

Ritual/Synagogue Accessibility Checklist

1. PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY

- Ramps at all entrances, outdoor spaces, bimah, and ark
- Doorways wide enough for wheelchair access
- Accessible bathrooms with appropriate sink height
- Seating options for people with mobility needs
- Mezuzot placed at multiple heights
- Torah transport option (e.g., pushcart) available

2. HEARING ACCESSIBILITY

- All clergy, speakers, and leaders consistently use microphones
- Hearing loop or amplification system available
- Live captioning during services and events
- Sign language interpreter available upon request
- Printed copies of sermons or talks available

3. VISION ACCESSIBILITY

- Accessible seating integrated with general seating
- Spaces for wheelchair users throughout room
- Tables with enough clearance
- Good sightlines to speakers/screens

4. SERVICE PARTICIPATION

- Page numbers clearly announced throughout services
- Page numbers displayed visually (screens or signage)
- Multiple prayer book versions supported with clear guidance
- Someone assigned to keep page numbers updated

5. NEURODIVERSITY INCLUSION

- Ask attendees about accommodations during registration
- Provide clear event details in advance
- Share agenda before the event
- Offer materials in digital format
- Use plain language in communications
- Share contact person for questions
- Live captioning (CART) arranged
- ASL interpreters arranged if needed

6. INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE & PRACTICE

- Inclusive language used (e.g., “rise in body or spirit”)
- Multiple ways to participate in rituals are encouraged
- Clergy model inclusive participation from the bimah

7. ALTERNATIVE ENGAGEMENT OPTIONS

- Quiet room available for breaks
- Livestream access within the building (e.g., in a separate room)
- Sensory-friendly or alternative services offered
- Modified or abbreviated ritual options when relevant

8. HEALTH & SAFETY ACCESSIBILITY

- Livestreaming available for remote participation
- Outdoor service options when possible
- Ventilation/air filtration improvements in place
- Portable air cleaners used as needed
- Masking options or policies supported
- Space considerations for immunocompromised individuals

9. FINANCIAL ACCESSIBILITY

- Sliding scale pricing for services and events
- Free or subsidized tickets available
- Clear, simple process to request financial assistance
- Volunteer discounts offered
- Financial assistance handled with dignity and privacy

10. CULTURE & CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

- Inclusion is treated as a core value, not an accommodation
- Regular feedback collected from congregants with disabilities
- Staff receive ongoing inclusion training
- Leadership actively prioritizes accessibility
- Clear communication that all are welcome

OPTIONAL REFLECTION

- We are proud of our accessibility efforts
- We are actively working on improvements
- We have identified specific next steps

NOTES