



## **COVID19 Security & Safety Considerations for Jewish Community Locations**

As Jewish communities begin the process of reopening their facilities, The Community Security Organization has consulted with law enforcement, government agencies and professional security companies to establish best practices of effective site security. We also are coordinating with counterpart organizations in the UK, Australia, and South Africa how to pivot our security approaches to accommodate the new realities we face.

This document is created to aid site leadership in making informed decisions during each phase that incorporate security protocols, mitigate physical exposure to antisemitic attacks during these reopenings in light of recently published medical and halachic advice. This is not an exhaustive list and is a working document subject to change, as this continues to be a fluid situation. The items listed are of the most prominent concern regarding security breaches.

We do not delve into operational security details or responses in this document for obvious reasons and invite sites to contact us directly for specific & detailed security responses and protocols.

**This document is created as a general document that does not break down or align with each phase of the opening process. Parts may be taken and applied as deemed critical by each site.**

- 1) **PROTOCOLS AND PROCEDURES** - This is an excellent and critical opportunity for each and every individual site to examine general security protocols, review past practices and use this unique opportunity to upgrade methods and systems in place to mitigate unauthorized access or surveillance of a site. Antisemitic attacks are expected to resume and even increase in light of COVID19. Additionally, appropriate actions and reactions to security emergencies should be established and drilled. *Please contact CSO for details.*
- 2) **USE OF MASK & GLOVES**- The necessary requirement of using masks and gloves impacts the ability for security team members and law enforcement to quickly identify someone seeking to gain entry to a location. Ideally, sites have one point of entry and it is envisaged that locations will now have staff or volunteers screening persons seeking entry with a handheld thermometer or similar. We suggest that barriers or similar are used where a person seeking entry is screened for their temperature at a distance outside of the entrance. An attacker may use this excellent opportunity to "wait in line" and wear a mask to get closer and attack. Persons should be asked to remove their mask for facial identification from the security greeter or security office and once verified allowed to proceed. Office staff should be advised if visitors come to the location out of hours. Additionally, identifying persons on security cameras will be a challenge, especially when reviewing footage post-incident. This should be done in a 2 step process. *Please contact CSO for details.*
- 3) **A LINE OUTSIDE OF THE SITE CREATE SECURITY RISKS** -. A vehicle may ram or someone may use this opportunity to attack Jewish persons in the line as they wait. There would be protocols of distance with each person in the line extending the distance that the security team would need to cover. If a tent or a partially covered temporary structure could be used to mitigate this threat. *Please contact CSO for details.*



- 4) **SEARCHING OF BAGS** - We recommend at this time that visitors and site members be advised ahead of time to NOT bring bags to site locations. If they do, bags should be searched on a table. Bag searching should be done using a search stick. Distance should be kept from the searchee and the searcher to ensure limited contact. *Please contact CSO for details.*
  
- 5) **SEARCHING FOR WEAPONS ON A PERSON** - In this process a handheld wand (subject to site rabbinical approval) should be used. There is no way around not making close contact with a person in this instance. A walk-through weapons detector allowing safe distances may be deployed on Shabbat per the site rabbi. *Please contact CSO for details.*
  
- 6) **ROLE OF THE SECURITY OFFICER/OFF DUTY POLICE OFFICER/SECURITY VOLUNTEERS** - The consensus from law enforcement and security professionals is that the security officer and volunteers should NOT handle the task of checking the temperatures of those seeking to gain entry. They need to focus on security, particularly with the new added risks presented by creating lines of people waiting outside. Policies must be discussed beforehand covering critical questions such as who will enforce someone not observing health protocols etc. *Please contact CSO for details.*
  
- 7) **OUTSIDE MINYANIM** - This creates a serious security challenge. An outside minyan allows great opportunities for an attacker to seriously maim or kill. If an outside minyan is utilized, we encourage placement close proximity to the building with easy access for cover. We also strongly recommend additional armed security on either side of the minyan to deter, detect and delay an attacker. Double the amount of security officers and volunteers. *Please contact CSO for details.*
  
- 8) **PROFESSIONAL SECURITY OFFICER or VOLUNTEER SECURITY TEAM** - Discuss ahead of time needs and requirements with your security company & team. Ensure you are on the same page protocol wise, what is expected from contracted private security, off duty police, and site security volunteers.. Discuss post Orders (Site security instructions and update accordingly). Identify responses to situations before, not during an incident. *Please contact CSO for details.*

Questions on guidance for protocols etc should be directed to our team at [info@thecso.org](mailto:info@thecso.org)

Stay safe and healthy,

*Zalman Myer-Smith*

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