

פסק הלכה **Halachic Ruling**

Dear community שיחיו,

Following a case of confirmed COVID-19 in the Yeshivah Centre community, we present the following formal Psak Halacha (Halachic ruling) relevant to the present circumstances. The absolute prohibition of putting oneself in danger, or endangering others, cannot be overemphasised. It is an absolute Halachic imperative that one gives this the proper attention it deserves.

If you fall under any of the three categories mentioned below, it is an **Issur Gomur (absolute prohibition)** to attend Minyanim, hear Parshas Parah, use the Mikvah, or engage in any other behaviour that puts others at risk:

1. Confirmed cases of COVID-19.
2. Suspected cases of COVID-19. This refers to a person presenting flu-like symptoms (cough, runny nose, fever, sore throat, diarrhoea etc) who has not received clearance from a doctor ruling out COVID-19.
3. A person who has been notified by the DHHS that they are considered a "direct contact" with COVID-19.

For people who do not fall into any of the above categories, you may attend Minyanim and Mikvah as usual.

The following cautious measures, despite **not** being mandated by the DHHS, are still common-sense and encouraged:

1. Not directly kissing the Sefer Torah.
2. Spitting at Aleinu into a tissue, or not at all.
3. Sanitising your hands properly while at Shule.
4. Covering nose and mouth with a tissue when sneezing and/or coughing, especially in public.

Please be aware that this situation is evolving, and this Psak Halacha may be updated in the future.

ויתקיים בנו מקרא שכתוב "כל המחלה ... לא אשים עליך כי אני ה' רפאך"
With much blessing for health and happiness for all,

Signed:

Rabbi Chaim Tzvi Groner
Rabbi Mordechai Gutnick
Rabbi Yonason Johnson
Rabbi Moshe Kahn
Rabbi Shmuel Lesches

קצת מקורות:

ראה יו"ד סי' קט"ז סעיף ה': "וכן יזהר מכל דברים המביאים לידי סכנה, כי סכנתא חמירא מאיסורא ויש לחוש יותר לספק סכנה מלספק איסור", ע"ש ובנו"כ שם, וכ"ה בהלכות שמירת גוף ונפש לאדמוה"ז. ולענין מגפת דבר המוזכר שם ראה פת"ש שם בשם הרשב"ש סי' קצ"ה, וראה שו"ת חו"י סי' קצ"ז, וראה גם יו"ד סוף סי' שע"ד, ולהעיר קצת מערוה"ש שם.