



**Rabbi Yaakov Hopfer**  
President

14 Tishrei 5781  
October 2, 2020

To Our Beloved Community,

We greatly appreciate the commitment and dedication all of you have demonstrated in endeavoring to keep our community safe. With Hashem's help, we look forward to a beautiful *Yom Tov*.

As we prepare for the *Yom Tov* of *Succos* we must be vigilant in the fight against COVID 19 especially in light of the recent spike in new cases. This *Yom Tov* must be celebrated in a different way in order to maintain our communal health. We therefore ask for your help in maintaining and adhering to the following guidelines. We daven for those who need a refuah and know that *B'ezras Hashem* our community will weather this storm.

- **Hoshanos** (including *Hoshana Rabbah*) should be organized with great care and concern. Social distancing must be maintained at all times. If possible, *Hoshanos* should take place outdoors.
- **Simchas Beis HaShoeyva** celebrations should not be held this year.
- **Hakafos** on *Simchas Torah* should be conducted with a limited number of people holding *Sifrei Torah* around the *Bima* and the rest of the *Tzibbur* dancing in their places. The *Hakafos* should be limited in duration. It is highly preferable to conduct these modified *Hakafos* outdoors.
- **Kiddushim** should not be held (both in Shuls and private homes) on *Simchas Torah* (both day and night).
- **Kol HaNearim** is a meaningful and uplifting moment for children and their parents. This year Shuls will have to modify in order to avoid large numbers of children and adults gathering and congregating for this special *aliyah*. Each child will stand at his seat while participating in *Kol HaNearim*.

It is with great trepidation that we feel compelled to make any modifications or adjustments in *minhagai Yisroel*, but it is only because of the great obligation to safeguard the health and wellbeing of each member of our community, that we do so.

We daven for an end to this pandemic and the restoration of health to our entire community. If we make the necessary sacrifices now we can maintain the health of our brothers and sisters, our schools will be able to open after *Yom Tov* and we will be zocheh as a community to celebrate many more *Yomim Tovim* and *Simchas* together.

With best wishes for an uplifting and meaningful *Succos*,

Yaakov Hopfer  
On Behalf of the Vaad HaRabbonim