



March 13, 2020 Update

MARCH 13TH COVID-19 UPDATE FROM ADATH ISRAEL

Dear Adath Israel Members and Guests.

This note is an update to our March 13th on steps Adath Israel is taking with respect to COVID-19.

Adath Israel's priority is ensuring the health of all those who enter our doors, which goes hand-in-hand with acting responsibly as a public institution. As the COVID-19 reality is fluid, we hope to maintain our core function as a house of worship, while recognizing that many activities are not currently feasible.

Recognizing that Toronto Public Health has not issued any guidelines to houses of worship and maintains that the risk of transmission is low, out of an abundance of caution we have turned to the expertise of our medical community for guidance. To that end, we formed a *Medical Advisory Committee* whose role is to inform and guide our leadership.

Thank you to the following physicians who have offered their expertise and time:

1. Dr. Ronald Cohn: President and CEO, The Hospital for Sick Children
2. Dr. Irv Gottesman: Staff Endocrinologist, Trillium Health Partners
3. Dr. Sidney Nusinowitz: Family Physician, Doctors Office Toronto
4. Dr. Lisa Salamon: Emergency Physician, Scarborough Health Network
5. Dr. David Urbach: Surgeon-in-Chief, Women's College Hospital

After extensive discussions, we have made important amendments to our protocols and policies which are intended to minimize gatherings where people are in close proximity to each other, a key scientifically proven feature in slowing the spread of COVID-19.

The following changes take effect immediately:

1. All prayer services including daily minyan will take place in the Main Sanctuary, where we will employ "Social Distancing" best practices. This means sitting two metres apart from anyone beyond one's immediate family and not participating in hand-shaking, fist-pumps, high-fives or hugging.

Shabbat Torah Study will continue and will move into our largest meeting space, Tobias Hall.

For those who are able and healthy, please support our daily minyanim during this period. Times are **listed on our homepage**. Shacharit starts at 7:00 am & 7:45 am. Minchah/Ma'ariv currently begins at 7:05 pm.

2. Minyan breakfasts, Shabbat kiddush and seudah shlishit are cancelled until further notice.
3. All programs will be postponed until further notice.
4. All in-person meetings are cancelled for the foreseeable future*.

5. Regular meeting groups including Golden Hands quilting, Tuesday Morning WOA learning sessions, Wednesday Card games, Caffeinate with Cutler, Hana Werner Learning and Rabbi Hecht's Study Group will be postponed until further notice*.

**For business and learning-focused meetings, we are actively seeking solutions that will enable attendees to participate through remote access from their computers, tablets or phones.*

Smachot

Smachot are an important element of our synagogue life. We are reaching out to families who have booked an event at Adath Israel to together determine the best approach moving forward.

We ask of you the following:

1. If you are unwell, stay at home.
2. Keep up to date on COVID-19 through [Toronto Public Health](#) and follow their guidelines.
3. If you are feeling anxious or otherwise require spiritual support, please do not hesitate to reach out to your clergy. They are here for you.

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| a. Rabbi Adam Cutler | Office: 416-635-5343 | Cell: 416-882-2684 |
| b. Rabbi David Seed | Office: 416-635-5341 | Cell: 416-648-5440 |
| c. Cantor Alex Stein | Office: 416-635-5347 | Cell: 416-635-5347 |

4. In Hebrew, the word for synagogue is Beit Knesset, literally translating as House of Gathering. It is the place where we come together as a community. It is at Adath Israel where many of us see our friends, learn in groups, and attend social and educational programs. The cancellation here and elsewhere of many gatherings will lead to significant social isolation for many. We encourage you at this time to call friends and family who you have not spoke to in a while. We ask that you keep an eye out on your neighbours. Let this be an opportunity to reconnect in new ways.

At this time the office will remain open to serve you. Please call 416-635-5340.

With wishes of health for all,



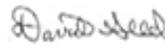
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