



Rabbi Yaakov Hopfer  
President

4 Nissan 5780  
March 29, 2020

To the Baltimore Jewish Community,

Most years, we look forward to Pesach with anticipation and joy. The opportunity for parents, grandparents and children to sit together and share the most fundamental tenets of our faith is truly special and holy. The opportunity to bond together as a family over Yom Tov meals cannot be underestimated. Unfortunately, this year is not like most years. **The reality is that families simply cannot gather as they have in the past. Our infectious disease advisors unanimously and strenuously urged us to speak out against any gatherings beyond the nuclear family currently living in the same home. This is true even for children, parents and grandparents who might otherwise visit. This is true for family in town as well as out of town family.**

Please know that these restrictions are for your protection, for the protection of your family and for the protection of our community. Taking care of one's health is paramount. **Adhering to the guidelines that have been established is something the halacha mandates.** Our experience has shown that in communities where there has been laxity and indifference concerning mandated precautions, tragedy, loss of life and sorrow have ensued.

Please see the previous statements of the Vaad HaRabbonim for additional details and precautions.

Let it be the will of the *Ribbono Shel Olam* that our *kehilla kedosha* be spared any pain and misfortune.

Wishing you all a *Chag kasher v'samayach*.