



בס"ד

The routine of the Jewish community abroad during the coronavirus pandemic

In recent months, we have witnessed a global pandemic which has impacted upon Jewish communities around the world. Below is some valuable information and key points which will assist in aiding daily life during this time.

Prayer Services:

Communal prayer is the foundation of congregations around the world, with members of the congregation gathering to prayer together three times a day.

** It is crucial to obey the instructions of each country

*** One should make every effort to pray in open areas and not inside a building

*** Make sure that everyone who comes to pray is wearing a mask (select a member of the prayer group to be responsible for this)

*** Do not kiss the Torah scroll

*** Those who immerse daily in the ritual bath (Mikvah) should make sure that only one person dips at a time

*** Do not come to the synagogue with a fever or cough or any other unusual health issues

Celebrations

"פקודי ה' ישרים שמחי לב מצות ה' ברא מאירת עיניים"

"The orders of the Lord are upright, gladdening the heart; the commands of the Lord are clear, enlightening the eyes". Psalms 19:9

As a general rule, follow all the instructions at events and celebrations and do not put anyone's life at risk (*Pikuach Nefesh*)

Brit Milah: Must be observed in a limited way (according to the laws of each country regarding the amount of people allowed at a gathering)

Bar Mitzvah: Observe the *Aliyah* and recitation of the Torah with a limited number of people and postpone the party where possible

Bat Mitzvah: Postpone as much as possible. Any gathering should be held in a small and open space

Wedding: Do not postpone a wedding because of the coronavirus, but make sure that the wedding takes place with immediate family only and a small group of people (as permitted).

Consider creating "capsules" of people, to join the party at specified times. (The capsules are important because dancing and sweating is a common way of transmitting the virus)

At all the events mentioned above, it is important to make sure, as much as possible, that the caterer prepares individual portions of food for each guest. Do not eat from communal plates or share dishes, it is dangerous.

Funerals:

טוב ללכת אל בית אבל מלכת אל בית משתה באשר הוא סוף כל האדם והחי יתן אל לבו" קהלת

"It is better to go to a house of mourning than but to go to a house of feasting for that is the end of all man, and the living should take it to heart". Ecclesiastes 7:2

Full protection must be worn for the purification ("tahara") of the body according to the regulations in each country

If you wish to transfer a deceased person to Israel for burial, you must contact the local consul and receive approval. You must also confirm that the deceased has a burial plot in Israel.

Attendance at funerals is limited in number, according to local regulations. Masks must be worn at all times and attendees must adhere to social distancing rules as much as possible.

Sitting Shiva - Try to sit in separate rooms where possible. During the last few months we have seen that families who sat together infected each other during Shiva.

It is preferable to express condolences with a phone call than to pay an in-person visit.

Make sure to limit the number of people in the mourning house at any given time.

Mikvah (Ritual Immersion) for women

Each community will act according to the laws dictated by the religious authority (*Mara De'atra*) in their community.

To conclude, the daily life of the Jewish community has many social gatherings, both happy and sad. Prayer services have a regular, ongoing schedule. As community leaders we have a duty to constantly remind our congregants of the rules in a respectful and considerate manner.

Wishing for the speedy and complete healing of all the sick among His people Israel

Mati Goldstein

Chief Officer

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