



רחוב אשר 1, בית שמש 99544

מרא דאתרא הרב חגי רביב שליט"א

As you all know, the corona virus has affected our lives in various ways. One of the most obvious and pressing, and painful, is, of course, the closure of the shul. Recently the government has issued guidelines allowing the return to our מעטש מקדש. While this is exciting news in theory, in practice it is a logistical challenge where success is only possible with everyone's cooperation, and full adherence to the guidelines being established for the shul. If at any time we feel that the guidelines are not being followed, the vaad reserves the right to reconsider its decision to keep the shul open.

PLEASE NOTE THAT NO MATTER THE RULES OR GUIDLEINES THAT ARE ENACTED, THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT WE CAN ASSURE YOU WILL NOT CATCH THE COVID-19 VIRUS IN SHUL.

THEREFORE, IF YOU:

- ARE OVER THE AGE OF 70
- HAVE ANY EXISTING MEDICAL CONDITIONS
- HAVE ANY CHRONIC OR ONGOING COUGH OR SNEEZE (EVEN ALLERGIES- AS PEOPLE WILL GET NERVOUS IF YOU ARE SITTING IN SHUL COUGHING AND SNEEZING)

\*WE ASK YOU NOT TO COME TO THE SHUL MINYAN\*

In order to maximize our ability to provide a safe and proper environment for the tefilla, after much discussion with a number of different resources we will be returning to tefilla on Friday evening *Erev Shabbat Parshat Bamidbar*.

The following are the guidelines we will be instituting:

- #1 rule... Please use common sense and treat everyone with respect.
- Every minyan should and will be designed to take the least amount of time possible so that we can limit the amount of time that is spent in shul. As such there will be limited singing during the tefillot.
- All shul goers will be required to sign up to attend the minyan of their choice.
- Only people who have pre registered for a minyan will be allowed to enter the shul. (This is a critical point as it will be the only way we can assure contact tracing of attendees if needed.)
- The number of people will be determined by the number of people that can fit in the shul while keeping 2m distance

- Everyone will be required to sign a health proclamation (הצהרת בריאות) that will need to be renewed every day. A sign up link will be sent out soon.
- Everyone is required to wear a mask at all times including the chazan and baal koreh
- The sefarim and sidurim of the shul will be covered. Members are required to bring their own sifrei kodesh. There will be no more borrowing of Shul seforim from the Beit Midrash. **The Beit Midrash will NOT BE OPEN for any learning at this time.**
- The “gabbai corona” are responsible for ensuring that all the guidelines are being followed. PLEASE HELP US IN THE COMPLIANCE WITH THE GUIDELINES. If everyone cooperates there will be no need for any uncomfortable situations.
- Everyone is required to wash his/her hands with soap and water upon entry to shul and/or apply alco-gel.
- One may only sit in a designated open seat. Please do not sit in any other seat other than the ones designated. Due to the limitations of space please consider carefully whether to bring your children to shul. You should only bring children that can, and will, sit through the entire davening. Keep in mind that children may not be able to sit right next to their parents.
- Before davening each person will be asked to clean his/her wooden seat/shtender area with a wipe.
- AS we said above, members who are in high risk groups (pre existing medical conditions, age, etc.) should consider seriously not attending services in the synagogue. In order to meet the needs of these segments of our kehilla, we will be holding an outdoor minyan under the auspices of BMTL. **We would like to thank Orit and Jan Wimpfheimer for allowing the use of their garden at Asher St. 18,** for this purpose.
- As the shul is open in a limited fashion, we recommend anyone who has been attending an outdoors minyan, at least for mincha and maariv, to continue to do so. It is ultimately safer and will reduce the number of people attending shul.
- **Shabbat:**
  - On Friday night we will be holding one early minyan and two regular time minyanim (if necessary) for Kabbalat Shabbat .
  - On Shabbat day there will be three minyanim in the morning, 645, 815 and 845. Each minyan will start from *Nishmat*.
  - For Mincha there will be three minyanim 1:30 PM, 5:30 PM, and 6:55 PM
  - Maariv- there will be one minyan upstairs.
- **Weekday**
  - Shacharit will be at 6:15 (610 M & Th), 7:15, 8:15. We ask that all minyanim finish at least 15 minutes before the next minyan starts so that everyone can have time to wrap his tefillin and leave before the next minyan arrives.
  - Mincha will be at 1:30 and, for the week before Shavuot at 7:20 PM.
  - Maariv for the week before Shavuot, will be 8:00 PM, 9:00 PM & 9:30 PM . These times may change if there is low demand.

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- Kriyat Hatorah
  - The Torah will only be touched by the Baal Koreh. This includes Peticha, Hotzaah, and Hagbaah. Gelila will be done by the gabbai of the minyan
  - Only the Baal Koreh and the Oleh will stand on the bima; both in designated spots that will be marked.
  - The gabbai who is calling people up will stand in front of the bima next to the chazan's shtender
  - The baal koreh will always receive an aliya so as to limit the number of people around the Torah. That means on Mondays and Thursdays the baal koreh will always get shelishi unless there is a bar mitzvah or a yartzeit of a first degree relative.
  - The baal koreh and the chazan will wear a mask at all times.
  - When one gets an Aliyah they should not kiss or hold the torah and will not stand near the baal koreh. There will be a marked spot from where the Oleh will stand and make the bracha. After the Aliya the Oleh will go back to his seat and not wait until the following Aliya.
- Kaddish for Avelim will be said from each person's seat and not together from the Bima
- The inside doors to the shul will remain open at all times. Therefore we ask to make sure that there is no congregating in the hallway.

Thank you for your patience and understanding in these challenging times. May we all be blessed with a speedy end to all illness in our midst.

Respectfully,

HaRav Chaggai and the Va'ad