



Beth Sholom
CONGREGATION

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April 11, 2019/6 Nisan 5779

Dear Beth Sholom Community Members:

As you are no-doubt aware, there have been several outbreaks of measles in Jewish communities. These have occurred in the New York area and beyond, and last November there was the first childhood death from measles in Jerusalem in fifteen years. Last week an outbreak was reported in Pikesville MD.

This situation is of grave concern to all of us and we feel it is necessary to remind our members and guests of the following: Measles can be life threatening. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has long recommended that children receive the MMR vaccine, and the Maryland Department of Health requires that Maryland school children in kindergarten through Grade 12 be vaccinated against measles.

In light of the above and as a matter of policy, no child will be allowed on the premises of Beth Sholom Congregation (including the playground area) unless they are in full compliance with the vaccination recommendations of the State of Maryland. Please help us to keep our members and guests, especially infants (who are too young for vaccines to be effective) and those who are immunosuppressed, safe when coming through our doors.

Clearly valid medical exemptions will be respected; but as the statements of the OU and others confirm, there are no religious exemptions relevant to the Jewish community.

As we learn more about active measles outbreaks this policy may change. We cannot cover all contingencies so all persons entering BSCTT, or being present on the premises, are requested to act in accordance with the intent of this policy to protect the health of others.

May Hashem bless us with good health and a wonderful Pesach ahead.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Nissan Antine

Rabbanit Dasi Fruchter

Arnie Hiller, President

References:

Maryland Vaccine Requirements for Children Enrolled in Preschool Programs and in Schools

https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/OIDEOR/IMMUN/Shared%20Documents/Min_Vacc_Req%2018_19_Final.pdf

American Academy of Pediatrics

[https://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/Pages/American-Academy-of-Pediatrics-Urges-](https://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/Pages/American-Academy-of-Pediatrics-Urges-Parents-to-Vaccinate-Children-to-Protect-Against-Measles.aspx)

[Parents-to-Vaccinate-Children-to-Protect-Against-Measles.aspx](https://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/Pages/American-Academy-of-Pediatrics-Urges-Parents-to-Vaccinate-Children-to-Protect-Against-Measles.aspx)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<https://www.cdc.gov/features/measles/index.html>

Orthodox Union

<https://www.ou.org/news/statement-vaccinations-ou-rabbinical-council-america>

We acknowledge that the Beth Sholom policy has benefited from and used portions of the statement developed by Kemp Mill Synagogue.

