



aELIYAH MINISTRIES

P.O Box 1255 Ava, Missouri 65608

www.EliYah.com | disciple@elijah.com

(866) 435-4924

Shalom brothers and sisters,

This document represents the response and policy of EliYah Ministries regarding the Coronavirus (Covid-19) and the Feast of Tabernacles, 2021 in Steelville, Missouri.

Due to the virus, we will be making extra efforts to keep the camp sanitized, but we cannot guarantee all surfaces are free of the virus.

We will not be requiring masks or social distancing, but please read this policy in full to understand our perspective.

First of all, we believe that Yahweh is in control of all things, and that He is the one who “sends the pestilence” upon the nations. We also believe that Yahweh is our protector from this pestilence. However, we believe we are most likely to receive His protection when we do what He tells us to do whenever He sends the pestilence.

Here is one thing He said to do:

2 Chr. 7:13-14 - "When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people,

¹⁴ "if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

There is indeed a “pestilence” among His people. For this reason, on the first day of our Feast we will be asking everyone to gather for the purposes of each of us individually searching out our own hearts regarding any areas of repentance that Yahweh wants to reveal to us. We will humble ourselves, pray, seek His face and turn from any wicked way that may be in us. We believe that this is the most important thing that will cause Yahweh to want to protect us from any virus spreading in our camp.

Regarding various conspiracy theories which suggest powerful men are responsible for the virus, we believe it is immaterial. Even if some of it may be true, we believe that Yahweh is bigger than they are. Thus, they could not do the things they do unless Yahweh had given the green light. Yahweh says that He sends the pestilence and we believe Him.

When it comes to infectious disease, we can also find principles in the Torah which teach us what we ought to do. We look at the example of Leprosy, which is an infectious disease:

“Experts believe that the bacteria spread when a person breathes in tiny airborne droplets released when someone with leprosy coughs or sneezes. The bacteria may also be passed on by coming into contact with the nasal fluids of a person with leprosy.”

[Medline Medical Encyclopedia](#)

Leprosy, like Covid-19 and viral infections, is believed to be spread through coughing and sneezing. Although the ancient world did not know about microscopic agents that were spread through the air, Yahweh did. For this reason, He commanded:

Leviticus 13:45-46 - "Now the leper on whom the sore *is*, his clothes shall be torn and his head bare; and he shall cover his mustache, and cry, 'Unclean! Unclean!'
⁴⁶ "He shall be unclean. All the days he has the sore he shall be unclean. He *is* unclean, and he shall dwell alone; his dwelling *shall be* outside the camp.

So in the Torah, they were required to leave the camp entirely. We believe the Torah contains principles, not just precepts. For this reason, if anyone has Covid-19, another infectious disease, they will not be permitted to attend the Feast of Tabernacles in Steelville.

Why cover the mustache? The Hebrew word is from the word family meaning “lip” or “Language.” So basically, covering the area below their nose would help to reduce the chance of transmitting the airborne droplets to another person as they shouted, “Unclean! Unclean!”

For this reason, we believe that wearing face coverings and “social distancing” are actually biblical. In fact, Israel was the first nation in the world to practice it!

There are some differences, however, when comparing Leprosy to Covid-19:

- Leprosy wasn't significantly contagious, but Covid-19 is highly contagious. [Youth Camps have been reported to be huge hotspots for the virus with hundreds](#)

[contracting the virus in single weekends.](#)

- Leprosy wasn't necessarily deadly, but Covid-19 can be deadly...especially the elderly and people who have weak immune systems.
- Leprosy had visible symptoms, but Covid-19 is more elusive because one can harbor the virus while expressing little to no symptoms.

With the Covid-19 virus, if one is to fail to practice proper Torah Principles of facial covering and social distancing while harboring the virus, they could actually have blood on their hands if they carelessly spread it to someone with a weaker immune system and they die. We are instructed to honor our elders. Part of that is protecting them in their weaknesses even as they protect the weak among us.

In light of this, it is even more important to practice the Torah principles with Covid-19 while being very attentive to symptoms.

In fact, in the Torah, isolation was required if someone "might be" expressing symptoms of infection:

Leviticus 13:3-4 - "The priest shall examine the sore on the skin of the body; and ... if the bright spot *is* white on the skin of his body, and does not appear *to be* deeper than the skin, and its hair has not turned white, then the priest shall isolate *the one who has* the sore seven days. And the priest shall examine him on the seventh day; and indeed *if* the sore appears to be as it was, *and* the sore has not spread on the skin, then the priest shall isolate him another seven days.

So in the Torah we actually have up to a 14 day period of isolation if they "might be" expressing symptoms of an infectious disease. Thus, the modern requirement for one to have a 14 day quarantine if they "might be" exposed to Covid-19 is actually biblical.

In light of the principles and precepts of the Torah, we plan to implement these policies:

- Our gatherings will be outdoors, or possibly in a large tent area with open sides and fans running.
- It is possible that meals will not be served at the diner. Meals may be delivered to a central location in the camp for attendees to pick up.
- We also notice that Yahweh did not allow individuals to make the determination as to whether they had the infectious disease. He commanded that those in a

position of leadership (priests) to make such determinations. For this reason, the elders have determined that due to the invisible nature of the virus, we may decide, at our discretion, to have anyone who plans to attend a feast event where there is close human contact to be checked for fevers using instant non-contact thermometers. Contact thermometers will also be available.

- Those who are expressing flu-like symptoms or have a temperature of 100.4 or greater (confirmed by multiple thermometers) may, at the discretion of elders (Lev. 13:3-4), be asked to immediately leave the camp, along with others who are sharing their room or tent. This is based on the Torah principle of those who “might be” expressing a contagious disease to separate themselves from the camp.
- Those who choose to wear facial coverings will need to provide their own. Those who wear a mask, even while not expressing symptoms, or have chosen to get vaccinated, will not be mocked, ridiculed, derided or marginalized at the feast. Everyone will be treated with respect.
- Those who choose **not** to wear facial masks or get vaccinated may have personal or biblical reasons for doing so, and will not be mocked, ridiculed, derided or marginalized at the feast. Everyone will be treated with respect.
- One of the first signs of your body fighting a virus is having nasal drainage in the back of the throat. We may not notice this, however, and children especially are not as likely to report or notice this. It may help to gargle with mouthwash with at least 20% alcohol content, saltwater or vinegar at least twice per day.

Part of loving your neighbor as yourself is doing all that you can do to protect them from a potentially deadly disease.

While we do believe that Yahweh is our healer, we also know this doesn't mean to test Him by going to live in a leper's camp. Yahweh instructed them to be separate from the rest of the camp. We also know that He said, “Come out of her my people, lest you share in her plagues.” Thus, there are times, even in the Torah, where ‘social distancing’ is biblical.

At the same time, we believe that if we practice the Torah Principles Yahweh has given, He will honor our desire to keep our gathering safe and free from the virus.

We are looking forward to a beautiful time together this year in Steelville. If anyone disagrees with our policy and wishes to cancel, please find the original email containing

your registration and click the edit link at the top. When you click the link, there will be an option to cancel your registration.