



March 13, 2020

Dear Students,

Like you, we have been closely following the news about the COVID-19 virus, and Ohio State's decision to move all classes online and cancel all gatherings for the rest of the semester.

We want you to know that despite the uncertainty and constantly changing situation, Hillel remains a positive resource for you as you navigate your own next steps. Our entire staff team is on call, and you'll find our full contact information at the end of this message. We are working to bring as much of our programming and interactions as possible into virtual spaces, and using interactive online resources to keep you connected to each other and to Hillel. Please look to the weekly newsletter, which will be sent out on Sunday, for more details.

As we plan ahead, we want to know where you will be and what you need from Hillel. Please take a moment to fill out this quick survey.

<https://forms.gle/z6nSEUCZjvejTRpB9>

**Use of the Hillel Building:**

The building will remain closed until further notice. As of now, staff will be working remotely, and all upcoming programs will be held virtually, with links posted on Facebook and on our website. If you are not sure if a program is continuing, please be in touch with the appropriate staff person, or email our general mailbox [here](#). Please be patient with us as we continue to make decisions as we receive more information. We will update information regularly on our Facebook and Instagram pages.

**Shabbat on Campus and at Home:**

Based on the University's restriction to all gatherings, we will not be hosting Shabbat dinner at Hillel. If you are staying on campus, please [RSVP here to have Shabbat dinner](#) in your homes. Individual Kosher meals can be picked up at Hillel and MUST be ordered by Wednesday at 12:00pm. Information on how to be connected for Shabbat services will be shared early next week.

**Birthright and Onward Israel Experiences:**

Hillel International (our Birthright provider) and the Jewish Agency For Israel (Onward organizer) have received several inquiries from applicants and parents about the upcoming summer season. They have shared with us that currently, all Birthright Israel trips and Onward programs starting from May forward are continuing as scheduled. For more information about Birthright, please click [here](#).

For more information about Onward, please click [here](#). If you have any questions please contact [Cydney Goldberg](#) directly.

**Virtual Engagement:**

We know that many of you will be going home but will still want to participate in our great programming. Our staff and student leaders are excited to explore new platforms to deliver great content and keep engaging with you while you're all over the country. Coffee dates, program planning, fellowships, and live streaming services will all be offered in different ways. If you have ideas of what you'd like to see, please email us at [hillel@osu.edu](mailto:hillel@osu.edu).

**Self-Care:**

With all of the uncertainty you are experiencing, please remember to take care of yourself first. Hillel staff and student leaders are still here for coffee - in person or virtually. Just be in touch with your favorite staff person or email [hillel@osu.edu](mailto:hillel@osu.edu) if you want to be paired with a staff member or student to talk.

For more information about the COVID-19 virus, symptoms, and steps to take if you feel sick, please consult the [Center for Disease Control](#) website.

This challenging time may make some of you feel you are missing your interactions with your community, and for others make you feel you need to isolate yourself and separate from the community. Whatever you are feeling is right for you.

**For Questions:**

We will continue to update our [Facebook](#) page as the situation continues to unfold. We appreciate your patience with us. If you have more questions and would like to speak with a staff person, please email [hillel@osu.edu](mailto:hillel@osu.edu).

As our students, you, your health, and your wellbeing are our top priorities. Please take care of yourself and take care of each other. And come back to us soon.

Sincerely,

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