

Dear Friends,

After lengthy conversations with a number of medical advisers both locally and nationally as well as local hospital officials, we have decided that at the moment the most prudent approach to help stem the tide of the Coronavirus in our community is to take the drastic action of closing our Shuls beginning Friday afternoon through Monday evening March 16th, at which time we will re-evaluate our decision and decide how to proceed.

What has been made abundantly clear to us in all our conversations is that this virus is highly contagious and spreads quickly via social interaction. In order to reduce the possibility of people being infected we are strongly recommending that everyone refrain from any public gathering, including home Minyanim, and limit your social interactions to only the most essential situations like grocery shopping.

Due to our Shul closings we recommend the following:

- a) Try to daven at the same time when your Minyan would have met.
- b) Although Kriat HaTorah requires a Minyan and reading from a kosher Sefer Torah scroll, one should still read Parshat HaShavuah and Parshat Parah from a Chumash.

If you wish to pick up your Talit and Tefillin from Shul, please do so either today or Friday morning. Although no Minyanim and Shiurim will be taking place in our Shuls, each rabbi will communicate with his membership about online learning opportunities.

Please note that it is with a very heavy heart that we are taking this unprecedented action. We are doing this only because of the compelling nature of the circumstances and the Halakhic mandate to protect our health as our most important priority. While we will not have Tefilah B'Tzibur, we encourage you to utilize this time for introspection and reflection. Please intensify your Tefilot and pray that all those who are ill will be healed and that our community will be shielded from any harm.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Yosef Kanefsky, B'nai David-Judea
Rabbi Elazar Muskin, Young Israel of Century City
Rabbi Kalman Topp, Beth Jacob Congregation
Rabbi Jason Weiner, Knesset Israel

P.S. Young Israel of North Beverly Hills will also be closing for Shabbat, and we will be communicating those details to their members in a separate letter.