



CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL UPDATE

*****PLEASE READ THIS EMAIL ALL THE WAY THROUGH TO THE END*****

Dear CBI Family,

We are all living through a pandemic that has for now radically altered our customary way of life. The explosion of the Coronavirus, COVID-19, throughout the United States and the world has forced all of us to make significant changes as we work together to keep each other safe and healthy.

As Jews we know the value of human life and how the principle of *pikuach nefesh* — saving a life — overrides any other mitzvah.

Although this virus infects all ages, it has a tendency to affect the elderly and people with certain medical conditions with more virulence. Those not falling into such categories must take extra steps to reduce the jeopardy associated with the virus' spread. And while there are vulnerable groups, individuals of all ages are susceptible to contracting a severe case. We learn in the Torah that after the Israelites crossed the Red Sea they lost track of the sick and the elderly, and left them at the back of the pack, where they became susceptible to attack from other nations. This is something we vow to never let happen again.

As we seek to protect our community, we are announcing that beginning today, CBI will become a virtual synagogue, Pre-school, Religious School, through April 6th, at which time we will evaluate where we stand.

The following changes to ensure the safety of all our members, students, staff, and community will be implemented beginning tomorrow, March 14th:

- Friday evening Shabbat services will be cancelled.
- **Saturday 9:00 am Torah Learning Services will be cancelled.**

- Saturday morning B'nai Mitzvah services will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.
- All Friday night and Saturday morning Shabbat services will be live-streamed (when our set-up is complete and available – members will be notified via email).
- NCECE Pre-School classes and activities will be cancelled. The NCECE staff has been working very hard to send home a “Curriculum in a Bag” so that the families can work with the children at home on their educational learning. The bag will include activities to keep the children engaged during this time. Please keep an eye out for an email from your child's teacher.
- SLJ Religious School classes and activities will be cancelled.
- Clergy will still be available to anyone who needs us at any time, and virtual appointments may be made by calling the clergy office. In-person appointments will be by emergency only.
- Clergy will be available for all life-cycle needs as coordinated through the clergy office.
- CBI's Administrative Offices will be operational during this time, with a minimal staff physically on campus. The rest of our staff will work remotely, regularly checking and responding to email and voicemail. Our main telephone number 561.241.8118 will be answered by someone during business hours; if a clergy emergency, simply follow the prompts.
- CBI will offer updates regularly via email and on our synagogue website biboca.org regarding changes, virtual programming, and other announcements.

Kol Yisrael Areivim Zeh Bazeh – “All Israel is responsible for one another” – please help our entire community by looking out for each other. Check in with one another via phone or email. And if you know of anyone who does not have email, please reach out and notify them of this information. We pray things will return to normal soon, but until then, please know that your synagogue clergy, staff, and family are here for you.

Please continue to adhere to good sense and all protocols suggested by the CDC which you can find, by [clicking here](#)

May God bless you, may God give you strength and perseverance, and may God send you the peace of mind, body, and soul.

Best Regards,

Rabbi Silvers
Senior Rabbi

Jeffrey Cannon
CBI President

Steve Allen
Executive Director



NEVER MISS AN UPDATE
FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

