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Coronavirus (COVID-19) and CBST

Dear CBST Community,

We write as the Coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to expand and impact our city, our country and our whole world. As leadership of CBST we want to balance diligence with continuing our essential mission as a community. We don't want to over-react, and we don't want to under-react. We are carefully monitoring the situation and wanted to let you know where we are at this moment. Of course, this is a very fluid moment and things can change; and we will adjust as quickly as necessary.

1. As of now, we will continue to hold services, classes and meetings as planned. We encourage anyone who has concerns about being in a high risk group to make the right decision for yourself about whether or not to stay home. We will increase live-streaming to include our Shabbat morning services and other events to make them available to those who remain at home. Transparently, live-streaming costs \$250 for each service, which is not in our budget — so if you want to sponsor a service to help make everything accessible to those who are limited to staying at home, it's a great! Here is the [link](#).
2. For the next month, we will have a rabbi or rabbinical student leading a group in the sanctuary at 6 pm each Friday night for those who want some spiritual support during this coronavirus pandemic.
3. We have created a medical advisory team at CBST with experts inside our congregation to keep us informed and on top of the best information out there.
4. We have changed the cleaning protocols at CBST so that all surfaces are disinfected every day. Please visit the [CDC website](#) for more information, recommendations, and precautions. [Here](#) are some recommendations for you if your are experiencing cold or flu-like symptoms.

5. We continue with our new protocols inside of CBST:

- Please use the hand sanitizer or immediately wash your hands upon entering CBST.
- Please no kissing or shaking hands! In the interest of reducing transmission risk, please only touch elbows, or wave, or do the Spock “live long and prosper” Priestly hand blessing!
- Please don't kiss mezuzot, siddurim or the Sifre Torah. Send love and blessings with your thoughts and words. The Holy One understands.
- We won't physically connect for “Shalom Aleichem” or motzi. We will instead focus on our spiritual connection.
- Wash your hands often, using soap and water, for at least 20 seconds.
- If you use hand sanitizer, ensure that it's at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Stay at home if you are sick!
- If you're aware that an environment you have been in (e.g. work, school, a cruise ship) is specifically being investigated, please don't come into CBST space until fully cleared. Even a false alarm can shut down the premises.
- If you have children at home, please teach them these basic practices.
- If you know anyone who is older or immunocompromised, please check in and send support, help with shopping, make sure we keep thinking of each other.
- If you are in any of those categories, please let us know how we can help you. Contact us at rabbi@cbst.org

Let's remember not to stigmatize anyone! We Jews know what it is to be falsely blamed, and thousands of our ancestors were killed in Europe by Christian mobs who thought Jews were responsible for the plague. We LGBTQ people know what it is to live through a plague, and the stigma and the hate directed at us was often **EVEN WORSE** than the plague itself which killed so many of us.

The CBST community knows what it takes to live through a plague. Love and compassion and support are at the center.

Remember to be kind and generous while being cautious and vigilant about staying healthy and keeping others safe.

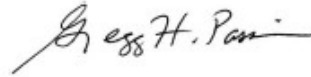
We will be holding Purim services and megillah reading tonight. Please stay home if you are anxious or feeling sick or in a high risk group. We will be livestreaming starting at 6:00 pm.

We will continue being a powerful spiritual community of resistance and love. May the Holy One surround you and your loved ones and give you strength and comfort as we face the uncertainty of the times we are in. Be the reason people believe in the goodness of other people.

With blessings to all,



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Contact our staff



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