

COVID Guidelines for Birchas Kohanim

- Kohanim who are not members of the same household should make sure to stand at least six feet apart while waiting in line to have their hands washed. Masks should still be worn, even if the washing line is outside.
- One levi should be designated to wash the hands of all the kohanim at a given minyan. In the event that no levi is present a bechor should be designated to wash the hands. The gabbai should supervise these assignments.
- As long as both the kohen and levi are appropriately wearing masks it is acceptable for them to stand in close proximity for the brief period of the washing of hands.
- Kohanim should make sure to stand six feet on all sides from each other (unless they are members of the same household), the chazzan, and the congregation during birchas kohanim.
- Though the kohanim do not sing their traditional tune when Yom Tov falls on Shabbos, they should sing their traditional tune on other days when birchas kohanim is recited.
- In the event that only one kohen is present, the chazzan does not call out “kohanim,” rather the kohen begins to make the bracha at the appropriate time.
- There will be a washing stand available outside the tent for kohanim davening there.
- Birchas kohanim is recited at an early neilah.