

Important COVID-19 Update from the RCBC

[edited for space – download full letter at rcbcvaad.org]

כ"ג אדר תש"פ • March 19, 2020

Dear Friends,

We are writing with an update regarding COVID-19 and the ongoing health situation in our community. We have all been following the news of the spread of this virus with great concern. Based on our consultation with medical experts from the local area hospitals, we know that the spread of the virus is on the rise and our hospitals are nearly at capacity.

Therefore, we urge the entire community to uphold the social distances measures we adopted last week with ever greater vigilance. [...] In addition, we would like to add a number of updates:

- A. There should be no stigma attached to this disease. It is no one's fault and we are all trying our best. [...] Our communal efforts are for the sake of the small minority that are having significant symptoms and who can overload our healthcare system, which in turn may imperil the health of the entire population. Thank you to everyone who is helping make our community part of the solution to this challenge.
- B. If you feel mild symptoms, call your doctor. The hospital is requesting that you treat mild symptoms at home and if you go to the emergency room with symptoms that may be COVID-19, please call them ahead so that they can prepare.
- C. All RCBC updates are posted on our website: rcbcvaad.org, including online community events and sales at our local stores.
- D. As we look towards Pesach, we acknowledge that while we cannot predict precisely what the situation will be in three weeks, we must plan based on the current fact pattern, and the expected course of the spread of COVID-19. On this basis, we urge everyone to stay home with immediate family, even separated from parents and grandparents. This is a painful but necessary precaution. Similarly, we should not travel to other areas of the country, even by car, especially not to Florida where we have a very large vulnerable population.
- E. We anticipate that we may have to execute both the sale of chametz as well as the siyum on Erev Pesach online. Please stay tuned to your shul's announcements for details on that as we get closer. Alternatively, for first-borns who are able, there is still time to learn a small masechet and to make a siyum at home.
- F. We have been working with the local stores and groceries in order to arrange for the sale of fully prepared boxed Pesach meals that will be able to be purchased. Please look out for more information about that if you are interested.
- G. We are all inspired by the way that the community is making this challenge into an opportunity for solidarity, for mutual concern and for personal growth. [...] We are trying to post as many of [the virtual torah programming] as we can on our website. **We would also like to invite the entire community to sing Yedid Nefesh from your front doors or porches, starting at exactly 7 PM on Friday night.**

Guidelines of Social Distancing: Always keep six feet away from other people- try to avoid sharing an elevator with someone else, if possible. Only do essential errands and try to do them at off times.

1. All community members are strongly encouraged to work from home, if possible, and to stay home whenever possible. It is critical for adults to set the right example. If you have to go to work, minimize interactions in transit and while there.
2. As the schools are currently closed, there should not be playdates between children of different families. This would undermine the entire purpose of the school closing.
3. Shuls are closed for all minyanim and shiurim until further notice. There should be no house minyanim.
4. There should be no public celebrations for smachot.

5. People should not invite guests for Shabbat meals.
6. Shiva visits should be replaced by phone/video calls.
7. Levayot should be restricted to a small group of family members and a minyan.
8. Refrain from contact sports.
9. Restaurants should not seat customers. People should order for pick-up and delivery only.
10. The Mikvaot will remain open, at the guidance of CDC and local health authorities. Women under mandatory quarantine or who are experiencing symptoms of illness may not use the mikvah. Please consult your rav for further clarification or for specific questions.

Please take these days as a critical opportunity to intensify our prayers and concern for each other and our communities. May we join together in health and happiness in the near future.

Sincerely,

The Rabbinical Council of Bergen County



CONGREGATION DARCHEI NOAM
OF FAIR LAWN, NEW JERSEY

Parshat Vayakhel-Pekudei

Shabbat Mevorchim

Parshat Hachodesh

25 Adar 5780

March 20-21, 2020

Shul is closed for all minyanim & shiurim until further notice.

Please daven at home, individually.

Feel free to contact Rabbi Donath (952-412-5707) or Shira (314-780-7954) with any questions during this time

FRIDAY

Early Candle Lighting (Plag HaMincha): after 5:54
(If one is making early Shabbat, one should try to daven Mincha before 5:54 p.m., and daven Kabbalat Shabbat/Ma'ariv after 5:54 pm.)

Candle Lighting: 6:51 p.m.
Shkia 7:09 p.m.
Repeat Kri'at Shema: after 7:50 p.m.

SHABBAT DAY

Earliest Tallit: 6:07 a.m.
Sunrise: 6:57 a.m.
Sof Z'man Kri'at Shema: 10:00 a.m.

Remember to bentch Rosh Chodesh this Shabbat: Rosh Chodesh Nissan will be on Yom Chamishi (Thursday). Halachik note: It is fine to bentch Rosh Chodesh without a minyan.

Daf Yomi cancelled
Earliest Mincha: 1:34 p.m.
Shkiah: 7:11 p.m.
Havdalah/Shabbat ends: 8:01 p.m.

WEEKDAY SCHEDULE

For the time being, please daven at home, individually.

