

Dear Members,

On Friday December 10, 2021, the NY State Department of Health issued updated COVID-related requirements due to the rising number of Covid cases in the State. The new mandate applies to all indoor public venues, including houses of worship. Click [HERE](#) for a link to FAQs prepared by the State regarding these new regulations.

**As a result, YINR has been mandated to comply with ONE of the following:**

1) Only people with proof of vaccination can be admitted to the shul.

OR

2) All attendees must wear a mask while in the building, regardless of vaccination status.

Until this mandate was put in place, no individual was denied access on the basis of vaccine status. Rather, if an individual was unvaccinated he or she was allowed in the building if wearing a mask. However, the new government mandate specifically requires that attendees either all be vaccinated or all be masked. In other words, the combination approach that has been used until now is no longer an option.

While we are discouraged by this setback in the progress of returning back to “normal”, **the Executive Board has decided to adopt the Vaccination Required option of the mandate (option 1 above)**. This means that as of December 13, 2021:

1) All **individuals 12 and over** MUST be fully vaccinated in order to enter the shul building. Fully vaccinated means 2 weeks have passed since your second dose in a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series or one dose of the J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine. If you are age 12 or over and are not fully vaccinated, you may NOT enter the YINR building even if masked.

2) **Children ages 5-12** must have received at least one vaccine shot in order to enter the shul building. They must continue to mask until 2 weeks have passed since their second shot. Children ages 5-12 who have not received at least one vaccine shot may NOT enter the building, even if masked.

3) **Children ages 2-4** may enter the building if they are able to properly mask. **Children under 2** are not required to mask.

Unless updated, these above policies will be in effect from December 13, 2021-January 15, 2022. Anyone who is unable to meet these attendance requirements is, of course, welcome to attend the outdoor minyanim held in the tent behind the shul throughout Shabbat and Sunday morning. If you are looking for a weekday minyan, contact us at any time and we would be pleased to assist you.

### **HOW WILL THIS WORK?**

Vaccination status of anyone who wishes to enter the building will be checked at the front entrance. Members who want to enter the YINR building must either:

a) Show proof of vaccination by bringing their card, a picture of their card or use Excelsior Pass.

OR

b) Send proof of vaccination to [vaccineform@yinr.org](mailto:vaccineform@yinr.org) (detailed instructions below)

**Once proof of vaccination is submitted via email or in person on a weekday (Sun-Fri), your name will be added to the list of individuals allowed to enter the building under this mandate so that further provision of proof will not be needed** (list will be active as of Tuesday, December 14). Until an individual's proof of vaccination is received, such individual may only use the front entrance of the building; entry through the garage is prohibited until then.

Members are responsible to notify their guests of these requirements.

**TO SUBMIT PROOF OF VACCINATION VIA EMAIL:**

- 1) Please send ONE email per family to [vaccineform@yinr.org](mailto:vaccineform@yinr.org). This email address will be operational at **noon on Monday, December 13**.
- 2) Please write your family name in the SUBJECT line of the email
- 3) In the body of the email, please include the full name and age of each family member for whom you are submitting proof of vaccination
- 4) Please attach a copy of the vaccination card or Excelsior Pass for each such family member

We urge you to submit these records as soon as possible (today or tomorrow) so that we can ensure a smooth adoption of this policy and reduce waiting time to enter the building.

Thank you for taking the time to submit your records. We deeply appreciate your patience as we continue to navigate these changing times.

Andrew Wurzburger, President

David Blumenthal, Executive Board Chair