



## Kol Ami Response to the COVID Virus

(Updated Friday March 13, 12:00PM)

(As of [Kol Ami's March 12 Steering Meeting on our Covid response](#), the congregation has postponed or adjusted all in person group activities and services to an online Zoom format. Consistent with our Jewish values of saving a life, we have taken these measures as our civic duty to assist our community, our nation, our healthcare system and one another in preventing spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Even as we maintain our social distances, we look to keep our community close and caring through spiritual, communal and creative endeavors. This document will be updated as Kol Ami adjusts to changing CDC and local government guidelines. **New information from the previous version will show up HIGHLIGHTED, today's March 13 version has been updated in its entirety** with information about [programing in our congregation](#) and [resources beyond Kol Ami.](#))

Excerpted from Rabbi Gilah's March 12 "In the Community - Responding to the Corona Virus"  
"This is a challenging time in our congregation's life and the world's. Events are moving swiftly in the COVID-19 pandemic, and we are working hard to keep up with them. Committee chairs met via Zoom yesterday and our Steering Committee conference called tonight. We were also informed today that the UUCA will be shutting down its building as of Saturday afternoon.

As we work through our response to the crisis, we want to hear your concerns and be as open as possible about our decision making. We will need to adjust some of our traditions and activities, but we hope to experiment with creative ways that will strengthen our community and keep us connected. Social distancing should not necessarily mean spiritual isolation!"

We will be hosting a variety of **Shabbat services, daily minyans, Wednesday meditations with Rabbi Gilah (8-8:30PM)** and **other student and adult online programs** to keep our community close and welcome individuals beyond our membership. Details will be available on our website and listserv. If you have an idea for an online program you'd like to offer contact our President, [Debbie Linick](#).

Here are some other ways we hope to stay connected and care for one another:

-- **We want to be sure everyone is connected online.** All members should be getting our weekly newsletter each Wednesday. Those interested in our community, can sign up to receive announcements on our outreach list. Please let our coordinator, [Meryl Paskow](#) know if you need to sign up or change your contact information.

-- To increase our ability to stay in touch with one another, **we want to be sure that everyone can access our online programs via Zoom**. The Zoom app should automatically download when you click on one of the links we are sending out. If not, you can go to <https://zoom.us/download> to download the application to your computer, tablet, or cell phone. We invite members and those in the wider community to RSVP and receive a Zoom link for any of our services and activities during the COVID pandemic.

-- Our **Care and Concern Committee is reaching out** to members who live alone and may feel isolated or need extra care during the COVID pandemic. If you would like to be involved in this effort as someone who makes check-in calls or someone who receives check-ins, please contact our [Care & Concern team](#).

-- We are looking into creating a separate **"open discussion listserv" for members** to share information, ideas, and thoughts about the health crisis. Stay tuned!

Beyond Kol Ami, we have gathered information from group calls with Reconstructing Judaism, and the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and outreach to Arlington County's County Manager. The Arlington County Manager asked that we share the following links with you:

- the [CDC](#) website including [CDC guidance for older and immune-compromised individuals](#)
- Signing up for [Arlington County's Alert System](#)
- Kol Amites can also sign up for individual alerts in [Fairfax](#) and [Alexandria](#)
- You may also contact a Virginia health hotline that has been established at **877-ASK-VDH3**.

Our Care & Concern team, leadership and Ritual Committees are all looking for creative and joyous ways we can continue to build community in difficult times.. We want to be as open in our decision making process as possible and solicit your feedback and ideas. As we manage these challenges together, let us keep warm thoughts and high spirits.

Debbie Linick  
President

Gilah Langner  
Rabbi

Meryl Paskow  
Coordinator

Jane Schulman  
Vice President