

The background features a dark blue gradient with intricate white circular patterns. These patterns include concentric circles, dashed lines, and radial tick marks, resembling a technical or scientific diagram. Numbers such as 40, 150, 160, 180, 190, 200, 220, 230, 240, 250, and 260 are scattered throughout the design, often positioned near the circular elements.

THE LASTING IMPACT OF THE CORONAVIRUS ON THE CHEVRAH KADISHA

18TH NORTH AMERICAN CHEVRAH KADISHA AND
JEWISH CEMETERY CONFERENCE
PLENARY SESSION – SUNDAY JUNE 7, 2020 – 12:30 PM
BY DAVID ZINNER, KAVOD V'NICHUM EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

PREVIOUS CONFERENCES

1st 2003 Rockville Maryland

2nd 2004 Las Vegas Nevada

3rd 2005 New York New York

4th 2006 Portland Oregon

5th 2007 Edmonton Alberta

6th 2008 Edison New Jersey

7th 2009 Berkeley California

8th 2010 Atlanta Georgia

9th 2011 Skokie Illinois

10th 2012 Los Angeles California

11th 2013 Philadelphia Pennsylvania

12th 2014 Miami Florida

13th 2015 Austin Texas

14th 2016 Lexington Massachusetts

15th 2017 San Rafael California

16th 2018 Bethesda Maryland

17th 2019 Fort Collins Colorado

18th 2020 Zoom Internet

DISEASE OUTBREAKS

1981 AIDS

2002 SARS

2004 Avian flu

2009 H1N1 Swine Flu

2012 MERS

2014 Ebola

2015 Zika

2019 Covid19

DANIEL 5:5

מִנָּא מִנָּא תִּקֵּל וּפְרָסִין:

Just then, the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace opposite the lampstand, so that the king could see the hand as it wrote.

SOUNDS OF SILENCE

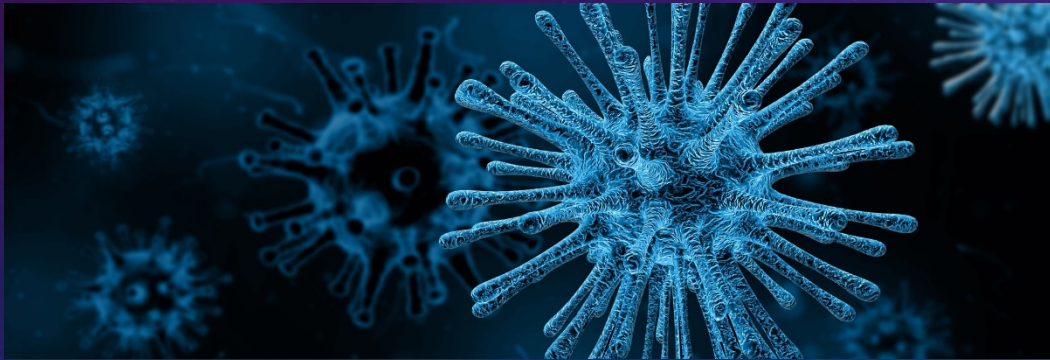
“...the words of the prophets
are written on the subway
walls, and tenement halls”



Covid-19



Kavod



כבוד
וניחום

★ Kavod v'Nichum • Honor & Comfort

Kavod v'Nichum Recommendations - March 8, 2020

- 1. Every Chevrah Kadisha should purchase, read and study the booklet** published by Kavod V' nichum, titled [Health and Safety Precautions for Taharah – A Guide to Understanding Potential Risk and Injuries While Performing the Holy Work of the Chevrah Kadisha](#) – Revised Second Edition.
- 2. Do not assume that you will know** if the *meit/meitah* has coronavirus or any other disease. You might or might not have information, and that information might or might not be accurate. Do assume that every *meit/meitah* has some disease and therefore use Standard Precautions.
- 3. Understand what we know about transmission** of disease in the *taharah* room. Possible routes of disease spread are:
 - Airborne and Aerosolized – no, the *meit/meitah* is not breathing
 - Bloodborne – yes, blood and other body fluids may have the disease
 - Contact – yes, the disease may be on the skin of the *meit/meitah*
 - Droplet – yes, it is possible that if an object, like a scissors, falls into a pool of blood, that the disease could travel as infected droplets
- 4. Protect against transmission** in the *taharah* room by using Standard Precautions
 - Wear gloves to protect our hands
 - Practice the discipline of not touching our face so that the disease cannot enter our body through our mucous membranes – eyes, nose and mouth –
 - Use Personal Protective Equipment or PPE that we discard before we leave the *taharah* room so that we don't bring diseases home with us
- 5. We suggest using face coverings, such as face shields,**
 - They can prevent splash droplets from touching your face
 - They can reinforce the discipline of not touching your face during a *taharah*

Kavod v'Nichum Recommendations - March 8, 2020

6. Review with your *taharah* team pages 11 and 12 in the Health and Safety booklet regarding PPE and *taharah* room discipline. **Practice donning and doffing PPE.**

7. **Establish policies** for your *Chevrah Kadisha* that include:

- If *taharah* team members are sick, they should not do the *taharah*
- If *taharah* team members' health is compromised, they should consider not doing the *taharah*.

8. **Discuss with your funeral home how they clean** surfaces such as the *taharah* table. A 10% bleach solution has been shown to kill most diseases.

9. Be aware that **it is difficult to predict what will happen** in the future, but be prepared for:

- Supply shortages of PPE
- Increased deaths and increased requests for *taharot*
- Decreased availability of funeral home staff due to sickness
- Decreased availability of *taharah* team members due to sickness

10. *Chevrah Kadisha* members may want to **have a role in helping their community** by providing information and support, especially for vulnerable community members.

New Recommendations as of March 24th

Our panel of experts
now strongly recommends
that during these periods of widespread
transmission of COVID-19,
and especially when communities are
told to limit personal exposure,
Chevrah Kadisha groups
should not do any form of
taharot.

TAHARAH

Kehillah - Representatives of the community come together

Kavanah - with sincerity of intention

Tefillah - to pray for strength and pray for the meit/ah as we

Asiyah - lovingly clean, wash, purify, dress and casket our friend.

Therefore, any practice, decision or code that is universally accepted by the Jewish people is assumed to represent God's will and is binding as such.

Even when a decision is initially disputed, the commonly accepted opinion becomes binding as law.

[HTTPS://WWW.AISH.COM/JL/M/PM/48932007.HTML](https://www.aish.com/jl/m/pm/48932007.html)

We ARE the Chevrah Kadisha,
the HOLY society and
we are committed
to showing honor and respect to
EVERY person,
while living,
while dying, and
especially after their death.

For A Time Such As This (Esther 4:14)

The Chevrah Kadisha cares for the loved ones in every community. The members of the Chevrah Kadisha who do the holy work of taharah have experienced the confusion and sadness that has overwhelmed us during the coronavirus crisis.

“During a time such as this...” Kavod v’Nichum is here for those who do taharot. We are your source for up to the minute information and knowledge, support and comfort.

To continue providing you with these much needed resources, we ask for your support by donating to Kavod v’Nichum.

KAVOD V'NICHUM

WORKING TO KEEP YOU SAFE AND INFORMED

[www.gofundme.com/
f/CK---covid19](https://www.gofundme.com/f/CK---covid19)

or

[https://bit.ly/KvN-
Esther](https://bit.ly/KvN-Esther)



STRONG
DETERMINED
GENEROUS

WWW.GOFUNDME.COM/F/CK---COVID19

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THANK YOU - TODAH RABAH