This week, remember to say Ya'aleh V'yavoh at Ma'ariv Wednesday evening. Thursday Shacharit should be Rosh Chodesh davening (Ya'aleh V'yavoh, Hallel, Mussaf and Borchit Nafshi).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **NEW Darchei Noam Community WhatsApp Group** – We have created a “Darchei Noam Community” WhatsApp group to send out Torah and resources from Shira and Rabbi Donath that would be beneficial for the community. Additionally, this will be a central location for the Rabbi to notify the community of local needs. Join at dno.am/whatsapp.
- **Mazal tov** to Rachel and Nathan Bednarsh on the engagement of their son Etan to Julie Katz.
- **Please patronize our local establishments** – Our local stores and restaurants are still open and need our support in these difficult times. The following stores offer delivery service: Kosher Express, Mashu Mashu, and Zevy’s Pizza. Others may offer curbside pickup to minimize contact. Petaks/Five Star is offering a full service of gourmet meals delivered to your homes (petaksfood@aol.com).
- **Refuah Shleima list – Please keep in mind the following names of people who are in need of a refuah shleima:** Elimelech Shmuel ben Frummah, Moshe Eliezer HaLevi ben Esther Tziporah, Devorah bat Miriam, Chaya Rivka bas Devorah, Batsheva bat Sarah, Yaakov Chaim ben Tzivya Sheindel, Yisroel ben Leah, Gittel bat Chippah, Ratzah Naomi bat Leah, Yosef ben Perel, Elihuah Mayer Ben Devorah Sarah, Menachem Mendel Ben Perel.
- **Shmurah Matzah Sale is cancelled.** Regretfully, the Shmurah Matzah Sale is cancelled. No new orders will be accepted and if you have placed an order, you should be receiving a full refund shortly. For questions, reach out to Nathan Bednarsh.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

- **UPDATE Daf Yomi, Nightly at 8:20 p.m.** – Zoom link: dno.am/dafyomi.
- **UPDATE Parsha Shiur, Thursday nights at 8 p.m.** – This week’s class, March 19, is entitled “Vayakhel/Pekudei: How will our shuls be different after COVID-19?” Zoom link: dno.am/parshashiur

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **NEW Pre-Shabbat Ruach/Inspiration, Friday, Mar 20, 4:00 pm.** – One of the hardest parts of social distancing is the fact that we aren’t easily able to connect with one another. On Friday, we invite everyone in the community – especially the youth! – to join us for a pre-Shabbos get together. There will be live music provided by our own local talent, story time with morahs from the community and a dvar torah geared for the children given by Rabbi Donath. Most importantly, come to see your friends who you miss! Zoom link: dno.am/5780/pre-shabbat-ruach
- **NEW Motzei Shabbat Virtual Havdalah, Motzei Shabbat, Mar 21, 8:05 p.m.** – Led by our own musicians after Shabbos. Zoom link: dno.am/5780/virtual-havdalah
- **NEW Pesach Prep Class, Sunday, Mar 22, 8:00 p.m.** – Part 1 of a Pesach prep guide for rookies and veterans given by Shira and Rabbi Donath. This first part is intended to be a practical guide of things to consider and buy for those who have never made Pesach before, and hopefully something new for those who have never made Pesach during a pandemic :-). If there is interest, we can have a Part 2 the following Sunday night, March 29th, at the same time. Zoom link: dno.am/5780/pesach-prep
- **UPDATE Pre-Pesach Wine Sale – You’ll still need wine for Pesach!** The Pre-Pesach Wine Sale offers great prices on a wide selection of wines and other beverages. Sponsored by B&B Liquors. Order form and instructions at dno.am/5780/wine. Submit orders by Mar 28.

YOUTH DEPARTMENT

- There will be no youth programming this Shabbat.

SPECIAL NOTICES

- **Donations are needed** – Please consider paying down your shul

account. Donations are also needed for the Rabbi’s discretionary fund, which supports individuals in need in our local community, and for the Chesed Fund, which provides urgently needed meals during shiva or illness. Contribute at darcheinoam.com/donate.

- **Amazon Smile** – Support Darchei while you shop on Amazon Smile by designating us as your charity at dno.am/amazon.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please check with the organizations sponsoring any event you’re interested in for rescheduling information.

- **CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE Help make the minyan in Paterson:** For more info, e-mail: JerrySchranz@gmail.com
- **POSTPONED NORPAC Mission to Washington, Tuesday, May 19.** Limited-time early bird registration rates: Adults - \$150, Students/Young Professionals (Under 30) - \$100, Special Full-time College Student - \$50. (Call about special Clergy and College Student rates). Roundtrip transportation to D.C. from NY-NJ. Glatt kosher meals included. Additional Information and Registration at NORPAC.net or call (201) 788-5133.
- **CANCELLED Yad Leah - MEGA North Jersey Clothing Drive for Israel - Sunday March 22, 2020 - has been cancelled. However, drop-off sites are still open.** For more information, email info@yadleah.org
- **CANCELLED Attention High School Students and Parents:** Would you be able to identify anti-Semitism? Learn how to respond to the challenges Jewish students may face today. Sunday, March 22 from 9:15 a.m.-2:00 p.m. join Jewish Federation’s iCAN conference. Separate parent session from 12:30-2:00 p.m. – prepare now for what your child may face in the future. Register: www.jfnnj.org/ican

DARCHEI NOAM CONTACTS

For Rabbi and committee contacts, visit darcheinoam.com/contact

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For private consultation, contact Sholom Silvestri, NJ + NY Licensed Loan Officer, NMLS# 1730931

Mobile: 201-254-4312, Email: ssilvestri@approvedfunding.com,

References Available Upon Request.

Video Link: <http://bit.ly/sholommortgage1> *How to Size Up a Mortgage Amount That is Right For You.*

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