

United Synagogue

Guidance on communal meals and kiddushim on site

From Step 3: 17th May 2021

DRAFT: Please note that the government has not yet confirmed its position on social contact and social distancing from 17th May nor updated the sets of guidance that inform our policy. The notes below, therefore, are subject to change. Once government guidance for Step 3 has been confirmed, we will publish an update.

Eating and drinking together is a central feature of community life and its absence from our shuls has been felt keenly. As we move to Step 3, the easing of measures allows for the return of kiddush and some small events, in line with the guidance below. Communities should choose the approach that best suits their site, demographic, and size.

Please note that there must be at least one nominated person responsible for ensuring that Covid guidance is followed at all events, not just at set up but during the event itself.

Currently all events described below are only permitted outdoors. Marquees or gazebos can be used but at least 50% of the wall area of the marquee must be open for it to be considered outdoors

Food must be prepared according to the Covid food preparation guidance [here](#). Packaged food is preferable.

Kiddush

There are three ways in which a community can provide kiddush on site outdoors

1. **Seated** at tables or in circles of groups of no more than 6 people. The kiddush should be pre-prepared and either served plated or provided in a box or bag for each person. There must not be any shared items on the table. People must not mingle between groups but remain seated. There must be at least 2m distance between each group. Total capacity should be based on this distancing.
2. **As people leave**, standing in a socially distanced manner. Kiddush should be provided in individual bags or boxes and should consist only of wine and small mezonot snack. Kiddush should be made promptly, and people should be asked to leave the site in a socially distanced manner as soon as they have consumed the snack and drink. This is suited to a small community in an area with no eruv.
3. **Takeaway kiddush** on Chaggim or on Shabbat if there is an eruv. Each person should collect a box or bag on their way off the site.

United Synagogue

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A community meal can take place outdoors if attendees are seated at tables or in groups of no more than 6 people. All food must be pre-plated and served to people in their seats and there must be no shared items on the tables. There must not be a bar area -rather, drinks must be provided on the table or served on request. Attendees must remain seated at their table and not mingle with others. There must be at least 2m distance between each group. Total capacity should be based on this distancing.

Rabbinic Hospitality

Assuming that government guidance is as anticipated, from 17th May, Rabbinic families may host up to 6 people/2 households indoors and up to 30 people outdoors. Members of the Rabbinic family count within that number. Please refer to the government Covid guidance on social contact for Step 3 (when published) and, where possible, host outdoors, rather than indoors. If welcoming guests indoors, please ensure that rooms are well ventilated.

Private hire and Catered events

Guidance on private, catered events on United Synagogue sites will follow.

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