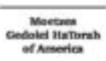


Moetzes Letter Sukkos 5781

October 1, 2020



A Message From the Moetzes Gedolei HaTorah of America to Rabbinic Leaders

12 Tishrei 5781

13 Haftorah of Rosh Hashanah, Shabbos:

As we are all aware, the COVID-19 virus, which had been largely dormant for several months, has recently resurfaced, becoming more prevalent, more virulent, and spreading among many constituents of our communities. While it appears that in most cases the symptoms of the virus are relatively mild, there have also been some extremely serious cases as a result of this “new wave” of COVID-19. Furthermore, this...

Rabbinic leaders upon all of us to exercise great care to minimize any risk of exposure to, or transmission of, the virus. This is the mandate of the Torah/Rabbinic’s command of “Tzavat Yomim,” and “V’zot haTorah v’al Yafneiha.”

It is also important to recognize that keeping the laws that state down in our communities will, without fail, help ensure the safety of our community, but we must also be good leaders, and with regard to the current situation, a red alert has been issued and must be followed. If infection rates in our community remain high, and we must do all in our power to arrest such disease.

As is well known, medical experts have identified a number of important steps people should take to protect themselves and those with whom they come into contact from COVID-19. Handwashing, face covering, hand washing, special precautions for the elderly and for children, and social distancing are all important steps to take, especially when experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. Rabbinic should institute appropriate practices and procedures to protect their inferior from the spread of this terrible virus.

In particular, as we approach the Days of Sukkah, it is important that such practices and procedures be implemented. Upon consultation with medical experts, we respectfully offer the following suggestions for the consideration of Rabbinic:

1. **Large gatherings** – whether Chilufim meetings for children, or Simchas Bar Mitzvah celebrations, or gatherings for leisure or entertainment – should be avoided.
2. Care should be taken regarding visitors for Yom Tov who come from places where there are significant levels of infection. If such visitors have not tested negative prior to their arrival for Yom Tov, consideration should be given to appropriate steps that would reduce contact from others who may be vulnerable to...

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