



## Dating Ideas in the time of Social Distancing

**Please note:** This resource was compiled on March 23, 2020 in the context of the Covid-19 outbreak and may likely be modified or updated in the future. And, of course, our suggestions are only suggestions. Each person should make their own decisions on how, and if, to build relationships, so long as safe practices are maintained.

### Location of Dates:

Rabbi Mordechai Willig and Rabbi Dr. Aaron Glatt (infectious disease expert) strongly advise phone or video calls for daters as they start or continue their relationships. They firmly state that in-person dates, even in a large indoor room or outside, can lead to the spread of infection and can put the entire community in danger. At YUConnects, we do feel that matchmaking and dating should continue as we encourage the use of phone and video/zoom calls.

### General Video Chatting Tips:

Here are some pointers from our team:

- **Arrange a Video Chat:** Text or have a brief call to arrange the video chat. Use your preferred method: Skype, Facetime, Hangout, Zoom etc. You just have to agree :)
- **Use a laptop** (not cell): Check out the angle (you don't want someone peering up at your chin)
- **Test out your preferred dating method in advance:** Make sure you have a strong internet connection and sound quality if appropriate; there are always glitches, even in 2020.
- **Ensure good lighting:** If possible, use natural light from a window. If using light from your home, then make sure it is not too dark or too strong. In either case, make sure you are not in a halo or shadow. Light in front of you at a 45 degree angle is probably best, but test it out! It makes a difference.
- **Review your surroundings:** A quiet and clean room matters.
- **Be prepared:** Have a story or topic that you can discuss if there is a lull. Others have found that an advantage of initial virtual dates is the ability to have a "cheat sheet" with talking points.
- **Decide the length in advance:** Some prefer to keep the first conversation a brief 15 minute call but others want to allot more time. Again, whatever you want. After the call, please let your matchmaker or date know if you want to continue.

**TEXTING:** Let's not forget the importance of sending just the right text/whatsapp as the relationship progresses. With more flexible work schedules, texts aren't quite as intrusive and keep the conversation flowing throughout the day. Checking in, caring about the other person, offering a compliment or funny joke allows further connection even before that scheduled video or phone call.



## Great Dating Ideas for Virtual dates:

- Download HedBanz App- an entertaining virtual guessing game
- Watch a funny video at the same time
- Buy a new flavor of ice cream or new food and taste it at the same time
- Visit a virtual museum and become cultured (<https://artsandculture.google.com/> )
- Choose a TED talk to watch and discuss
- Game of Battleship works well. Each person tries to guess the other's board
- If working remotely, take a coffee break together and check in
- Question games like "perfect matches" or "NCSY box"
- Take a walk in (different) parks and discuss your surroundings
- Go on a remote tour together!
  - San Diego Zoo has live cameras and archived videos (<https://zoo.sandiegozoo.org/live-cams> )
  - Tour Buckingham Palace (<https://www.royal.uk/virtual-tours-buckingham-palace> )
  - Virtual Great Wall of China (<https://www.thechinaguide.com/destination/great-wall-of-china>)
- Virtual Walking Tour using Google Maps
- Try some of the oldie but goodie classic games: Taboo or Pictionary
- Do a Paint Nite online with BYOB (“bring your own brush”)
- Choose a book to read together—a best seller or a book you always wished you’d read (like War and Peace;) Lockdown may be a while...). Either discuss it after you read it or read aloud to each other.
- Download Duolingo and try learning a new language together. Practice with each other over the phone. They even have Klingon.
- Take a course together. There are free courses, by Coursera and many other sources in art, music, language, literature, history, science...
- Check out some online “Escape the Room”. Here’s some recommendations: <https://www.makeuseof.com/tag/ultimate-list-escape-room-games/> or <https://www.365escape.com/Room-Escape-Games.html>

YUConnects offers unique social events, targeted matchmaking and educational programs to foster healthy relationships toward marriage. It is self-funded and open to the entire Jewish Community.

**As of March 2020 YUConnects has made 403 Engagements.**

Have some ideas to share? Let us know!  
Email us at [yuconnects@yu.edu](mailto:yuconnects@yu.edu) or visit us at [www.yuconnects.com](http://www.yuconnects.com)