

Daily Shaylot Digest

This google doc contains a record of the daily shaylot that have been posed to Rav Hershel Schachter Shlit" a and Rav Mordechai Willig Shlit" a and the answers they have given.

To submit a shayla, please contact your Shul Rov who can post the shayla on the Rabbinic Whatsapp Group.

Here is the link for the Daily Shaylos Digest-

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nCtFdiXGoX-wxV1TsiC09n64Wy5-UM78-UM_Ytsoteg/edit?usp=sharing

You can use this link to see a digest of the shaylot that pertain to general issues-

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You can use this link to see the shaylot that pertain to Pesach-

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Please contact Rabbi Reuven Taragin (Whatsapp- 0584702471) with any questions.

-----Answers in blue: R' Schachter

-----Answers in Green: R' Willig

-----Answers in red: R' Schachter and R' Willig

Q: A non Jewish clergyman emailed my synagogue asking about lists of the 613 commandments. He was apparently aware of Maimonides. He was asking if there were others and for assistance locating them. Acknowledging the problem of a non Jew learning Torah, I'm also concerned about the possible reflection on my synagogue if I seem unwilling to provide the answer he seeks. I'm new to my current community, and this is the first such instance I have encountered here.

Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkos Questions

Q: Can we skip Kohelet this year because of the virus?

Q: If we have been giving all the aliyot to the Baal Koreh - how was you advise running Chattan Torah/Bereishit? Does we need to have two baalei kriyah?

Q: If we have been reciting Mincha before Shkiya, and Maariv after Shkiya on Shabbat afternoons, how would you advise doing so on Shmini Atzeret afternoon, when heading into Simchat Torah? Do we have to wait to recite Maariv until after candle lighting? Do whatever modified hakafot we perform have to be done after nightfall?

Q: Regarding Kohelet, in order to shorten the length of Shacharit which will be outside in the heat, can we read Kohelet during Mincha? If so, would we read it before Ashrei or after Uva L'Tzion but before laining?

Q: Rain is in the forecast for Yom Kippur here. A backyard minyan would like to hold Kol Nidrei and Minchah-Neilah, and to move to a different yard which has better rain protection, as well as room for an ezras nashim. They ask if they may move their sefer torah just for these tefillos, for the benefit of rain protection and an ezras nashim. (I should add that shul-based minyanim are available, indoors and in outdoor tents, but some of the minyan members are nervous about those options.)

Q: I just started a new position in a new location. In this community, שחרית is at my Shul, and the Chabad rabbi comes to us. For Maariv I go to Chabad. I didn't specifically think of this during התרה נדרים, but I had thought about it prior. In a case where I don't get to minyan, should I say י"ה פסוקים or not?

Q: unless Unless it has been addressed already. What about using hand sanitizer on Yom Kippur when hands are not visibly dirty but just to be cautious with hygiene because of the current situation?

Q: Clarification - I apologize for the ambiguity Rav Shlomo Zalman (Halichos Shlomo) says that the RH Simanim vegetables are non standard and thus considered shelo machamas haseudah and require a brocho of haadama. Rav Elyashiv says its a safeik and says it is best to make a haadama on a banana/watermelon- which requires a bracha. The question: Is this a mekubal psak in terms of necessitating a haadama (and as a followup re R. Elyashivs eitzah)

Q: Can someone in NYC who has concerns about eating in a public sukkah and can't build their own be considered mitztaer patur min hasukkah and eat normally outside?

25 Elul / Sept. 14

See links to the digests after the answers

QFP - Does one make a haadamah on rubya or the other non standard haadamah simanim (gourd). Would it be preferred to make it on a watermelon?

Rav Willig- Please clarify what your question.

Qfp: Should a backyard minyan bring out the Sefer Torah for tefillah so that they will be able to say Avinu Malkeinu before the open Aron?

Rav Willig- No.

QFP A tent minyan has been set up in a parking lot apx 4 feet outside of the city's Eruv. The organizers of the minyan are making an Eruv around the lot, and would like to know if it would be assur to carry outside of the city's Eruv into their private one. The space between the two Eruvin is definitely less than 4 Amot. It's between two and four feet.

Rav Willig- The halacha depends on the configuration. Please send a picture of the tent and how it relates to the city's eruv (parallel/perpendicular, walls/no walls etc.)

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19 Elul / Sept. 8

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QFP: An elderly man who lives with his wife and does not have children at home asks the following question: He is dealing with severe kidney problems as well as chemotherapy, and one of the effects is incontinence to the point where he often does not make it to the bathroom. If he were to have someone put up his sukkah, he would need to use stairs to access it, which would increase the incontinence problem. Is he considered mitztaer to be patur from sukkah?

Rav Willig- Yes.

QFP: There is a rapid COVID test (15 min response) now available by having a finger prick. We were thinking of having this for our baalei tefilla and ballei tekiah. Would it be permitted for a non Jew to administer this on Yom tov? (I am having my medical team look into the accuracy of such a test.)

Rav Willig- Yes- assuming it is really necessary and works.

QFP: if one is on zoom can they say 13 midos along with a minyan that has ten men physically together?

Rav Willig- Yes. (based on Rav Schachter's psak)

QFP: A congregant wants to join a Covid study that has possible kashrut issues. Here's the question: I lost all sense of smell/taste during short covid infection months ago. Has been coming back sporadically. Recently, certain smells and tastes are very unpleasant and it seems this type of response is somewhat common. Contacted doctor at Mt. Sinai who is studying this and he invited me to participate in his study of treatment by fish oil supplement (which it seems may help regain smell). Participants must take softgel provided by the study twice a day for six weeks. Half will get the actual supplement and half will get placebo. Contents of supplement: omega-3-fatty acid supplementation (1000 mg of omega-3 fatty acid blend including 683 mg Eicosapentaenoic Acid and 252 mg Docosahexaenoic Acid). Muttar to participate in study?

Rav Willig- It is mutar if the soft gel is aino raui l'achila.

QFP - Rav Schachter says to be somech on 9 kabin for men's mikvah on Erev YK, what about for Chazzanim for RH and YK? Would the same apply?

Rav Willig- Yes.

QFP that I received: We are davening outdoors, under shade but in a hot climate and without a great setup to bring kids. We are looking to maximize the number of times that someone can hear 30 shofar blows at once during tefilla and therefore be yotze while at shul, in case they need to leave because of the heat, kids, or if they arrive late, etc... In addition to the 30 מיושב and 30 at the end of mussaf, we wanted to know if we can also blow 30 (instead of 10) at the end of מלכיות, but only blow 10 for the other two brachot. (The ba'al tokea thinks he'll be fine to deliver 110 total blasts). Many thanks in advance for all of your help. - Shlomo Brody, Modiin.

Rav Willig- Technically speaking yes, but I think it is inappropriate to change the normal way. Find another method.

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11 Elul / Aug. 31

See links to the digests after the answers

QFP: Is it permissible to offer a (second) Kol Nidre followed by Maariv well after the start of Yom Kippur - Meaning we would offer a Kol Nidre/Maariv with the start of Yom Kippur and offer a second one 30 minutes after the first one concludes...

Rav Willig- It is mutar.

QFP: Some people at outside minyan don't want to blow shofar during Elul (at approx 8:00 am) because it might disturb neighbors who are still sleeping. The sefer Kerem Rabbanan (p. 82-84) cites machlokes whether we are concerned about gezel sheina when a Mitzvah is being performed (ie negel vasser by bed where it disturbs roommate/wife). Should a minyan rely on lenient poskim and blow during Shacharis (especially because minyan is in noisy NYC), or preferably blow by mincha?

Rav Willig- Chas V'shalom to do it in a way that wakes someone up.

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Rosh Chodesh Elul / Aug. 21

See links to the digests after the answers

I have been asked about the acceptability of sewing a patch listing medical information into one's coat, to wear outside an eruv on Shabbos. The person asking knows about bracelets, but wants something that can display more information, and that he can create and edit himself. Would such a patch be acceptable?

Rav Willig- There is a machlokes on this topic. There is room to be meikel if you sew it into the coat with intention to not remove it forever.

For an outdoor minyan that cannot meet late at night (even before chatzot) or early in the morning bc of fear of disturbing neighbors- can selichot be done bein hashmashot (between mincha/maariv)? Even if yes, would it be preferable to do mincha and selichot before shkia, but then doing maariv immediately after shkia (and not waiting for tzeis)? Thank you. - Shlomo Brody, Modiin

Rav Willig- Yes and yes.

Explanation- Yechaveh Daas (1:46) says that you may recite Bein Hashmashos as it is better than saying at night before chatzos.

It is preferable to do mincha and selichos before shkiya and maariv immediately after shkiya especially if that (davening maariv right after shkiya) is the general custom (like it is in the US and most places).

If I first see a product for sale on Amazon, is it halachically permissible to buy the identical item from 1) the manufacturer directly, cutting out Amazon from the transaction? 2) if Amazon shows me that vendor X is selling the item, can I cut out Amazon and buy it directly from X?

If anyone is aware of a halachic write-up or analysis of these or similar Qs, I'd much appreciate links, etc.
Rav Willig- I cannot answer as it depends upon the law and the minhag hamdina.

I received a repeat question from a local old age home. They are having difficulty organizing Torah reading amongst the residents and can't have outsiders coming in... I was told they can prepare aliyos 1-3; 7. They asked: Could they read some aliyot from the Torah and some from a humash. I said no ... and am pushing that they read without טעמים. that's far far better than other options. They are feeling discouraged and would like that split..."

—Any suggestions for this rabbi?

Rav Willig- When there is no alternative, they should read seven olim for a half a parsha.

It is certainly better to read without trup with someone next to the ball koreh to prompt and correct him.

They are having fertility challenges and they are looking in to this option. The husbands, Jewish, sperm, a non Jewish egg donor, implanted in to the wife's (Jewish) womb and birthed by her. I know there is הילוקי דעות concerning Jewish status but I am wondering what's the view in the YU world? This is a typical jew by birth but not in practice but want Jewish child with no need to convert. How would you advise them?

Rav Willig- I advise looking for a Jewish egg donor. As far as the fear of marrying krovim, it can be avoided by getting the birth date of the donor. Machon Pu'ah and others can arrange this. This is true especially in this case where (according to those who hold that it depends on the genetic mother [which is my inclination]) the conversion would be quite problematic as the parents are not observant.

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July 31/10 Av

See links to digests after the answers

Q: A person who nearly always gets debilitating migraines from fasting, must she fast on Tisha B'Av? If she waits to break the fast until she begins to have a headache, it is too late to stop it.

Rav Willig- No. She does not need to fast.

Q: What are the parameters for the oleh to recite the bracha from who is standing at a distance from the shulchan? For many of our members who come infrequently this aliyah on the yamim noraim is a spiritual highlight and asked about finding a way to to enable them to still have aliyah. We are not in a position to put plexi glass on the shulachan. Thank you

Rav Willig- You don't need plexiglass. You can use plastic. For example- you can put plastic on a coat rack.

Q: our doctors feel that blowing shofar outside on rosh hashanna would be best in terms of covid spread. If the minyan is taking place inside the shul and there are doors that open up from that davening room to the outside would it be ok for the baal tokea to stand just outside those doors and blow while everyone is inside listening? What if the people on the far side of the room (away from those doors) could hear but not see the baal tokea?

Rav Willig- Yes to both questions.

Q: I believe Rav Schachter has paskened that an outdoor minyan need not mechitza - all it requires is a separation of six feet between men and women.

Does that only apply to a temporary minyan or does that apply to a permanent minyan and specifically a permanent minyan that is on shul premises but outdoors?

Rav Willig- These are not permanent. One may not daven outdoors so all outdoor minyanim are temporary. The most important thing is that the men should not be able to see the women. If the women are behind or far to the side, one does not need a mechitza in a temporary minyan.

Q: Is it permitted and advisable to have a maariv minyan Shabbat evening immediately at sunset and not wait until nightfall if we believe that it will result in more people coming to maariv and it will inconvenience individuals less to go home after mincha and return for maariv.

Rav Willig- Not a good idea. Not good a practice to daven early.

Q: Is there a halachic possibility with having a chazzan for the high holidays doing multiple repetitions of the amidah for successive minyanim?

Rav Willig- Yes.

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July 21/Rosh Chodesh 1

See links to digests after the answers

Q: Am I allowed to set up umbrellas for a Shabbos minyan before Shabbos? Someone had told me he thought it'd be maaras ayin, but outdoor minyanim are the norm?

Rav Willig- We never use the regular rain umbrellas on shabbos (SS'K 24:15 heara 55). The Chazon Ish is matir using the larger sun protective umbrellas used with picnic tables and put in the ground (C'I O'C 52:6, SS'K Ibid Heara 56).

Q: If one is sitting shiva for a parent but because of regulations there are no visitors/minyanim/menachmim, can the aveil himself learn mishnayot l'ilui nishmat or does the issur talmud torah prevail? [I've seen some of the mefarshim on the shulchan aruch make a chiluk about dvarim b'tzina (when talking about aveilut on shabbat) , also for being a shaliach tzibbur if there's nobody else there - but at the same time the warnings SA gives about not taking the issurim seriously]

If child and parent weren't close - would that have any effect?

Rav Willig- The isur of Talmud Torah prevails. The level of the relationship does not effect. I believe that it is mutar to learn Pirkei Avos (The Rama (O'C 553:2) prohibits learning Avos on Shabbos of Erev Tisha B'Av, but that is if the is limud kavua and for the sake of learning as opposed to an Avel who can learn Sifrei Mussar so he should learn the Mishnayos in Avos that are for mussar for the sake of mussar [example 3:1].)

Q: We are davening outside, standing up (no chairs, no tables), starting with Yishtabach, and have been telling people to come with Tallis and Tefillin already on. Not everyone has a car to go to to put tefillin in the car - some are walking to shul. What is the proper way to go about Rosh Chodesh Mussaf? Should we daven mussaf with Tefillin on? Should people bring their Tefillin bag with them, along with an extra bag, and place tefillin on the floor (though this also increases exposure time - takes a while to take off Tefilin)?

Rav Willig- It takes very little time to take off tefilin. Take them off and put them in whatever mechbad bag is available like a backpack (but not on the floor or a plastic bag).

Q: Outdoors minyan. Started chazaras hashatz and started raining during kedusha. More than a slight drizzle. Couldn't have everyone stand there with Tallis and tefillin and no option to go indoors so stopped the minyan. Should the chazzan finish shmoneh esrei privately in his car or at home. Should something else have been done. Thanks

Rav Willig- No and no.

Q: We are davening outside in a tent in the shul parking lot. On Mondays and Thursdays we bring the Sefer Torah outside before Tachanun and therefore do נפילת אפים. Every other day we do not bring the Sefer out and are not saying tachanun with נפילת אפים.

We could easily set up a small Aron outside and everyday before davening bring the Sefer out. Is that better to have a Sefer for tefila/tachanun and the sense of קביעות במקום תפילה or is that a lack a kavod to constantly be bringing the Sefer back and forth.

Rav Willig- You do not take a sefer out for nefilas apayim. Even on Mondays and Thursdays you take it out only for laining.

Q: If there is a Minyan that is saying the מידות, would someone watching over Zoom be allowed to say them as well? (Rav Schachter paskened that a Zoom participant could answer Kedusha)

Rav Willig- If you can answer kedusha, you can say 13 midos as well.

Q: During Sefirah we were told that we could continue with pre/post Shabbat virtual musical programs for the sake of the mental health of our Baal habatim - would the same apply to Bein Hamitzarim?

Rav Willig- Yes.

Q: Erev/Leil Tisha B'Av Question: Is there any reason why on erev Tisha B'Av we cannot daven Maariv after Plag, but not be mekabel the ta'anit until right before shekiyah? Many of us are going to follow Rav Schachter shlita's counsel of having in person minyanim, but Eikhah and Kinno's via Zoom. It would be helpful to have a Minchah/ma'iv plag minyan, as we do each evening, on Erev Tisha B'Av, but allow people to take their "last drink before the Taanit" before shekiyah. Would this require a verbal tenai before Maariv, or just stam intention?

Rav Willig- Rav Elyashiv says that an explicit condition works (Dirshu Shulchan Aruch 553 Footnote 5).

Q: When does someone who's having a surgery bench Gomel? Is it Every time somebody has general anesthesia or is it for a more significant surgery. In this case the patient had a knee surgery.

Rav Willig- Always bench gomel.

Q: Does the same Zoom allowance of siyyumim for erev Pesach (ie that firstborns can be "yotze" hearing a siyum and not fast via zoom) apply to meat during the 9 days?

Rav Willig- No. A need to fast is sha'as hadchak. Fish versus meat is not.

Q: Any leniencies for children who are not going to camp because of COVID-19 to swim during the nine days to keep them occupied and sane?

Rav Willig- Yes if under 13 (girl 12). Above 13 depends on the situation.

Q: Has there been any guidance regarding pregnancy and fasting Tisha Bav this year or should it be assumed the same as all years?

Rav Willig- Same as all years. If a pregnant woman feels weak, she should break the fast immediately.

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13 Sivan/June 5th

See links to digests after the answers

Q: Right now out county limit is 10 even for outdoor minyan. However they allow more people to drive up next to that minyan metzumtzam and stay in their car. If such people in their cars are right next to the minyan (not across a street or sidewalk can they say kaddish while seated in their cars? R' Weinberg
Rav Willig- Yes. Better if they can stand next to the car.

Q: My taskforce/doctors would like us to limit the time people are together for our outdoor minyanim at least at the beginning. Would it be ok to do hechi kedusha? Even at shacharis? R' Weinberg
Rav Willig- If necessary. Better to begin before barchu and say full Chazaras Hashatz.

Q: In a garden minyan that we have in the UK, the Sefer Torah was only brought after the end of Shacharis - in fact by then half of the 15 people had their tallis and tefillin off. Would we still say Kaddish after leining or is it not linked to Shacharis any more? Thanks R Aubrey Hersh - London
Rav Willig- Yes, you would say kaddish.

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11 Sivan/June 3rd

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Q:A couple is getting married in their cousins backyard, but the hosts do not want anyone to enter the house. What can be done about the yichud room? Can yichud be postponed until after the wedding (in some other location) if there are two witnesses?

Rav Willig- Yes. Eidot Hamizrach never have yichud.

Q: for single men who light candles- what should they do when the minyan davens Mincha before plag and maariv after plag? They don't have time to go home in between to light. The eitzos I've heard are:1) daven Mincha on their own and then light and then come to Shul. This won't work for them when we Daven maariv immediately after plag. 2) light candles at home before plag without a Bracha and then make a Bracha when they get home after maariv. 3) Someone told me that Rav Schechter says not to light

candles for Yom Tov Sheni. Although this question had more immediacy for the second day of Shavuos. It's also relevant for Erev Shabbos during the summer. R' Stewart
Rav Willig- Number 2 is not an option. He should daven mincha gedola, light at plag, and get to shul before barchu while the shul is saying kabalas shabbos.

Q: In tevila on day 8 bc of curfew - how should we instruct baalabatim re tashmish and chibuk vnishuk until tzeis?

Rav Willig- We should tell people that these things are asur (Shulchan Aruch YD 197:5).

Q: Our parking lot is adjacent to the shul. May we say *מגן אבות* on *ליל שבת*? The minyan is קבוע. The מקום probably doesn't have קדושת בית הכנסת. R' Stewart

Rav Willig- Yes if adjacent and shayach to the shul.

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5 Sivan/May 28

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Q: Any issue with mesader kiddushin having chosson hold kos while he makes brachos and during Sheva brachos to limit exposure? Mesader and other People making brachos will stand six feet away.

