

FROM THE DOCTORS OF OUR COMMUNITY

UPDATE ON RESURGENCE OF COVID-19 IN OUR COMMUNITY

Dear Community Members,

Over the last several months we have, thank G-d, seen a dramatic decrease in the number of Covid-19 cases in our community. Additionally, with a few exceptions, the infections we have seen have been mostly mild. Because of the decrease in number and severity of cases, *many of us have stopped keeping the precautions that caused the infections to decrease since the spring, believing that the threat is gone.* But as we continue to monitor the number of positive cases in our community, we have a dramatic increase in infections over the last two weeks; **there have been over 100 new infections in Deal, NJ this week alone.** What we are finding even more concerning is that people with Covid-19 symptoms have been refusing to get tested, while those exposed to Covid-19 have not been isolating, knowingly putting others at risk. Nearby Jewish communities have seen similar upticks and are experiencing more hospitalizations and ICU admissions, indicating that the threat is not gone.

We are urging our community to know how vitally important it is that we all understand that this virus is the same potentially lethal virus that we saw in the spring; there is no scientific basis to the theory that it has mutated to a milder form. There is also no evidence indicating that we have achieved herd immunity. The cases we have seen have overall been mild mostly because the vast majority have occurred in young people. Around the country there have been nearly 1,000 deaths per day, mostly in older people.

We have an obligation to protect the health of others even more than our own. Our older adults and those with medical conditions remain extremely vulnerable to this virus. We cannot continue the lax attitude that many in the community have adopted lately. We must resume wearing masks in public and keeping a distance of at least six feet. Shuls have a responsibility to ensure that masks are worn, in order to do their part in keeping the virus from spreading further. Parties may not be held without the proper precautions. If our behavior allows for even one more tragedy from this virus, we will have no one to blame but ourselves.

Respectfully,
The Community Doctors