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Dear Friends:

As we wrote to you earlier in the week, Montgomery County is beginning Phase 2 Friday afternoon, June 19. We wanted to briefly summarize for you how our minyan offerings will change due to the new executive order:

- Houses of worship will be able to hold gatherings inside larger than 12 people. Beginning at mincha this Friday evening, we will begin to have women in attendance at our minyanim. From this point onward, we plan to facilitate attendance by women at each of our minyanim.
- Though we are no longer limited to 12 people per service, we are also restricted from holding minyanim in our smaller rooms (a ratio of 1 person/family per 200 square feet is required). From this point onward, we plan to hold minyanim in the Belonofsky Sanctuary and full Social Hall (the dividing wall will be taken down), but, for the foreseeable future, will not be holding minyanim in the Franco Family Beit Midrash, nor will be splitting the social hall for minyanim.
- By our calculations, the limitations imposed by the county would allow for a maximum of 15 attendees in the Belonofsky Sanctuary and 18 attendees in the social hall. These numbers should double when we get to Phase 3 with Hashem's help.
- We will no longer be restricted from having more than one minyan taking place at the same time. This will allow us to hold multiple minyanim during the day in two different locations in the building. It will be essential for our staff to thoroughly clean each davening location after use before it is to be used again.

We are pleased that Phase 2 will allow us to service larger groups, more times during the day. For this Friday night we plan to offer a Plag minyan at 6:55 pm both in the Belonofsky Sanctuary and the Social Hall, as well as a minyan at 8:25 pm in the social hall. We still plan to offer three minyanim Shabbos morning, at 6:30, 8:00, and 9:30, along with Shabbos mincha minyanim at 2:30, 5:00, and 7:00. We will be able to offer Saturday night maariv in both the Belonofsky Sanctuary and the social hall.

We are reassessing our weekday minyan offerings based on the new rules, and the options that attracted more and less interest this past week. We plan to have that information for you soon. We look forward to providing more opportunities for people to join together in prayer in our shul.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Dovid Rosenbaum

Yale Ginsburg, President