Rav Willig- It is mutar and I did it myself this way.

Q: In accordance with OU guidelines we are starting an outdoor Mincha/Maariv minyan on Shul property with a maximum of 15 people. We are not allowing people over 65 to attend. We are planning on zooming this minyan as well. Given that there are people over 65 who are in aveilut or have a yartzeit, would they be allowed to recite Kaddish along with the actual minyan they are watching over zoom?

Rav Willig- No. They should answer Amen and have the meis in mind.

Q: Are there any Poskim who allow tziruf for the ikar 10 men in a minyan if a street or sidewalk separates between them?

Rav Willig- Yes. But since it is a dispute, better to not enter into a question of beracha l'vatala. Meaning there should no chazaras hashatz (only a heicha kedusha even for Shacharis) and there should be no berachos for kriyas hatorah. The oleh l'Torah can say barchu.

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May 25th/2 Sivan

See links to digests after the answers

Q: A shul in Australia is reopening and has to limit attendance due to social distancing requirements. How do they determine who gets to attend minyan? Do they rotate? Do aveilim get precedence? Do they give preference based on age? Do members who in the past attended minyan 3 times a day get priority over Shabbos-only attendees?

Rav Willig- The regulars get first priority. Second goes to the aveilim. After that, they rotate. Age is no factor.

Q: In light of the situation, should we nonetheless suspend tachanun and avinu malkeinu after Rosh Chodesh Sivan? Is there perhaps room to resume after isru chag even if one normally waits until 12th Sivan given that it's an עת צרה?

Rav Willig- Yes suspend. They may resume if they want.

Q: Are Akdamos and Yetziv Pisgam recited when Davening B'Yichidus?

Rav Willig- Need not, but may.

Q: Our shul taskforce is planning what steps we might take to ease very slowly in to minyanim again once our county opens up (our state has already allowed religious services but not our county and we will wait at least 2 weeks after our county opens). We are planning to start with weekday mincha and maariv since they are short and least complex and to do so outdoors in a designated space where people will be distanced. When we see that go well we would like to add more minyanim. Is there a hierarchy of which minyanim are more "important" to add first (e.g. should we add in shabbos mincha since it has leyning OR friday night davening since it really helps people set the tone for shabbos and that is what they are really missing most now)? (if this has already been asked and I missed it I apologize). Thanks so much!

Rav Willig- It depends on the exact circumstances and, thus, on the discretion of the local Rov.

Q: An elderly man has limited eyesight and exclusively reads, davens, learn, etc with an "electronic desktop magnifier" that projects the text onto a large screen in real time. He generally fills his time reading using this machine. Question 1) is there any sevara to consider this mutar for use on Shabbos for this elderly man for reading or learning/davening? Question #2 - he has been alone for about 11 weeks now (with his wife) and felt the need to ask about this again because of general boredom. If the answer to Q#1 is to not permit, would the corona isolation be reason to consider him a choleh of some kind and create a possibility for a heter? Thank

Rav Willig- There is a rabbinic prohibition of writing which applies even to a choleh she'ein bo sakana. However, a shinuy is permissible. Nevertheless, there is a potential problem of zilzul shabbos. It is difficult to be lenient. Perhaps, if it is b'tzin'a mamash, there is a little more room to be meikel.

Q: In accordance with OU guidelines we are starting an outdoor Mincha/Maariv minyan on Shul property with a maximum of 15 people. We are not allowing people over 65 to attend. We are planning on zooming this minyan as well. Given that there are people over 65 who are in aveilut or have a yartzeit, would they be allowed to recite Kaddish along with the actual minyan they are watching over zoom?
Rav Willig- He should answer, but not say himself.

Q: With shuls now opening sooner than later, Can we use thermal thermometers to check people coming into shul on shabbos n yom tov for fever?
Rav Willig- Permissible for a goy. If that is not possible, everyone should use a mercury one at home before coming to shul.

Q: for the kehillot that will not be doing a “makeup” Torah reading for all of the missed parshiyot: would it be permissible or adviseable to read all or some of these parshiyot on Simchat Torah instead of repeatedly doing VeZot Habracha? That is to say, we’d do VeZot Habracha once, but for all of the extra aliyot, we’d read from the missed parshiyot? Shlomo Brody, Modiin.
Rav Willig- Permissible.

Q: I was just asked if anyone has offered a heter for using hot water on Shabbos because of Covid 19.
Rav Willig- If it is needed, leave the water running on a trickle from before shabbos.

Q: Can outdoor Minhah/Ma'ariv minyanim on Shabbat be built around pelag haminhah while it is still light outside? If so, is there anything to be mindful of beyond the issur melakhah until Shabbat ends? Additionally, could this be done on Erev Shavuot, and the transition between the first and second day as well?
Rav Willig- It is permissible only if there is no alternative. Same thing on Erev Shavuos. Second day is permissible because it is Erev Shabbos.

Q: Is anyone skipping Kabbalat Shabbat entirely? It's certainly not essential, and perhaps people would prefer singing it at home than to just say it at the outdoor minyan?
Rav Willig- You are allowed to skip it.

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May 14th/ 20th Iyar

See links to digests after the answers

Q: If shuls start conducting outdoor minyanim without keriyat haTorah, will that create an obligation to make up missed parshiyot in later weeks when keriyat haTorah becomes feasible again? R' Goldshmeidt
Rav Willig- No. (The case in the Shulchan Aruch is when they had had the opportunity, but did not do it.)

Q: I have seen post on social media citing a ברכה in wearing a mask ending על שמירת הנפש. Unfortunately I have no idea of the original source of this post. It is being circulated by those that are not שמירי הלכה. Is it appropriate to give תוכחה when people make such posts? Rabbi Rubin
Rav Willig- Look at Shulchan Aruch O"C 608:2 with Mishneh Brura

Q: Someone wants to start taking vitamin d to boost their immune system in case they catch the virus. a substitution was made by instacart and pills containing gelatin were delivered. can they be used?
R' Robinson
Rav Willig- Mutar.

Q: Young man arrived home from Eretz Yisrael before Pesach and due to the current situation neglected to bentch HaGomel. למעשה, do we rely on the שיטת that one may make the bracha whenever, must one still have vivid memories or feelings of the event, or do we limit to 30 days? R' Polakoff
Rav Willig- Seems to me that it can be said any time he wants (Shulchan Aruch O"C 219:10). There it says that it is better within three days (M"B 20) and also better within thirty days (M"B 8), but that is only l'chatchila (Sha'ar Hatziyon 16)

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May 6th/ 12th Iyar

See links to digests after the answers

Q: A Kollel operates in rented premises which belong to a Jewish landlord. The Government has indefinitely shut down ALL NON ESSENTIAL businesses, schools, etc... and as a result, the Kollel has not been able to use the premises already for 7 weeks and no one knows when it will be able to resume using the premises for learning and davening. On the other hand, all Seforim, furniture, etc... belonging to the Kollel continued to be stored in the premises, and a contract exists between the landlord and the Kollel in which it states that rent is due even in a calamity.

The question currently being asked by the hanholah of the Kollel is: What's their financial obligation towards paying rent? As mentioned, they can't use the premises for davening and learning, which are the *ikar* reasons for which they rented the premises, but all Seforim and furniture are being stored in the premises, and they have a contract.

Could the Rov please *pasken* on what should be done on this case? Many thanks in advance.

Rav Willig- I cannot answer financial questions where I hear only one side. Moreover, we should be focusing on *dinei nefashos* and dealing with *dinei mamonos* later.

Q: A woman is in quarantine with her children, including a 12 year old son, and there is no adult male able to make Havdalah for them. Who should make Havdalah for the family- the wife, because her *chiyuv* may be *de'oraysa* (opinion of Kovetz Halachos, 296), or the son (after she knocks down her potential *chiyuv* by saying "boruch hamavdil" before Havdalah, opinion of Piskei Teshuvos ad loc)? R' Ephraim Glatt

Rav Willig- The woman.

Q: Ashkenazi who hasn't been saying *Morid Hatal* would like to adopt the *minhag* of saying it. Can they adopt it? If yes, what happens if they forget to say it. If no, does the *psak* change if they are hoping to make *aliyah*? R' Nachi Klein

Rav Willig- Yes. If they forget it, don't go back.

Q: While preparing for Pesach, someone found in Pesach boxes a teflon-coated frying pan they hadn't used in about 3 years and could not remember whether it was *milchig* or *fleishig*. There is no rush to use it now but the question is whether it can be used next Pesach as either *milchig* or *fleishig*. Normally we don't allow *kashering* a teflon-coated frying pan but here it is *balu'a be-heter* and *pagum* for over 12 months. Is there room to be *meikil* and allow it to be used without any *kashering* or with just *hagalah*? R' Gil Student

Rav Willig- With *hagala*. See *Shulchan Aruch HaRav* (451:13)

Q: In an effort to minimize time together in closed quarters, should we skip the *drasha*? Should we skip *pesukei dzimra* and start with *yishtabach*? Take out *shir shel Yom*, *anim zemiros*, *adon olam*, etc?

R" Asher

Rav Willig- As of now, everyone should stay home. When we are able to reopen the shul, this matter will be discussed. If the doctors then say that we need to shorten the service, then yes, yes, and yes.

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May 5th/ 10th Iyar

See links to digests after the answers

Q: Can we keep the gabbaim six feet away from the bima during krias hatorah? Do they really need to be in the vicinity? What's considered "vicinity?" Should we let the olim return to their seats after each Aliyah in order to minimize people being on top of each other around the bima? R' Asher Rav Willig- One person goes to the Sefer Torah and he gets all the aliyas. The same person should be the one who takes out the Torah and does hagaba and then put is down on the table and does gelila and also it to the Aron Kodesh. He should make two new brachos on each aliya.

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May 4th/ 10 Iyar

See links to digests after the answers

Q: Is what many of the restaurants in NY/NJ area doing, with going all over from community to community to deliver food, including areas that already have that type of food available, an issue of Hasagas G'vul? For example a Chinese restaurant from New Rochelle delivering to Riverdale which already has its own established Chinese restaurant. Shouldn't people be supporting their own local stores in a time like this?

Rav Willig- People should support their local eateries.

Q: Is it possible to have an entire Kabbalas Shabbos service on Zoom, including candle-lighting and Mizmor Shir Le'Yom HaShabbos if all of this is done Al T'nay of not being Mekabel Shabbos (both men and women)? Re candle-lighting - it seems that the consensus amongst contemporary poskim (Ashkenazim) is NOT to rely on T'nay by candle-lighting unless it's a truly exceptional situation, i.e. Le'il Mikveh. Moreover, can the T'nay be extended to davening when that means disregarding SA OC 261:4 and MB 261:31, who does mention the Magen Avraham that original Minhag Ashkenaz is to be Mekabel Shabbos by Borchu, but adds that that was the Minhag back then, and proceeds to mention being Mekabel Shabbos by Mizmor Shiur and even adds that nowadays Kabbalas Shabbos takes place by Boi BeSholom in places where Lecha Dodi is recited (which is the case everywhere). This is also the psak of the Aruch HaShulchan. The rationale for the heter is the hard times we are living through. But we are talking here of maybe 5 minutes difference in the whole service? Can one disregard the psak of the MB and Aruch HaShulchan and revert back to the Magen Avraham?

Rav Willig- It is permissible to have kabbalas shabbos on zoom with a t'nai. It is better to stop before Mizmor Shir and to say explicitly that you are not being mekabel shabbos with Bo'i B'Shalom, That is what I do every week. It is not appropriate to light candles al t'nai.

Q: As the government has been sending out economic relief checks due to the coronavirus, I, a 19 year old Shana bet student at in a yeshiva in Israel, was sent a check for \$1,200.00 from the federal government. We're assuming that it was sent because of a 2018 tax return filed after working in sleep-away camp for a month last summer making approximately \$600. Keeping in mind that my father is unemployed and is not collecting unemployment checks from the government can we keep the money or should we return it? Thank you very much

Rav Willig- I think the money is coming to you by law so you can keep it.

Q: Many shuls have been encouraging people to daven at their regular shul times. But on shabbos, with sof Zman krias shema getting earlier, should we encourage people to start davening earlier than 9am in order to say shema on time with berachos? R' Judah Kerbel

Rav Willig- Yes

Q: A few months ago a little boy from the shul came across a bike in a grassy area where there are no homes and just assumed it was lost so he brought it home for hashavas aveidah. Very possibly that this was a mistake by the child and that the bike was actually left there intentionally. But hours later when the parents found out about this they were not sure what to do. Since then they family has posted signs in the neighborhood announcing that they found a bike, they have put messages on local email lists and facebook pages but so far no one has come forward to claim the bike. It has now been a few months and the bike remains in my congregants garage gathering dust and asa daily temptation for his own children who want to ride the bike.

1) is there any point when they can assume yeush? how often must they post email and Facebook messages and/or physical signs around the neighborhood?

2) in the interim can they use the bike with intent to compensate the actual owner for use should owner ever be identified?

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May 3/ 9 Iyar

See links to digests after the answers

Q; May one sign-up to learn the same mesechta mishnayos in memory of two different people who recently died, and only learn it once or does he have to learn the mesechta twice? While R' Moshe (IG" M Y" D 1:254) rules that by Kaddish at least one Kaddish daily must be recited for each individual niftar, I am not sure if this same concept applies by learning mishnayos. R' Ephraim Glatt

Rav Willig- Kitzur Divrei Sofrim Perek 55:246-7 quotes the Ra'anach who says that one kaddish can be said for two people because the zichron can be for two people. Divrei Sofrim suggests that this leniency is only when the kaddish is for a parent and then a second person is added on. When it comes to mishnayos, it is even more important to learn twice.

Q; From a woman on shlichut: I'm supposed to go to the mikva this week. We are on coronavirus lockdown and the mikva rules here are to go on day 8 during the day, we're not allowed to go at night. I'm trying to get pregnant and I'm worried this will affect my chances by going a day later. Is there any היתר at all to go on day 7 and just not touch my husband until night time? Thanks so much!

Rav Willig- Mere worries are not enough of a reason to allow someone to go on day 7. Even in a specific case of fertility treatments, you have to weigh these kinds of things very carefully as the Netziv (Meishiv Davar Y" D 44) says 'shelo yavo lidei kilkul nashim rabos. (Taharas Habayis Chelek 2:pg 478-9) '

Q: We have a boy who was going to have a weekday BM. Could he lein the rishon he was going to read as a Maftir on a Shabbat, and then we have someone else read the Haftarah corresponding to that parasha?

R' Elton

Rav Willig- No.

Q: Is there reason to encourage recital of Selichot for BHa"b during the next week and a half more than other times due to the Matzav (I assume fasting would be off the table due to earlier discussions regarding its possible negative effect on health)?

Rav Willig- No.

Q: Should those who say Hallel on Yom Haatzmaut and/or Yom Yerushalaim also be saying Avinu Malkenu?

Rav Willig- No.

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May 1/ 7 Iyar

See links to digests after the answers

Q: In a situation where checking for shatnez might be difficult during this period (because of leaving house, social distancing, some individuals might be concerned with someone else having contact with their clothing etc.) Can one rely that since most shatnez found today is derabanan and it is a safiek derabanan whether your garment has that הדחק בשעת הדחק like now one can wear the garment? R' Selengut
Rav Willig- I am not sure that it is correct that most shatnez today is drabbanan. That having been said a significant majority of the regular clothing bought in stores in the US is not shaatnez. So, if one cannot check, one may rely on that rov.

Q: If someone ends שלשים during Sefiras haomer, the שערי תשובה תצג:ג paskins they can get a haircut, although best to do התרת נדרים. The סופרים דברי קיצור says that's only after the full 30 days has elapsed and not if Pesach was מבטל שלשים. Does that mean that if Pesach was מבטל שבעה (and counts for 7 days in the cheshbon of shloshim), he would still have to wait until a full 30 days elapses? For example, if the kevura was 11 Nisan, the abbreviated shloshim would end on 7 Iyar, but the full shloshim would end on 10 Iyar. When can he get a haircut? Just to clarify, this would only be a shayla for one who lost a relative other than a parent. The shayla is for תכפוהו אבליו, do we require the full 30 days or is the abbreviated shloshim sufficient? For a parent, he would have to wait the full 30 days for the שיעור גערה (for shaving).
R' Ephraim Polakoff

Rav Willig- Yes, that is what it means.

Q: Can the person holding the cup of wine under the chupah be a woman? (follow up to: At minimalist wedding, may one person hold the kos shel bracha while others recite the 7 bechot in order to allow others to participate?)

Rav Willig- If there are no men.

Q: Followup clarification for Rav Willig, shlit"a: Does this psak permit reciting ha-gafen and Kidush Yedid Mi-Beten as well, or just the baby naming part beginning with "elokeynu ve-elokey avoteinu"? Many thanks. R' Shlomo Brody, Modiin. (Follow up to: Can kriat Hashem (with Hagafen) at a Zoom Bris be done by someone on the zoom call by someone not with the baby / mohel?: Rav Willig- Yes) Rav Willig- Only the kriyas shem.

Q: Shuls thinking of opening for shavuot (on some level). Would it be permitted to have a gentile use an infrared thermometer before allowing someone in the building? Same question for a Jew doing it?

Q: How (if at all) would it be recommended to support contact tracing on Shabbat/Chag? Can/must a gentile write down a list of those who attend davening? R' Binyamin Lehrfeild

Rav Willig- We are not yet ready to discuss this. At the right time, whatever must be done would be best if done by a non Jew. Yes through a Jew if no gentile is available.

Q: Parent of a two-year-old with cancer will likely be in the hospital over Shabbos. Because of COVID, the child can't leave the room. So far parent has been getting the child through by using electronic toys / an iPad. Is there any room to permit this over Shabbos under the גדר of צרכיו? R' Shmuel Ismach
Rav Willig- Yes.

Q: A girl who was slated to get married in June in Israel has just moved up her wedding to right after lag Baomer (still here in Israel) but without any sets of parents or family there as they are in america and even high risk. She is a madricha in a seminary where she lives and the students here want make her a shower before lag baomer (within the guidelines of the health ministry so that's not my question) as the wedding is a couple of days after. So they want to know about restrictions of sefira.. The shower itself, recorded music, etc. Are they allowed to make this shower and with what guidelines? Rabbi David Katz
Rav Willig- Yes, you can make a shower. If the custom is not to hear recorded music, then they should not do so.

Q: לכבוד מורינו הרב שליט"א,
בנוגע הנידון איך לקיים ענין של טבילת עזרא כשהמקוואות סגורים, הנה בביתי יש אמבטיה גדולה שמחזקת מ' סאה ויכול לכסות כל הגוף. ויש נקב שנראה כשפופרת הנוד אשר משם יוצאין המים. אך ראיתי סברה באחרונים דנקב כזה אינו נחשב נקב המטהרו כיון שהוא בא ביחד עם הפקק ו"קלקולו זהו תיקונו" (ע' בשו"ת מאיר נתיבים). ורציתי לשאול ממעכ"ת איך נקטינן בזה ובאמת תמהני כי לא מצאתי מפורש בהפוסקים דטבילה בכלים אינו מהני בטבילת עזרא. ובאמת יש פלוגתא אמוראים בזה בברכות כב: והרמב"ם וש"ע משמיטין סוגי' זו לגמרי (כפי הנראה). ועל אף דלעולם קיי"ל דאין טבילה בכלים הא מציינו הרבה קולות בטבילת עזרא שלא מציינו בשאר טבילות ואפשר שיש להקל גם לענין טבילה בכלים?
Rav Willig- Take a shower midin 9 kabin.

