



Jewish Community  
Council of Montreal

Conseil de la Communauté  
Juive de Montréal

ועד העיר דמונטריאל

בס"ד

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24 Elul 5780

6819 Decarie Blvd,  
Montreal, Quebec,  
H3W 3E4  
Tel: (514) 739-6363  
Fax: (514) 739-7024  
Web: www.jccom.ca

## **COVID-19: TRAVEL ADVISORY**

In the past family and friends from the United States would often join us to celebrate the High Holidays and the Days of Awe.

This year, however, due to the pandemic, this will not be the case.

We recently conferred with government officials who confirmed that the Government of Canada has implemented temporary travel restrictions in all modes of transportation (land, air, sea, rail) to protect residents of Canada and to ease the potential burden that ill travelers may place on Canada's health care system and frontline workers. The Canadian border is not closed, but rather, border restrictions have been introduced for travelers seeking to come to Canada from the United States or abroad for discretionary or optional reasons. Canadian citizens and permanent residents, on the other hand, continue to enter Canada by right and are subject to COVID-19 screening measures.

Non-Canadians are only allowed into our country for essential travel. Individuals will be stopped at border crossings if they are travelling for optional or discretionary reasons.

To be clear, the Government of Canada does not view celebrating Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur as essential travel.

Officials also pointed out that non-Canadians entering the country by air or by land must prove that their visit is essential. Travelers should have the necessary documentation to provide details on their reason(s) for traveling, the length of stay, as well as any other information to substantiate the essential nature of their travel. If, for example, the purpose is to provide care for an immediate family member you will be asked to demonstrate that only you can fulfill this role.

At the border travelers will be screened by a border services officer or quarantine officer to assess symptoms and asked to present a quarantine plan which must include a place to stay, details on how you will be getting to your destination, buying groceries and accessing essential services and medical care. For more details please consult <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/coronavirus-covid19/travel-restrictions-exemptions.html#citizen-pr>. We wish to emphasize that all persons entering Canada must isolate themselves for 14 days.

These are indeed challenging times but we must continue to be vigilant and to behave responsibly if we are to be successful in limiting the spread of COVID-19. Let's hope that next year we will be able to gather in our homes and our shuls with family and friends from every part of the globe to mark the start of the New Year as well as the Day of Atonement