

# How Will We Know When It's Safe to Do In-Person *Taharot*?

## Let's Discuss This ...

This document formulates questions that will lead to criteria that need to be developed that will enable *Chevrei Kadisha* to determine when they feel it is safe enough to resume doing *taharot* in funeral homes.

### Taharah Team Members

- Should team members be tested for Covid-19? Is the test reliable? How often should it be done? Both before and after a *taharah*?
- Should team members wear masks and face shields during a *taharah*? Do we need N-95 masks? Should PPE training include fit testing of N-95 masks, as well as donning and doffing? Should team members have their own PPE? Should they don their PPE with only one person in the room at a time?
- Should we limit the size of teams to four people? Should the *metaharim* only work with one team.
- Should team members provide contact information and be contacted after a *taharah* to check their health.

### Conditions in the Taharah Room

- How do we have the best conditioned air in the *taharah* room? How do we increase ventilation? Windows that open? HEPA filters?
- How do we optimize temperature and humidity? Should funeral homes keep the temperature in the room at least 75 degrees and at least 50% humidity?
- Should *taharot* take place outside?

### Supplies

- Is there sufficient PPE available, including N-95 masks and face shields?

### Taharah Procedures

- Should we wait until 24 hours after a death before doing a *taharah*?
- Should we pre-record the *taharah* prayers to reduce loud speaking in the room?
- Should we disinfect the skin of the *meit/ah* before the *taharah* begins? Possibly by soaking sheets in bleach water and laying them on the body bag and a second time laying them on the *meit/ah*? Should we pack the orifices? Should we add bleach to the water for washing and pouring? And always pour gently?

What additional questions should we ask?