

Alei Tzion Shul Reopening: Frequently Asked Questions

Version: 2.0
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Attending Services

Q. Which services are running?

A. **Weekday** Shacharit and Mincha/Ma'ariv are taking place each day at their usual times. Shacharit 6:50am/7am, Mincha/Ma'ariv 7:30pm.

Shabbat services run on similar schedule to their traditional times. Kabbalat Shabbat takes place at 7:15pm. We are currently running two Shacharit services, at 7:45am and 9:45am. Mincha followed by a shiur by the Rav and Ma'ariv takes place at the published time for Shabbat commencing.

Q. Will there be restrictions on how many people can attend services?

A. Yes, with a social distancing of 2m the shul has a capacity of 17 people inside, with space for an additional 6 people outside. If social distancing restrictions relax, the capacity will obviously increase.

Q. When will social distancing be reduced to 1 metre?

A. Following instruction from the Chief Medical Officer, social distancing will remain at 2m until after the Yamim Noraim at the earliest.

Q. How will it be decided who can attend services?

A. **For weekday services** there is no need to pre-register. When attending services we ask that you visit aleitzion.co.uk/davening or scan the QR code in shul and enter your email address.

For **Shabbat services**, there is sign-up form where you can indicate which services you would like to attend, and your preference of the early or later service. Seats will be assigned by a lottery initially, but with manual adjustments to try to maximise the number of times people can attend.

Q. I'm not a member of Alei Tzion. Can I sign up?

A. Yes. All our regulars (and irregulars!) are most welcome.

Q. How long will the sign-up period be?

A. The sign-up form for Shabbat opens the Thursday the week before. i.e. for Shabbat 22nd August, the form opens on Thursday 13th. It will close on the Wednesday before that Shabbat.

Q. How will I know if I can attend a service?

A. Following the closure of the sign-up period and any lotteries undertaken, all those who have signed up will receive an email informing them which services they can attend for the week in question..

Q. How will seats for Women be handled?

A. **For weekday services** the same rules apply for women. No need to book, just register your attendance in shul.

For Shabbat services, again subject to the requirements for a minyan, it will be based on the proportions of those applying for that service. If 20% of people applying for a particular service are women, 20% of the seats for that service will be allocated to women.

Q. Will I be able to bring my children?

A. Unfortunately, we are still unable to welcome back all children. However, we can now welcome back all children aged 7 and over. We ask that you inform us if you intend to bring your children to ensure that we can set up chairs to accommodate.

Q. Can my children run around unattended?

A. No, we ask that any children sit with you in shul. We have put the age limit at 7 to include children most able to sit through the service.

Q. Can I attend with other people in my family/social bubble?

A. Yes. Our capacity is limited by a need to maintain social distancing. So you can be accompanied by anyone over the age of 7 in your social bubble. However,

please let us know in the sign-up form how many will be attending, so that we can the layout of the shul to accommodate.

Q. Will I be able to attend a service if I have not been informed that I can?

A. No. In order to ensure the safety of those who are attending you will be asked to leave.

Q. Will there be time between the earlier and later Shabbat services for parents to swap at home?

A. We plan to leave 30 minutes between the end of the earlier service and the start of the later service.

Q. Will there be children's services?

A. We are running children's services in Brent Park (weather permitting). Initially just the Toddler service, but we plan to start the older children's services over the coming weeks.

Q. Are any precautions in place for the children's services?

A. There will social distancing in place, however as it is outside no masks are required and singing is allowed. There will be an individual overseeing security of the group.

Health

Q. Will I be required to wear a facemask?

A. Yes, if davening inside the shul. We encourage everyone to bring their own facemask. If you can't bring your own, we have disposable facemasks available – in return for a charitable donation. If you have a seat outside for a service, you will not be required to wear a mask.

Q. Will children be required to wear a facemask?

A. Children under age 11 are not required to, however we encourage all attendees to wear a facemask.

Q. Will I need to wear gloves?

A. You will only be required to wear gloves when handling the Sefer Torah and its accoutrements. E.g. when leining; performing hagbah. Gloves should then be removed once no longer required for a task. Gloves will be provided to those who require them.

Q. Will I be able to use Alei Tzion's siddurim/chumashim?

A. No, we ask that you bring your own siddurim and chumashim.

Q. Will I be able to use Alei Tzion's tallitot?

A. No, we ask that you bring your own tallit.

Q. Will I be able to use the toilet in the shul?

A. Yes, however only one person may enter the toilet at a time. We ask that you use the free/occupied signs on the door of the toilets.

Q. If I or someone in my household is symptomatic, or has been asked to isolate by the government's Track and Trace scheme can I come to services?

A. No. We ask that you follow government guidelines and self-isolate during that period.

Practical

Q. What is the role of the Minyan Marshal?

A. The Minyan Marshal will be responsible for ensuring only those who should be in attendance are, that all attendees are wearing a facemask and have brought their own books, and for cleaning surfaces at the end of the service. To volunteer, please email gabbaim@aleitzion.co.uk or indicate your willingness on the sign-up form.

Q. How will we navigate through the shul?

A. There will be a one-way system in place. Entry through the door of LSJS, and into the shul through the doors, egress will be through the bi-fold doors.

We ask that when taking your seat for a service, you fill up seats from the back of the shul to the front.

Access to the toilets will also be one way, entry via the corridor, and exit through the back door, along the outside passageway back to the main entrance.

Q. How will seats for services be allocated?

A. Seats will not be individually allocated. We ask that you fill them up from the back to the front. If we are using the outside space for extra capacity, those seats should be occupied once the inside of the shul has been filled.

Q. Will there be a Kiddush on Shabbat morning?

A. No.

Q. What happens to outside seats if it rains?

A. Please dress and come equipped appropriately. We will inform you whether we intend to use outside seating for a service beforehand. People situated in outside spaces will not be allowed to enter the shul in case of inclement weather.

Q. Will the shul be cleaned between services?

A. Yes, at the end of each service, surfaces will be cleaned.

Q. Will there be singing during the service?

A. To try and minimise the spread, only the Chazan will be able to sing in full voice. Louder singing outside is allowed.

Halachic

Q. How can I request a call up?

A. If you would like a call up for a specific reason, please indicate that you have a chiyuv when signing-up for services and email gabbaim@aleitzion.co.uk to inform the gabbaim which service you would like to require a call up for.

Q. How will aliyot work?

A. Aliyot will be assigned as normal, with each Aliyah going to different people. When a person is called up, the baal korei will move away from the Sefer Torah to allow the brachot to be recited. Once said, the person called up will move

away from the bimah to allow the baal korei to return. With the process repeated at the end of the leining.

Future

Q. What will happen for the Yamim Noraim?

A. We are actively exploring options to try and accommodate as many people as possible over the Yamim Noraim including multiple services and possible overflow sites. We hope to be able to communicate further details in the coming weeks.