing special needs to the best of our ability? On the other hand, is our choice taking into account individuals who are at higher risk to the virus?

**How much OPEN is ok?** Are we willing to risk infecting someone to serve the particular function under consideration?

**Guidelines and reconsideration will be driven by a process**, not by specific requests to alter the guidelines. Things that can trigger a reconsideration are: new science or guidance from scientists; public health dynamics (e.g. rise in new cases locally); new regulations; actions of institutional partners like SOMSD; or timelines we impose upon ourselves (e.g. what is our deadline for deciding to open the preschool). Things that **cannot trigger reconsideration** of the guidelines include calls from specific congregants, actions of unaffiliated institutions such as other synagogues or churches, or reports in the media.

**What are the next steps?**

Value our activities: what activities help the most people?

Study the effectiveness: can we do this adequately without reopening the building or meeting in person? What do we gain or lose by being physically distant?

Who are we excluding by remaining closed: who is limited? Who cannot take part at all? What can we do to serve those individuals? Who is disadvantaged by distance learning? Who lacks necessary technology?

Understand the requirements: what does it take to open? How much would it cost? What tools do we need? How do we have to change what we do?

How do we communicate effectively: who needs to know? How do we tell/reach them? How much do we explain (expectations, process, decision making)?

When and how do we change our minds: what are our criteria for reclosing?

How do we navigate one-off requests: things not anticipated by the categories in the document. Who decides, and by what criteria?

**Challenge all the assumptions!!**