

Purim 5781 Letter

Dear Talmidim,

We hope this letter finds you well and healthy. We pen this letter at the one-year mark commemorating the first case of Covid-19 here on the Wilf campus, a short time prior to Purim, which required us to halt our regular Parshas Zachor and Purim celebrations here on campus. This early closure allowed us to be ahead of the curve in slowing the spread of Covid-19 on campus.

Similarly, as we plan for Purim 5781, we offer guidelines for how our talmidim should conduct themselves appropriately, within the parameters of *halacha* and in accordance with health protocols in order to minimize the spread of Covid-19 amongst our community. The Yeshiva has decided that this year, in order to experience a meaningful Purim, we will focus our time and energies on Talmud Torah. If Torah is what we can do, then we should make every effort to do it in its fullest! As such, we have incentivized and dedicated additional learning sedarim Thursday evening, after megilla reading and break-fast, and in the morning. **We strongly encourage all talmidim to stay in Yeshiva for Purim.**

If you plan on leaving campus we ask that you follow these guidelines:

- Adhere to social distancing and mask wearing when in public places.
- Do not attend any Purim mesibah or Purim party of any type.
- You will be able to fulfill your obligation of Seudas Purim this year in its ideal form in Yeshiva, with advance sign-up coming next week. If that is not possible then eat with your immediate family, or if you are in an apartment, with your roommates. We discourage all other options.
- As in all years, one should spend more money on Matanos LaEvyonim (providing for the poor) and minimize the sending of Mishloach Manos.
- When sharing Mishloach Manos maintain social distancing and mask wearing.
- Other than to drop off Mishloach Manos, we do not recommend that talmidim spend time in the homes of their Rebbeim.

If you do not adhere to these guidelines, such as if you attend a large Purim gathering, we insist that you do not return to campus for a full week following Purim and continue your shiurim and classes over Zoom.

All Shiurim will be over Zoom on the Sunday after Purim (February 28th).

On Monday, March 1st all talmidim **must** take the Abbott test in Furst Hall.

Collectively we continue to daven for all of the חולי ישראל and implore Hashem to quickly bring an end to this period and hastily usher in the גאולה שלימה.

Rabbi Hershel Schachter

Rabbi Mordechai Willig

Rabbi Michael Rosensweig

Rabbi Menachem Penner

Rabbi Yosef Kalinsky

Dr. Chaim Nissel

Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman