



**Rabbi Yaakov Hopfer**  
*President*

21 Menachem Av 5780  
August 11, 2020

To Our Wonderful Community,

We trust this finds you enjoying your summer.

It is with great anticipation that we look forward to the opening of our schools with the approach of Elul. This is a vitally important step for the health of our community. The Limud HaTorah of our children and youth is crucial both for their continued growth and development and for the immense zechusim it brings our community.

With Siyata d'Shmaya, we are able to prepare for this step because of the vigilance you have demonstrated in keeping our families and kehila safe. The social distancing and the wearing of masks is making a real difference.

While in the shuls this vigilance is still evident, one area where a laxity has sometimes set in is at weddings. Unfortunately, our guard has been let down when it comes to the masks and social distancing at chasunahs. This is not only a threat to our continued health, but it Chas v'Sholom could set us back in our quest to be able to open the schools.

We plead with each and every one of you to extend the care and vigilance you exhibit in shul, to our weddings as well. If you are hosting a wedding, please seek the guidance of your Rav as to the most appropriate and safe way to conduct it.

Please be aware as well that there are new cases of COVID-19 in our community. These recent cases have been traced to those who have attended chasunahs in New York and New Jersey where social distancing and masking were not followed. It is only because of our adherence to these protocols that those thereby infected did not spread it to the broader community.

If you are attending a chasunah out of town please be mindful of this and continue to protect yourself and your community.

May our continued carefulness afford us the protection of Hashem in preserving health and assuring the timely opening of our Mosdos Hakidoshos within which the sounds of Torah from our precious children resound.

Respectfully,

Yaakov Hopfer on behalf of the Vaad Harabanim of Baltimore