



Yeshiva University

Office of the President



My Dear Friends,

This week has been like no other at Yeshiva University.

We began this week celebrating the Macs great victory, and we end this week with YU's main campuses closed as a precautionary measure due to the coronavirus. It is a reversal of circumstances worthy of the month of Adar. The one constant through this all is that we stand together in support of one another, turning to Hashem for healing and comfort.

This is an evolving story. We cannot script out the next couple of days. Our internal team is working closely with our public health officials to ensure that all precautions are being taken to best protect our health and keep us safe. Our highest priority is sanctity of life. Since older people and those with a compromised immunity or respiratory system are at greater risk, there is no obligation for them to attend shul this Shabbat, and they may not attend if their doctor recommends avoiding crowds. At this time especially, we need to also be looking out to help those who are alone or in need, and we need to daven to Hashem for those who have the virus and those who are at risk. We will continue to be sending you updates and information throughout this time.

Walking around our campus this week and speaking to the students who are in quarantine has left a deep impression on me. Of course, there is concern, fear and unease about what the future holds, but there is also faith, confidence and resolve

to tackle whatever will come. This challenge has shown the character and resilience of our community. My special thanks are to all of our students, faculty, staff, parents, alumni and lay leadership for your patience, poise, and positivity throughout this entire challenging ordeal.

Particularly during times of great concern, our values guide us and comfort us. Together with our values—the preciousness of life, our learning, our faith and prayers, and our kindness and compassion—we will get through this and emerge even stronger.

Wishing you a Shabbat filled with peace and comfort.

Warmly,
Ari Berman

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