



To the Congregation Beth Israel Community:

**Effective immediately, all activities at CBI are canceled through Sunday, March 29.**

The mitzvah of *Pikuach Nefesh*, “saving a life,” is a paramount Jewish value, which in our tradition overrides all other commandments. At this moment, it is clear that one of the most important acts that can be taken in order to “flatten the curve” and slow the spread of the Coronavirus is social distancing.

For this reason, we are working around the clock gathering information from medical and public health experts, state and local government, Jewish organizations, and other sources to determine the optimal approach to keep the CBI community as safe as possible.

In response to these developments, CBI has decided to:

- **Cancel services:** We will be canceling services effective immediately, including this Shabbat, both Friday and Saturday.
- **Cancel events:** We will hold no celebrations or events through Sunday, March 29. April events are under consideration, and we will update you as we know more.
- **Close the Religious School:** We are closing the Religious School, effective immediately, meaning **NO school on Sunday and Wednesday**. Religious school families will receive an email about planned activities.
- **Close the Preschool:** **CBI Preschool and Kindergarten is closing today at 3:30 p.m. and will be closed through Sunday, March 29.** Preschool and Kindergarten families will receive an email later today.
- **Continue pastoral care:** Our rabbis will continue to meet all pastoral needs as conditions allow.

We are also working on approaches to provide whatever assistance is needed to all members of our community. We care about every aspect of your health and hope to support you in any way we can.

A series of communications will be forthcoming from CBI, so please watch for e-communications and emails. If you have suggestions and comments, please feel free to contact CBI President Diane Hillman or Vice-President Micah Schwartzman.

Thank you for all your support,

*Diane Hillman, Micah Schwartzman, Rabbi Tom Gutherz, Rabbi Rachel Schmelkin,  
and Kathryn Mawyer*