

Dear Temple Beth-El Family,

As you know, the Coronavirus is a highly infectious virus and is spreading rapidly. At such a time, discretion is the better part of valor. We have spoken to medical experts in our community. They tell us that the only effective way to prevent people from getting the virus is to refrain from large gatherings. Therefore, we are encouraging people to stay at home this Shabbat.

We encourage those who are considered at risk, i.e. people over age 60 or anyone with an underlying health issue (diabetes, heart issues, etc.), to please be careful about touching any surfaces in public spaces. If you are sick, have a temperature, are coughing or experiencing flu-like symptoms, please do **not** come to the synagogue or other public spaces. Instead, contact your doctor and stay at home.

The most effective thing that we can do to prevent the rapid spread of the disease is to avoid transmitting it through travel, physical contact or large-scale events with an infected person.

We are not canceling all services. However, please expect reduced attendance at services. If we get too many people, we will send people away. Instead, **we encourage most people to attend our services over Livestream**, which you can find [here](#). This useful technology allows you to be part of the service with zero risk of infection.

Our priority is to make sure that we have a healthy and safe environment. Toward that end, we are sanitizing doorknobs and surfaces that may transmit the virus. Upon entering the building, please use the hand sanitizer available at the entryways. Please do not shake hands; rather, use elbows. Please do not kiss shared sacred objects like the Tzitzit of a synagogue Tallis or the Mezuzot until the threat has passed.

We are monitoring the situation and staying in touch with trusted medical professionals. We will update you as the situation develops.

Stay healthy. And Shabbat Shalom!

Yours,

President **Dan Weinrib**

Rabbi [Stephen Slater](#)

Executive Director **Bob Greenberg**

A Few Resources:

Access the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's COVID-19 updates [here](#).

Check out this [Medium article](#) about the Coronavirus: what you should do, when and why.