

# Important Letter From Rabbis of The Community



## EMERGENCY NOTICE

At this time, COVID-19 has reached epidemic proportions in our community and we must take it upon ourselves to proactively address the ongoing health situation.

Together with some of the foremost medical experts of our community, we have prepared the following critical guidelines to ensure the safety of our community. These must be implemented immediately and until further notice. As this is a matter of Sakanat Nefashot (Life & Death), it is the responsibility of every individual to adhere to these diligently and it is a grave עבירה (sin) to be lenient.

### **WHAT SHOULD NOT BE DONE AT THIS TIME:**

1. There should be **no minyanim, shiurim or learning** in any of our Synagogues.
2. **House and outdoor minyanim** may not be hosted or attended.
3. Every single member of our community is פטור (exempt) from praying with a Minyan.
4. It is **extremely dangerous** for anyone who is (i) elderly, (ii) immuno-compromised, or (iii) exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, to leave their home. These members of our community **should not accept visitors**. Please make arrangements for food and supplies to be delivered and left at your door.
5. If you experience **ANY** of the following symptoms: fever, cough, sore throat, muscle aches, weakness, or diarrhea, **STAY HOME!**
6. Under no circumstances should any member of our community visit their elderly parents, grandparents, or friends **unless there is a real necessity to do so**.
7. Men's **Mikvaot** are no longer available for use.
8. Women's **Mikvaot** will remain open with newly imposed cleaning regulations. If a woman is not feeling well, or if she is in mandatory quarantine / isolation, she cannot go to the Mikveh and should consult her Rabbi for further clarification.
9. Families should consult a Rabbi with respect to upcoming weddings. Weddings should be attended by a very small number of people (not to exceed 10 people), sufficient to hold the Huppah only, with no dancing.
10. All other **Semahot** should be delayed until a later time.
11. A rabbi must be consulted with respect to the proper way to plan a **Brit Milah**. A Brit Milah should not include more than a few family members (no Minyan).
12. **Nihum Abeilim (Comforting Mourners)** should be done over the phone and not in person. If mourners are elderly, they absolutely must not be visited in person. A Rabbi **MUST** be consulted in any such circumstance.
13. There should be no **playgroups, playdates, or babysitting groups**.
14. **Work** should be done from home whenever possible.
15. Do not go out in public other than for **essential activities**. At the supermarket, be cautious to maintain at least a six-foot distance from others around you.
16. **Stores, especially butchers and grocers**, should accommodate phone or online orders and offer delivery services and curbside pick-up. It is imperative that the number of people in these stores is as limited as possible. This is a serious precaution that must be taken in order to not undermine our community's great sacrifice and effort in containing the spread of COVID-19.

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## WHAT MUST BE DONE AT THIS TIME:

1. The need to close our Yeshivot, Synagogues, and Batei Midrash is unprecedented in our community's recent history. This is upsetting to us all, and feelings of sorrow are both expected and appropriate.
2. In these difficult times, we must keep in mind the power of our tefillot and we must, therefore:
  - a. Remember the power of prayer. **Pray** for those that have already contracted the Coronavirus and **pray** that no one else gets sick.
  - b. Tehillim
  - c. Torah learning
  - d. Misvot and good deeds (while practicing effective social distancing)
  - e. Charity
  - f. Unity and avoidance of speaking Lashon Hara
  - g. Efforts in maintaining mental and physical health with a sense of optimism and trust in Hashem.
3. **If you contract the coronavirus, please share this information with the people you've been in contact with, so as to minimize further spread among our community members.**

Respectfully

*Rabbi Elie Abadi M.D.*  
*Rabbi Shimon Alouf*  
*Rabbi Yehuda A. Azancot*  
*Rabbi Izhar Azriel*  
*Rabbi Ronald Barry*  
*Rabbi Meyer Barnathan*  
*Rabbi Haim Benoliel*  
*Rabbi Joseph Beyda*  
*Rabbi Raymond Beyda*  
*Rabbi Gad Bouskila*  
*Rabbi Elliot Braha*  
*Rabbi Shemuel Choueka*  
*Rabbi David Cohen*  
*Rabbi Yohai Cohen*  
*Rabbi Joseph Dana*  
*Rabbi Shlomo Diamond*  
*Rabbi Moshe Doueck*  
*Rabbi Nathan Escava*  
*Rabbi Isaac Farhi*  
*Rabbi Shlomo Farhi*

*Rabbi Ephraim Gabbai*  
*Rabbi Yosef Galimidi*  
*Rabbi Victor Gheriani*  
*Rabbi Hillel Haber*  
*Rabbi Joseph Haber*  
*Rabbi Michael Haber*  
*Rabbi Moses Haber*  
*Rabbi Ike Hanon*  
*Rabbi Avi Harari*  
*Rabbi Dr. Raymond Harari*  
*Rabbi Abraham Hayoun*  
*Rabbi Dr. Richard Hidary*  
*Rabbi Albert Horn*  
*Rabbi Daniel Kahana*  
*Rabbi Saul J Kassin*  
*Rabbi Eli J Mansour*  
*Rabbi David Mansour*  
*Rabbi David Maslaton*  
*Rabbi Saul Maslaton*  
*Rabbi Ely Matalon*

*Rabbi Joey D. Mizrahi*  
*Rabbi Joey M Mizrachi*  
*Rabbi Victor Mosseri*  
*Rabbi David R Nakash*  
*Rabbi David Ozeri*  
*Rabbi Charles Safdieh*  
*Rabbi Jack Savdie*  
*Rabbi Michael Schrem*  
*Rabbi Albert Setton*  
*Rabbi Sion Setton*  
*Rabbi Moshe Shamah*  
*Rabbi David Sutton*  
*Rabbi Harold Sutton*  
*Rabbi Louie Sutton*  
*Rabbi Danny Tawil*  
*Rabbi David Tawil*  
*Rabbi Ikey Tawil*  
*Rabbi Richard Tobias*  
*Rabbi Meyer Yedid*  
*Rabbi Nathan Zabolani*