Q: Rabbi schachter recommended saying avinu malkeinu in schacharis and mincha due to the coronavirus. He said not to say it during the month of nissan..now that we are in iyar should we say it again now? Dr. Pesach Ledereich
Rav Willig- Yes, it should be said.

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April 28/ 5 Iyar

Links at the end of the text

QFP: Someone's family is sending food to nurses in hospital. They asked him to chip in. Is it ok to do so considering the food won't be kosher? (Does it depend on who the majority of workers at the hospital are)
R' Stewart

Rav Willig- Mutar. There is no lifnei iver here because the food is accesible. As far as misyei'a ovrei aveira, it is mutar for two reasons- because the person is a mumar (Y"D Shach 151:6) and because it is b'mezid (Dagul Meirevava there)

QFP: Similar to the above question - our synagogue is interested in sending food to our local police department for their service (we had an especially interesting Pesach with some bad storms and a lot of help from them). More than anything else, they would appreciate catering from a local non-Kosher restaurant. Is there an issue with sending them an order from this restaurant as a token of our appreciation? R' Goldshmeidt

Rav Willig- Assuming that the police department are only goyim, the only issue would be getting hanaa from basar b'chalav if what is sent includes that (Shulchan Aruch OC 448:6. Most poskim hold that the isur hanaa basar b'chalav applies even to neveilah- PT YD 87:6). To avoid that problem, the shul or sender should ask that what is sent not include milk and meat together.

Q: Can kriat Hashem (with Hagafen) at a Zoom Bris be done by someone on the zoom call by someone not with the baby / mohel? R' Gelman

Rav Willig- Yes

Q: Rav Schachter has said that a bar mitzvah who missed his parsha can make it up by reading it once shul reopens and that the haftorah would be from the makeup parsha. Would the same apply if Bar Mitzvah was on Shabbos Rosh Chodesh and the boy only learned the Rosh Chodesh Maftir and Rosh Chodesh Haftorah. Can we make the maftir the rosh chodesh reading and read the Rosh chodesh haftorah?

R' Gelman

Rav Willig- I can't speak for Rav Schachter. To me it sounds like no.

Q: Is Baruch shepatrani of a bar mitzvah allowed over zoom, like we are doing hagomel? (I saw that teshuvos vhanhagos 2:142 and Tzitz Eliezer 7:23 both say that Baruch shepatrani needs a Minyan, but they also both compare it to hagomel)Thank you,

Rabbi Aaron Feigenbaum

Rav Willig- You do not need a minyan. (See the Tzitz Eliezer there quoting Zeh Hashulchan). Those who say that it requires a minyan base themselves on the minhag to say at kriyas hatorah and even suggest that it rather be said at a larger banquet. However, it is said at kriyas hatorah for a different reason- namely because the boy's reading of the Torah demonstrates his mastery of Torah Shebichtav. This marks the completion of his father's obligation to teach his son Torah which is the essence of baruch shepatrani (See Medrash Parshas Toldos)

Q: At minimalist wedding, may one person hold the kos shel bracha while others recite the 7 berachot in order to allow others to participate?

Rav Willig- Yes

Q: On Pesach, the poskim permitted saying Yizkor via Zoom on chol hamoed. What is the preference regarding Yizkor on Shavuot? Can we do it on erev Shavuot or on Sunday (isru chag)? Sunday is definitely more convenient so that would be easier from a practical standpoint. R' Strauss

Rav Willig- It can be done on Sunday

Q: In what format can a Get be written today/during Corona so that a woman can still receive a Get..?

Rav Willig- With social distancing.

Here is the link for the Daily Shaylos Digest-

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nCtFdixGoX-wxV1TsiC09n64Wy5-UM78-UM_Ytsoteg/edit?usp=sharing

You can use this link to see a digest of the shaylot that pertain to general issues-

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_SmNU3B4kbd__O6H-jg2-f_MAw7MBuln5yGOZO6ogB4/edit?usp=sharing

You can use this link to see the shaylot that pertain to Pesach-

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/19a3oDRX0XNu-Atd5Hd8KY3IOkvkrv2fvaUhZCh6UW1I/edit?usp=sharing>

April 27th/

Q: On Pesach, the poskim permitted saying Yizkor via Zoom on chol hamoed. What is the preference regarding Yizkor on Shavuot? Can we do it on erev Shavuot or on Sunday (isru chag)? Sunday is definitely more convenient so that would be easier from a practical standpoint. R' Strauss

April 26th/

Q: In what format can a Get be written today/during Corona so that a woman can still receive a Get..?

April 24rd/Rosh Chodesh Iyar

Links to the Digests after the answers

Q: Regarding shaving and taking haircuts during Sefira: do we permit shaving and haircuts on Erev Shabbos when Rosh Chodesh Iyar falls on Shabbos and Erev Shabbos?

Jordan Lustman

Rav Willig- Yes. Mishneh Brura (493:5)

Q: Shalom, I was hoping to clarify Rav Schachter and Rav Willig's psak about live guitar before shabbos. Is there a difference between doing so over zoom and doing so for people in person? I was thinking of doing a drive-by pre-shabbos ruach with live guitar. Thank you

Mordy Prus

Rav Willig- Mutar.

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You can use this link to see the shaylot that pertain to Pesach-

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/19a3oDRX0XNu-Atd5Hd8KY3IOkvkrv2fvaUhzCh6UW1I/edit?usp=sharing>

April 22st/28th Nissan

Links to the digests after the answers

Q: This year the second night of shavuot will be friday night. Is it permissible to accept shabbos/second day of yom tov early and daven, kiddush, seduah etc...already from that time? if so, from shkia or from plag? Thanks so much! R' Brahm Weinberg

Rav Willig- It is permissible- even from Plag Hamincha.

Q: A person ordered chametz among other things from Costco weeks before Pesach (assuming it would arrive before Pesach). It ended up arriving on Pesach and she mistakenly brought box into her home on Pesach, not remembering that it included chametz. She immediately brought it back outside once she realized. Is this chametz problematic?

Rav Willig- It is not a problem because you are not koneh what you do not realize is there and would not wish to be koneh.

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You can use this link to see the shaylot that pertain to Pesach-

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/19a3oDRX0XNu-Atd5Hd8KY3IOkvkrv2fvaUhzCh6UW1I/edit?usp=sharing>

Q: R. Amram Gaon has a kadish for a Yachid. Can one recommend an avel to say it in order for them to feel that they are doing some type of zechus for the niftar?

Rav Willig-

April 20th/26th Nissan

Links to digests after the questions.

Q: When davening at home b'yichidus, is there a need for a mechitza between male and female members of the family? While R' Moshe (IgM 8:12) would presumably permit davening without it, as they are all from the same family and so no kalus rosh, what about according to the poskim that require mechitza to prevent histaklus (Shevet Halevi 1:29) and/or to ensure proper kavana? R' Ephraim Glatt
Rav Willig- You don't need a mechitza, but the women should not be in one's line of sight.

Here is the link for the Daily Shaylos Digest-

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nCtFdIXGoX-wxV1TsiC09n64Wy5-UM78-UM_Ytsoteg/edit?usp=sharing

You can use this link to see a digest of the shaylot that pertain to general issues-

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You can use this link to see the shaylot that pertain to Pesach-

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/19a3oDRX0XNu-Atd5Hd8KY3IOkvrkv2fvaUhzCh6UW1I/edit?usp=sharing>

April 19th/25th Nissan

Links after the questions.

QFP. It would be nice if there could be clear guidance on how to carry out Kriash Hatorah when shuls start having minyanim again. Diff, shuls will need diff options depending in their circumstances. Specifically, can Baal Koreh take all 7 aliyot (i.e. reverting back to the practice of only those who can read their own aliyah get an aliyah) to minimize people getting close to each other? If so, would there be brachot between each aliyah. 2. Can each of the first 6 aliyot be shortened top three pesukim (with other requirements in mid as well) to move extra people away quickly and then have baal koren read the rest as shvii? R' Barry Gelman

Rav Willig- As minyanim are very problematic right now I do not want to answer this question until minyanim become mutar again.

Q: Question for Rav Willig or Rav Shachter- I know there is leniency with music on Sefirah. Would leniency for this year include a musical Havdalah or Kumzits on Zoom with guitar for entire school community? Would it make a difference if there is no actual guitar used? R' Arye Sufrin

Rav Willig- Yes, it is mutar.

Q: Someone sold their pots on their chametz form (price included in the chametz amounts) Do they require toveling? Kovetz halachos maskana seems to say yes. What does Rav Willig/ Rav Schachter hold? R' Nachi Klein

Rav Willig- If you sold your keilim, then they need toveling unless you have in mind not to buy it back because of the uniqueness of this year.

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You can use this link to see the shaylot that pertain to Pesach-

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/19a3oDRX0XNu-Atd5Hd8KY3IOkvkrv2fvaUhzCh6UW1I/edit?usp=sharing>

April 17th/23th Nissan

Lins to digests at the end of the message

Q: Interesting question just received, and I don't have time to look into it. On the first days, a family's 24 hour candle burned out early, and they are worried it may happen again on the last days. May they use it to light a second 24 hour candle during Yom Tov on Wednesday (Day 7), even though they won't use its light at all on Yom Tov and its sole purpose is to light for the 8th day that night?(Of course, could have them read something next to the newly lit candle, but that seems like a real haaramah.)

R' Torczyner

Rav Willig- At first glance it should be asur, but ground to be meikel could be that it could be used now to light additional candles (See SS"K 28 Footnote 199).

Q: Can corn syrup products (medicinal sucking candies) be ordered now so that it arrives on Friday (Amazon)? Seemingly there's no chometz in the ingredients. R' Ari Zucker

Rav Willig- It should be OK.

Q: Is anyone familiar with amazon fresh and fresh direct whether we can buy from them after pesach? R' Andrew Markowitz

Rav Willig- Amazon is a public company so its OK. Fresh Direct may be an issue so it should be avoided.

Q: Father of giyores passed away. He was Jewish, not observant. Giyores would like to sit shiva. Can we permit her, and would there be anything she should/shouldn't do?

Rav Willig- Permissible.

Q: An Israeli religious family in our neighborhood who lives in the US temporarily and therefore only keeps one day of chag, baked chametz products today (since their chag ended last night) and then kindly came and dropped us some of these baked products after chag was over for us this evening. Question: Can we eat it? I.e., can we eat chametz that was baked on the 8th day by someone holding one day?

Rav Willig- They should be keeping two days (Shaarei Teshuva 496:2 says that they are not allowed to eat chametz. Also the Aruch Hashulchan 496:5) so it is Chametz She'avar alav haPesach (See Piskei Teshuvos Footnote 164).

Q: Music tonight and tomorrow... Has anyone seen a mekor that it's Muttar? R' Shlomo Farhi

Addendum: Does this apply to live music, such as playing an Instrument in ones house?

Rav Willig- If there is no special need, follow the custom of every year. Isru Chag is not different in this regard.

Or doing a musical kumsitz via zoom for people who are home bound? Rabbi Dr. Noam Weinberg

Rav Willig- If there is a special need as spoken about in the past

Q: Do you know anything about lighting yartzeit candle on Yom tov being mutar or assur...

Rav Willig- Biur Halacha 514:5 says that b'sha'as hadchak maybe it is OK so it should be lit before Yom Tov. If not, it is considered by people to be a great need (M" B 261:16) and may be allowed (Piskei Teshuvot 514 Footnote 99 citing Rav Elyashiv).

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April 14th/20th Nissan

Links to the full digests at the end of the message.

Q: Is there anything special to do to add a name for a woman for refuah sheleimah? Since Italy it's done in a minyan. Do we do it solo, or is it better over Zoom? R' Nachi Klein

Rav Willig- You don't need Zoom, but Zoom is better because it increases the number of people davening.

Q: For those doing Yizkor today or tomorrow, do you include av harachamim? R' Kenny Schiowitz

Addendum: The other side of that is that av harachamim is (in effect) yizkor for martyrs, etc. - could go either way, esp in some shuls where av harachamim is part of the yizkor for victims of all sorts of things

Rav Willig- Not necessary.

Q: Is there any chance you could get Rav willig to explain his psak and why it is not a permissible cheshbon? (The psak regarding the question below)

We have a patient with multi organ failure who is likely to die soon. Family would normally make this pt DNR and not ask for aggressive interventions, however they don't want the patient to die right now since they can't be in the hospital when patient dies or have a normal funeral/shiva. So they are asking if they can ask the Hospital to do everything possible to keep the patient alive (even if that might mean some minor suffering etc) and only when all of this situation passes הבע"ל then they will make him DNR and not ask for further aggressive interventions (but not to withdraw anything), to allow the patient to die when family can be by his side in the hospital and they can bury him in Israel with a minyan etc.

Is that a permissible חשבון or should he be DNR now if that is what is most appropriate? R' Jason Weiner

Rav Willig- It is not a permissible cheshbon.

Rav Willig- Cheshbonos have priorities. The most important and primary one that overrides other cheshbonos is the medical status of the patient. Normally asking for DNR implies that that is in the

patient's medical interest to avoid needless suffering etc. This is true even more so now that there is a shortage in medical personnel and equipment and other patients can suffer.

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<https://docs.google.com/document/d/19a3oDRX0XNu-Atd5Hd8KY3IOkvr2fvaUhzCh6UW1I/edit?usp=sharing>

April 13th/19th Nissan

Here is the link for the Daily Shaylos Digest-

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nCtFdIXGoX-wxV1TsiC09n64Wy5-UM78-UM_Ytsoteg/edit?usp=sharing

You can use this link to see a digest of the shaylot that pertain to general issues-

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You can use this link to see the shaylot that pertain to Pesach-

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/19a3oDRX0XNu-Atd5Hd8KY3IOkvr2fvaUhzCh6UW1I/edit?usp=sharing>

Important Clarification Regarding Dried Dates- According to Rabbi Zvi Rosen of the star k, in some plants, the dates are rolled in oat flower in which case it would be chametz.

Q: We have a patient with multi organ failure who is likely to die soon. Family would normally make this pt DNR and not ask for aggressive interventions, however they don't want the patient to die right now since they can't be in the hospital when patient dies or have a normal funeral/shiva. So they are asking if they can ask the Hospital to do everything possible to keep the patient alive (even if that might mean some minor suffering etc) and only when all of this situation passes הבע"ל then they will make him DNR and not ask for further aggressive interventions (but not to withdraw anything), to allow the patient to die when family can be by his side in the hospital and they can bury him in Israel with a minyan etc.

Is that a permissible חשבון or should he be DNR now if that is what is most appropriate? R' Jason Weiner Rav Willig- It is not a permissible cheshbon.

Q: What is the status of Fresh Direct as far as עליו הפסה is concerned? Is inventory turning over more quickly this year than in the past? R' Yosie Levine

Rav Willig- The question is premature. We need to see what happens next week.

Q: Do Ashkenazim not allow buying fresh eggs on Passover? R" Meyer Laniado

Rav Willig- Midina it is mutar. L'chatchila buy before Pesach.

Q: In terms of saying Kel Malei - Was this under certain circumstances (people cannot do it themselves on Yom Tov) or in any case (like raising funds for tzedaka/shul)? R' Ephraim Polakoff

Rav Willig- Kel Maleh is part of yizkor. Yizkor should be said when it is meant to be said. If, for some unique reason, it needs to be said at another time, it can be done then b'dieved. As far as whether raising funds is an important enough reason, it depends on the shul so it is the Rabbi's call.

Q: Did R' Schachter say that a person reciting Yizkor himself at home on the last day of Yom Tov can not make a Malei? And if so, do we know why not? R' Michael Taubes

Rav Willig- I don't know what Rav Schachter said. I don't see why it is assur.

Q: What would bracha be on this? R' Daniel Cohen



Rav Willig- Mezonos. The reason it is not hamotzi because it is not intended to be the main part of a meal. Rather, it is candy.

Q: Is there a clear concise approach to how to conduct a Levaya now (on Chol Hamoed?) R' Epstein

Rav Willig- Bury the person with gloves, masks, and proper distancing. Say as much as the cemetery allows. No need for a minyan.

Q: Is it a problem of lifnei iver giving students tests on line asking them to be honest and not cheat and knowing that a certain percentage will be dishonest? Thanks. RSG

Rav Willig- It is a potential problem, but, if tests are necessary, you may do so.

Q: I've been pressed by doctors to address the question of prescribing hydroxychloroquine when it's not yet validated by full double-blind studies, it is needed for other patients and it carries risks including cardiac problems. It's not standard of care in Toronto, but docs here are under pressure from patients with family in NY, and particularly due to Jewish community grapevines to doctors there.

Do you go with local authority? Is it up to the patient? Do you follow consensus - and if so, what defines consensus? R' Torczyner

Rav Willig- There is no consensus. Each doctor should follow what he thinks is the best medical practice.

If a person can't go to the funeral because of everything going on, do they start shiva right away?

Rav Dov Winston

Rav Willig- Yes, they start the shiva right away (after Pesach). Even if you intend to see on Zoom since you will not be misasesk, you should start your shiva before. If you will be eulogizing on Zoom, then you start after the eulogy.

Q: “Do you know if the OU has a psak (from Rabbi Schechter?) about whether the SBA PPP loans would require a heter iska if constituted with a Jewishly owned bank?”

Rav Willig- Presumably, yes.

Q: Any kashrus people on this list? Is this a kitniyos issue or a chometz issue?R’ Asher Brander

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*A SOURCE OF ARACHIDONIC ACID (ARA)
†A SOURCE OF DOCOSAHEXAENOIC ACID (DHA)

Rav Willig- Enfamil is kosher l’pesach. From looking at the list here, it seems like it is only kitniyos.

Q: There is a psak circulating in the name of Rav Schachter saying that one can listen to recorded music this year during sefira (as the isur is just a minhag). Is this correct? Is it a blanket heter or only if people feel a strong need? R’ Burry Klein/ Rav Reuven Taragin

Rav Willig- I was told that Rav Schachter’s heter is only for people who feel a real need.

Q: Based on the discussions, Rav Schachter and Rav Willig both seem to indicate that we should be meikil regarding recorded music this year. What would be the ruling regarding instruments in one’s home, such as a piano? If it is not a concert, but rather "practicing" or "reviewing" a piece?

Rabbi David Israel

Rav Willig- Some Poskim allow practicing or reviewing every year. In general, there is a question about the parameters of the minhag in a regular year. This year there is more room to be leiniat even with a live instrument playing slow music than with fast (dancing type) music.

Q: Shayla for R. Willig - is maaseh hedyot gardening permitted ltzorech hamoed?

Eg

A. mowing lawn so kids can play or

B. Planting simple things for menuchas hanefesh or fun

(If not, why would there be a chiluk between gardening and other activities. Seems from Orach Chayim 537 that tzorech hamoed gardening is permitted) Rav Asher Brander

Rav Willig- A) Mutar. Ma'aseh hedyot is mutar for tzorech Yom Tov. B) Planting is not a tzorech hamo'eid. We are even machmir about apple picking when apples aren't eaten. In 537, the Shulchan Aruch is speaking primarily about avoiding plants dying.

April 12th/18th of Nissan

Q: Is there any benefit to ten people davening in their own homes at the same time? Does that qualify in any way as a tzibbur - even if only to create an eit ratzon? R" Uri Pilichowski

Rav Willig- It is not an eis shehatzibbur mispalelen bo.

Q: What does R' Willig or R' Schachter think about other poskim (Rav Yitzchak Yosef for one) use of the word rodef when discussing people who don't go into quarantine or daven in minyanim that don't keep to the rules? Do they agree with the use? Would Rav Chaim Kaniefsky's use fit to them? R' Uri Pilichowski
Rav Willig- I heard Rabbi Oelbaum use the word rodeif and rotzei'ach, but I don't think he means that one should kill him. I saw that Rav Kaniefsky, Rav Schachter, and Rav Osher Weiss write that one should call the police.

