

COMMUNITY REOPENING:

In these unprecedented times, we have experienced innumerable losses and significant disruptions to our communal and religious lives. The intense emotional and financial hardship this is causing to our families and communities is profound.

Guidelines from the Center for Disease Control and each of our specific Departments of Health will determine when we may begin reopening in a safe and responsible manner. **We would like to reassure our communities that we are working to assist our communities in reopening as soon as possible.** We are also actively working on how to address the unique aspects of our communal life with general and specific guidance for our respective communities.

Please continue to remain vigilant and patient.



SOCIAL MEDIA AND WHATSAPP:



Keeping informed during these unusual times is important. **However, during times of crises, false information can spread rapidly, and the abundance of information can be overwhelming.** We recommend maintaining caution whenever receiving or viewing a forwarded or posted message with alleged medical advice, suggestions, or warnings. Only act upon medical information received from a qualified physician or health care worker.

We encourage everyone to reach out with questions to his or her local medical expert. For anyone who is experiencing distress during these difficult times, please reach out to available support groups.

ANTIBODY TESTING:

COVID-19 antibody testing is now widely available for the public, both as rapid antibody tests and as serologic/blood tests. The antibody test is meant to detect a history of COVID-19 infection, unlike the (nasal) swab test done to detect an active COVID-19 infection. **It is important to be aware that many antibody tests have not been FDA approved and have severe limitations in accuracy and reliability.**

Furthermore, it is important to note the limitations of ALL antibody tests:

- **It is not known if a positive test for antibodies indicates immunity.**
- **It is not known how long these antibodies remain in the body over time.**
- **It is not known if those with antibodies or those recovered from COVID-19 infection are safe from reinfection.**
- **Those with positive antibody tests or a history of COVID-19 may still be contagious.**
- **A person without antibody (i.e. those with a negative test result) has no evidence of exposure to COVID19 and remains at great risk for acquisition and or transmission of disease.**

Although it is frustrating that we do not have clear answers yet, research is progressing at a rapid rate and we hope to see accurate tests and more data available soon. **In the meantime, do not use antibody test results to change any current recommended precautions.**

We continue to pray that the קהילות של עולם spare our and the world from further pain and tragedy.

We the undersigned unanimously support the above statements:

CALIFORNIA

Robert Adler, MD
 Ernest H. Agatstein, MD
 Shahrooz Eshaghian, MD
 Jeremy Fine, MD
 Jacob Fleischmann, MD
 Charles Frankel, MD
 Dael Geft, MD
 Ivor L. Geft, MD
 Robert E. Levine, MD
 Adam Mamelak, MD
 Julian Mirman, MD
 Ronald Nagel, MD
 Lawrence D. Platt, MD
 Sam Ross, MD
 Zachary A. Rubin, MD
 Rahnana Sachs, MD
 Albert Shamouelian, MD
 David Sherman, MD
 Steven Simons, MD
 Steven W. Tabak, M.D.
 Robert Ungar, MD
 Steven Weiss, MD

FLORIDA

Austin Bach, DO MPH
 Yonah Bardos, MD
 Jonathan Mazurek, MD
 Yoram Padeh, MD
 Rivka Stone, MD PhD

GEORGIA

Moshe Shapiro, MD

LOUISIANA

Menachem Nagar, MD

MARYLAND

Ari Elman, MD
 Dov Frankel, MD
 Daniel Grove, MD
 Yoel Jakobovits, MD
 Bernard Kozlovsky, MD
 Yehuda A. Mond, MD
 Chana Richter, MD
 Avi Z. Rosenberg, MD PhD
 Ron Samet, MD

MASSACHUSETTS

Miriam Segura-Harrison, MD
 Yonah (Jonah) Rubin, MD

MICHIGAN

Gedalia Cooper, MD
 Jay Idler, MD
 Mitchell Klausner, MD
 Allan Stawis, MD
 Jessica Triest, MD
 Yitzchok Turner, MD
 David S. Weingarten, MD

MISSOURI

Nachi Farkas, MD
 Jose Greenspon, MD

NEW JERSEY

Shlomo Aharon Fenster, MD
 Elliot Frank, MD
 Neal Gittleman, MD
 Joseph Heinemann, MD
 Aton Holzer, MD
 Nochum Indich, MD
 Baruch Kassoover, MD
 Abraham Knoll, MD
 Micah May, MD
 Dovid Ogun, MD
 Hillel Peltz, DO
 Avi Retter, MD
 Daniel Roth, MD
 Aron Schwarcz, MD
 Ellen Setton, MD
 Lawrence Shoner, MD
 Clara Surowitz, MD
 Aleksey Tentler, MD
 Mordechai M. Tarlow, MD
 Miro Ukraincik, MD
 Yaacov Zamel, MD

NEW YORK

Rabbi Elie Abadie, MD
 David Aharanoff, MD
 Sam Bekar, MD
 Charles Bigajer, MD
 Elliot Bigajer, DO
 Robin Bobo, MD
 Hymie Chera, MD
 Murray Choueka, MD
 Max Cohen, DO
 David Diamond, MD
 Steven Diamond, MD
 Stuart Ditchek, MD
 Joseph Durzieh, MD
 Edward Esses, MD
 David Ezon, MD
 Faraj Faour, MD
 Shani Fruchter, DO
 Jonathan Garellek, DO
 Joseph E. Glaser, MD

Ayelet Hilewitz, MD
 Shari Hirsch, MD
 Judah Horowitz, MD
 David T. Jacobs, MD
 Abraham Kalikstein, MD
 Yakov Kiffel, MD
 Mark Kirschenbaum, DO
 Asaf Klein, MD
 Miriam Knoll, MD
 Daniel Krich, DO
 Lazer Leifer, MD
 Miriam R. Lieberman, MD
 Eve Lowenstein, MD
 Larisa Malisova, DO
 Charles Manopla, MD
 Alisa Minkin, MD
 Ilana Pister, MD
 Isaac Reich, MD
 Sarah Rosanel, MD
 David Rosenthal, MD
 Gabby Saadia, MD
 Joseph J. Safdieh, MD
 Gabriel Shakarov, MD
 Isaac H. Shalom, MD
 Jimmy Sitt, MD
 Mariya Stratilatova, MD
 Joseph Tawil, MD
 David Turner, DO
 Joseph Wahba, MD
 Shimshon Wiesel, DO
 Shimshi Zimmerman, DO
 Israel Zyskind, MD

PENNSYLVANIA

Ilana Baltuch, MD
 Charles (Shaya) Barax, MD
 Melissa Bleicher, MD
 Mara Caroline, MD
 Moshe Chasky, MD
 Tami Danilewitz, MD
 Daniel Eisenberg, MD
 Oren Friedman, MD
 Shmuli Ganz, DO
 Ari Gartenberg, MD
 Ian Gleaner, MD
 Harold Gordon, MD
 Daniel Hirsch, MD
 Jeremy A. Mazurek, MD
 Pia S. Pollack, MD
 Joel D. Pomerantz, MD
 Mindy Rosenblum, MD
 Paul Ufberg, DO MBA
 Ari Weintraub, MD
 Stephen Wallace, MD
 Chani Yondorf, MD
 Elaine Zackai, MD

**Because of the inherent urgency in responding to the ongoing situation, we apologize to all the physicians who wanted to be a part of this statement but are not listed above. Please reach out to any listed colleagues for future statements.*