

COVID-19 Screening of Mikvah Staff and Users.

The OU recommends screening mikvah users to minimize risk of transmission of COVID-19 at the Mikvah. At the Baron Hirsch Mikvah, the balanit (attendant) will ask the tovelet about infection, exposures and/or symptoms of COVID-19 prior to confirming an appointment. Your honest response to the screening questions will help ensure that we continue to operate a safe mikvah environment for all our users. If tevila must be postponed, please review halachic protocols with a Rabbi or Yoetzet Halacha.

COVID-19 INFECTION

Do NOT come to the Mikvah if you have tested positive for COVID-19, until 10 days after either a positive test or onset of symptoms (if symptoms occurred prior to testing).

Additionally you must be symptom and fever free when coming to the mikvah.

- If repeat COVID-19 testing for work, school or other reason continues to indicate positive results despite resolution of symptoms, consult your physician about the safety of returning to a public facility, such as the mikvah.

EXPOSURE

If vaccinated:

Do NOT come to the Mikvah if you have been directly exposed (as defined by CDC) to someone with COVID19, until you either 1) are symptom free and had a negative test taken at least 3 days following the exposure or 2) are symptom and fever free for 10 days since the exposure.

If not vaccinated:

Do NOT come to the Mikvah if you have been directly exposed (as defined by CDC) to someone with COVID19, until you either 1) are symptom free and had a negative test taken at least 7 days following the exposure or 2) are symptom and fever free for 14 days since the exposure.

- As of Jan, 2021, CDC defines exposure as “Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection)”.
- If a family member has been exposed to someone with COVID-19 in a work or classroom setting, this is a secondary exposure for the tovelet. Tovelet should proceed with caution, and only make an appointment for tevila if family members have no symptoms of illness.
- If a tovelet has exposure at home to a family member with COVID-19 from whom she can not isolate:
 - the vaccinated tovelet must wait 3 days from the 10th day of the family member’s COVID illness, remain symptom free, and have a negative COVID test, prior to going to the mikvah. Alternatively, wait 10 days and remain symptom free prior to going to the mikvah.

- the unvaccinated tovelet must wait 14 days from the 10th day of the family member's COVID illness prior to going to the mikvah.

VACCINATED.

As of September 2021, one is considered vaccinated 2 weeks after completing two doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines, or one dose of the J&J vaccine. Vaccination status may change as recommendations regarding boosters to accommodate for virus variants are updated by the CDC.

SYMPTOMS (Tovelet and her immediate household):

Do NOT come to the mikvah if you think you may have COVID-19 with fever, cough, or flu-like illness.

Do NOT come to the mikvah if you think you may have had COVID-19 but were not tested, for at least 14 days after symptoms are resolved.

Do not come to the mikvah if **you or a member of your household** has symptoms typical of COVID-19 such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, loss of sense of taste or smell.

- Consult your physician to assess the cause of symptoms.
- Consider COVID-19 testing if appropriate.
- If non-infectious cause of symptoms, proceed with tevila appointment if medically appropriate for tovelet.
- If tovelet or family member is COVID-19 positive, see above.
- If tovelet is diagnosed with a different virus, such as flu or rotavirus, please delay tevila until symptoms resolved. (If family has flu, and tovelet is symptom-free, proceed with tevila).
- If COVID-19 testing is negative,
 - If tovelet has these symptoms and COVID-19 testing is negative, proceed with tevila appointment once symptoms resolve.
 - If household member has symptoms and COVID-19 testing is negative, make tevila appointment per halacha.
- If you choose not to get COVID-19 testing (in absence of other medical diagnosis), please wait 14 days after symptoms resolve prior to making appointment.

MILD SYMPTOMS:

- If you or a member of your household has one mild symptom of illness less likely to be COVID-19, such as headache, nasal congestion, vomiting/diarrhea, muscle aches or fatigue, you may make an appointment for tevila.
- If you or member of your household have multiple mild symptoms of illness, please delay mikvah appointment for 24 hours to exclude progression of illness more suspicious for COVID-19.

COVID-19 TESTING:

- If you or a member of your household have tested for COVID-19 for any reason in the past week, and results are not yet completed, do NOT come to the mikvah until results are known to be negative. This includes testing completed for work, travel, symptoms, sports, or any other reason.