



# הוועד לענייני הדת

## RELIGIOUS COUNCIL

United Mashadi Jewish Community of America

### **Notice on Pesach Cleaning 2020-5780**

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(Co-Chair)

Mr. Nissim Bassalian  
(Co-Chair)

Mr. Robert Livi  
(Secretary)

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Mr. Besalel Ben-Haim  
Mr. Jonathan Hazgħiyan  
Mr. Moshe Enayatian

כג אדר תש"פ

March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020

To our dear Mashadi Community:

It is the Mashadi community's great merit that we have always preserved the highest standards of observance in terms of cleaning the house for Chametz before Pesach. With consideration to the current COVID-19 outbreak, the Religious Council would like to clarify the minimum standards of Jewish law (halacha) by which a home should be cleaned for Pesach. The following directives have been approved for this year by Rav Eliyahu Ben-Haim א"ש.

1. All actual Chametz - foods derived from, containing ingredients from, or having come into contact with, leavened wheat, barley, oats, rye, or spelt should ideally be discarded before Pesach.
2. The sale of Chametz should preferably be used only for expensive bottles of liquor, or for used and open products from during the year that do not contain actual Chametz. For those concerned about stocking up food, we recommend stocking up on foods that do not contain actual Chametz such as corn and rice products. For those who have specific concerns and feel they must rely on the sale of Chametz for actual Chametz products, they may rely on the sale of Chametz for this year.
3. With regards to cleaning the household this year – Only areas where one might find significant edible pieces of Chametz such as pretzels or cookies must be cleaned before Pesach. Any areas where food is not brought during the year do not have to be cleaned for Pesach.
4. In light of the recent outbreak, we do not recommend bringing help from outside the home for extra cleaning. For this year, we do not recommend moving sofas, cabinets and beds in order to clean for Chametz. A simple cleaning of the areas that one can reach is enough. If any small pieces of Chametz remain under or behind one of these areas, one may rely on the Bittul Chametz which is recited the day before Pesach in order to render them ownerless.
5. Kitchen appliances which were used during the year but will not be used on Pesach do not need koshering. It is enough to rinse with soap or wipe them down, and then set them aside until after Pesach. Only appliances which were used during the year and will be used for Pesach need to be koshered.

We encourage each member of the community to reach out to any of our community rabbanim with individual questions you may have. We pray that all of our families should be able to celebrate Pesach this year with joy, good health, and Shalom Bayit.