

12th Sivan 5780

Dear Shaarei Tefillah Mispalelim,

Boruch Hashem we have seen that even with the reduced restrictions in Victoria there have still been very few new cases of COVID. This very encouraging, but does not mean that we can go back to 'normal' life quite yet.

The Victorian government has taken a very careful and responsible approach towards the reopening of communal activities. It is not only an obligation according to Halacha to follow these guidelines but a necessity if we want to see further lowering of restrictions. It pleases me to see how careful many of the frum community are being, but at the same time we need to all maintain this standard.

After further consultation with Doctors in our community I feel that it is safe to start to move back indoors. The recommendation has still been to run some minyonim outdoors in order to limit the time spent together in an indoor setting. Based on this we will be splitting the way our minyonim will be run. For Example: Mincha on Erev Shabbos will take place outdoors and we will go inside for Kabbalas Shabbos and Maariv. Shacharis on Shabbos will take place outdoors and we will go inside for leining and Mussaf.

In order for the kehillah to be able to maintain the correct standards and for everyone who attends to feel safe it is absolutely crucial that everyone keeps to the guidelines set by the Shul.

- Numbers will still be limited and registration for Shabbos is necessary. A record will be kept of those attending indoor minyonim.
- The minyonim are only open to Men over Bar-Mitzva and under 65.
- Anyone with underlying health issues or who is unwell should not be coming. If one has any symptoms that resemble COVID one has a chiyuv to be tested.
- One MUST sanitize one's hands before entering the Shul.
- One can only sit in a designated seat (which will be clearly marked in the Shul)
- One should not kiss the Mezuzah or Sefer Torah.
- If you do not bring your own siddur and you take one from the shelf you should keep that siddur in your box and use it for future minyonim.

Please note - At this stage the Beis Hamedrash is not open to public usage.

I also feel that after being away from our Shul for so long it is important that we strengthen our commitment to the kedusha of our מקום קדוש.

This includes – NO TALKING AT ALL DURING DAVENING and NO USE OF PHONES IN THE SHUL.

It is my hope that הקב"ה will listen and accept all of our Tefillos and we will be זוכה to only share in good times ahead.

בברכת כל טוב



Rabbi Ariele Berlin