



## Ted Talks: Coronavirus Awareness

Dear Friends,

The St. Paul Jewish community is ready to celebrate Purim. We will gather at synagogues and other venues to hear Megillah readings, dress in costumes, participate in Purim carnivals and watch Purim shpiels. One of my former rabbis said that if you only go to shul once a year, it should be for Purim. We have included a list of local activities below.



This year, the Coronavirus is making celebrating trickier. Several communities in the U.S. and Israel have decided to limit or cancel their Purim activities. Several national Jewish organizations including the Jewish Federations of North America, as well as our local Jewish Community Relations Council, are advising their local affiliates regarding taking appropriate precautions against the virus. This information is being shared among Jewish institutions.

We are providing you a [link](#) to an interactive map that tracks where cases of the virus have been reported. Fortunately, as of this writing, there have been no confirmed cases in Minnesota, and no Purim activities have been cancelled. If you are planning travel to Israel, please visit the [Israel Ministry of Health](#) website.

When I received the email from JFNA regarding the Coronavirus and asking us to share the guidelines, I was reminded of the Book of Esther. Mordechai urges King Achashverosh to issue an edict warning the Jews in his kingdom of Haman's plans to destroy them and giving them permission to defend themselves. The edict was sent to 127 provinces throughout the land by couriers on horseback. This was the email of the time.

The email from JFNA was sent to at least 146 Jewish communities. It reinforced the importance of the partnership between JFNA and local Federations, so when there is a need to communicate to our communities, we have the mechanism to do so.

I look forward to stopping by all of the various Purim celebrations, and I hope to see you.

Shabbat Shalom and Chag Sameach!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ted". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Ted Flaum, CEO