Q: Anyone know anything about pre-natal vitamins over Pesach?

Rav Willig- You can swallow them.

Q: Does avacado oil need a kfp symbol? R' Dovid Kupchik

Rav Willig- Yes, unless it is pure with the brand name of 'Chosen'.

Q: I have a member of my school kehilla who 68 and requires to be alone. She wants to keep her TV on over chag as she is afraid of the loneliness. Is there a heter for this need? She is not the type to ask for this so if she asked she must be really needy. Any advice? Rabbi Sufrin

Rav Willig- Only if there is a chashash pikuach nefesh.

Q: A young single girl in our community is Shomeret Shabbat/chag herself, but her family is not. The family is doing a Zoom with their extended family for the Seder tonight. She is asking what she may do or not do, is she permitted to be in the Zoom video? And if family on the other side of the Zoom says Chag Sameach or something to her, does she respond? Was this type of she'ela answered yet? Any עצה?

Rav Willig- She should do the seder with those in the room and disregard the zoom.

Q: Pure prune juice- can it be bought before pesach without kfp?

Rav Willig- If it is a problem, it is most likely batel

Q: Apparently due to limited egg supply and all available are brown eggs many have tiny blood spots. Is there room to be mekil this year as these are in fertilized eggs? R' Adam Starr

Rav Willig- You have to check.

Q: Are dried dates ok? I heard that kitniot Ingredients are used to preserve some dried fruits. Is that accurate and if it is, is that considered a davar hamaamid? R' Yitzzy Sprung

Rav Willig- Yes, dates are OK.

Q: Moadim lismcha! wondering what people are thinking of doing re yizkor. Zoom on Monday night or Tuesday day? would kel maleh be allowed? or is it davka when you matnat yad that there is a heter? R' Shaul Robinson

Rav Willig- Best to do it on Acharon Shel Pesach as usual. For those who don't know how to say it, it can be done during Chol Hamo'eid wih kel maleh.

Q: For someone with eczema, usually coconut oil helps a lot. Would they be allowed to buy coconut oil (the food) to use for skin purposes only, on Passover if it doesn't have a hechsher?

Rav Willig- Mutar.

Q: Apparently Zinc is recommended to mitigate Covid symptoms. Does anyone know anything about: Basic Organics 100% Natural Lemon Flavor Zinc Lozenges? Kashrus q mainly. Seems like it isn't supposed to be swallowed immediately. R' Shmuel Ismach

Rav Willig- They are no good without a Pesach hechsher so one should swallow Zinc pills.

Q: Have OU / RCA / Poskim published tahara protocols for people who died from CORONA? R' Barry Gelman

Rav Willig- Yes. They have been published by Rabbi Zohn.

Q: Is there a kel maleh we can say for medical professionals who died as a result of contracting covid-19 while working on the front line? R' Barry Gelman

Rav Willig- The regular one can be said for them.

Q: Is there any room to be Meikel on certain Prohibitions on Chol HaMoed such as gardening this year as a potential mental health tool to help relax? Rabbi Dr. Noam Weinberg

Rav Willig- One can be matir things like knitting, but gardening with is spoken about in the gemara and done in public is more chamur and should not be done.

Q: Is it mekubal in N. American communities for people to set their dishwashers on a timer to use on Yom Tov (on the assumption that closing the dishwasher door is not a grama problem on YT?) In Israel, Tzomet has a switch to allow it even on Shabbat, which I assume is not something that is regularly done in the US. TIA R' Brody

Addendum: Does the Tzomet switch set it up that it would turn on even when the door is open? R' Kenny Schiowitz

Addendum: Yes. I have it on my dishwashers and can tell you from personal experience that it will run even if the door is not fully closed... R' Brody

Rav Willig- Machines that have a switch that allow it to work with the door are sakanas nefashot. A kid can open the door and get terrible burned by the hot water. If it doesn't have that switch, then it is asur to close the dish washer.

Taking Off Tefilin on Chol Hamo'eid

1) There are different minhagin as to when to take the tefilin off. Are any of them more correct/ If one does not know their minhag, when should they take the tefilin off?

2) Is there a difference between Pesach and Sukkot (Rama 551:7, MB 36)?

3) Should one take off after kriyas hatorah when the kriya mentions tefilin (Chok Yaakov 490:2)?

4) Is there a difference if someone is davening without a minyan/at home?

Rabbi Reuven Taragin

Rav Willig- 1) The most proper minhag is to take it off after chazarat hashatz and there should be a break before hallel.

2) There is no difference.

3) The Chok Yaakov says to leave the tefillin on until after kriyas hatorah because of the day when we read about the tefilin. He says to leave them on all the days because of that day. Some are noheig like him just for that one day.

4) There is no difference.

April 8/ 14 Nissan

Q: In SSK chap 55 - And in a letter from R' Shlomo Zalman zt"l, in mo'oir hashabbos, he was quite dubious about taking a matza that is broken and singeing it (before yomtov starts) in order to make it 'back' into a shleimah (Although he was ok with putting it back in an oven and baking it again) What are the psakim on the matter of burning the edges of a broken matza? Thank you Rabbi Aubrey Hersh - London

Rav Willig- Use that matza for the middle matza.

Q: Someone with Celiac who has trouble even with gluten-free oat matza (which has worked for others with celiac) and has been told in the past that he is really patur from eating matzah, nevertheless really wants to fulfill at least the de'oraysoh of matzah despite the discomfort it will cause. What is the bare minimum shiur of machine matzah that he can eat to be mekayeim the deoraysoh? R' Dovid Gottlieb

Rav Willig- The S" A (486:1) suggests that it is the size of a half an egg and the M" B quotes an opinion that it is a third of an egg. I measured it myself and it is actually a sixth of an egg. An egg with its shell is approximately 50 ccs, without a shell approximately 45. These measurements were quoted in Torah To Go 2011 and I confirmed them myself. Bsha'as hadchak it is enough to have a large olive which is 7.5 cc. Typically there are 15 machine matzos in a pound. For a person who is sick, it is enough to have 1/8 of a machine matza in order to have the minimum kazayis. If that is too much, the average olive is 5 cc which is 1/12 of a machine matza.

Q: Can (and if so, how) an induction stove top be kashered? R' Shlomo Brody

Rav Willig- If my understanding is correct (that it, itself, does not get hot), then it does not need kashering. Nonetheless, turn it to the highest and use k'bol'o kach polto. Even those there are those who disagree with applying this concept, as, here, the food does not touch the surface, it can be relied upon.

Q: If you include chometz in mechira are you allowed to dispose of it before the end of Chag? R' Tzali Freedman

Rav Willig- If you are referring to chametz you were not aware of and found over Pesach, you can destroy. If it is chametz that you sold, it is assur for you to destroy it because of geneiva and baal tachshis.

Q: Bedieved could half and half creamer be used without special pesach supervision?

R' Adam Starr

Rav Willig- Absolutely, not. Buy OUP.

Q: Does anyone know if Tums are kosher lpesach?

Rav Willig- Yes.

Q: A young mother is unable to buy new baby bottles for Pesach. Leave them in the bathroom? Any suggestions? R' Aaron Leibtag

Rav Willig- Washing them in bathroom is fine.

Q: Has anyone's congregant made a bris in quarantine? Any tips for virtual kibbudim? I can't think of anything aside for speaking/divrei torah but maybe someone has a creative suggestion to include family members

Rav Willig- No one should come to the house except for the mohel. The father should be the sandak. No others should be in the house. The actual kriyas sheim can be done on zoom.

Q: Are Emergen-C (brand name) vitamin c packets OK to use? R'' Daniel Kraus

Rav Willig- Yes.

Q: What is the reason that the Kirkland Sea Salt has an OUP in years past and does not this year?

Rav Willig- It has it this year.

Q: Is there a reason why one may not buy DIET Coke BEFORE Pesach without a KP cap? The formulation is listed as exactly the same (same label, different cap); no corn syrup, etc. R' David Israel

Rav Willig- It is not the same. It has aspartain which is kitniyos.

Q: This is the vanilla, Soy DREAM™ Enriched Vanilla Soymilk - OU p.108 just says Soy Dream Original -- (for an infant) . Does anyone know if there is a chametz issue or just a kitniyos issue? R''

Asher Brander

INGREDIENTS

FILTERED WATER, ORGANIC WHOLE SOYBEANS, ORGANIC EVAPORATED CANE SYRUP, CALCIUM CARBONATE, NATURAL VANILLA FLAVOR WITH OTHER NATURAL FLAVORS, SEA SALT, CARRAGEENAN, VITAMIN E (D-ALPHA TOCOPHERYL ACETATE), VITAMIN A PALMITATE, VITAMIN D2, VITAMIN B12.

CONTAINS: SOY

Rav Willig- It could have chametz in the flavor.

Q: I apologize if this was already discussed, but if a son wants to sell his father's chametz and his father is in the hospital and can not communicate, do we say זכין לאדם שלא בפניו? R' Ephraim Polakoff

Rav Willig- The book Mechiras Chametz K'hilchaso (pg. 112), the Chasam Sofer (EH"E 11) says that it is OK and the Ketzos (243:8) disagrees. It could be sold if the father cannot communicate. If possible, tell him to do bitul. It is a controversial sale.

Q: Re. Mikvah protocol: are all healthcare workers considered to have been exposed to covid, even if wearing ppe? R" Dov Lerner

Rav Willig- Yes.

Q: Anyone know if bottled lemon juice is ok m'ikkar hadin if purchased before pesach? R' Roy Feldman
Addendum: Real lemon Juice is acceptable when bearing the OU symbol As per the CRC (R' Tuvia Brander)

Rav Willig- Only Real lemon juice.

Q: Does Rav Shachter allow Listerine strips for Pesach?

Rav Willig- The Chaf Keh says that it could be a problem.

Q: Woman Kasher her microwave with a pesachdik glass bowl after cleaning and waiting 24 hrs. Is room to be lenient and allow her to still use it on pesach? R" Shaya Katz

Rav Willig- Yes.

Q: Grape seed oil needs special KFP? R' Chatzkel

Rav Willig- Yes.

Q: I was asked about using a gas tankless water heater over Yom Tov. I really not familiar with the metzius. Anyone looked into this? R' Adam Starr

Rav Willig- It is a problem. When you open the faucet, it can close a circuit or start a new flame or both and, therefore, it is asur on yom tov.

Q: Usually we have garbage trucks parked throughout the community for people to dispose of their chametz garbage before the zman. This year the sanitation department is not parking trucks, but is doing curb side pickup. Does anyone have clear guidelines on how to effectively be mafkir their garbage before the zman in case the garbage does not get picked up in time? Especially considering they might be in personally owned garbage cans? R' Ephraim Polakoff

Addendum: the recommendation is to leave the garbage curbside in bags, not in your garbage can - R' Adam Dubin

Rav Willig- Better to put it in a plastic bag beyond your property line. If not possible, in the can and mafkir.

Q: Is it possible to kasher a sous vide machine for Pesach? If so, how: A. In general B. Specifically, regarding the Anova devices, likely the most popular: They have a removable sleeve, which gives access to the fan and heating mechanism. The component immersed in the hot water is all metal. There is a plastic component above the heating device, and an electrical component to be plugged in, neither of which are intended to ever be placed in water. Could you immerse the metal component (which contains the fan and heating device), and not the plastic and electrical components (which would be potentially ruined in boiling water)?

Rav Willig- Yes by haagala.

Q: When one davens be-yechiut, Hallel is not to be recited during ma'ariv/" Would this be true for us in Eretz Yisrael who are usually noheg to say Hallel with a Bracha at Maariv on the first (and only night) of Pesach? Rav Michoel Green, Yerushalayim

Rav Willig- Those who usually say with a beracha, when alone there are three opinions of what to do with a beracha, without a beracha, or not at all. I believe not to say it at all.

Q: Couple bought butter with Cream and Natural Flavors..KFp or not? R' Barry Gelman

Rav Willig- Trefif

Q: Any ideas on how to prepare an Eruv tavshilin for your community if you only have family at home and no one to make a kinyan for the community? R' Yisroel Motzen

Addendum: Rav Schachter shlita said be sha'as hadechak another family member can be zocheh

Rav Willig- Best if given to an independent child. If not, to one's wife or child over Bar/Bar Mitzvah.

Q: What does one have to do, to be mezakeh? I hold the items and make the Bracha and just hand it over to someone else? R' Dov Winston

Rav Willig- Correct.

April 7/ 13 Nissan

Q: Would you please ask Rav Schachter/Willig what they Pasken for ברכת אילנות for those not able/allowed to go out to say it when they have a live feed of the blossoms? R' Shlomo Yisraeli
Rav Willig- No.

Q: If someone lost their sense of taste (very common effect of coronavirus), can they say a berachah on eating maror, or is tasting the maror necessary לעיכובא?

Rav Willig- It is a machlokes so safek berachos l'hakel and he should answer amen to someone else's bracha.

Q: How should a rav do the mechira, given the necessity of social distancing?

Rav Willig- With social distancing.

Q: For Rav Schachter re ordering chametz on pesach: (his teshuva on rotzeh bekiyumo). This is lmayseh as someone just asked me this shayla. If I understood correctly, Rav Schachter is permitting as long as it comes after pesach.

Rav Willig- Because it is not yours.

As a point of clarification a. Why are we not concerned about his being billed on Pesach in terms of baylus b. What about doing mekach umemkar on Chol Hamoed for after pesach? Pls clarify Kol tuv. R' Asher Brander

Rav Willig- It is considered a davar ha'avud if you can't get it after Pesach (Chol Hamoed Book [pg. 94] based on Tosafos Mo'eid Katan bottom of 10b)

Q: Coconut milk without a KfP sign is acceptable for Cholim in a normal year - does that make it okay Me'ikar Hadin for all this year? R' Gershon Albert

Rav Willig- No.

Q: We usually have a communal hametz disposal (where people can drop their garbage bags off at a dumpster), but will not be doing so this year. What is everyone advising people to do? I see a number of options in poskim, some less practical than others. R' Ezra Goldshmidt

Rav Willig- Put in a garbage bag and put it beyond your property lline.

Q: What about hametz in the trash though, mixed in with all sorts of other things? Burning is impractical for that. R' Ezra Goldshmidt

Rav Willig- Put in a garbage bag and put it beyond your property lline.

Q: Some poskim assume this chametz is effectively hefker as long as the cans are outside. Other rabbanim include this in the mechira R" Tzvi Selengut

Rav Willig- Medina it is hefker even though it is in the can, but ideally, better to put it in a bag and not in a can.

Q: Many communities are not providing large-scale hametz disposal options due to COVID-19 concerns. What technique is practically recommended for getting rid of large quantities of hametz in trash bags, when the trash cans are owned by a Jew (and not the municipality)? R' Ezra Goldshmidt

Rav Willig- Medina it is hefker even though it is in the can, but ideally, better to put it in a bag and not in a can.

Q: Do they actually include in the mechira? Wouldn't it then be problematic to throw it out? R" David Pardo

Rav Willig- You throw it out before you sell your chametz..

Q: Many of the food delivery options are very limited in terms of available slots and it can often take an extended period to find any opening from one of these grocery delivery options. Is it okay for people to order food today if the earliest delivery time is on yomtov/shabbos to avoid having to go out to a store? (setting aside chametz, one could be ordering produce or even KP items) R' Jeremy Donath

Rav Willig- It is mutar because you didn't order it davka for Shabbos or Yom tov.

Addendum: To clarify, I am asking about muktza/nolad and whether one can bring the food inside and put items needing refrigeration in the fridge. Or even to bring in groceries so animals don't get to them

Rav Willig- See S"A 515:5 where it says that it is asur for you, but mutar for somebody else so it is not muktzah.

Q: Yahrzeit Kaddish: Where do we stand today with a minyan (permitted) that still is saying Kaddish for people who have Yahrzeit? R' David Israel

Rav Willig - Asur in the US. I can't pasken for Eretz Yisrael. I was told that Rav Gershon Edlestein and others have said that it is asur in Eretz Yisrael as well.

Q: Woman finishing shiva right before YT and technically her shloshim is cancelled. She bought new clothes for YT months ago. Can she be lenient based on this SA (389:5)? Do you need all 3 conditions?

כל שלשים יום אסור ללבוש (או להציע תחתיו) בגד מגוהץ והוא שיהא לבן וחדש ואפילו הוא של פשתן ועל אביו ועל אמו אסור עד שיגיע הרגל אחר שלשים ויגערו בו חביריו

R' Shaya Katz

Rav Willig- Yes.

Q: Question in case of a funeral r'l. The person was supposed to be buried in Israel. She is not dying of covid19 - is it still possible to take her to Israel. In the event that it is not, I understand she should be buried 'al tanai' - the question is where - can she be buried temporarily in a plot belonging to her children, and can they subsequently be buried in it after she has been moved (after 120) - the plot is next to a child of the couple (grandchild of the ill person) - they would never permanently give up that plot... R' Shaul Robinson

Rav Willig- Yes.

Q: If a patient is discharged from the hospital on shabbos or Yom Tov, what is the ideal way to get them home? Taxi/Uber or a family member driving? Or another option? R' Ephraim Polakoff

Rav Willig- If they are afraid of an Uber, they can drive themselves.

Q: Quick question if my AuPair lives in my house must she remove all hametz? Or if she keeps her own personal things in her room is that allowed? Thanks! R' Daniel Cohen

Rav Willig- She does not need to remove her chametz. She may leave things in her room.

Q: Should one still shake hands with the Eino Yehudi (wearing gloves) as a kinyan situmta when doing the mechiras chametz this year?

Addendum: Rav Willig was fairly emphatic in his Q and A session today that shaking hands, even with gloves, was not required as he described other methods of fulfilling this קניין.

Did he mean that we dispense with situmta or that there are other ways to perform a kinyan situmta? If so which other ways did he suggest? (situmta is actually the most powerful of the kinyanim as according to many it works on a davar shelo ba leolam and she'eino bereshuso which is sometimes needed in cases like purchases of chametz after the mechira.)

He suggested other ways in light of the situation. (Such as nodding heads towards each other.) Please listen to the recording for more clarity.

Rav Willig- If you are afraid, you shouldn't do it.

Q: Are egg whites that come in a container OK for pesach? R' Gellman

Rav Willig- No.

Q: RCA guidelines said spices opened before Pesach can continue to be used on Pesach. Is that only for KFP. Please clarify. Thank you R' Noam Horowitz

Rav Willig- No. It is not only for KFP.

Q: Does an aveil in shiva do bedikas chametz or have someone else in family do it? (He really wants to do it himself). R' Brahm Weinberg

Rav Willig- Mutar to do it himself.

Q: If a family is quarantined together (parents plus three married children - they moved in a month ago) - One son in law is not frum, and has never kept Pesach, and the other is Sefardi and eats kitniyot - can they be meikil on kitniyot to make it a more enjoyable experience for the entire fam (including the son in law not eating chametz for the first time in his life) R"Yechiel Shaffer

Rav Willig- No. The non frum son in-law should eat his brother in-law's kitniyos

Q: Does anyone know if chocolate ex lax squares for children are a chometz concern? David

Rav Willig- Yes.

Q: "Can we sew face masks on chol hamoed? Home made face masks have been requested by the local hospitals and health care facilities. We are also now hearing that everyone should wear a face mask when going out. Due to the shortage of elastic it is very possible that we not even get the necessary supplies until some time over yom tov. It may be two separate issues - sewing masks for health care workers and the average individual." R' Ezra Goldshmidt

Rav Willig- Yes. Pikuach Nefesh is docheh.

