

CBR Statement Regarding Shivas During the Covid19 Pandemic

The mitzvah of *nichum aveilim*, comforting mourners, plays a central role in Jewish life. However, at this time, due to the life-threatening crisis of the Coronavirus, the Chicago Board of Rabbis strongly urges people **not to enter the homes of mourners**. Though this will surely add pain to one's grief, this precaution will save lives.

We urge rabbis, mourners, friends and family to utilize technology to hold virtual shivas, visit with the bereaved or to make phone calls and send letters instead. The time to fulfill this great mitzvah will be available in the future when this pandemic has subsided. For now, we urge implementation of the strictest CDC precautions as well as Governor Pritzker's Stay-At-Home Order.