

## Coronavirus and the Central Synagogue Community

We have been monitoring information regarding coronavirus. The best source of information is the CDC website. If you have not done so already, please check there for accurate information.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html>

Today, Gov. J.B. Pritzker ordered the cancellation of all public events with more than 1,000 people for 30 days and urged organizers to call off private and public gatherings of more than 250 people in an effort to slow the spread of the new coronavirus.

Colleges are moving their classes online, collegiate and professional sport leagues have suspended or cancelled their seasons, business and cultural meeting events have been canceled in Chicago and nationwide. Chicagoland synagogues are responding in various ways. Some are continuing to operate normally, some are canceling large events, and some are still offering Shabbat services this weekend while canceling everything else.

**We are suspending all live services and events temporarily at Central Synagogue of Chicago, until further notice.**

**We want to keep our community together and continue to provide Jewish spirituality and education. So, we are looking at ways we can operate virtually, offering services, and educational events where everyone can participate from their computer, phone, or tablet. We will keep you updated about that.**

We are not acting out of irrational fear, but in order to maximize the safety of every individual in our spiritual community. Here is our reasoning.

1. There is no evidence that a smaller number of participants is any safer if there is a carrier present. In fact, there might be greater interaction in a small group with an infected individual.
2. A person infected can be infecting others before exhibiting any symptoms.
3. Our sanctuary space is not conducive for spreading people out at safe distances.

Keep in mind we will continue to be available. If you need us, please don't hesitate to call us at 312-787-0450. We hope and pray this situation resolves quickly, and we will keep you updated.

Marvin M. Weinstein, President

Hazzan Toby Lou Hayman, Spiritual Leader