Q: A woman who works as a social worker in a hospital and was asked to work on YT and Shabbos to sign off on patient discharge. This will enable more patients to come into the hospital and be treated for COVID. IS she allowed to work /use a computer on Shabbos and YT for this purpose? R' Ezra Schwartzel

Rav Willig- Yes. Pikuach Nefesh is doche.

Q: Regarding the mechira for tevilas keilim: when a person will have to toveil the keilim later, what happens if They can't get them fully clean again so there will be a chatzitza? R' Dov Winston

Rav Willig- You remove whatever you can remove.

Q: Does anyone know if twinings earl grey tea is kosher for pesach? R' Moshe Abrams

Rav Willig- Yes. Someone said that it may be the London Beis Din.

Q: Would anyone know if there are any vegetable washes that can be used for Pesach? I heard that in the past "Fit" vegetable wash was ok. If there are none, is it a chametz issue or a kitniyot issue?

Rav Willig- Yes, there is a kitniyos issue so better to use dishwashing soap like Palmolive.

Q: What about lactate pills? R' Rodney Weiss

Rav Willig- Best to buy lactaid free milk before Pesach.

Q: What is guidance people give for packaged pre washed lettuce for pesach? R' Daniel Cohen

Rav Willig- Buy it before Pesach.

Q: Speaking of which.... the SA states that when chilul Shabbat is required, talmidei chachamim should be the ones to do it. For those in mental anguish for whom electronic communication during the seder(s) is permissible, perhaps it should be davka some rabbis who should host Zoom seders, to make it clear that to laymen and others that it is permitted to join one. What do others think? R' Barry Kornblau

Rav Willig- Zoom sedarim are not permissible.

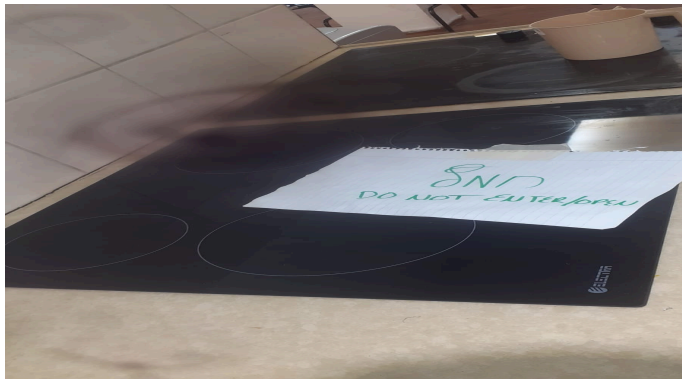
Q: I am thinking of sending an email saying ppl who absolutely feel need to call someone due to isolation should call - and friends should pick up such a call, and id give my number as well...what do people think of the appropriateness of that? R” Shaul Robinson

Rav Willig- This is a appropriate because of the chashash of Pikuach Nefesh.

Q: Does herring that says “gluten free” need to be כשר לפסח? It says there’s nothing in it but herring, oil and onions. R” Moshe Abrams

Rav Willig- Yes, it needs a Kosher L’Pesach hechsher.

Q: Can this type of stove top/burners be kashered for pesach?



Rav Willig- Clean it well and put it to maximum heat. Even though Ashkanazim usually do not kasher glass, in this case, strictly speaking it need not be kashered because absorptions do not transfer from one vessel to another is there is no liquid (Source- SA 451:4, MB S”K 34). If possible, one should purchase a small disk to lift the pot about the glass.

Q: Question for The poskim. A woman doesn’t want to make havdalah on her own. Her husband just died from corona. She lives in a duplex upstairs. She can listen and see another woman make havdalah. The woman lives directly across (adjacent house, same side of the street) from her and can be seen and heard from across the driveway. Or she can hear the downstairs neighbor (also next door) make havdalah but can’t see him. She can have her own Ner and Besomim. Can she be yotsei either way? She herself is ill and in quarantine. R’ Avi Stewart

Rav Willig- Yes.

April 5/ 11 Nissan

Q: Does pure almond milk (just almonds and water) need KfP hechsher? R’ Yitzy Sprung

Rav Willig- Yes

Q: Are prunes without KFP ok? R’ Elie Schwartz

Rav Willig- No.

Q: Question: seems from Mishna Berurah that if you cooked kitniyot in pesach pot accidentally or for a choleh, the pot is still fine for Pesach. This year with complications managing kids at home and turning over the kitchens...etc, would it be ok l'chatchila to allow to turn over but still cook rice and other kitniyot before Pesach in Pesach pots? R' Chatzkel

Rav Willig- If you need it.

Q: It is looking increasingly likely that the 'first come first serve' SBA loan portal will open up on Shabbat - would a shul's non-Jewish banker be allowed to apply for the shul on Shabbat? Amira le'akum, tzorkhei mitzvah/rabim/hefsed merubah... Thoughts? Rabbi Taragin, if Rav Schachter and Rav Willig can weigh in before Shabbat, that would be great. R' Ezra Goldshmidt

Rav Willig- You should avoid it.

Q: Re kashering blechs from Rabbi Willig- how are we recommending kashering ? R' Leibtag*****

Rav Willig- Clean it off and heat it up for 15 minutes

Q: I'm hearing if challenged finding KFP Half and Half (should be our biggest struggle I know). can one buy regular OU half and half before Pesach for pesach? R' Tuvia Brander

Rav Willig- No.

Q: Why does 100% orange juice need KFP hashgacha? R' Barry Gelman?

Rav Willig- If you buy before Pesach, you don't need.

Q: To make the bracha to establish the Eruv chatzeros for the year (which we do on erev Pesach), do I need to do it in front of other people or can I do it on my own? R' Dov Winston

Rav Willig- No, The problem is being mezakeh for the community. There are two opinions (366:10) about whether this can be done through one's wife. In a year like this, you can be someich on the Mishneh Brurah (S'K 69) who is meikil.

Q: Does herring that says "gluten free" need to be כשר לפסח? It says there's nothing in it but herring, oil and onions? R' Moshe Abrams

Rav Willig- Yes.

Q: Can a Mikva be tested for proper chlorine levels on Shabbos or yomtov using a color strip which will change colors? Poskim seem to recommend using such color changing sticks to test urine for a diabetic only through a gramma. If that restriction would apply here how can it be done? R' Shmuel Marcus

Rav Willig- Bshinuy.

Q: On chol hamoed is it permitted to launder bandanas and scarfs that one wears as a facemask when going out doors? Must one go out and purchase more bandanas or facemasks? R' Ezra Schwartzel

Rav Willig- Yes, you can launder. You do not need to go out if you are afraid to go out.

Q: Halachic question - bekius shiur finished masechet sukkah and they want to do the siyum on zoom erev pesach for taanis bechorim- half the actual shiur went to America already. Can the siyum count for those in America if they tune in after chatzos (midnight) America time erev pesach Israel time and fulfill there chiyuv in terms of exemption of fast? R' Horn

Rav Willig- No.

Q: What does Rav Willig think about eating cooked or baked Matza meal products on erev pesach in general and specifically this year when food supply is limited? Can a family whose minhag is not to eat any matzah meal at all be meikil in any way this year? R' Mordy Prus

Rav Willig- Cooked is no problem. Baked avoid if possible.

The family can be meikil this year.

Q: A pidyon haben is meant to be held on the last day of chol hamoed. Is it possible to perform the pidyon when a kohen is not physically present? Rabbi David Brofsky, Alon Shvut

Rav Willig- The coins or shaveh kesef (try not to use bills [as some say it is not real money]) should get transferred without being given miyad l'yad (for example- you put the shaveh kesef on the table outside our house and have the kohen pick it up.)

Q: I know Rav Willig said that we should read through the parsha on shabbos at home. Would the same apply on Pesach to the Torah readings for Pesach, the haftorahs, And Shir Hashirim? Andrew Haberman

Rav Willig- Better if it is done so you can feel yom tov dik.

April 3/9 Nissan

Q: Is there a purpose to have 2 eidim via zoom with a virtual presence to see but not being present?
(Followup on yesterday's question about eidim for mechira...)

Rav Willig- It can't hurt.

Q: Is there any problem with saying yizkor on Chol hamoed or at night? R"v Tuvia Brander

Rav Willig- Mutar.

Q: For those who are renting their shuls for Pesach to a non-Jew - is there a particular shtar you are using for that? What would be the protocol for that? R' Judah Kerbel

Rav Willig- The regular sale.

Q: I once heard that tequila is k-for-p without hashgacha if unflavored and 100% agave - is that true?
want to verify for someone who asked R' Judah Kerbel

Rav Willig- No.

Q: Shalom, What is the halacha with regard to someone who has his chometz in an Amazon fulfilment centre and his capacity to sell his chometz to a non-Jew given that it is already in the fulfilment centre that will be sold on his behalf by Amazon if a purchaser comes along over Pesach? Many thanks. R' Reuben Klein.

Addendum: Just to clarify, I was asking about someone who sells through Amazon where some of his stock is held in their fulfilment centres and may be sold to customers over Pesach by Amazon. How does/can he sell his chametz in such a case?

Rav Willig- It is not clear to me who owns what according to Amazon. If someone sends more about the legality, I will try to answer next week.

Q: Under the current circumstances does one say hagomel with a blessing when kriah resumes even though 30 days have elapsed?

Rav Willig- Yes.

Q: 1: what would the proper way to kasher stone (granite) counter tops here in Israel. 2: what about Cooper sinks ? 3: dishwashers where the inside walls and floor are metal but the racks are plastic? Thank you

Rav Willig- The best thing is to cover them.

Copper sinks- Boiling water

Dishwasher- Clean it all out (including the drain on the bottom) and run it through two cycles (one with soap and one without) and only if the racks are smooth (without cracks).

Q: Does anyone know if an all year home-knife sharpener can be used for Pesach knives? Is there heat involved? R' Shmuel Ismach

Rav Willig- It is OK

Q: When Rabbi Willig allowed kashering hotplate this year, did he explain how? I was telling people to clean and cover. Then some people starting getting concerned bc tzomet posted warning about covering with foil.

From the Crc: Hot Plate (metal) (Kashering) To kasher, clean and do not use for 24 hours, leave on highest setting for half an hour, then cover with foil before use. Glass and ceramic hot plates cannot be kashered.

Rav Willig- Only cover the top (after having cleaned it well). Also, in America the hotplates are less hot so less problematic.

April 2nd/8 Nissan

Q: If woman is going to mikva over the upcoming three day yom tov and is going thurs night or fri night- she will prep on erev yom tov but can she shower her whole body on thurs night or friday afternoon (before shabbat) as the mikva is worried about spread of covid if women coming without showering? 2) If its ok, can they shower in warm water ? 3) can the mikva hire a non jew to come in and wipe down and disinfect the surfaces on shabbos and yom tov for those women coming later over that shabbos or yom tov night? R' Brahm Weinberg

Rav Willig- This year they can shower on yom tov in warm water. A goy may come in to disinfect

Q: 97 year old woman lives alone in NY w/ a non-jewish aid. 3 day yontif alone is nerve wracking for her and for her family

[1] can grandchild living in Israel call the aid's cell phone on mozei yom tov rishon in Israel when still 1st day in NY to find out how bubby is doing? Same question on Motzei Shabbos in Israel when still shabbos in NY. Assuming calling the aid is OK, could aid put phone on speaker so grandson could say hello to his grandmother? Could grandmother respond? If Yom Tov rishon and sheini are assur, would YT sheini be ok? [2] food will be prepared by children before yontif but only kosher for pesach kli in bubby's apartment is a microwave - can aid heat up food on YT Rishon? YT Sheini? Shabbos? R' Dovid Gottlieb
Rav Willig- The call can be made and put on speaker. Grandmother can respond if necessary. The aid can heat up the food.

Q: For a baby naming of a girl, can one make a Mi Shebeirch or just name the baby?

Rav Willig- You can make a full Mi Shebeirach. I suggest doing it on zoom and singing and dancing.

Q: Question for R. Schachter and R. Willig. I always have 2 eidim at the mechiras chametz to the nochri. Do you think it advisable to dispense with them this year? R' Kenneth Auman

Rav Willig- Strictly speaking you do not need to eidim. If possible at a safe social distance, you should have them.

Q: Can a kehilla organize a recitation of Yizkor via Zoom on erev Shevii shel Pesach (chol hamoed), including an appeal to give tzedakah? If not, should everyone say it individually on Yom Tov? Shlomo Brody, Modiin

Rav Willig- it is mutar. You can do both.

Q: How many times during shacharis should an aveil say the kadish d'yachid? R' Dovid Kupchik

Rav Willig- As many times as he wants.

Q: Are poskim allowing people to kasher blechs and hot plates and warming drawers this year?

R' Chatzkel

Rav Willig- Yes.

Q: Why do you have to Kasher a hot plate clean it carefully and cover with tin foil. I do not think there is real bliyah in a hot plate when food is never put on it directly? R' Rodney Weiss

Rav Willig- It is a chumra that has become accepted (See Rama 451:4, Mishneh Brura 34).

Q: What is the consensus on kashering glass this year?

Rav Willig- Sephardim allow every year. Ashkanzim should be strict with dishes, but lenient with drinking glasses that were never used for hot chametz.

Q: A number of people have asked me about ordering chametz on Chol hamoed that will not be delivered until after Pesach is concluded, but for which credit card payment will be taken. Many of the delivery services for the supermarkets like Instacart are having wait times that are scheduled days in advance. Scheduling can be arranged so that it will not be possible for the product to be delivered before the end of Pesach. Thank you. RBS

Rav Willig- It is permissible as long as it does not belong to you until after Pesach.

Q: Any insights into kashering an air fryer? It has only been used with potatoes but washed with hot water on a chametz sponge R' Barry Gelman

Rav Willig- K'bolo' kach polto.

Q: Can someone who is working in operations for a bergen county, nj answer emails / phone calls on yom tov and shabbos. His job indirectly facilitates the medical professionals to run smoother, he is in charge of sharing the newest protocols with the entire staff (which change daily) taking off many days will place a large burden on others, and most likely someone who is more directly involved with saving lives will spend time doing his job as a result. (There is a concern of eivah from his perspective)- Andrew Markowitz

Rav Willig- Mutar.

Q: Someone asked me why there needs to be a separate sale. Why can't we do it with the goy who buys the chametz? Can't we assume or the rabbanim request that he allow people to borrow them? R' Daniel Mann

Rav Willig- You are correct. The separate sale is only for those cooking before the sale of the chametz.

Q: Can safflower oil with a regular kof k, not p, be used? R' Shaul Robinson

Rav Willig- Not recommend as there is a chance of chametz in the keilim.

Q: I am asking some of my baalei tefillah to record some songs of hallel and Tefilat Tal to send before pesach...so people with nostalgia for shul and nusach can listen as they prepare for Yom tov. I do not have

concern about playing on Yom tov. I am wondering about Shem hashem in Tefillat tal. I assume no Shem Hashem, but wonder if it might be permitted for chinuch purposes? R' Shmuel Hain
Rav Willig- Mutar.

Q: Speaking of which, is it safe to assume that Tefillat Tal is only said with a minyan (and thus skipped this year)? Or is it comparable to birkat hachodesh? R' Judah Dardik
Rav Willig- You need not say it, but you may say it.

Q: Any guidance on what we should instruct members about the inevitable amazon package that arrives on Pesach with chometz in it? Can it be assumed to have been included in the sale? Must it be destroyed? Furthermore: with delays as they are now in certain stores of well over a week, can it be ordered before Pesach if the expected delivery date is after Pesach? R" Chatzkel
Rav Willig- It is not included in the sale. You have to have kavana not to acquire it.

Q: Anyone know whether 100 percent pure maple syrup requires kosher for Pesach certification and if so then why? R' Jonathan Muskat
Rav Willig- No.

Q: A young couple due to give birth soon will soon be going to the hospital for delivery. Husband is concerned about bringing his Tallis / tefillin into the hospital since they can't really be decontaminated or cleaned well. Is this a valid concern (since doctors and nurses are coming in and out of the room) or not?
Rav Willig- I spoke with an expert doctor who said it is not a problem.

April 1/ 7 Nissan

Q: If an aveil who is a bechor is in shiva on erev pesach and shiva will stop at chatzos what should he do in terms of siyum and fasting if he still has an issur talmud torah in the morning? R' Brahm Weinberg
Rav Willig- In the sefer Kitzur Divrei Sofrim (Perek 42:80) he suggests that one should attend a Siyum made on a Mesechta that ends with aggadata which is mutar for an avel to learn.

Q: Sefiras haomer related- If people are isolated and there is a concern of depression and overall sadness then does it make sense to allow listening to music if it will cheer them up? Can we make it as a general rule for the klal?
Ari Federgrun

Rav Willig- Many feel that there is not prohibition of listening to music even for a real avel. Most have a custom to be strict even for sefira. This year one who wants to be lenient may do so and does not need hataras nedarim (Dagul Meirevavah Y"D 214, Shach S"K 2)

Q: Reports state that facial hair is a risk factor for getting covid. Should we allow shaving during sfirah?
Ari Federgrun

Rav Willig- If it is a sakana, for sure it is OK. I have not heard that it is a sakana.

Q: Does Freeze Dried Fruit (only thing listed in ingredients is the name of the fruit) need special KFP supervision? R” Barry Gelman
Rav Willig- Yes

Q: He mentioned we don't need new spices for pesach. Does this mean the spices do not need to have kosher for pesach certification? R’ Albert Setton

Addendum: Can someone explain why we generally need new KFP spices? R’ Barry Gelman
Rav Willig- Whole spices do not need special certification. Ground spices do because the anti- caking agent may contain chametz.

Q: Is there any issue regarding the alcohol based hand sanitizers over Pesach? R’ Chatzkel
Rav Willig- It is nifsal mikelev and mutar.

Q: Re: Rav Schachter’s Psak that we can rely on foods that are KfP Me’ikar Hadin. Would this apply to 100% pure almond butter? R’ Gershon Alpert
Rav Willig- If from plain almonds OK. If roasted, not OK.

Q: Can someone point me to an explanation why our poskim disagree with the notion of saying mourners Kaddish via zoom (like rav melamed suggests) or a private medieval Kaddish like from rav yehuda hechassid? R’ Jonathan Muskat
Rav Willig- It is not a minyan.

Addendum: To add to the question. Many poskim are not recommending the Kaddish d’yachid. And rather tell people to learn Mishnah. R’ Avi Stewart

Rav Willig- I recommend saying the Al hakol that we say when we take out the sefer torah on shabbos and yom tov. It has been pointed out that the words are very similar to kaddish.

Q: If an aveil is in the middle of shiva on erev pesach does he get up at chatzos?
Rav Brahm Weinberg
Rav Willig- The avel gets up at chatzos.

Q: If an aveil is past shiva and now in shloshim for a parent and erev pesach comes and interrupts shloshim can he shave on erev pesach (he looks unkempt and usually shaves daily)?
Rav Brahm Weinberg

Rav Willig- It is a big machlokes (Pischei Teshuva 390:4 and Mishneh Brurah 548:34). I think it is permissible v’ein kan makom lha’arich (you can find more in my sefer Am Mordechai).

Q: I know we are no longer reciting Avinu Malkeinu and of course Tachanun- but additional Tehillim 121, 142.... still recommended? R’ Epstein
Rav Willig- That is great. We are saying what the Rabbonim recommended from the beginning- 20, 121, 130.

