



**Rabbi Yaakov Hopfer**  
President

10 Tammuz 5780  
July 2, 2020

To Our Esteemed Community:

Baruch Hashem, our community continues to be blessed with a relatively low number of cases of coronavirus, in part due to the incredible vigilance undertaken by the members of our community. We have been able to start the process of opening our community and institutions.

Despite our diligent efforts and vigilance locally, we have had a slow trickle of new cases in the past two weeks that raises concern. Furthermore, we are at risk of having imported cases from other locales. We are all keenly aware of the reports of increasing cases in many other states. Yesterday, a number of Lakewood physicians released a letter stating that they have begun seeing a number of cases related to travel from Florida. In Baltimore, as well, we have seen an increase in cases related to travel to these “hotspots”.

**As such, we feel it is necessary to request that:**

- **Any Baltimore resident who visits one of these areas with increased cases - including Florida, Arizona, California, and Texas - should quarantine upon return for 14 days.**
- **Any visitors from those areas, or visitors to Baltimore who have recently been to these areas, must quarantine for 14 days as well.**
- **When bringing in family or friends from out of state, it is important to ask whether they have traveled to one of the above areas.**
- **Please also keep in mind that any area may become a “hotspot” over the course of a week or two.**

**Everyone should continue to abide by the recommendations of social distancing, hand hygiene, and wearing masks even at outdoor minyanim. Any questions regarding this statement or other COVID-19 issues can be directed to your local physician or to [medical@jccovid.com](mailto:medical@jccovid.com).**

We hope and pray that the *Rofeh kol basar* will continue to guide us in properly navigating these difficult times.

**Yaakov Hopfer on behalf of the Vaad Harabanim of Baltimore**