



February 23, 2021

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Dear Community Members,

As Purim approaches, we are reminding you that it is essential that we all continue to follow the guidelines of social distancing that have been widely disseminated by our Rabbis, Doctors, and Government officials. Below are guidelines for Purim that we encourage you to read, written by Rabbi Harold Sutton.

### Seuda

- Limit the number of people at your seuda as much as possible. Start your meal in the morning, before Hassot (midday), which is 12:08 pm. If you wish to eat later, you can pray Minha early and combine the Seudat Misva with your Shabbat meal. Start eating half an hour before candle lighting. Pause the meal for candle lighting, Kabbalat Shabbat and Kiddush. In Kiddush, if you previously had wine, omit the beracha of Hagefen, if you did not have wine yet say Kiddush as you always would. Then continue the meal followed by Arbit. It is recommended to do the former, by eating prior to Hassot Yom.

### Megillah Reading

- Try to have smaller gatherings and minyanim for Megillah readings. If possible, make a small minyan at home. Please adhere to usual social distance regulations such as mask wearing and maintaining a safe distance from others. If you have a confirmed or possible case of COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, please stay home and adhere to the following guidelines:
- For those for whom it is unsafe to leave the home or may be quarantined the recommended practice is:
  - Obtain a Kosher Megillah and read it yourself at home. Recite all the necessary berakhot
    - If one cannot read a Megillah themselves, follow along with a taped reading or follow a Zoom megillah reading. One should make their own berakhot and continue reading along with their Kosher megillah.
      - If one cannot obtain a Kosher megillah, and is only following with a Humash, he may not recite the berakhot.

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## Taanit Esther

- This is the 'least severe' of all the fasts, therefore anyone who has any illness or is pregnant/nursing may skip this fast. This includes someone who is suffering or recently suffered from COVID-19.

## Mishloach Manot

- The basic halakha is to send two foods to one person. While many of us tend to do more than this, we should try and limit the number of houses we visit by sending one this year. We can instead put our efforts into the misva of Matanot L'ebyonim.

The health of our community is of utmost importance. We hope that you find the guidance helpful. If you have any questions, please consult your local Rabbi and/or doctor.

Wishing you the best of health and a Happy Purim!

## Rabbi Harold Sutton

Rosh Yeshiva Magen David Yeshivah

Rosh Yeshiva Moreshet Yerushalayim

Rosh Yeshiva Sephardic Rabbinical College

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