Q: According to this, Shoel Umeshiv 1:78, shared with me by Elli Fischer, we should cancel all shiva observances until people can again make in-person shiva calls. I have heard of one pesak telling someone

not to shiva, but otherwise the Orthodox world as a whole collectively seems to be accepting phone/video/Zoom shiva visits as "enough" or otherwise rejecting this shitah. Further insights would be appreciated. R" Barry Kornblau

Addendum: The Rema YD 374:11 seems to say that this isn't the common minhag. He says ושמעתיה קצת נהגו כן, which implies most do not follow this. And since the Rema personally lost his mother and wife in an epidemic, it strongly implies that he himself sat shivah during an epidemic.

Although see Shu"t Chasam Sofer YD 342 where he discusses a case of someone who didn't sit shivah because of an epidemic, without remarking on whether it was proper or not. Which makes sense given the different minhagim mentioned by the Rema. R' Gil Student

Rav Willig- The custom is that the avel does sit shiva, but, if he feels it is dangerous, he should not do it.

Q: To clarify, in the case a couple has already gotten married in small ceremony and would like to, after this pandemic ends be"eh, have a wedding party. Would it be permissible (as long as it's within the first year) to recite sheva brachos during bentching? R' Elie Schwartz

Rav Willig- No.

Q: What are peoples thoughts as pesach gets closer on PUBLICIZING zoom sedarim - some people will obviously choose - whatever we tell them - to zoom or facetime families...I actually have members who dont really have any family. Assuming that some people are indeed planing on doing 'public' zoom sedarim, do we bring that information to the attention of people who might want to join, even though we would encourage them not to? or do we not 'engage' with the issue at all...I am really struggling here, especially because of Rav Schachters psak that for some people it is indeed a very large tzorech gadol... R' Shaul Robinson

Rav Willig- It is prohibited unless it is literally pikuach nefesh. People should do the seder before Pesach.

Q: I have for Rav Schachter- according to his opinion (as cited here <https://www.jewishpress.com/judaism/halacha-hashkafa/do-lipstick-and-toothpaste-need-to-be-kasher-lpesach/2018/03/21/>) that toothpaste is nifsal me'achilas kelev and therefore does not require special pesach certification, does the flavor factor into that? Do children's toothpastes (which are flavored like "food" items and not like strong mint) have a different din? R' Roy Feldman

Rav Willig- All toothpaste is permissible.

March 31/ 6 Nissan

Q: An elderly lady has two freezers, both pretty full with lots of chametz items. She wants to be able to store a kosher lePesach chicken in one of the freezers over Pesach, enclosed in a basket. Is there a way she can do this? Should she sell the contents of the freezer with the caveat that this chicken is excluded? R'

Anthony Knopf

Rav Willig- We try to separate as much as possible, but b'sha'as hadchak, yes

Q:What's the Halacha with regards to cremating Jews that have passed away from Corona? Steve Garr

Rav Willig- It is absolutely prohibited.

Q: The London Beit Din allows natural unflavored yogurt w/o special kfp supervision in case of great need. Does the same apply in the US? R' Barry Gelman

Addendum: I am unsure if there is a reason for plain yoghurt to be problematic. However, if there are traces of chametz if bittul is an applicable Halacha in London why wouldn't it be in the United States? R' Jack

Addendum that is what I thought, but I recall someone in this group stating otherwise. R' Barry Gelman

Addendum: R' Gordimer had mentioned on this group that in the US, bacterial cultures are often grown in chametz and considered a davar hama'amid. R' Roy Feldman

Addendum: I think the question should be is it b'dieved. R' Jack

Addendum: Chametz that is already battel before Pesach is not bedieved. See the significant words of the Pischei Teshuva in YD 116 on people who do not eat food for which there was bittul, etc. in a permissible manner. If the cultures are grown in chametz, and they are davar hamaamid, then it's not battel anyway.

R' Roy Feldman

Rav Willig- We follow Rabbi Gordimer.

Q: Culture manufacturers use glucose as a primary fermentation ingredient, and glucose can be made from corn base or wheat base. Actually, there are a few other possibilities, but those are the most common. Many of these cultures are made in Europe, where use of wheat glucose is common.

The Pri Megadim is machria to be machmir by nishtaneh of doaraysa and maykil by drabnonon. Even if we consider the glucose nishtaneh through the fermentation process, we are machmir by nishtaneh of wheat which is doraysah and maykil by corn which is even less than a drabnonon as kitniyos is only a minhag. R' Gordimer

Addendum: Thank you. Given the number of sfei'kot and questions involved - now that we have such elaboration on the metzius- perhaps it's a worthwhile question to pose to our poskim for their shikul hada'as? R' Roy Feldman

Rav Willig- We follow Rabbi Gordimer.

Q: I have a baalbas who's very concerned about submitting his full name/address on a shtar harsahaa that's done online because of concerns with data privacy (or lack thereof)... I assume the full address is needed for the no'chri to be able to access... is there a way to not use a full name? or are both entirely necessary?

R' Judah Kerbel

Rav Willig- He should appoint a/his Rabbi on the telephone who should write the address down or he should send the paper to the Rabbi himself.

Q: Can anyone think of any shitta that would permit sheva brachos with a Kos after this quarantine is over? R' Ellie Schwartz

Addendum: I have been thinking a lot about this. There will be many couples who got married in small ceremonies who will want to have broader ceremony/party when things pass. We will need to tell them what is appropriate at the party clearly made in celebration of their wedding- a chupa, kriyat ketuva, berachot? I assume we will ask once Pesach things are out of the way and the end is in neariy" H... R' Taragin

Rav Willig- No Sheva berachot on a kos later. Badekin, Chupa, Ketuva is OK, but no berachos. They should consider making the party smaller and giving the rest to tzedaka.

Q: Is there a purpose to making a kinyan to appoint the Rabbi as an agent to sell the chametz by picking up an object belonging to his wife? Meaning does the kinyan work if the two parties are related? R”

Jonathan Muskat

Rav Willig- There is no point. It is not necessary.

Q: What leniences if any are in place this year if one can't "blow torch" their oven racks... R' Dovid

Kupchik

Rav Willig- Clean them and leave them in the oven when you are kashering the oven by turning it to the highest.

Q: Until what age is kitniyos considered ok for children? R' Shmuel Ismach

Rav Willig- It depends on how much they need it. Beyond the infant age, best to avoid it unless they need it.

Q: What is the Rav's definition of עד שיגערו בו חבריו that Rav Schachter mentioned? R' Jason Strauss

Rav Willig- Since nowadays people take a haircut every month, ad sh'yigar is two months. This is all if no one is actually go'eir bo. If someone is actually go'eir bo, then you can take a haircut right away.

Q: A young couple due to give birth soon will soon be going to the hospital for delivery.

Husband is concerned about bringing his Tallis / tefillin into the hospital since they can't really be decontaminated or cleaned well. Is this a valid concern (since doctors and nurses are coming in and out of the room) or not? R' Elie Mischel

Rav Willig- The question is moot because hospitals are not letting the husbands in.

Q: Should we include Avinu Malkeinu and Tachanun during the month of Nissan?

Rav Willig- Rav Nevenzahel and Rav Schachter pasken not to say.

March 30/ 5 Nissan

If the shuls are locked up anyway, can we just rent out the entire shul to the non-Jew and include all chametz therein? We are generally machmir not to do that with houses (even for people going away) because of the shitos that there is a chovas yachid to do bedikas chametz. However, if we are all fulfilling our chovas yachid in our homes anyway, can we just rent/sell the shuls? Maybe not the right thing to do hashkafically...

Rabbi Ephraim Polakoff

Rav Willig- Yes.

Q: Question for posking Rav Schachter said that if a med. professional needs to shower on shabbat, they can leave the hot water dripping a bit before shabbat and then shower with hot water. questions.1 can this approach be applied to a woman who is using the mikva on Fri. night, wants to shower afterwards (b/c of concern for COVID -19), but does not want to take a cold shower. R' Barry Gelman

Rav Willig- As far as a medical professional, it depends on the circumstances. When there is any chasash, hot water should be used with a shinuy. Once the water is left on, it is easier to turn on with a shinuy. For a mikvah, there is no need for a hot shower, but, if the woman is afraid she may also do it with a shinuy.

Q: Sheila for rav shechter and willig : a couple currently quarranting themselves so that they can make it to parents in teaneck for chag. In doing this they do not have access to laundry, since their building doesnt have and they normally go to a laundromat. Can they do laundry on chol hamoed once they get to the parents in Teaneck? R' David Katz

Rav Willig- The RCBC has said that it is asur for guests to come to Bergen County. Regarding other areas, washing on Chol Hamoeid who be permitted like someone who got out of jail (534:1).

Q: For someone with live-in non-Jewish help, what are the guidelines regarding the non-Jew's chametz? R' Ari Lamm

Rav Willig- You do not need to do anything (440:3).

Q: Looking for an eitzah. I just received a phone call from an old friend. Her daughter-in-law, who is not frum, but is also not anti-just had a baby boy. The bris is scheduled for Shabbat and they live in Cumberland, Maryland-where they have not yet been any cases of corona. The daughter-in-law does not want to bring in a mohel out of concern that he will bring the virus to the area. Her conservative 'Rabbi has suggested that a Dr. from the area do the bris. I checked, and there are no frum Drs in the area.

The situation is delicate-because we don't want to antagonize the daughter-in-law.

Any suggestions? Should we delay the bris until things clear up? We probably would have to delay at least a day anyway-because not sure we could get anyone to come for Shabbat. Any other ideas? Please let me know.

R' Shmuel Goldin

Rav Willig- The bris should be postponed.

Q: Looking for a simple and short explanation of why/how the hefker option works for kelim a person then takes into their house and uses thereby demonstrating that they still own the kelim.

R' Tzvi Klugerman

Addendum: Yes, I've also received a number of Qs about hefker. A concise explanation would be much appreciated. (I'm referring to cases in which a person has previously taken possession in their house and also when they have kavannah not to fully buy it at the time of purchase).

Rav Willig- Ein hachi nami- that is why selling it in a legal manner (Bes Din of America form) is better. When impossible to immerse or sell, there are those who say that at a time of shaas hadchak hefker is acceptable (Tevilas Keilim pg. 84 and Dirshu Siman 323 footnote 29). Once again, I strongly recommend using the sale form of Beis Din of America.

Q: Any thoughts on this from rabbi willig, rabbi shachter and dr glatt husband is er doc in local hospital and received this message from wife

Hello Rabbi- what is your advice given current climate and Sams work, would you suggest we be more careful as a couple and maybe not share the same room, almost go into niddah world or don't overreact? Your take on couple life? Thank you

Rav Willig- A woman can be mocheil on her onah. In any event, some are recommending abstinence based on Shulchan Aruch (240:12 and 574:4). Nonetheless, the doctors say it is not necessary and it depends upon the decision of the couple.

March 29/ 4 Nissan

Q: Any decision on postponing milah b'zmano? Even if done without guests, how can one ascertain that the mohel is free from corona?

Rav Willig- No postponement. The mohel (only) should come into the house with a mask and do metzitzta b'yad. The mohel should first be asked if he has symptoms or if he has ever tested positive for Corona. Only if the answer is no should he be allowed to proceed.

Q: Are there leniencies for Ashkenazim eating in a Sefardi household to allow them to eat kitniyot? This year especially with the limited access to products due to corona

Rav Willig- If he is healthy, only if there is no alternative. If he is sick, it is mutar.

Q: Important question bf Shabbos: A woman goes to the hospital on Shabbos bc she believes she's having a baby- false alarm- she's told to go home. If she waits around the hospital it's a

germ filled environment can she drive home, turn off the car?? Thanks for a quick answer if possible

Rav Willig- Absolutely, yes and she may turn off the car.

Q: What's the order of preference for tevilat keilim? a- keilim mikva if it's still open and can keep social distance b- Hefker c-sale to a goy via an online system for the sale. tzomet in Israel is doing this online. <https://nirshamti.co.il/טבילה-ה/>

Rav Willig- A, C, B

Q: People have suggested based on sources from the Gemara (with Rashi and the ben Yohayada) and the Ba'al Hamo'ar that people should not mention the name of the disease. Is this something we should avoid and encourage people to avoid? Specifically, should the name of the website that brings information together be changed so it does not mention the name of the disease (the downside might be that the lack of mention may mean that less people will know to make use of it)? Rabbi Reuven Taragin, Yerushalayim

Rav Willig- If using the name will help facilitate Pikuach Nefesh, then this takes precedence.

Q- If needed in today's situation, may a kalla go to the mikvah a day before the day of her wedding?

Rabbanit Shani Taragin, Yerushalayim

Rav Willig- She may, but she shouldn't have yichud, touching, or anything else.

Assuming that someone has bought keilim via credit card already and ordered it to their house can they simply have in mind not to be koneh it..?

Rabbi Michoel Green, Yerushalayim

Rav Willig- You can still have in mind not to be koneh before it arrives.

If we go into lockdown, and are unable or not practical to check the whole Eruv weekly, can we rely on chazaka that it was up? If so, for how long?

Rabbi Ari Posner, Perth, Australia

Rav Willig- Eiruv- You can rely on the chazaka as long as you are unable to check it.

Since people are isolated from grandparents, some people have asked if they can go to their grandparents' courtyard, do half the seder until the end of Maggid out loud, so at least they can hear each other, and then go home and complete from Motzi Matzah onwards. Is that possible?

Rabbi Ari Posner, Perth, Australia

Rav Willig- People should not go outside to do this. Instead, they should do the seder together on Zoom before yom tov.

March 26/ Rosh Chodesh Nissan

Two clarifications regarding yesterdays questions:

- 1) Regarding the women whose husband is sick going to the mikvah, Rav Willig was answering the aspect of his going to the mikvah despite the need to be marchik from her husband. Obviously, she would not be able to use the mikvah. She would need to use the ocean.
- 2) Shortening of the haggada- Start from Ha Lachma anya through Harei zeh meshubach, skip until Mitchila, say until datzach adash b'achav, skip until Rabban Gamliel. From there say until gaal yisrael.

Q: If a doctor is in a hospital and gets home on Shabbos can he shower to wash off any possible contagions? With hot water? What would the guidelines be? What about taking a bath using water heater before Shabbos? Also how does the ability to leave the house water running from before Shabbos factor into this? R' Yitzi Genack

Rav Willig- The guidelines I had seen in the past from the CDC is that everyone must wash with soap and lather for at least 20 seconds very carefully washing all parts of the hands, but there is no need for hot water. Last night, I just saw that Johns Hopkins said it is better to use warm/hot water (77 degrees). If you want to do that leave the hot water on from before shabbos with a small leak. I haven't seen anyone say the need for a bath unless doctors say otherwise.

Doctors and nurses will likely be told to work on shabbos. there are going to be fewer alternatives in terms of other doctors and nurses...are there more allowances for chilul shabbos? seems like it should be pikuach nefesh. And drive alone vs. get into a cab with someone who might have the virus/ R' Kenny Schiowitz

Rav Willig- Correct. Absolutely correct.

Q: Any leniency with checking for insect infestation this year in terms of triple wash romaine lettuce - maybe in previous years we are strict but now can we rely on a presumption that they are clean without same level of checking? R' Jonathan Muskat

Rav Willig- If its kosher mei'ikar hadin there is no need for extra hiddurim if additonal shopping is required.

Q: In Israel many, in fact almost all products say "לאכלי קטניות בלבד", even if the main ingredients are fine. if someone who is over 60 and asthmatic is keeping the government rules strictly, they will be unable to get the products that are fine for ashkenazim. even vegetable oil is basically unavailable, and all that is for sale is canola or peanut oil (this is all what was described to me in the north of israel). can such a person be מיקל this year to use קטניות derivatives? the other option is basically using shmaltz/making everything from scratch.

R' Moshe Abrams

Rav Willig- When speaking about kitnios derivatives (which is a chumra) one can be meikiel if additional shopping is required especially those in graver danger such as over 60.

Q: Many students will have left food in school (especially this year because they left suddenly) without being מקנה it to the school. in the (increasingly unlikely event) that schools reopen after פסח, if the students did ביטול המזון can they eat that המזון? the משנה ברורה תמה:כה has a slightly similar case of בדרך בא who can't sell his far away המזון, where he says that you can be מיקל under certain conditions because the המזון was totally unavailable on פסח itself.

Rav Willig- No, you need to do a mechira. Those whose chametz is in EY should do mechiras Yud Gimmel, even though according to most Poskim it depends on the person and not on the chametz.

Q: Our congregation is doing morning and evening Zoom Mishnah Learning and saying a Kel Malei Rachamim for loved ones of mourners instead of Kaddish. Are there leniencies to continue this during Nissan? If not, are there other equivalent prayers? I know there is a Tefilah for learning Mishnah in memory of others but I can't seem to find it. R" Gershon Albert

Answer:

Rav Willig- See Art Scroll YITZCHAK YAIR edition page 424. The tefila begins with Anan Hashem Maleh Rachamim...

Q: Shailoh from Israel: in a situation where mehadrin products are available in stores but may not be as available for online ordering and deliveries, should one prefer to order non-mehadrin כשר לפסח foods which can be obtained via delivery? In other words in the event that one has to choose between going shopping in person to get mehadrin products or ordering non-mehadrin for online delivery, which option is to be preferred? R' Dovid Gottlieb

Rav Willig- If the non mehadrin is kosher mei'ikar hadin, better to use that than to go shopping.

Q: People who live in a more confined space, doing a self-clean on the oven for pesach is really difficult especially with children living in the home and the amount of hours that a typical self-clean cycle will run (its not realistic to tell people to leave the house for so long these days). Can one not run the entire self-clean cycle and if so, what's the shortest amount of time one can let it go for?

Rav Willig- As long as the self clean gets to the highest temperature that the oven can reach, you can turn it off when it gets to that temperature right away.

Q: I have been asked to develop guidelines for my hospital on DNR policy during COVID, some are suggesting that all severely ill COVID patients automatically be made DNR bc of the risks to the medical staff (COVID becomes airborne during a code), and resuscitation efforts use up so

many resources, of which there is a shortage, but is often not successful. Can this be supported or must I fight it? R” Jason Weiner

Rav Willig- I spoke with Rav Shachter about this last night and he said that, even according to his opinion that one may not take someone off a respirator, you are still allowed to sign a DNR. There is a great difference between kum v’aseh and shev v’al ta’aseh.

Q: Shayla for the Poskim: Some aveilim have approached me with a kaddish for a yachid that is based on R' Yehuda Hachasid. Is it advisable to recommend this, or better to avoid it and continue recommending that people learn and do other mitzvos l'iluy nishmas the niftar? R” Polakoff

Rav Willig- Not a good idea. The best thing is to say the al hakol that we say by hotza’as Sefer Torah.

Q: This London list (for THIS year) seems to have many kulos beyond what the OU booklet, or even R' Gordimer above is advocating. For example, it allows plain yogurt without KP and allows non-KP canned Tuna. Are people spreading the London list for this year? Does the OU have a list of appropriate kulos of this year to use? Remember, it's not just about supply chain issues, it is about people's ability to go out and shop as well. R’ Shmuel Ismach

Addendum: I will second this question- and add oils as an issue with purchasing (people not being able to shop but also lack of availability at least in our region). I would like to know whether, in reality, avocado oil of any brand can be assumed to have chametz be battel before pesach (OU guise lists one brand). R’ Roy Feldman

Addendum: I was under the impression that unless individual communities are facing food shortages the kulos of the London BD were not to be adopted. R” Binyamin Blau

Addendum: Some people don't want to go to the store or cant, and also deliveries to some neighborhoods is increasingly challenging. R” Shaul Robinson

Rav Willig- If it is kosher mei’ikar hadin, it is better than shopping.

