

Re: Online Classes

Dear Friends,

I hope this message finds you well.

Rabbi Shmuli and I recently had a discussion regarding the times of when some of our classes online. We carefully considered both the benefits and the potential drawbacks before reaching a decision.

It goes without saying that in-person participation remains the most effective and meaningful way to learn and grow. The energy of being physically present, engaging face-to-face, and sharing in the experience together is irreplaceable.

At the same time, we recognize the need to accommodate those who live outside of Toronto, as well as those who may be ill or otherwise unable to attend in person. In order to responsibly offer an online option while maintaining the integrity and quality of our classes, we ask that anyone participating online adhere to the following guidelines:

- Participating online should only be for situations when one is really not able to come live.
- Participants should be prepared to engage fully and without interruption for the entire duration of the class. This means refraining from eating meals, multitasking, household chores, responding to emails, or other distractions during class time.
- Participants must remain visible on screen in a manner that is respectful and not distracting to others.
- Participants should join on time. If you anticipate arriving late, please notify us in advance and indicate approximately what time you expect to join. Admitting participants late can be disruptive to the flow of the class.
- Those attending in person will be given preference when it comes to sharing and asking questions. Participants joining online should remain muted for the duration of the class unless specifically invited to share.

These guidelines apply to all classes offered online, with the exception of the Friday morning class.

We fully appreciate that we are all adults and capable of exercising good judgment. However, experience has shown that when exceptions are made for one individual, it often leads to additional requests, which can be difficult to manage fairly and consistently. We therefore ask for your understanding and cooperation in helping us maintain clear and respectful standards for everyone and hope that you will come live as much as possible. We are open to comments and questions on this matter.

Thank you for your continued commitment to learning and for being valued members of our community. With warm regards,

Rabbi Heshi
Rabbi Shmuli