



Congregation
Har Tzeon - Agudath Achim

Dear Members,

We hear your concerns regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19) which is a virus that causes illness ranging from the common cold to respiratory issues. With the knowledge of confirmed cases in Maryland, the leadership of our congregation has started instituting preventative measures to help protect our congregation, school children, and visitors.

After reviewing the current recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and the Maryland Department of Health; HTAA Leadership and Staff have begun to implement the following steps and recommend precautions we should all be taking.

1. Our staff will clean and disinfect areas of common use: door handles, banisters, washing areas, and entryways. After hours, staff will continue to sanitize key areas in both buildings regularly. This effort extends to the school and sanctuary areas.
2. We recommend you wash hands with soap, often, for 20 seconds (2 rounds of singing the ABC's or Happy Birthday). In between washings, if needed, we have two hand sanitizer dispensers in our facility. One is in the new building, on the wall as you enter the Habib Social Hall, the other unit is in the old building by the front desk.
3. We recommend that you do not shake hands, fist bump, or hug others you see in shul.
4. We request that the Torah and mezuzot not be kissed.
5. If you need to cough or sneeze, please do so into a tissue (provided throughout the buildings). If none is available, please sneeze or cough into your elbow to minimize germ transmission. **Always wash your hands after sneezing or coughing.**
6. Try to minimize the times you touch your eyes, nose, and mouth.
7. When possible, open doors with your closed fist or hip. Try not to use the handle with your hand unless unavoidable, particularly on bathroom doors.
8. If you have little children, please help them when they take food at our kiddush lunch to minimize germ transmission.
9. If you have an underlying immune condition or chronic heart or lung problems we recommend consulting your health care provider about attending services and ways to minimize your susceptibility to the virus.

With our dynamic population, please consider staying at home if you are actively coughing, sneezing or have a fever in order to minimize transmitting the virus to others. Please contact the HTAA office to be added to the Refuah Shalemah list or if you are in need a friendly check-in. At this time all events and service will continue to take place, we will inform you of any cancellations or changes, if the situation changes. Please contact the office or leadership if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,
Scott Wasserberg, President
Rabbi Steve Suson, Rabbi
Barbra Jaffe, Administrator