



**Rabbi Yaakov Hopfer**  
*President*

**Rosh Chodesh Sivan 5780**  
**May 24, 2020**

To Our Beloved Community,

We thank you for your continued cooperation and dedication to keeping our community healthy and safe. With the upcoming Yom Tov of Shavuos we want to provide guidance for hosting company. We understand that there is a strong desire to return to normal for families to experience the beauty of Yom Tov together. We are not there yet. We must ask for your help in continuing to make the necessary sacrifices for the collective good. Please see the guidelines below and as always feel free to reach out to your Rav for any clarification.

Below are the guidelines for the initial phase of allowing guests for meals:

- **Effective the first night of Shavuos, May 28th**, families may host in-town relatives **ONLY** for meals, adhering to gathering regulations in the city and county. We encourage in the strongest way possible that these meals should be held outdoors.
- If you have no in-town family, you may invite one other local family (**ONLY**) for outdoor meals. This family cannot be rotated; pick one for the duration of this first phase to limit exposure. Choose a family who is also practicing strict social distancing to minimize your risk.
- **ABSOLUTELY NO OUT OF TOWN GUESTS/FAMILY.** Allowances are for meals only, not for home hospitality (sleeping).
- Maintain a separation between families. Consider using separate tables for each nuclear family or placing empty chairs between families for physical distancing.
- Wear masks as follows:
  - o If proper distancing maintained, masks need not be worn for an outdoor meal itself once food is served.
  - o Using the restroom: mask must be worn by anyone who does not live in the home before entering to use the restroom. Perform hand hygiene before entering the home (using alcohol-based hand sanitizer) and of course after using the restroom. As disinfectant wipes can be problematic on Shabbos, use of a disposable guest towel is encouraged to turn the faucet off and turn the doorknob to exit the restroom. Dispose of towel and sanitize hands again before returning to the table or touching one's face.

Do not host or accept invitations if:

- You feel ill (including chills, unusual muscle aches, headache, or fatigue) or have any other COVID-19 symptoms. This is endangering your guests/hosts.



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- You had or think you may have had COVID-19, until at least 14 days after symptoms have resolved AND there has been no fever for at least 7 days.
- You may have had recent contact with an individual who has COVID-19, even if you currently show no symptoms.
- You are visiting from another community.
- You are at high risk of complications and death from COVID-19, have cancer, heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, are obese, have kidney or liver disease, asthma, chronic lung disease, and who are immunosuppressed from illness or medications. Anyone aged 60 years or older must consult their physician first.

Please note the following in all phases of hosting guests:

- Social distancing of 6 feet must be safely maintained at all times.
- Local government regulations regarding mass gatherings must be followed without exception, even on the porch.

We know that many of you were looking forward to having out of town family for this Yom Tov. We feel the pain of families who have been separated for months. We eagerly pine for the day when IYH all mishpachos can be together. We hope that the ability for in-town family to be together, albeit in a limited way, allows some additional small steps back to normalcy.

With best wishes with an uplifting Yom Tov,

Rabbi Yaakov Hopfer on behalf of the Vaad HaRabbonim