



Dear Friends,

This continues to be an incredibly uncertain time and we are all understandably anxious about the COVID-19 virus and the measures we might take to curb its spread. While continuing to follow the guidance and recommendations of health officials and halachik authorities, and as the COVID-19 virus increases its spread across South Carolina, we have made the difficult decision to implement the following guidelines:

1. We are strongly encouraging social distancing in the community, as Jewish Tradition clearly mandates that “Safek Pikuach Nefesh,” even a doubt about saving lives, overrides virtually all other religious requirements.
2. Our facilities will be closed to the public for all activities, including minyan, beginning Tuesday morning, March 17th. No private minyanim should be organized. The community rabbis will be davening alone in their own homes.
- Since Kaddish cannot be recited without a minyan, yartzeits should be commemorated through the study of Mishnayot and/or other forms of Torah study.
3. There should be no large public gatherings, and all non-essential gatherings should be cancelled.
- All of our classes, programs and meetings are either cancelled, or will be occurring via phone or videoconferencing. Further information about this is already being disseminated to the affected groups, with more to come shortly for the entire community.

While this decision is extremely difficult, and has a profound impact on our daily routine, we have no doubt that this is what we must do for the safety of our community and for the protection of all human life. In the interim we implore everyone to redouble your efforts to make time for prayer and Torah study in your own homes in the hopes for healing, repair, and a return to normalcy.

Given the recommendations of medical authorities, we know that some of the older and/or immunocompromised individuals in our community will not be leaving their homes, even for small errands like grocery shopping. If you would like to volunteer to help with errands for them, or if you or someone you know needs assistance, please let us know. In no way should our need to distance come at the expense of our warm and caring community.

We pray that through our belief in Hashem’s healing and through taking on these temporary measures, that all those ill will be healed and that our community will be shielded from harm.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Michael Davies
Rabbi Moshe Davis
Rabbi Yossi Refson