



Rabbi Yaakov Hopfer
President

6 Teves 5781
December 21, 2020

To Our Beloved Community,

With the help of the *Ribbono Shel Olam*, the medical and scientific community has developed vaccines for COVID-19. While there are some who may be wary of taking vaccines developed with such speed and lack of long-term testing, the regulatory agencies and general medical community feel it is safe and should be taken. While no medical intervention can be considered risk-free, expert opinion is clear that the enormous benefits presented by these vaccines far outweigh their risks. We, therefore, urge the members of our community to take the vaccine as soon as it becomes available, unless otherwise advised by your personal physician.

Even after vaccination, for the time being it is still imperative for everyone to continue to mask and social distance.

This has been a long and arduous journey for our community and for the entire world. Let us continue to daven to *Hashem* for an end to this *mageifah* and for the *refuah shlaimah* of the *cholim* in our community. *B'ezras Hashem* we will begin to feel the *refuah* from this virus and use the lessons of these trying months to build a better future.

Sincerely and with great respect,

Yaakov Hopfer on behalf of the Vaad HaRabbonim of Baltimore