



KOL YISRAEL
קהילת קול ישראל
TORAH TEFILLAH CHESED
YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR VOICE.

An Important Pesach Message from Rabbis Don Seeman and Yehuda Boroosan

Dear Netzach Israel, New Toco and KYA Family,

1. First, we want to wish you all a joyous and wonderful Passover holiday. Though most of us cannot be together in person, we are proud of the way our community has come together to support one another and to work towards “bringing down the curve.” Thank you!
2. As the holiday approaches, we want to remind everyone to **continue diligently following all instructions by government and public health authorities**. This includes **leaving one’s residence only for “essential activities” and refraining from “all public and private gatherings outside a single household or living unit,”** as required by the Dekalb County “Shelter in Place” order (see [this link](#)). This applies with special severity to anyone who is “**medically fragile or sick**” who are “**strongly encouraged**” to **leave home only to seek necessary medical care**. Obviously, anyone who detects symptoms of COVID-19 must contact their doctor and follow all instructions. We must emphasize: **All of this applies in full force on Yom Tov and Shabbat. It also applies to married children living in separate households from their parents.**
3. This will be **hard** for many people who look forward to Seder with extended family and friends every year, but we want to remind you that this is how we must all contribute to the protection of our entire community. The fact that we have closed **all** synagogues should impress upon you how serious this situation is and may yet become. Dr. Rafael Harpaz reminds us to mention that we can assume virtually anyone might be contagious, with or without obvious symptoms. Absent special circumstances, safety indicates that households should celebrate alone. Though on most years we encourage home hospitality for those who may be in need, **this year we encourage anyone who may need financial assistance for the holiday to contact us privately** so that they celebrate the holiday **with dignity at home**.
4. For many members of our community, Shabbat and Yom Tov may be the *only* time that we feel meaningfully connected with others. The sense of joining that comes through physical proximity cannot be easily replaced with a virtual embrace. For individuals struggling with Depression and related challenges, the isolation experienced during periods of extended separation — in this case 72 hours! — should not be underestimated. We all recognize that this can lead in some cases to a threat to mental health and well-being that must be taken **just as seriously as any other medical matter** and may sometimes lead to different advice for different circumstances. **Therefore, we also IMPLORE that anyone who knows someone who needs**

assistance or who needs assistance themselves to please be in touch with their mental health care provider as well as their rabbi —we want to be there for you and hear about your particular needs.

5. **Everyone, please** go out of your way to stay in touch with one another by telephone or online and offer help to everyone, and especially those who are most vulnerable, such as the elderly, people with physical or mental health conditions or people who are ill. Once again, we also encourage **anyone who is feeling very alone or isolated to please be in contact with us as soon as possible.**

We may take comfort in the fact that the Jews had to remain in their homes over the very first Passover, and as they went free, by grace of Hashem, we pray and work for the end of this plague soon.

With blessings of peace,

Don Seeman and Yehuda Boroosan