

Dear friends,

The latest news and minute by minute updates that we have been receiving about the confirmed coronavirus cases in our area has left many of us feeling uneasy and concerned. Our thoughts and Tefillot are with the Young Israel of New Rochelle community and we are involved in thinking of ways that we can be helpful to them during this tense time. In addition, several dozen people in our community are currently already under the mandatory quarantine issued by the Westchester County Board of Health. With all of this in mind, we are evaluating procedures and protocols that we, as a community, should have in place for the near term that can protect the public safety to the best of our ability. While most people who may contract coronavirus will be fine, as if they would be dealing with a flu or cold, our concern must be for those who could be vulnerable - those immuno-compromised, people with respiratory issues, the ill, the elderly and young children - therefore, for our sake and theirs, we must be as safe and vigilant as possible. And we can't emphasize enough, that if you're not feeling well, please err on the side of caution and do not come to Shul. For even if you have to say Kaddish or you have a yahrzeit, you are best served having a family member do it for you or just davening at home, lighting a yahrzeit candle etc. The best way to honor your parents or loved ones is to give honor to your Shul and your community by not compromising the public's health. To this end, Westchester County has established a phone number for people to call who are concerned about their own exposure to a known COVID-19 case or who are self-quarantining, please call 1-866-588-0195.

Based on the information and recommendations we've received from the doctor heading up the Westchester coronavirus response team, public health officials, and Rabbis - the Shul will remain open for regularly scheduled services throughout the week, on Shabbat and Purim. However, any large gatherings of people outside of these services should be discouraged. This does **not** apply to Shabbat Kiddush (with health/sanitary precautions in place), Seudah Shlishit and our Friday morning breakfast. However, events like the Purim party, Purim carnival, weeknight lectures/shiurim etc. will be cancelled over the next couple of weeks. In addition, in an effort to stem the spread of germs from person to person unnecessarily, we have been advised to have Mishloach Manot be fulfilled for everyone this year through the Sisterhood Mishloach Manot program, which enables you to fulfill the Mitzvah through your contribution, as they will be delivered to all throughout the community. Click here to sign up for Mishloach Manot: <https://www.yisny.org/form/sisterhood-mishloach-manot-2020.html> - and if you'd like to deliver, actively taking part in the Mitzvah, please text/call Marie Miller 914-886-3047.

**Also, many people have voiced other Halachic concerns about hearing Parshat Zachor as well as the Megillah. "Mi K'Amcha Yisrael" ...who is like the Jewish People who are so concerned about fulfilling Mitzvot even in a concerning time like this. As far as Zachor goes, anyone who is under quarantine or considers themselves to be in the "vulnerable" population (mentioned above) should not come to Shul for Parshat Zachor, rather, they can have the intention to fulfill their obligation of "Mechiyat/Zechirat Amalek - remembering to erase Amalek" - through hearing the Purim morning Torah reading of "Va'Yavo Amalek," or reading Zachor from a Chumash on Shabbat, or at Parshat Ki

Teitzeih (when we read "Zachor" at the end of the Summer), or through hearing the Megillah on Purim. With regard to hearing the Megillah reading, anyone who is under quarantine or considers themselves to be in the "vulnerable" population (mentioned above) should not come to Shul for Keriyat Megillah, rather, someone can either come to their house to read for them privately - or they can fulfill their obligation in this "Sh'at Ha'dechak" through a livestream which we will broadcast of the Megillah reading at YIS.

[Click here](#) for a full list of events and activities which will be cancelled or postponed over the next couple of weeks.

Finally, we thank all involved, on the State and Local level, in keeping us safe and we ask everyone to follow the best public health practices of hand washing, hand sanitizing, not directly kissing publicly used religious items (Mezzuzah, Torah, Siddurim etc.) and avoiding unnecessary hand-to-hand contact with others. All of this and more is detailed in the [Coronavirus Fact Sheet attached](#).

May we hear of Besorot Tovot and Refuot for all,

Rabbi Jonathan Morgenstern

Rabbi Nuriel Klinger

Ari Raskas

Josh Rosenbaum

Co-Presidents