

From: [Clifford Miller](#)
To: [Covid Archive](#)
Subject: Fwd: BACK TO SCHUL TIME
Date: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 2:44:30 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Clifford Miller** <abuelo39@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Sep 11, 2020 at 12:50 PM
Subject: Re: BACK TO SCHUL TIME
To: Lawrence Sturman <LawrenceSturman@gmail.com>

Thank you very much.

I hope you do not mind if I share your initial response with rabbis and family and friends.

On Fri, Sep 11, 2020, 11:34 AM Lawrence Sturman <lawrencesturman@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Clifford,

Your current activities seem to be appropriate and suitable to your circumstance.

If I delay until I can give your question the full attention I would like, it will be some time before I respond. So here are my contemporary thoughts about what Audrie and I ought to do. Alas, I cannot speak for our children.

Wait until there is a consensus among (a dozen or more) well regarded physicians and scientists with vaccine and other infectious disease experience concerning the efficacy (quality) and safety of one or more vaccines available for our age group. Consult as well with family and our physicians. After receiving immunization, if possible, get tested to ensure that we have had an appropriate immune response (and no sequelae). Depending on the available information and experience about the duration and extent of immunity, and what else has been learned about reinfection, emergence of new virus strains or other complications, gage how best to return to large, public indoor social activities.

I will try to respond expeditiously to followup questions.

Warmest regards to you and Debbie, and a healthy and happy New Year,

Larry

On Sep 10, 2020, at 6:08 PM, Clifford Miller <abuelo39@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Dr. Larry, and Dear Dr. Claudia,

Our Rabbi, Ari Lucas, sent a simple e-mail asking each member of the congregation under what circumstances we would feel comfortable returning to worship together in our sanctuary? I don't know what to answer.

For about half a year, services have been conducted via zoom, and Debby and I, along with dozens of others, members and non-members, in the Caldwell area and as far away as in Florida, New England, Canada or Israel, participate in daily evening and morning and weekly services very similar to what we did in the synagogue Library, Study hall, chapel and sanctuary in "normal" times.

A group of hardier, healthy, younger congregants has insisted on gathering together in person to pray as a "real" congregation. They stand outdoors, under a tent erected where we usually build the synagogue sukkah. X on the concrete marks separation distance of at least 6 feet. All wear masks and sign health waivers. Debby and I have visited the site when there is no group congregating there, but, at ages between 75 and 81, we have not attended services there.

We can visit friends outside their homes, in parks or on patios, wearing masks and not accepting any refreshments. We have not entered anyone's residence.

We have arranged grocery and other deliveries to our apartment lobby, or we have curbside pickup, as at our public library. Our daughter, Arielle, or her son, Zeke, or other nice young people have entered stores, masked, to buy for us. Medicines arrived by mail. Thanks to helpful virtual office visits, we avoided even medical or dental office visits except when really urgent (phlebotomy) and when we felt confident that all health precautions would be met.

Outside our apartment, we wear masks on our way to and from the mailbox or laundry room or while walking in the local park or cemetery, when anyone is in the vicinity. Joggers or cyclists have passed near us without masks, but only for an instant, not lingering.

High Holy day services also will be conducted via zoom or live streaming, except for a select handful of congregants invited to constitute a quorum, masked and at proper distance, while the cantor, masked, leads services (without any choir), reads Torah and sounds a shofar. Sermons are pre-recorded, off-premises.

When is it safe to congregate in synagogue in large numbers again? When a vaccine has been approved? When most of the community accepts vaccination? When everyone present at the

service has been vaccinated? Or simply return now, masked, and maintaining distance?

We both recently tested negative for Covid19. What would you recommend? What would you and your children do?

Happy, healthy New Year, Cliff