

Dear TBS Friends and Family,

One week ago, we shared an initial communication about the coronavirus and what we are doing at TBS to keep our students and families safe and healthy. As we continue to monitor the emerging situation, we would like to share additional recommendations and practices. These proposals are based on our consultation with medical experts and the Florida Department of Health (<http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/COVID-19/>) the CDC ([Learn more about the coronavirus - COVID-19](#)), and the World Health Organization ([Basic protective measures against the new coronavirus](#)).

- **Your Health:** We ask everyone to be mindful of their own health and to act responsibly for the health of others. If you are feeling unwell, please stay home so that any illnesses you have will not spread to others.
- **Communal Well Being:** At TBS we remain vigilant about preventive hygiene, hand washing and school cleaning, which are all part of our normative routine. We have added hand sanitizers around the building to increase frequency and recommend that whether you are home, at work, traveling or at TBS, you maintain this practice.
- **Share Prayers, Not Germs:** We are best known as a warm, *haimeshe*, loving congregation. We have every intention of retaining this core element of who we are. However, in this time of flu, colds and contagious viruses, we ask that you refrain from hugging, kissing and even hand shaking at this season. We encourage you to warmly greet others in the community at Shabbat Services, *b'nei mitzvah* and other events, and use an elbow bump or smile to greet one another.
- **Oneg Shabbat:** Eating together is an essential part of what we do as a Jewish community. To maintain our health, we ask that you use a napkin or utensil to take a piece of challah, cookie or sushi.
- **Safe Travels:** The CDC has issued extensive travel advisories for countries experiencing wider “community spread” of the virus. China, South Korea, Iran, Italy, Japan and Hong Kong are currently all at Alert Levels 3,2 or 1; however, [travel notices](#) are changing almost daily. With the utmost precaution, we are asking any students, TBS members or guests who have visited any countries with advisory warnings to self-quarantine and not attend school, worship services or gatherings at TBS for a period of 14 days.

In times of uncertainty, we turn to each other to find comfort and direction. As Jews we are grounded in a tradition of resilience and hope. As Rabbi Nahman of Bratslav taught: “The whole world is a narrow bridge and the principle thing is not to be afraid.” May we remain calm in the face of uncertainty and find strength in each other.

At TBS we will continue to support each other as a community and celebrate our lives together. Thank you for your partnership as we work together to maintain the health and safety of our children and our congregation.

