Dear KAMII Community,

Among the most important values taught in the Torah is a commandment in Deuteronomy 4:14 - "You shall guard yourselves very well." Protecting our bodies and souls from harm is a primary Torah concern, and it is in fulfillment of that commandment that we write to you today.

As new cases of the Coronavirus (CoVid-19) are reported in the United States and around the world, our clergy, staff and leadership are in continuous contact as new developments occur and are consulting with local and national authorities to ensure that we are doing what is necessary to keep our building and the communities within it as safe as possible and to prevent the further spread of the virus.

At this time we are not aware of any direct impact to building or the communities within it. All scheduled events and everyday business are proceeding as usual at KAM Isaiah Israel. If the situation changes and any activities are cancelled, we will notify you as quickly as possible. While we continue our regular operations, we are taking precautions which require the whole community to work together over these next few weeks and months to help keep the synagogue a safe and healthy environment.

We need your help! Here are some ways you can contribute to everyone’s safety at KAM Isaiah Israel.

- **Do not come to services, events, classes, or meetings at KAM Isaiah Israel, if you are sick or symptomatic. Seek medical attention if your symptoms worsen.** Coronavirus (CoVid-19) is a respiratory illness that causes flu-like symptoms including fever, cough, vomiting and difficulty breathing. The elderly and those who have underlying medical issues are at highest risk.

- **Please wash your hands thoroughly and frequently** when you are in the building. Doing so can help prevent infection of yourself and others. Hand sanitizer helps, but washing hands is much more effective.

- Rather than kissing, hugging and shaking hands, we recommend you “**bump elbows**” with fellow congregants and staff.

- **Be sure to use tongs when serving food** to yourself and others at all community events (oneg, kiddush, dinners)

- We are increasing our wipe-downs of all surfaces and watching soap dispensers to ensure they are filled and operable. If you see something that needs attention, please **contact our main office at 773-924-1234 or email kamii@kamii.org**

Upon necessity, and with the advice of health authorities, we are prepared to adapt to using online modes of connection. Meetings, classes, and even services can, if needed, be offered via Zoom or our other online streaming services. We promise to be clear in our communication and ask for your flexibility as we make adjustments to adapt to changing conditions. We are committed to making all of our events as accessible as possible. If you are sick and wish to attend a KAMII event virtually, please contact the office so we can do our best to ensure your access.
The very best thing we can do in a situation like this is to stay informed and work together to make decisions that maximize the well-being of our community. This is an important time to consider ways we can care for those in our community who are ill. If you are interested in supporting the caring committee, please reach out, so we can put you in touch with them.

Lastly, there is, unfortunately, a fair amount of mis-information being spread, and it is difficult sometimes to discern what is trustworthy. Here are some of the sources we are monitoring to stay informed:

- **2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019 nCov)**, Public Health Chicago (this site includes FAQ in English, Spanish and Chinese)
- **Novel Coronavirus Outbreak 2020**, Illinois State Department of Health
- **CDC Coronavirus Information Page** - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- **The Public Health–Seattle and King County** Coronavirus webpage (included because this is the location where the first reported deaths in the U.S. have taken place and they are on high alert at this time.)

Our Reform Jewish community around the world is responding to Coronavirus. Here are two resources shared by the Reform Movement to help connect us with Jewish insight into this epidemic:

- **“Loving the Stranger in a Time of Coronavirus”**: Rabbi David A. Kunin, based in Tokyo, shares a powerful, first-person account of what his community is experiencing amidst the coronavirus outbreak there. Turning to Torah, he reminds us that “fear must not turn to panic, and panic must not turn to bigotry and hate.”
- **“Coronavirus: A Prayer for Medical Scientists”**: Reform liturgist Alden Solovy has written an original prayer for the wisdom and skills of medical scientists, researchers, and public health officials around the world fighting the novel Coronavirus.

Please contact us at any time via email or phone if you need any support as we navigate this complicated situation together. Together, we can honor the Torah’s command to “guard ourselves” individually and as a community. As Rabbi Kunin writes from Tokyo, “May the Holy One send healing to all those that are afflicted, and may this disease soon vanish from the earth.”

Sincerely,

Max Stein, President; Cantor David Berger; Bet Dolo, Director of Operations; Lauren Reeves, Religious School Director; Andy Kirschner, Director of Community Engagement