

Dear Friends,

We hope this letter finds you and your loved ones well.

In consultation with leaders in the local medical establishment, this Shabbos morning, we will begin services at 9:45 AM (Derech Chaim/ Rabbi Gross will begin at 7:45 and be out of the building by the time we start).

There will be no sermon and we will aim to end at noon.

There will be no Kiddush or youth groups.

Once again, we urge anyone who is exhibiting any signs of illness to not attend services. Elderly people are at a higher risk and it would be prudent for anyone over the age of 70 to not attend services this Shabbos.

Our Friday night, Shabbos afternoon, and Sunday morning services will take place as usual. We are asking congregants to spread out throughout our Main Sanctuary. There will be no Shabbos afternoon class or Shalosh Seudos.

Effective Sunday morning, immediately after services, the shul will be closed for all in-person shul activities.

The goal of this decision is to limit congregating as much as possible so as to prevent the spread of the virus. With that in mind, we urge you, on behalf of the shuls that remain open, to not attend other shuls (as this will cause their minyanim to have more people than they already have) nor to make house-minyanim. Additionally, during this time, we urge you to not make playdates or get together with others.

All weekday classes will be live-streamed and recorded.

In the meantime, there are a number of things we can all do to be proactive:

Please continue to wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. Please avoid handshaking and practice social distancing as much as possible.

Anyone with any signs of illness, including fever, cough, stomach bug or other sickness should not attend any public gathering. Anyone who is at a heightened risk of contracting the disease, such as the elderly, people with heart disease, diabetes, lung disease, and the immunocompromised, should consult with their physician before venturing out to any public place.

Please take a moment to be in virtual contact with members of our community that are already feeling isolated to make sure that they have what they need and to let them know that we are looking out for them. While we may not be physically together this Shabbos, let us come even closer to one another during this time.

Last, and certainly not least, this is an appropriate time to pray. It is a trying time for the international community, and the hallmark of our people is turning to G-d at all times, but

especially in times of need. Please take some extra time to pray for the wellbeing of all those affected and for a speedy containment of this virus.

The situation is continuously developing, and we will be sending updates as warranted. Please feel free to be in touch with any of us with any questions or concerns.

Wishing you a peaceful Shabbos,

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