



Completed Mikvaos

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Aurora, CA
Austin, TX
Bakersfield, CA
Belle Harbor, NY
Berkeley, CA
Birmingham, AL
Boulder, CO
Buffalo Grove, IL
Canton, MA
Cape Coral, FL
Carolina, PR
Champaign, IL
Charlotte, NC
Dayton, OH
Dix Hills, NY
Dunwoody, GA
East Brunswick, NJ
East Cherry Hill, NJ
East Denver, CO
Elkins Park, PA
Fairfield, CT
Forest Hills, NY
Fort Worth, TX
Glenbrook, IL
Glendale, WI
Hillside, NJ
Honesdale, PA
Irvine, CA
Isaaquah, WA
Ithaca, NY
Jacksonville, FL
Key West, FL
Kingston, PA
Linden, NJ
Lower Merion, PA
Malden, MA
McKeesport, PA
Merrick, NY
NE Philadelphia, PA
Nashville, TN
New Hyde Park, NY
Newton, MA
Norcross, GA
Ocean City, MD
Oceanside, NY
Oceanside, NY
Overland Park, KS
Panama City Beach, FL
Park Slope, NY
Phoenix, AZ
Port Washington, NY
Port Washington, NY
Portland, ME
Providence, RI
Quebec City, Quebec
Redondo Beach, CA
Richmond Hill, ON
Richmond, VA
Sacramento, CA
Scottsdale, AZ
Sharon, MA
Somerton, PA
Spokane, WA
Springfield, NJ
Stamford, CT
Starrett City, NY
Swampscott, MA
Toledo, OH
Utica, NY
West Cherry Hill, NJ
Yorba Linda, CA

Dear Mikvah Staff,

We are currently living in unprecedented times, where virtually every aspect of our daily and religious lives has been disrupted.

Mikvah USA is committed to do whatever we can to assist mikvaos during this period and beyond. Our goal is to ensure that *taharas Yisroel* and marital norms can continue, all the while fully protecting the health and safety of both mikvah users and staff.

After consulting with several prestigious infectious disease specialists, we have come to the following conclusions:

- 1) Properly maintained mikvah waters, with proper cleanliness and chlorine levels, are 100% safe to use. Even in a worst-case scenario where someone carrying Coronavirus immerses in the waters, the virus will be effectively destroyed by the chlorine.
- 2) Attendants should not touch anyone coming to use the mikvah.
- 3) Attendants and other mikvah staff members should wear gloves while on premises.
- 4) The preparation rooms, bathrooms, Cheder H'Tevillah, mikvah steps (where the water does not reach) and other areas of the mikvah are vulnerable to the virus. It is therefore advisable for each mikvah to step up their usual hygiene and maintenance protocols, as follows:
 - After each *tevillah*, the area should be fully sanitized and disinfected for the next user. It is extremely important to use disposable items when possible.
 - Place ample anti-bacterial soap in visible areas and encourage frequent 20-second handwashing for both staff and users. Providing a battery-operated clock with a second hand over the sinks is useful, as 20 seconds is longer than people think.
 - Knobs, faucets and other spots that are touched by hand should be disinfected particularly thoroughly.
 - Routine laundry cleaning of the towels and robes will kill the virus. Those handling dirty towels should wear gloves. After the handling is done, they should remove gloves and wash their hands thoroughly.



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- 5) Preparations should be made at home to the greatest extent possible. One should bring along their own towel and robe.
- 6) There should be adequate room for people to stand the appropriate distance. To avoid congregating in the waiting room, please do your utmost to arrange tevillos by appointment only, with appointments properly spaced. If not possible, it is advisable that each woman should have the option of waiting in her car and only enter the building when she is able to toivel.
- 7) If a woman has symptoms similar to those of Coronavirus, she should consult a physician and Rav before coming to the mikvah.
- 8) We encourage you to reach out directly to women in your community and advise them of the steps that you're taking as a result of the crisis, and provide them with the proper practical guidance and reassurance. (Please contact us for a letter sent in one community that you can work off as a sample.)

We would like to stress that we are here for you in every possible way— and are pleased to offer you *chizuk*, inspiration and/or answers to any *hashkafah* question you may have.

Feel free to submit any question to <https://mygiftofmikvah.org/gift-of-thought/#questioning> or rgoldbaum@mikvahusa.org. If you would like to arrange a class or inspirational talk via phone or Zoom, please contact our coordinator at cwillner@mikvahusa.org.

We wish you continued *hatzlacha* in the service to your community and *taharas am Yisroel*. In this *zechus*, may you, your family and community remain happy, healthy and strong!

Please feel free to reach out to Mikvah USA if you need any additional guidance or assistance.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Yitzchok Bistritzky
President and Founder of Mikvah USA

Mrs. Rochel Goldbaum
Educational Program Director
My gift of Mikvah;
Educational Department of Mikvah USA

Mrs. Shoshana Kay
National Program Director
My Gift of Mikvah;
Educational Department of Mikvah USA

P.S. To receive detailed direct guidance from physicians; please reach out to Mrs. Klein at fklein@mikvahusa.org.