



Rabbi Yaakov Hopfer
President

13 Iyar 5780
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To our Beloved Community,

The last seven weeks have been challenging for us all. Social distancing, illness, isolation, and closure of our Shuls, Yeshivos and schools have created difficulty on many levels. We especially recognize the challenges of those who are at home with children, who have limited school hours and unnatural restrictions on peer interaction. We want to thank you for exhibiting strength in your commitment to keeping our community safe. Your disciplined adherence to proper social distancing, abstaining from out of state travel, refraining from having out of town and in-town guests has undoubtedly saved lives B'H.

We are looking to loosen restrictions as soon as we can, once the government and medical experts advise us that is legal and safe to do so. We recognize that we may have to move at a slower pace than allowed in reopening due to the nature of interconnectedness within our community. We must make sure that the measures we have taken until now are not negated. In the meantime, we have created a rabbinic committee to work in conjunction with the Baltimore Jewish Community Task Force on COVID-19 in developing guidelines, policies and protocols for re-opening our community at the appropriate time. This committee is comprised of doctors, rabbonim, school administrators and community members. We will keep you apprised of the committee's recommendations.

For now, however, we must continue adhering to distancing standards. We call upon our community to avoid unnecessary interaction and contact.

- **As per our previous directive, there are to be no minyanim taking place in any location within the community at this time.**
- We ask our families with children to please restrict their children's interactions that could result in spread of the COVID-19 illness.
- We ask our families with married children who do not live at their parents' home to maintain proper social distancing.
- Please utilize curb-side pickup or delivery for your food shopping needs. We ask that you forgo certain choice products if it allows you to avoid entering a store. Our collective communal health is much more important than getting a specific food item or grocery brand.
- Please adhere to the Governor's directive of wearing a mask when entering public places.

We know this is hard – but this is what we must do. If we continue to put in our hishtadlus, then B'EH we can avoid catastrophic consequences experienced by other communities.

We can't thank you enough - the precious men, women and children of our community. We are still waging the battle, but with the Ribbono Shel Olam's hashgocha and your commitment to adhere to community standards, we will B'EH make it through these challenging times and IYH emerge even stronger.