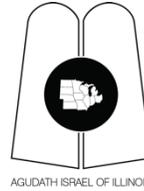


Monday, April 6, 2020
8:00 AM



Dear Chicago Community,

We have all seen the impact COVID-19 continues to have on the Jewish community locally and abroad. We are being told that the current reality facing our fellow communities on the east coast, may quickly become our reality as well. Based on our conversations with medical experts, we feel the future of our community is being decided now by every one of our actions and we must do all that we can to care for and protect each other. This is a matter of *pikuach nefesh* and must be observed with all its stringencies.

Therefore, we fully endorse the updated guidelines for the community at this time. Because the nature of our situation has changed so significantly over the last few days, anyone who was previously issued a leniency from their Rav in regard to these *takanos* must ask their Rav again. We recognize these guidelines are beyond what has been mandated by authorities, but nonetheless feel this is what is necessary when taking into account our communal culture. Every community is unique and therefore we are insisting that all questions be asked only to local *Rabbanim*.

At times like these it is imperative that we join together as a community. We encourage you to reach out to others and offer support in this critical time.

Baruch HaShem we are being told that our efforts are working to help slow the spread of this virus. We ask that everyone continue being vigilant and safe.

Wishing a *refuah shleima* to all *cholei yisroel* and may we all have a *chag kasher v'sameach*.

Rabbi Shmuel Fuerst Rabbi Yona Reiss Rabbi Dovid Zucker Rabbi Shmuel Y. Levin
Rabbi Zev Cohen Rabbi Leonard Matanky Rabbi Boruch Hertz

On Behalf of the Rabbanim of Chicago

Jeffrey A. Grinblatt, M.D. Ben Z. Katz, M.D. David B. Marmor, M.D. Boruch Zucker, M.D.

A special hotline has been established to address the many needs of community members. The Chicago Jewish COVID-19 Hotline can be contacted at (224) 534-9867.

Medical Guidelines for the Jewish Community of Chicago
Monday, April 6, 2020 8:00 AM

1. Every family and individual should be sheltered in place.
 - a. Walks outside should be only a short distance from one's residence.
 - b. Travel away from one's home should not include children and should be only for essential needs.
 - c. If essential travel includes places where there are other people, one must observe all standard rules of social distancing and **must wear masks** (anyone without a mask is encouraged to use a scarf or other cloth material).
 - d. Children outside their home should not be "playing" with neighboring families. No one is permitted to utilize playgrounds. These rules are especially important as the weather begins to improve.

2. We understand the emotional significance around Pesach and we remind the members of our community to please adhere to the necessary safety measures.
 - a. Absolutely no one should be traveling in or out of our city for Pesach.
 - b. **No families or individuals**, not currently living with each other, **should gather** in any manner.
 - c. Therefore, *sedorim* and *yuntif* meals must consist only of immediate family members that have been residing together for the two weeks prior to Pesach.

3. Unfortunately, there is not enough evidence to have definitive knowledge of the virus and its lasting effects, therefore, if someone is currently confirmed or suspected to have COVID-19 they must remain at home and in isolation until given clearance by their medical professional.
 - a. Anyone in contact with someone who has/or is suspected of having COVID-19 must immediately quarantine themselves. They are not permitted to leave their homes, **EVEN** for essential needs.
 - b. After an individual has contracted the virus and recovered, they are **NOT** necessarily immune and must therefore still adhere to all general guidelines, including the need to wear a mask and not gather with other people.
 - c. Individuals quarantined must remain in quarantine for a minimum of 14 days from their last exposure.
 - d. The following are scenarios of when an individual may leave isolation/quarantine:
 - i. Someone who tested positive for COVID-19 must remain in isolation for a minimum of 7 days from when they first experienced symptoms and 3 days from when the symptoms ended. (For example, if they were to experience symptoms for 5 days, they would remain in isolation for total of 8 days.)
 - ii. If someone was in self quarantine (for example, for having been in direct contact with someone who had tested positive) and began to experience symptoms, they must assume they have COVID-19 and begin isolation. In such a case where they are presumed to have COVID-19 and have not been tested positive, regardless of when they stop experiencing symptoms they should not be leaving their home for essential needs before the end of the originally planned 14-day quarantine.