Q: What are Rabbanim doing to protect themselves if bedikos are being brought to be seen? R’ Epstein

Rav Willig- The person should come with an envelope and slip it under the door or paste it on the door. The Rov who is being bodeik should put on gloves.

March 25/ 29 Adar

Q: Can someone use a Tallis bag they no longer use as a matzah tash/bag for the seder?

Rav Willig- Yes.

Q: The local gov't is rumored to be planning a very strict "stay in your home" regulation in the coming days which may make it impossible to go to the mikvah. (It's hard to predict). If a woman has completed sheva neki'im, should she go to the mikvah early in order to preempt the potential quarantine? If so, should harchakot be observed afterward, and until when? Thank you. Shlomo Brody, Modiin.

Rav Willig- If she finished shiva nekiim she should go to the mikvah to preempt. On the seventh day only if quarantine is likely and she maintains harchakos until it gets dark. Even in a case where she goes on the eighth day she should maintain harchakos until it gets dark.

Q: Shayla: For those who recite hallel on seder night in shul - when davening at home this year should people recite hallel after maariv? If so, with bracha? Or is the practice only for a tzibbur? R' Brahm Weinberg

Addendum: Rav Schachter mentioned in a Q and A with the Kollel at RIETS that even those who say hallel should no say it byechidus. According to Rav Solvoveitchik this hallel is a chovas hatzibur (like hadlakas neiros chanuka in shul) - R' Ezra Schwartz

Addendum: I believe sefardim have a different psak in case that is relevant to some on this group. (feel free to tell me I am wrong)and could be vilna gaon followers also like some in erez Yisrael and "minhag yerushalayim", as opposed to standard minhag Ashkenaz. R' David Katz

Rav Willig- There are three opinions- with a beracha, without a beracha, or no hallel at all. All pesakim have a basis.

Q: Avinu malkeinu during Nissan?

Answer: I was asked by Rav Shay Schachter to send out the following note- Lots of people asking so maybe you can circulate:

Rav Schachter feels that Avinu Malkeinu should not be recited during Chodesh Nissan as it has always been considered to be a חודש הגאולה. Tachanun is not recited nor should Avinu Malkeinu.

Q: Someone called me because his child left his tefillin at school. He wants to know if he can borrow shuls extra tefillin until they can retrieve. In theory nobody else would be using that for a very long time If the shul remains closed but should I be concerned about that? R' Judah Kerbel

Rav Willig- You should not be concerned.

Q: Regarding funeral, I am getting questions about stopping to allow anyone to help fill in the grave? About not allowing anyone to be present at a funeral? About not allowing people to attend at all the burial? Especially if it is someone who died of covid19?

Are any of you dealing with these questions? Or have recent policies in place about them? Sorry to ask these questions again but I think with the ever-change landscape things keep changing - R' Tuvia Brander

Rav Willig- Do the best you can. There is long discussion about this by not for now.

Q: What should a woman do who needs to go to the mikveh tonight and is married to a man who has symptoms of the virus but no positive test result? R' Moshe Haber

Rav Willig- Go to the mikvah and then ask expert doctors.

Q: One of the women's mikvaos in my neighborhood just closed - the Mikva which has always had by far the largest number of women each night. The remaining mikvaos are now extremely concerned about their ability to handle the expected increase in numbers of users especially considering the enhanced cleaning protocols in place after each room is used. They fear they will inevitably turn women away each night who will be unable to go. Is this a valid justification to tell some women to come during the daytime (eighth day)? It will ensure more time for more women and it will also allow for the cleaning to be done properly after each use of a room. R" Shmuel Marcus

Rav Willig- Yes.

Q: Following up on Rav Schachter's psak- The State of Michigan issued a stay-at-home order for all individuals. However, people are allowed out to "engage in outdoor activity...consistent with remaining at least six feet from people from outside the individual's household." There are many local bodies of water that are kosher mikvaot. Is it fair to assume that since residents are allowed to engage in outdoor activities, that selling or being mafkir keilim should not be encouraged here? R' Jared Anstandig, Ann Arbor, MI

Rav Willig- Yes.

Q: Question for Rav Schachter, Shlit"a and Rav Willig, Shlit"a; Does a person who tested positive for COVID-19 need to report this to anyone who they had contact with in the problematic time period such as family members, neighbors, colleagues, etc... (assuming that health officials believe there may have been exposure to them)? Does this source in Sefer Hasidim apply here? R' Shlomo Brody, Modiin. ספר חסידים (מרגליות) סימן תרעג

לפני עור לא תתן מכשול (ויקרא י"ט י"ד) שלא ירחיק אדם שהוא מוכה שחין עם יהודי אחר אלא א"כ יודיענו שנאמר (שם שם י"ח) ואהבת לרעך כמוך וכתוב (שם שם ט"ז) ולא תעמוד על דם רעך

Rav Willig- Do what the expert doctors say..

Q: Must we kasher high chair for Pesach - are we concerned that surface might have hot יד סולדת בו chametz during year? R" Jonathan Muskat

Rav Willig- Cover it.

Q: Usually, I've advised people with composite material countertops (looks like a stone-like material but has many other things mixed in) to kasher them with irui and purchase a plastic cover for it. Due to restrictions this year, would irui alone be sufficient? Rav Aharon Herskovitz, Netanya

Rav Willig- Cover it.

Q: my son lives in Lakewood in an 'L' shaped apartment block where every apartment has a small rear facing terrace...this morning they started a minyan (actually early and late minyan!) I assume that this is fine because nobody is leaving their home or space, and no terrace is adjacent...if it really is 'glatt' im going to ask them to say kaddish for people... R' Shaul Robinson

Rav Willig- It is not glatt because any minyan can lead to others joining in a dangerous fashion.

Q: For those davening biyechidus with others over Zoom would we say hodu in hallel responsively? I don't believe it requires a minyan but does it make a difference that no one is in the same room? R' Ben Kurzer

Rav Willig- Yes

Q: A good friend got married Thursday night (they bought the wedding forward because of the whole situation) Some people are making “ sheva brachot “ tonight via zoom. They wanted to know if they could do sheva brachot at the end of it. It's not technically a minyan so it wouldn't be allowed- would it? Some thoughts so as to not reject the question out of hand, though waiting for poskim: If one is willing to allow creating עשרה for HaGomel through zoom, could one allow it for sheva berachot (Some thoughts: the Aruch HaShulchan (Even HaEzer 62:11) is explicit that Birkat Chatanim is not a Davar Shebikdusha, just מעשרה בפחות, and although some argue, the Mishna Berura (in Shaar HaTziyun 219:7) equates Birkat Chatanim and HaGomel (at least according to the opinion who learns from במקהלות בברכו... that one needs 10), and Shevet HaLevi (10:245) allows a microphone for sheva berachot seemingly because he holds it is not a davar shebikedusha). Even though the guests are only "partaking from the seuda" from a distance, according to the Rema that one can make sheva berachot even if Panim Chadashot not eating there (E.H. 62:7) could one possibly under the circumstances allow sheva berachot through a virtual hookup (Panim Chadashot adding simcha is very pronounced here)? R' Zimbiny
Addendum: R' Chaim Eisenstein- Fascinating question: See however shitah mekubetzes kesuvos 7b ד"ה גופא who quote גאונים who say that Sheva brachos is a Davar shebekdusha. Sefer Birchas Chassanim (RN Kaplan) chp. 5 has your fascinating diyuk from MB and claims that Griz disagreed and advanced position of Davar shebekdusha as well.

R' Zimbiny - Agree, there are certainly shitot that it is a Davar Shebikedusha, but question is whether we posken that way (M.B. and Aruch HaShulchan seem not to) [and even those who do, possibly that is only at the chuppah and not כל שבעה]

Rav Willig- Safek berachos l'hakel. If there are three people there, they can say asher bara and everyone can sing on zoom and they can answer amen if there is up to a two second lag (not a twenty second lag).

Q: I have been asked: any psak out there on running a Zoom Seder? (i.e. setting up a Zoom meeting w people who are isolated before Chag and keeping it open for 6 or more hours so they can 'be' at the Seder ...)? Thoughts? 1. Is there a grama issue here when we speak (what happens technically) and would it be a shaa's dchak issue or become something that is no longer an uvdah de'chol; esp for elderly people alone ... psychological stress ...? Dangers of being Poretz Gader ...? Rav Binny Freedman, Yerushalayim

Q: With the new guidelines of not allowing a husband or doula to accompany a woman in labor in NY hospitals, would there be a leniency to allow a virtual connection to a husband or other support for the

woman on Shabbat or Yom Tov considering her status as choleh sheyesh bo sakana. Thanks. R' Daniel Cohen

Rav Willig- She is a choleh sheyesh bah sakana. The connection by telephone only if necessary and be careful of zilzul.

Q: Some poskim are lenient to allow Ashkenazim to eat processed foods with a minority of Kitniyot ingredients which aren't recognizable. (Bear Yitzchak 11) For those whose families are noheg like this, how would one practically go about finding out which foods are minority kitniyot? R' Isaac Attia

Rav Willig- Call the organization or Rov who gives the hasghgacha.

Q: Thinking about all my, mainly older singles and widows etc...Perhaps over yom tov we can suggest that singles ppl pre arrange to go for walks together, no more than 2 and 6 feet apart, also arrange for visits..ie knock on door, brief conversation without entering the apartment, also 6 feet apart R' Shaul Robinson

Rav Willig- Ask the expert doctors.

Q: I may be missing something, but for those of us who do not live far from the ocean, should we not be encouraging people to do טבילת כלים there? R" Ephraim Polakoff

Rav Willig- Yes.

Q: Hey - I hope you're holding up well. Rabbi dratch posted about Rav schachters view regarding people possibly at emotional risk because they will be alone for Seder and 3 days of Yom Tov -"I spoke with Rabbi Schachter concerning keeping connections with those who are alone or vulnerable due to isolation, serious depression, or possible self inflicted harm on Shabbat or Yom Tov. He said that even a sfek sfeika of sakkanot nefashot us docheh kol ha-Torah kulah. He said that in these circumstances it would be permitted for someone to call them on the telephone from time to time on Shabbat and Yom Tov, and permitted to leave the computer on so that they can participate in a Seder or have conversations throughout Yom Tov. He said well this should not be publicized on the rabbim . It is up to each individual rabbi, knowing the individual circumstances, to make this decision and to guide accordingly."

-My question - many cases are tough to call exactly. Is there room to be more lenient if 1) non Jews, like aids, do all the technological connecting, and/or 2) if this is done on the second night of Pesach which is derabbanan?

Rabbi Eli Mischel, Livingston

Rav Willig- Through a non Jew it is permissible even for a choleh she'ein bo sakana- i.e.- one who cannot function normally. In addition, one may use a shinuy. However, you have to be careful about zilzul of Shabbos and Yom Tov.

Q: In my community, we are considering to adopt this year some Ashkenazi leniencies for Pesach, like selling Chametz, which we usually encourage people to avoid. Perhaps, this year Ashkenazi communities should consider to adopt some Sephardic leniencies, like Eino Chozer Veni'or and others. R' Yosef Bitton

Rav Willig- We are not opposed to Sephardic kulos when necessary (such as kashering glass which we could consider if it would be necessary). If necessary we could consider this too, but now I believe it is not necessary.

Q: Financial Question from Florida rentals: people who have prepaid for rentals from other frum owners. Now being asked to stay away. Do they have halachik right to get their money back? I have many snowbirds who left early because of safety concerns, because they were prohibited from using the pools, beaches and public areas. Can they ask for a refund for what they didn't use because no amenities were available?

How is this being dealt with? R' Chatzkal

Rav Willig- Al dinei mamonos should wait till after the crisis.

Q: Got the following email: "I am petrified to go to the mikvah. I saw on the UWS mikveh website, after its description of their precautionary measures, that they are stating that 'anyone who has been exposed to anyone with a positive COVID-19 test may not come to the mikvah.' Our doctor friends who are on the front lines working in the hospitals here are convinced that much of NYC has been exposed and it is only a matter of time until this pandemic is out of control. here How can I reasonably go to the mikvah when so many may have been already exposed to COVID-19 and would now be coming to the mikvah?" How would you address this particular concern? R' Brody, Israel.

Rav Willig- In our community we are very careful that all women must prep at home, there should be only one woman in the building at a time, the mikveh lady should keep her distance, the dressing room should be cleaned with disinfectant between each user, and each women must bring her own towel and robe. With these precautions the mikveh is safer than a supermarket or drug store. The joint water itself according the CDC is not a threat.

Nonetheless, one who is afraid despite this should consider immersing in the ocean accompanied by her husband or by a friend.

Q: Receiving many questions on kashering grills from people making Pesach for the first time (usually go away). Generally my understanding has been we're pretty machmir to use libun gamur (which is usually completely impractical) but it seems from Mishna berurah (תנא ס"ק כז-כה) that there would be what to rely on in such circumstances such as ours that we can use hagalah, certainly if they don't use the grill for actual chometz (no buns).

Have Robbanim been using hagalah for grills this year? R' Chatzkal

Rav Willig- There is a machloket if chametz is hateira bala (which would allow for hagala) or not. In cases of great need, there may be room for leniency, but only if there is no other way to prepare the food.

Q: A Jewish organizational worker is being asked to do emergency food shopping for members of the

larger (non-observant) Jewish population that cannot do so for themselves. What should she do if a client asks her to purchase non-kosher food? Ezra Goldschmiedt, Cincinnati

Rav Willig- One should refuse to buy non Kosher food for Jews.

Q: As a follow up to Binyamin Marwicks question about the phone...in a case where virtual visual communication is allowed, what are parameters halachically and ideal mode technologically? R” Daniel Cohen

Rav Willig- Is there a case where video as opposed to audio will help avoid suicide?

Q: Given how widespread the virus has become, do Shuls still have an obligation to publicize which members have the virus? Though everyone is social distancing, those not officially in quarantine are still grocery shopping. So there still is some distinction between those quarantined and those not. R’ Elie Mischel

Rav Willig- This changes by the day. Do what the expert doctors say.

Q: Has there been a change from the Psak that the RCA sent out about Tevillas Keilim there is so much going around and people in my shul are asking me. R’ Rodney Weiss

From Rav Shay Schacter:

Rav Schachter told us yesterday (March 22) that since this is very difficult, we should be suggesting that people make a kinyan to a non Jew or be mafkir. He told us stories about the Rav who relied upon hefker

Rav Willig- You should use hefker only if it is impossible to be makneh. It seems that silverware and plates that you are using on Pesach should be sold to the goy with the chametz and borrowed back. The Rabbi needs to arrange this. For pots and pans that need to be used before Pesach, use the form on the Beis Din of America website that will make it possible to sell them this week and next week.

Q: re: the poskim who allow a siyum via zoom...what about kaddish...? R’ Barry Gelman

Rav Willig- No kaddish.

Q: Sorry if this shailah is a repeat(too many posts to read). Pls add question of using technology on yom tov to connect elderly or singles living in isolation...concerns for various levels of depression, and even suicide, or concerns that people will flout the halacha entirely? R’ Etan Tokayer

Rav Willig- The danger of suicide is pikuach nefesh. Rav Schachter permitted leaving an open telephone or to call by telephone if you are afraid of suicide, but only in such cases and not for regular depression for both the halacha itself and the danger of zizul.

Q: What do the Rabbanim think about having a fire outside a shul for burning chametz and allowing people to use it while maintaining social distancing? R' Jonathan Muskat, Oceanside

Rav Willig- I am absolutely against. You shouldn't burn chametz publicly or privately because it causes sakana. I believe that Rav Schachter paskened the same way and added that people gathering to do this could be a chilul Hashem as the rest of the world is being makpid not to gather. (see Shulchan Aruch 445:1 that burning is only a custom.)

What you should do is take ten pieces of soft bread from bedika and flush them one a time down the toilet. This is like zoreik layam (Mishneh Brura S"K 5 that there is no need to crumble if no one can have any benefit from it.)

Q: Question: there are people coming to my door from Brooklyn to collect tzedaka as though nothing has changed. I feel terrible about it but I don't want to open the door to them. I've told them that they should go home and stay inside. But they don't seem to understand. What should we do? Received from a congregant issue in other communities and your response? R' Daniel Cohen

Rav Willig- If the person is violating a law, don't open the door. If he is not violating, you should pass him money in a way that avoids contact (eg- crack in the door, under the door).

Q: What do people tell their shul's about steam machines to kasher counters?

R' Yitzi Genack

Rav Willig- There is a machlokes about whether this is considering iruy. Therefore, cover it. If you do that, you don't need iruy.

Q: There is something being circulated in the name of a Dayan about not needing to clean as much for Pesach this year. What should our approach be?

Rabbi Reuven Taragin, Yerushalayim

Rav Willig- When you do bekidas chametz you are looking for a kzayis, not crumbs especially if on the ground and previously trampled upon. Most years people are more strict. This year people can follow the ikar hadin.

Q: Are we able to be more lenient to allow more openly kashering plastic for Pesach (such as plastic bowls, containers, baby bottles), as opposed to generally advising purchasing new plastic utensils? Thank you (Rav Aharon Herskovitz, Netanya)

Rav Willig- Most years people follow Rav Moshe's chumra not to kasher them. This year people can follow the ikar hadin and kasher them.

Q: In a city where keilim mikva is closed can we consider people anus on toveiling keilim. Other suggestions like being makneh to non-Jews seem impractical and may also lead to violations of social distancing and having daas not to be koneh or to be mafkir, while suggested by some poskim is confusing and certainly eitzos that are not agreed upon. So maybe better to as a tzibbur tell people to do nothing like many do with Keurig machines and after the magefa passes everyone will be toveil their keilim properly?

R” Binyamin Marwick

Rav Willig- Ain hachi nami if it is completely impossible, but at least try one of the eitzas that were given- ocean, maskir etc.

Q: Our shul has a caterer and we depend on his rent to help meet our budget. Obviously, he's not doing any business now and we're probably not going to see any of that rent. My president is talking about downsizing our staff. Anyone out there with similar concerns and/or suggestions?

Rav Willig- You are doing everyone a favor by firing him. All dinei mamonos shaylas should be put off until after the crisis. In the interim, uki mamona b'chrezkas mareh- all money should stay where it is. That may be the psak in the end because there will be many disputes with issues of makas medina and kim li.

Q: What do we tell ba'al habatim about buying new spices for pesach this year?

Rav Willig- We dont need new spices.

R" Tarargin: 1) I spoke with Rav Willig. He told me that he and Rav Schachter both feel that the Zoom Seder idea is assur. I was told that I can be mefarsem. A teshuva on it will iy"H be coming out. 2) I am working with Rav Willig to restart the formal daily answers to shaylos...

Q: As we approach our son turning one month old, we're wondering what we should do about pidyon haben. Obviously, we will not be able to have the same type of simcha we had hoped given the circumstances, but we were wondering what the bear minimum requirement would be in terms of attendance? Could we do it with just a kohen or would we need a minyan?

Answer: Pidyon Haben: [I would recommend that the Pidyon Haben should be done without any guests at all, just with the Kohen.](#)

Q: What are we doing about bodies going to Israel? Are they allowing bodies to fly? For someone who is on the verge of petira with Corona and has karka in Israel? R' Ya'akov Trump

Addendum: R' Dovid Gottlieb - I did a graveside levaya last night in Beit Shemesh with a meis that came from NY so at least as of yesterday they are allowing

R' Avraham Schmidman - A woman in our community passed away today. The Israelis allowed the body (but not her relatives) to go to Israel because the doctor signed an affidavit saying she did not have the coronavirus. The Israeli authorities from the משרד הבריאות made it quite clear that without such a letter they would not have let her in. If she did have COVID-19 they would also not have allowed her body into Israel.

