

# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



**March 4, 2020**

Dear Shames JCC Members and Participants,

We are reaching out as part of our ongoing effort to keep our members and the community informed about the latest developments related to the coronavirus (COVID-19) in the Westchester area. The health and safety of our community remains our top priority.

As has extensively been reported yesterday, an adult member of Young Israel of New Rochelle, a synagogue located in New Rochelle, has been diagnosed with coronavirus (COVID-19) and is being treated in a NYC hospital. We wish him a speedy recovery and we wish his family members and the entire Young Israel community the strength they need to manage this tragic situation.

In response to this new information, Westchester County Executive George Latimer, the Westchester County Health Commissioner, and the NYS Deputy Commissioner of Public Health all took part in a call coordinated by the Westchester Jewish Council on Tuesday afternoon to provide Jewish leaders in the area with the latest information and guidelines to containing and responding to the COVID-19 outbreak. In addition to attending this call, the Shames JCC leadership continues to track guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the New York State Department of Health, and the Westchester County Health Department.

**We have been informed by State and County health officials that the risk at the Shames JCC is low and we should continue operating business as usual.** Many of you have asked about the risks associated with using the pool. We have consulted with officials at the Westchester County Department of Health who confirmed that COVID-19 doesn't survive in pool water when treated with the chemicals that we always use to keep the pool water clean and safe.

**Additionally, we have taken several other precautions to ensure that our campus remains a healthy and safe environment,** including reminding parents of children in our programs about our strict sick policies, ensuring our childcare staff continues to encourage hand washing with warm soap and water, placing hand sanitizer in the school lobby and on each Welcome Desk, and hiring additional custodial staff to continuously disinfect door handles, equipment, surfaces, and toys.

Please aid in our efforts to maintain a healthy and safe community by diligently using the cleaning products to wipe down exercise equipment, bicycles and mats, putting towels in bins, frequently washing hands and using hand sanitizer when possible. In addition, we are sharing the recommendations of the New York State Department of Health that these simple steps can help stop the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses:

- **If you are sick or experiencing any symptoms, please stay home and contact your doctor.**
- **Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.** If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.**
- **Avoid close contact with people who are sick.**
- **Cover your cough** and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing. If you use a tissue, throw it in the trash.
- **Routinely clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.**

We will continue to work with federal, state, and local health agencies to stay on top of the most up-to-date information and take appropriate action to keep our community healthy and safe. We encourage you to remain informed as well with regard to what authorities know so far about the virus, its spread, travel recommendations, and preventative measures. Please visit: [cdc.gov/nCoV/](https://www.cdc.gov/nCoV/) for more information.

Should you have any questions, please contact Lisa Pincus Hamroff, Director of Member Engagement, at [lpincushamroff@shamesjcc.org](mailto:lpincushamroff@shamesjcc.org).

Thank you,

Leslie Meyers  
Executive Director

