

# Joint Letter from Atlanta Area Synagogues' Orthodox Rabbis

March 18, 2020

22 Adar 5780

Dear Friends,

We are writing this note and specifically having it sent out as a standalone email in order to emphasize the critical nature of the threat we face. This is based on guidance from the Orthodox Union after consultation with numerous public health experts. The importance of following these guidelines cannot be overstated:

Many individuals – including thousands of students – are returning to their communities from areas with active communal transmission – including Israel, New York and New Jersey. These individuals should practice separation for 14 days in the family home. They should not be the ones doing the shopping trips or any ventures out into the community until they have been home for 14 days symptom-free. During that 14 day period, they should not be meeting up with friends who were in Atlanta or who also returned during that period.

We advise strongly against those returning from such areas – as well as all grandchildren – kissing or hugging or having other close contact with elderly grandparents or others considered high risk from COVID-19.

We have closed our Shuls because the situation is one of Pikuach Nefesh (saving lives). We implore you to take these instructions to heart and not to be casual about its immediate implementation in your own families. **This also should serve to underline the importance of not having any private home minyanim or religious gatherings of any kind.**

May we continue to daven for a Refuah Sheleimah and a time of safety to once again return our shuls to fully resume our public service of Hashem.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Yehuda Boroosan, Netzach Israel  
Rabbi Ilan Feldman, Beth Jacob  
Rabbi Zalman Fischer, Chabad of Augusta  
Rabbi Mayer Freedman, Anshi S'fard  
Rabbi Binyomin Friedman, Ariel  
Rabbi Mendy Gurary, Chabad Israeli Center Atlanta  
Rabbi Karmi Ingber, The Kehilla  
Rabbi Shmuel Khoshkerman, Ner Hamizrach  
Rabbi Yossi Lerman, Chabad of Gwinnett  
Rabbi Yossi Lew, Chabad of Peachtree City  
Rabbi Levi Mentz, Beth Israel  
Rabbi Hirshy Minkowicz, Chabad of North Fulton  
Rabbi Yossi New, Beth Tefillah  
Rabbi Yale New, Chabad of Toco Hills  
Rabbi Eliyahu Schusterman, Chabad Intown  
Rabbi Don Seeman, New Toco Shul  
Rabbi Ephraim Silverman, Chabad of Cobb  
Rabbi Avremi Slavaticki, Chabad Decatur  
Rabbi Adam Starr, Ohr HaTorah