Q: Yom Kippur Katan fasting

Rav Lau has called on people to fast at least half day on Wednesday (for those who can- those who can't can watch what they say more carefully)- is this something that is/will be taking root here as well? R' Benjy Epstein

Q: We normally get Shmura matzah in bulk from Shatzer but just informed they do not have anymore at bakery? Any suggestions for safe sources in NY area? Thanks! R' Daniel Cohen

Answer: R' Rodney Weiss - answer: Call Bingo or Pomegrante or Moshe's I saw a large supple of Shmurah Matza before Shabbos. (These are Brooklyn stores)

Q: Does the psak to say avinu malkeinu apply on rosh chodesh or the mincha before? (R' Schwartz)

Q: What is preferred re: pesach keilim. 1. kashering chametz keilim or 2. giving to a gentile and then doing tevilla when possible? R' Barry Gelman

Answer: Regarding Tevillas Keilim: I think it is better to figure out an eitzah regarding tevillas keilim rather than to kasher the chometz keilim.

Q: A woman about 90 with numerous health concerns lives alone. She is basically blind and cannot conduct a seder for herself. Can her family in Baltimore leave their cell phone (or house phone) on and she would leave hers on- she could follow along with the seder. Otherwise she would not have a seder as she cannot read. She will hear the family and will not feel alone. Is this allowed? R' Binyamin Marwick

Q: Please remind me what rav schachter said about folks who can't get to their offices to clean out before pesach re: selling chametz etc.

Those who cannot get to their offices, they can still sell their chometz that is in the office together with all the other chometz that they are selling

Q: I've been asked about cottage cheese...is it ok without ou.p and will it be available this year? R" Shaul Robinson

Addendum:

R' Gordimer: Cottage cheese, cream cheese, yogurt, sour cream, etc. require an OUD-P, as the cultures which ferment them are often grown on chametz, and the stabilizers they use are often made from non-Passover substances. Hard cheese likewise uses chametz cultures, and the regular kosher rennet comes from wheat glucose. Pesach cultures, stabilizers (for soft cheese, yogurt and sour cream) and rennet are a must for these products. But not to worry. The supply of these OUD-P products is plentiful.

R' Muskat: What about milk?

R' Gordimer: Regular refrigerated milk, containing only vitamins, is fine when bought before Pesach.

Rabbi Muskat: Thank you Rabbi Gordimer. If the store runs out of OUD-P products before Pesach like cottage cheese, yogurt, etc., can you buy without kosher for Pesach certification because it's batel before Pesach? And what about buying milk on Pesach?

R' Gordimer: My pleasure, Rabbi Muskat. These cultures should be treated as *davar ha-maamid*, and are hence not batel. I was advised not to buy milk during Pesach without a Pesach hechsher. Although OUD-P milk will be available in abundance, one can even buy extra containers of regular milk before Pesach and freeze it if need be. It will not spoil.

R' Muskat: Thank you - so just to make sure that I understand, the chametz in vitamin D in milk is not a *davar ha'ma'amid* whereas the chametz in the cultures in cottage cheese, yogurt, etc, are considered *davar ha'ma'amid*?

Q: Tevillat Keilim: Does any one know if besh'a'at hadechak it is recommended to rely on the Rogatchover (I saw this on my yeshiva's listserv.)

צפנת פענח הלכות מאכלות אסורות פרק יז (listserv.)

הלוקח כלי תשמיש סעודה כו'. הנה באמת נ"ל דרך אם העכו"ם עשה זה עבורו לסעודה אז חייב טבילה מן הדין אבל אם עשאן לסחורה י"ל דאין עליהם שם כלי סעודה כלל כמו פת פלטר. אך זה יהיה כמו הך דפסחים דף ל"ח ע"ב גבי נחתום עשאן למוכרן בשוק וה"נ י"ל כן

Answer: Regarding the Ragotchover's original suggestion, he was known to have many original ideas which were generally not accepted l'halacha by his contemporaries. Perhaps this particular original suggestion should be considered in order to delete the brocha. All of the non-Jewish companies manufacturing pots and pans are certainly incorporated, and there is a major dispute amongst poskim whether the halacha recognizes the international dina di'malchusa that states that the dummy corporation owns the factory and the pots and the pans and nothing is really owned by the owner. That machlokes alone should be enough cause to always be toveil keilim without a brocha. According to the dina d'malchusa, these keilim were never owned by a nochri but rather by the dummy corporation which is not even a human being at all.

Q: Should all communities be reverting to the kinyan/Hefker option? What did RHS think "is very difficult"? Roy Feldman

Q: Is there any meaning to the possibility of saying tachanun during Nissan this year? The extra for Mondays and Thursdays refers specifically to magefah. R' Gidon Rothstein

Q: Does the psak to say avinu malkeinu apply on rosh chodesh or the mincha before? (R' Schwartz)

Answer: Regarding Tachanun: My personal feeling is that the month of Nisan is treated as a yom tov because it was designated by the Torah as a Chodesh Ha'geulah and we celebrate like on yom tov by not saying Tachanun. I would assume that in the concentration camps they also did not say tachanun in chodesh Nissan. I feel the same is true about reciting Avinu Malkeinu on Rosh Chodesh or the Mincha before. We should celebrate rosh chodesh, especially rosh chodesh Nison as a Yom Tov and hope and pray for a speedy geulah

Rav Shay Schachter- Rav Schachter feels that Avinu Malkeinu should not be recited during Chodesh Nissan as it has always been considered to be a חודש הגאולה. Tachanun is not recited nor should Avinu Malkeinu.

Q: On shabbos afternoon my wife and I took a walk. Along the way we saw several congregants and, at a safe social distance, talked with them and tried to give pastoral support and spiritual encouragement. It felt meaningful to us and to them. I have now been thinking about reaching out to isolated (mostly senior citizens) congregants and trying to schedule visits from a safe distance on Shabbat and/or telling congregants we will be out on our porch for part of the long shabbat afternoons and schedule social distancing visits. Is this advisable? Slippery slope?

Rabbi Shmuel Hain

Answer- We spoke with Dr. Glatt. He said that obviously intrinsically it is not an issue if done at a safe distance. Slippery slope is a concern. It is a common sense question. It is up to the local rabbi and leaders to decide what is appropriate for the community.

Q: There has been much discussion about women using Mikva'ot at this time. Some say it is fine if they are maintained properly. Some say that it may not be and we cannot know if proper maintenance is taking place. What should we advise- go the mikvah, go to other bodies of water, not go?

Rabbi Reuven Taragin, Yerushalayim

Answer- Dr. Glatt says that the mikvahs, if cleaned properly are safe, and we rely on him.

Regarding tevila at the ocean, some Rabbonim have permitted going to the sea / beach. The lady would wear beach footwear and a unfitted house-coat, take another woman with her to ensure all hair is under the water.

Others disagree with this advice because once this crisis is over they will continue to use the beach. Also the toivelet needs to be completely relaxed in the water, no tight lips etc and realistically can they guarantee that? The water is cold, little scary at night time etc. Can they guarantee no sand between toes?

Rabbi Yehoshua Aharon Sofer, Manchester, UK

Answer- Under the circumstances, the ocean is OK. If they are scared about going at night, they can go on the 8th day and maintain all nida harchakos until it gets dark on the eighth day.

Q: There is a p'sak going around the internet about people who do not go to the mikvah being more lenient with harchakot. What should the response to this be?

Rabbi Reuven Taragin, Yerushalayim

Answer- The full harchakos apply to any woman who has not gone to the mikvah even under these circumstances.

26 Adar/ March 21

Should one bentsh gomel after recovering from Corona?

Jacob Rosenfeld, Teaneck

Answer: One should certainly recite gomel when recovering from Corona. The mishna berura quotes from rishonim that one should try to say gomel within 30 days of recovery. It may well be that 30 days will go by and we still won't be able to have ten people together to say the brocha. My impression is that you don't really need ten people in the same room, you are not dealing with a dovor sh'bikidusha; it is sufficient if you have ten people listening in "on line" at the same time, this would probably be sufficient. The shuchan aruch quotes a machlokes amongst the rishonim whether the ten are m'akeiv. Even if one follows that opinion that the ten people are m'akeiv, the mishna berurah quotes rebbi akiva eiger that just as someone else who is a dear friend of the choleh who got better may recite a brocha b'shem u'malchus, over his friend's recovery, so too the choleh himself should be able to recite ha'gomel even if he is not in fulfillment of his obligation (because there are no ten people)

My roommate is Sfardi and I am Ashkenazi. Would there be any kashrus issues for me if I use his keilim for my food before and during Pesach? And would it be an issue for me to have my food on the Hot Plate at the same time he is warming his kitnios food?

Rabbi Jonathan Muskat, Oceanside

Answer: The shach in the second chelek of yoreh deah quotes a teshuva from maharal bach that if someone cooked food in a pot that is not even forbidden m'dirabonon but only m'taam minhag, once you wait 24 hours and the pot is eino ben yomo, there is no need to kasher. However, within 24 hours it is not proper to cook in the pot even though we assume that kitniyos does not even need shishim but it is botel b'rov, and you always have rov in the food cooked in the pot against the b'liyah that is coming out. Regarding the hot plate, the gemorah says in mesechet avoda zora that a jew is permitted to cook kosher food in a kosher pot next to the non kosher food being cooked by the non Jew in the pot next to it. The rishonim understand this to mean that even if the two pots are touching, ain bolua yotzei m'kli l'kli b'lo rofef.

For Bar Mitzvah boy who is making up his parsha at a later date (as R Schachter described on the call)- what haftorah would be read that Shabbat? What about the Maftir itself? Would you need to roll back to the current sedra of the week?

Rabbi Binyamin Lehrfeild

Answer: If the sidra that the bar mitzvah boy prepared is immediate adjacent to the sidrah that will be read as parshas ha'shovua on shabbos, and they will be read as m'chuborim, then although the common minhag is that we lein the haftorah of the second sidrah, it would not be that terrible to permit the bar mitzvah boy, in this unusual case to recite the haftorah of the first parsha because we are really reading them as one long parsha. The same would be true if the people in the shul will agree to listen to three or four or more parshiyos in a row that they missed together with the parshas ha'shavuah of that shabbos, it would be the same. If however, they will not be leining all the sidrahs in order, but just be giving seven aliyos in the parshas ha'shovua and then skipping back and leining the bar mitzvah boy's sidrah which was missed, as a hosofa, then b'davka they should say the haftorah on the second k'riyah. Whenever we take out two sifrei torah, the haftorah is always connected to the k'riyah of the second sefer torah.

As a bachor, I wanted to know if it would be possible to hear a siyum on Erev Pesach through Zoom or conference call?

Elior Holzer

Answer: Regarding taanis b'choros, I had a chance over shabbos to look up the teshuva by rabbi henkin on the topic. He writes that basically we no longer have the minhag to fast taanis b'choros because everybody participates in a siyum. So the minhag to fast disappeared in recent years. Therefore he recommends that one should be padeh the taanis by giving some tzedokah. My impression is that in recent years people go by plane to visit their parents or in laws for yom tov and they are not able to participate in a siyum in person so they listen on line to a live siyum that is taking place somewhere else.

One of my balabatim's wife have an accute, chronic respiratory condition so he's nervous shopping at the local frum kosher markets for Pesach (there has been a rush on local products and often the markets have more people in them than currently advised). He would like to drive out of the frum community and buy some dairy products for Pesach, would that be permissible? They won't have pesachdik hashgacha on them but he remembers that as a child many frum people would make these kind of purchases for Pesach.
R' Yechiel Shaffer

Answer: Regarding the milk, the whole chumrah of buying milk which is kosher l'pesach, comes from the Taz who suggested that if the cows eat chometz on Pesach, and the milk will be mutar based on zeh v'zeh goraim, and that heter is similar to bitul, so just like chometz on Pesach is b'mah sh'hu, so too we should be machmir on zeh v'zeh goraim. But, since chometz before Pesach is not b'mah sh'hu, zeh v'zeh goraim would be mutar. That is why years ago people would buy a lot of milk before Pesach

24 Adar/ March 20

We are in lockdown until Erev Pesach. A congregant asked about getting haircuts during Sefirat Hamoer since we likely won't be able to get them before Pesach

Rabbi Gershon Albert, San Francisco

Answer- It is mutar. Rav Willig says kal v'chomer from Chol Hamo'eid. Rav Schachter says it is ad sheyigaru bo chaveirav according to the Rav's definition.

A family claims to have a minhag to only eat '18 minute matzah', thinking this is to the exclusion of machine matzah, which they understand to have greater concerns about hametz with equipment not being cleaned between runs, etc. With today's realities, is this a מנהג שטות? How are they supposed to relate to it if they are having more difficulty getting matzah of their preference?

Rabbi Ezra Goldschmiedt, Cincinnati

Answer- It is only a chmura. Hataras Nedarim is not required (Dagul Meirivavah YD 214, Shach S"K 2 who explain that you are not trying to undo the neder, just act differently now because of unique circumstances)

What do people davening beychidusdo about the two Yikam Purkans and the Mi Shebeirach that follows?

Rabbi Binyon Marwick, Baltimore

Answer- We leave all of them out.

What's the psak regarding a Chevra Kadisha doing a tahara on a meis who had Coronavirus?

Rabbi Yaakov Gibber, Boca Raton

Answer- Rabbi Zohn called Rav Willig yesterday and said that after speaking to Dr. Glatt there is no real danger. However, there is a greater danger of getting it from another member of the chevra kadisha. For this reason, it is best to minimize and expedite the tahara (the chevra know the details being referred to and Rabbi Zohn is the expert).

What do people think about doing Kabbalat Shabbat until lecha dodi live-stream and not accepting Shabbat at that time?

Rabbi Jonathan Muskat, Oceanside

(Addendum- Isn't there an opinion that bo'i v'shalom is Kabbalat Shabbat?)

Answer- 100% mutar. Rav Schachter added that in Prague they always used to do it all the way up till Mizmor Shir. Rav Willig says k'dai to stop before Boi B'Shalom so it shouldn't lead to a zilzul on a public level.

What do people suggest for a person who needs to say birchat hagomel? Member thank god survived bad car accident virtually unscathed..can zoom create 10 for this purpose or similar to davar shebekudasha

Rabbi Daniel Cohen, Stanford

Answer- Rav Schachter believes that the need for ten is because of pirsum (not because of davar shebakdusha) so it will work on Zoom.

Rav Schachter quoted a שיעור אפרים about what to do when a parsha is missed. Does anyone know where that is?

Rabbi Moshe Abrams

Answer- Shaar Zayin Sif Tes.

A couple of people have asked me if someone doesn't normally sell chomeitz gomur, would this year be different as they're reluctant to dwindle too soon and generally be without. I presume hataras nedorim needed if they do sell.

Rabbi Jeremy Golker, London, England

Answer- You may sell and don't need hataras nedarim (Dagul Meirivavah YD 214, Shach S"K 2 who explain that you are not trying to undo the neder, just act differently now because of unique circumstances)

We are about to enter chodesh Nissan where we would not normally have tachanunim
What would be appropriate to add to tefillah or have as a stand alone tefillah due to the current circumstances

Rabbi Adam Hill, London, England

Answer- Avinu Malkeinu

Can people change their minhag re gebrochts or other minhag based pesach dietary issues if they find themselves in settings where they don't control their own food situation (ie not in their own private kitchen)

Rabbi David Katz, Yerushalayim

Answer- If needed, it can be done. (Dagul Meirivavah YD 214, Shach S"K 2 who explain that you are not trying to undo the neder, just act differently now because of unique circumstances)

As a Rabbi of a shul, I am planning to use an online Shtar harsha'a for Mechiras chometz.

I will email a blank form to every member of my congregation. They will fill it out online and email it back to me. I have about 250 members. To print out 250 forms will take an extremely long time. Can I set it up in such a manner that the form will be emailed to a special file which will store all the information. Then I would download the file onto a disk or flash drive. The disk will have all the information and it will be possible to print out all the forms off of the desk. I would then like to give the disk to the non-Jew when I perform the sale rather than giving him a few hundred papers as I have done in the past. Is this method acceptable?

Rabbi Yaakov Luban

Answer- Yes, it is acceptable.

23 Adar/ March 19

I) Tevilas Keilim

A) If there are issues with Keilim Mikvah sanitation as per the guidelines sent by r Willig (which there is not now but there may be in our case), may people who need to buy new things for pesach rely on selling them to a non Jew ?

Rabbi Roy Feldman, Albany, NY

B) If our keilim Mikvaos are closed what guidelines can we offer with regard to using Lakes, bays, or other bodies of water?

Rabbi Shmuli Marcus, NY

Addendums by others

(We have a stream in town where it's easy to tovel Kelim. Are there any concerns of adding germs/infecting the water if people tovel kelim in it?)

C) In a similar vein, any guidelines for using new keilim without toveling as keilim mikvehs are inaccessible?

Rabbi Yoel Konegsburg, London, England

D) Are there any kulos re tevilas keilim. Many people are buying new pots and pans for Pesach that never been home and are nervous about going to the mikvah

Rabbi Aaron Leibtag, Chicago

Answer- Rabbi Dr. Glatt says there is no problem with the keilim mikvah if people use gloves and wash their hands properly. That having been said, if people think it is dangerous, they have a right to treat it that way and for them it is considered as if there is no mikvah.

In such cases, you give it as a matana to a goy. The Mishneh Brura says you the goy does hagba'a. If you want to sell it, you need to goy to give money in addition to hagbaha.

If you are first buying it now, pay with a credit card and have in mind not to be koneh it.

Regarding bodies of water: bays are fine like the ocean, lakes are probably fine as there is probably more mei maayanot and it is ashboren. The vessel should be put down further into the water (because the top few inches are spill off and may be called zochlin).

Streams are the biggest problems as the majority in the spring water is likely rain and snow water so better to avoid them.

II) Kashering Keilim

Are there any guidelines that they could provide regarding Kashering keilim for Pesach if access to new appliances or communal Kashering is limited (for example, Kashering water kettles vs buying new ones, Kashering oven racks etc)

Rabbi Aharon HersHKovitz, London, England

Answer- If the kli is year round only used for water it is OK for Pesach. As far as the fear of chametz having come up, you pour hot water over the spout.

Oven racks- mei'ikar hadin enough to clean the rack, heat to the highest, and cover them.

III) Tefila

I have been live-streaming my davening to encourage others to daven, put on tefillin, etc. Some have asked whether I can daven shemoneh esrei aloud as it would be helpful for them to follow along. Is there a problem with that? Too similar to chazaras hashatz?

Rabbi Ben Kurzer, London, England

Answer- Not a good idea. Helpful is not enough of a reason to be matir this. If it is **impossible** to follow along, there is room to be meikil.

IV) Bedikat Chametz

As this year we may be davening at home, should we daven before or after doing the bedika.

Yochanan Zupnick, Monsey, NY

Answer- Shaarei Tziyon (331:11) says you can do either so you can do either.

V) Quarantine/Seder

In the topic of elderly individuals having Seder alone - I am awaiting medical guidance but what about pairing older members with each other (of course this assumes that they are all healthy etc and would be willing and able to really spend יום טוב and not just סדרים together).

Rabbi Binyomin Blau, Cleveland, OH

[I realize that this may be medical question, but I include it as it was asked- RT]

Answer- Rabbi Dr. Glatt says there is nothing wrong with this. We determine this based upon what we know. We should not put everyone in quarantine.