



# הוועד לעניני הדת

## RELIGIOUS COUNCIL

United Mashadi Jewish Community of America

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### *COVID Purim Guidelines*

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ה' אדר תשפ"א  
2/17/2021

To our dear Mashadi Community:

In light of the COVID pandemic, the following religious guidelines has been approved by Rabbanim and Religious Council for Purim this year. The following guidelines are for this year only and not meant to be extended to other years.

**For Megilla reading:** generally healthy men and women must attend Megillah readings and hear Megilla readings as usual, where the minyan is exercising the proper precautions of social distancing and masking. Per the guidance of Rabbi Eliyahu Ben-Haim, the vast majority of halachic opinions do not consider it adequate to hear Megillah reading over the phone or on Zoom. Therefore, every person who is able to must make the effort to hear the Megillah live and in person.

Our synagogues are working to create additional minyanim to allow for appropriate limits on capacity to be observed. Minyanim Megillah readings should only be conducted with proper masking and social distancing, in accordance with New York State regulations and guidelines. In order to allow our centers to maintain a safe capacity, all children's programming at our synagogues for Purim is being canceled for this year.

**For breaking the fast of Taanit Esther:** if one is attending the earliest Megilla reading on Thursday night, he/she should not break the fast until after hearing the Megilla. If one is attending a later Megilla reading, he/she may break his/her fast after 6:12 pm by drinking liquids and/or tasting fruits. One may attend a later Megilla should not eat a full meal until hearing Megilla.

Those who are not feeling well or who must be in quarantine due to exposure to COVID should not attend synagogue for Megilla reading or for any other gatherings on Purim. This applies whether one tests positive or has symptoms himself, or whether someone in the household tested positive or has symptoms. Those who must be in quarantine must stay home until the end of their quarantine period.

To fulfill the mitzva of hearing Megilla, they should have a kosher, hand-written Megillah in hand from which they read out loud, either on their own or assisted by a Megilla reading heard electronically. If this is not possible, one should consult with one of our Rabbanim about how to fulfill the mitzva of hearing Megilla for this year.

If anyone has any questions, please speak with your healthcare provider and one of our Rabbanim before the holiday.

We would like to thank everybody for their cooperation and patience through this difficult time. We pray that Hashem should accept all of our prayers and keep the world healthy and safe.

Sincerely,  
The Religious Council