

Dear Friends,

We are writing with an important update regarding COVID-19 and the growing health situation in our community and country.

The Rabbinic Association of Greater Dallas (RAGD) recently met after consulting with local health experts. As you are aware, the situation continues to change rapidly and we are basing our decision on the most up-to-date medical advice.

In order to protect the health and safety of our congregants, the RAGD has made the decision that **there will be NO public communal services this Shabbat (March 13-14)**. Please consult with your Rabbi regarding how to proceed with observing Shabbat and prayer.

We hope you realize it was not easy to come to this position; but in order to practice the recommendations of social distancing, slow the spread of this virus, and uphold the Jewish value of preserving life, we are abiding by the recommendation of the local medical community. We remind everyone that while we have made this unprecedented decision, it is important that you continue to limit gatherings in your homes over the course of Shabbat and avoid close physical contact with people who are sick.

We recognize that prayer and being connected to the Jewish community is critically important, especially during times of uncertainty. Please know this change to communal prayer does not impact the availability of your rabbi. We are all committed to providing the support, comfort, and religious leadership that you expect from us. We are exploring ways to provide this care most effectively during this new reality. We will communicate as new information becomes available.

We wish everyone affected by this virus and all who are ill a *refuah shleimah*, a complete and full healing.

Shabbat Shalom,

Rabbi Michael Cohen
Rabbi Heidi Coretz
Rabbi Yaacov Green
Rabbi Mordechai Harris
Rabbi Kimberly Herzog Cohen
Rabbi Jeremy Litton
Rabbi Michael Kushnick
Rabbi Andrew Paley
Rabbi Ariel Rackovsky
Rabbi Debra Robbins
Rabbi Adam Roffman
Rabbi Amy Ross
Rabbi Seymour Rossel
Rabbi Matt Rutta
Rabbi David Stern

Rabbi Benjamin Sternman
Rabbi Ari Sunshine
Rabbi Joshua Taub
Rabbi Dan Utley
Rabbi Shira Wallach
Rabbi Stefan Weinberg
Rabbi Howard Wolk
Rabbi Elana Zelony