



November 18, 2020

Dear YIOP Member,

The last eight months have tested the mettle of our kehilah, and I commend everyone who has made the sacrifices, decisions, and commitments necessary to maintain our operations in every way possible. Since June, our reopening committee has been meeting every couple weeks to continue discussing and tweaking how we approach the services and safety of our shul. Attendees have taken these measures seriously, and because of that, we have been able to daven faithfully in minyanim, learn consistently via Zoom, and enjoy innovative programming.

Because of our collective, steadfast commitment to the safety and precautionary measures, we are confident that we can continue our minyanim at YIOP, even given the current uptick. Confirmed cases are rising to record numbers, but, Baruch Hashem, deaths have not increased in the same proportions as they once did, for a number of factors. Nonetheless, we must do our part to prevent the spread of the virus as best we can. We cannot predict or rely on what the outcome of an infection may be, especially when we know all too well what it has been.

To this end, YIOP will be reimplementing mandatory registration for both Shabbos and weekday davening. Aside from our previous concerns for spacing, this will ensure us the ability to trace contacts, lest someone become infected who has participated in our minyanim. It will also make clear to anyone and everyone who enters our building what our guidelines and expectations are when they do so. As before, anyone who does not feel comfortable attending should stay home and stay safe. Because of these additional factors (ie, that it's not only for spacing purposes), we will be more strict about enforcing the sign ups. Almost everyone who has attended YIOP for Shabbos in the last couple months has signed up in one way or another. But a few haven't, and we can do better.

Sign up will be distributed on a week-to-week basis, and will be available on our website (YIOP.org), and in person for those who attend during the week but haven't done so. If, for whatever reason, a person has not or will not sign up, we reserve the right to ask them to go elsewhere. We no longer feel comfortable excusing the requirements of one person at the expense of everyone else, given the current increase in cases.

Additionally, we know that many people typically plan vacations over the next 6 weeks. **As long as the place and people you will be visiting and/or hosting have acted safely in their own environments, in accordance with YIOP's standards, you/they are welcome (back) at shul** (when registered, of course). If, however, your guest, or the place you visit, has not been in keeping with our guidelines (namely- masking and distancing in social and public gatherings), we ask that you return to YIOP only after a two week period, and/or a negative test result, taken at least five days after returning or separating from your guest.

May Hashem look kindly upon our care and concern for each other, and allow us to do so again soon in the ways we once could.

Rabbi Katz
Reopening Committee