



Dear friends,

Uptown Chabad is holding minyan services three times a day, 7 days a week, in a local backyard. **Assembling for prayer services during COVID is a special privilege that comes with serious responsibilities.** Praying in a group, speaking loudly, singing, and eating are all activities that pose a high risk of virus transmission through contact and through the air. To keep everyone as safe as possible we have been following the guidance from Public Health Ontario and our own member Medical Professionals. We have established the following policies for our Minyan. **These policies will be strictly enforced.**

**GROUP LIMITS AND REGISTERING IN ADVANCE:** In Stage 3, there is no longer a limit of 10 people for social gatherings, but we must **continue to maintain proper social distancing**. We have measured and determined that the backyard can safely accommodate 26 adults. To attend Shabbat morning services, you must **register in advance** by sending an email to [info@uptownchabad.com](mailto:info@uptownchabad.com). Please include your name and the number of adults who will attend. Once we reach our capacity, if you have not registered for the Shabbat morning minyan you will be **turned away**.



**SOCIAL DISTANCING:** **A minimum distance of 6 feet will be maintained at all**

**times** between minyan participants who are not members of the same household.

There should be no handshaking or hugging. Please stay near your seat and do not walk around the backyard during davening.

**USE OF MASKS:** The current law does not REQUIRE that you wear a mask outdoors, but because **davening in a group, speaking loudly, and singing** pose a higher risk of virus transmission, we require that **all attendees bring a mask** or suitable face covering from home to wear during services. **You MUST wear a mask** if you enter the house to use the restroom, or if you choose to stay for the kiddush.



**HAND SANITIZER:** The Virus can be spread from person-to-person or surface-to-person through hand contact so **meticulous hand hygiene is critical**. Hand sanitizer dispensers will be available throughout the backyard. To attend Minyan **you must sanitize you hands** when: (1) you **first arrive** and **BEFORE you touch** anything, (2) **BEFORE** and **AFTER** you **enter the house to use the restroom**, (3) after **coughing, sneezing**, blowing your **nose**, or touching your **face**, (4) **EVERYTIME** you **approach the food table** during Kiddush.

**SIDDURIM & CHUMASHIM:** Covid-19 can survive on paper and cardboard for over 24 hours. Because of the risk of contact transmission of the virus, it is best not to use communal Siddurim and Chumashim. **You should bring your own Siddur and Chumash from home** for your exclusive use and do not allow others to use them. If you forget to bring your own, we will have Siddurim and Chumashim available but be aware that they cannot be disinfected and pose a virus transmission risk.





**TORAH READING:** When you receive an aliya you are ***not to approach the Torah*** but ***recite the blessings from your spot***. Hagba and Gelila will be performed exclusively by members of the host family or the Gabai. At this time you must not kiss the Torah or the Rabbi.

- **WOMEN'S PRAYERS AND CLASSES:** A special section of the backyard will be designated for women's prayers. Women's classes will take place in the park across the street where all of the policies listed here will be in full effect. ***At no point should women or men gather for any purpose inside the home.***
- **CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS:** A supervised program for a small number of children will be offered in the park across the street, where these policies will be in force and no toys will be shared. At no point should children gather for any purpose inside the home of our hosts.



**THE HOME, DECK & RESTROOM:** The home and deck are the exclusive domains of the host family. ***At no point should anyone else be on the deck or inside the home except to make use of the restroom.*** You must **wear a mask** and **sanitize your hands** before and after entering the home to use the restroom. Loitering on the deck or in the home on the way to or back from the restroom is also forbidden. There are special hygiene instructions posted in the restroom. Please follow all posted instructions and keep the restroom and home clean and safe for everyone.



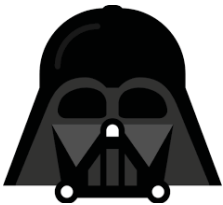
## KIDDUSH

While the law allows for the serving of food, this activity **poses significant additional risks of virus transmission**. For the safety of everyone who chooses to stay for the kiddush we enforce the following rules:

- Do not coax or encourage others to participate in Kiddush. If someone chooses to leave after davening please respect their decision.
- We will strictly enforce **social distancing**: You must be seated at your designated seat while eating, at least **6 feet apart from others and 6 feet away from the food table**.
- Please **stay seated** and do not mingle and walk around during kiddush.
- Do not gather and congregate around the food table.
- Only **two people will be allowed at the food table at one time**.



- You must **wear a mask** from when you **approach the table** and until you sit back down. You should **don your mask FIRST, and then sanitize your hands.**
- You must **sanitize your hands** again **every time you approach the food table.**
- You must **sanitize your hands** again every time you **sneeze, cough, blow your nose or touch your face or mask. (I'm watching)**
- You **must not talk or sing** while at the food table, even with a mask on.
- You **must not touch any food with your hands** – use only the serving utensils after you've sanitized your hands
- **Leave your dirty fork and knife at your seat** if you go back to the table for more food – **do not bring your used utensils up to the table.**
- Do not handle the stack of cups and box of utensils – these will be dispensed by a designated server.
- Do not handle common drink bottles (alcohol, soft drinks) with your hands. Drinks will be served by a designated person.
- Anyone serving food or drinks to others **MUST WEAR A MASK** and **MUST SANITIZE THEIR HANDS.**
- **Small children** cannot follow these guidelines and **are not allowed at the food table.** Only their parents can approach the table.



We have assigned a **Covid-Gabai** to gently but firmly enforce the rules. This is important for everyone's safety.

- If you repeatedly fail to observe these precautions you will be asked to leave the backyard



We are all looking forward, B"H, to the passing of this pandemic and the lifting of all restrictions, speedily and in our days, and may we all stay healthy and safe until then.

