



Rabbi Yaakov Hopfer
President

12 Nissan 5780
April 6, 2020

The following directives have been developed by the Vaad HaRabbonim in consultation with medical professionals.

We have a Biblical obligation to safeguard our health and to take the necessary steps to protect ourselves and others from harm by COVID-19.

If you experience any of the following symptoms:

- ❖ any fever, even low grade
- ❖ any shortness of breath
- ❖ any coughing
- ❖ dizziness
- ❖ nausea and vomiting

please immediately contact your doctor.

If you experience any of these symptoms on Shabbos or Yom Tov, you may call your regular doctor or reach out to one of the doctors listed below.

- ❖ Dr. Dan Grove – (443) 863-8292
- ❖ Dr. Dov Frankel – (410) 514-3220

These dedicated physicians will be on-call at any time, day or night, on Shabbos and Yom Tov. We have also made arrangements with regard to Shabbos/Yom Tov delivery of prescriptions, and the on-call doctors will be able to activate that process, if medically necessary.

Regarding medical needs on Shabbos and Yom Tov, the following practices should be employed. Someone who has a health care proxy or decision-making responsibility for a relative in a hospital should answer the phone on Shabbos/Yom Tov if the hospital is calling. In that vein, one may carry a cellphone in order to be reachable if healthcare decisions must be made. It is also important to proactively call and check in on relatives in the hospital, as circumstances warrant, as this is the only practical form of advocacy in which we can engage on behalf of a patient. Likewise, a patient in the hospital may call family members to relay information or medical concerns/questions (whether regarding physical or mental health). In all cases, one who must utilize a phone should employ a shinui (deviation from norm) when dialing or answering the phone. For more specific questions, please consult your Rav.

We use this opportunity to, once again, plead with the community to practice proper social distancing. The Governor and others have indicated that our State is at high risk of greater infection in the coming two weeks. The only way we can prevent the spread of the disease is to STAY HOME; SAVE LIVES. This is exceedingly difficult, especially on Yom Tov, but lives are quite literally at stake.

These are challenging times and we must do whatever is within our power to maintain the health of our community. During this Yom Tov of miracles, may Hashem send us His miracle of refuah and may we, together with our people and all of mankind, see relief and salvation from illness and tragedy.