

Dear Friends:

We are in uncharted territory from a health and halachic standpoint. To think that our shul has been forced to close due to some virus that started in China is unfathomable. For some reason Hashem is showing we do not need the world to be embroiled in a world war on the battleground to put the globe on edge. I do not profess to be a *navi* so I cannot offer any unique perspective as to why this might be happening. Certainly it allows us to take stock and appreciate all those people and institutions that we take for granted, including our shul and yeshivos.

Since we are davening at home, it should allow us to spend more time with our daily tefillos and concentrate more on their meaning and profundity. The same goes for our learning routine. Spend more time simply learning Chumash and Rashi. Use Artscroll or whatever you are comfortable with. You will explore an entirely new world. It has done that for me.

Surely many she'eilos will abound, especially as we draw closer to Pesach. Right now I need to address the very significant question of Kaddish and Yahrzeit given that there are no available minyanim.

I suggest that instead of Kaddish which requires a minyan, one should learn a *mishneh* of their choice three times daily, once for Shacharis, Mincha and Maariv. Perek is a legitimate choice, if that's what you are comfortable with. Mishanyos should also be learned on the Yahrzeit with the name of the *niftar* or *nifteres* in mind.

I am sure the she'eilos will develop quickly. If you prefer you can email me at Yoels@ou.org or leave message on my phone at 718-261-9723, x3.

Stay safe. Be smart. Hope to welcome you back in shul real soon.

Sincerely,
Rabbi Yoel Schonfeld