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70 Sterling Place  
Teaneck, NJ 07666  
Phone: 201-833-0515  
www.jcot.org

בס"ד

April 14, 2020

Dear Friend,

I hope this message finds you in good health, and, even under these trying circumstances, enjoying the Simchat HaRegel, the special joy of the festival. Chaya and I continue to think of each of you, and your families.

I want to offer our deep gratitude to our wonderful youth director, Shevy Chait, for all of the wonderful programming she organized for our children and families over Chol HaMoed.

As we have communicated in the past, it is important that people who will be alone, sadly, for Yom Tov, be looked after in a safe and responsible way. Please be in touch with me if you have any concerns about a loved one in such a situation. For anyone with loved ones in the hospital, please be in touch with me directly for specific instructions regarding Yom Tov/Shabbat.

As goes without saying, anyone who, God forbid, begins to experience any concerning symptoms, especially shortness of breath, over Yom Tov/Shabbat, **should immediately call their health care provider for instructions.**

I am strongly encouraging all families to spend the **hours before Yom Tov** in virtual contact, sharing Divrei Torah regarding Pesach, and most importantly, allowing the family bonding time which is always important, but especially significant in the context of Yom Tov, when we are enjoined to rejoice with our families.

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## I. Schedule for Second Days of Yom Tov

**Tuesday-Wednesday Evening, 21 Nissan,, Pesach VII, Omer VI**

Candle Lighting (*No Shehechyanu*), 7:17 PM

Ma'ariv 7:20 PM

**Count Omer after 8:20 PM**

Shacharit (Half-Hallel), Mussaf, 9 AM

Mincha, 7 PM

**Wednesday-Thursday Evening, 22 Nissan, Pesach VIII- Acharon Shel Chag, Omer VII**

Candle Lighting (No Shehechyanu) and All Preparations for Yom Yov Sheni, 8:18 PM

Maariv/Sefirat Ha-Omer, 8:20 PM

Shacharit (Half-Hallel)/Mussaf 9 AM

Mincha, 7 PM

Maariv, 8:20 PM

Havdalah, 8:27 PM

**II. Yizkor**

Yizkor may be, and in my view, should be, recited privately at home on the last day of Pesach in the context of one's davening. Attached, please find a digital copy of the Yahrzeit booklet to print for your convenience. It is available in all siddurim as well.

**III. Eating Chametz After Pesach**

Please wait until approximately 9:45 PM on Thursday night before consuming any Chametz.

**IV. Purchasing Chametz After Pesach**

There is a Talmudic dispute regarding whether Chametz owned by a Jewish person during Pesach, in violation of the Torah prohibitions of *bal yira'eh* and *bal yimatze*, is prohibited for consumption and benefit on a Torah level or a rabbinic level.

The latter opinion is accepted as normative, though it is of a broad scope, not only impacting the one who violated by failing to expunge his chametz on Pesach, but rendering that chametz prohibited for consumption or benefit for any Jewish person following Pesach.

The definition of chametz, as far as this particular restriction is concerned, **is restricted to those items such as bread, pasta, cereals, and cookies**, which are considered *chametz gamur*, as opposed to items in which chametz is one ingredient in a larger mixture, such as in ketchup, mayonnaise, and dressings.

As non-Jews are not subject to any prohibitions regarding chametz, there is no restriction whatsoever consuming or benefiting kosher chametz products that were owned by non-Jews over the holiday.

Finally, any items defined as kitniyot, which Ashkenazic Jews do not consume on Pesach, but are permitted to own, such as rice, soy, legumes, beans, chickpeas, peanuts, mustard seed, and the like, are not subject to this prohibition altogether.

All kosher supermarkets under RCBC supervision can be patronized immediately following Yom Tov. In addition, the following non-Jewish owned stores are immediately acceptable: Shop Rite in New Milford

(River Road) and Palisades Park, Dunkin Donuts, BJ's, CVS, Duane Reade, Rite Aid, 7-Eleven, Trader Joe's, Walgreens & Walmart.

**Generally**, my view, in accordance with the position of Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik, is that supermarkets under Jewish ownership which continue to transact chametz which they "sold," and even acquire new chametz over Pesach, cannot be considered to have engaged in a valid sale. The same analysis holds true for Jewish owned suppliers of chametz products who continue to transact it on Pesach by selling it to non-Jewish owned supermarkets. Rav Moshe Feinstein, it should be noted, accepted the validity of these sales insofar as obviating the prohibitions concerning Chametz owned by a Jew over Pesach was concerned.

As such, it remains optimal to wait **one week** following Pesach to purchase breads, cereal, cookies, and other items primarily composed of grain products at ShopRite in Paramus, Shoprite in Englewood. Stop & Shop, Acme, Key Food, Food Town, and Target. [It should be noted that **in other years, waiting for two weeks is advisable**, but the very high turnover rates in supermarkets in these unique times militates in favor of a shorter waiting time for new chametz products, ones that were not under Jewish ownership on Pesach, to enter the inventory in these markets.]

**However, this year alone, given the safety issues surrounding food purchases, and a concern of overcrowding the kosher supermarkets in town on Erev Shabbat, it is permissible, for those who cannot safely access the kosher markets, or who simply do not feel safe doing so, to purchase Chametz products at all of the aforementioned markets for basic chametz products immediately following Pesach, in accordance with the ruling of Rav Moshe Feinstein.**

In all cases, for alcoholic beverages primarily composed of grain products sold at these stores, which have a longer turnover time, waiting until after Shavuot is advisable.

## **V. Schedule for Erev Shabbat and Shabbat Parshat Shemini**

### **23 Nissan, Isru Chag, Friday, April 17, Omer VIII**

Shacharit, 7:30 AM

Earliest Times for Candle Lighting, 6:09 PM

Last Candles, 7:21 PM

Kabbalat Shabbat, 7:25 PM

Sefirat Ha-Omer, 8:21

### **24 Nissan, Shabbat Parshat Shemini, April 18, Omer IX**

Shacharit/Mussaf, 9 AM

Mincha, 7:15 PM

Maariv/Sefirat Ha-Omer, 8:22 PM

Havdalah, 8:30 PM