

August 11, 2021

Dear Hebrew College Community,

We, like many of you, are closely monitoring the recent uptick in COVID-19 cases. In consultation with our medical advisors, as well as other Jewish institutions, and local colleges and universities, we have decided to modify our guidelines due to the impact of the Delta variant. While the setback is discouraging for all of us, I know we will continue to come together with generosity of spirit to look out for each other's health and wellbeing and to contribute to local and national efforts to overcome this pandemic.

Here is a quick overview of our updated COVID related protocols and guidelines:

1. Effective immediately, we are reinstating a mask mandate at Hebrew College, regardless of vaccination status. All students, staff, faculty, renters, and visitors will be required to wear masks when in the building. Fortunately, with everyone properly masked, we will be able to gather indoors for most regular activities, including orientation, fall classes, davening, staff meetings, and public events.
2. Effective immediately, we are restricting food or drink at indoor communal events. No food or beverage may be consumed in the building unless you are in a room alone. With the start of the fall semester, we will have limited areas designated for eating, with clearly marked socially distanced seating.
3. As a reminder, we are continuing to require all those who are eligible for vaccination (everyone ages 12 and older) to be vaccinated before coming to the campus. Exemptions will be made only for religious or medical reasons on a case-by-case basis and proof of the exemption will be required.
4. If you are not feeling well, please do not come to campus. If you have experienced fever, body aches, or loss of taste or smell – or if you have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for the virus -- you are required to have a negative COVID test before returning to campus.

I want to reiterate that the protocols described here may, of course, be subject to change, based on future developments regarding the pandemic, community health and awareness, or policies put in place by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Thanks, as always, for your flexibility, creativity, patience, dedication, and hard work.

Warmly and with all my very best wishes for the new year,

Sharon