



Community COVID Update as of 1/27/21

B”H over the last two weeks the number of positive COVID-19 cases in the community has peaked and begun to decline thanks to the increased vigilance of community members and the effort of the schools to contain the spread. However, the overall infection rate is still high with approximately four times as many positive cases per week as compared to November.

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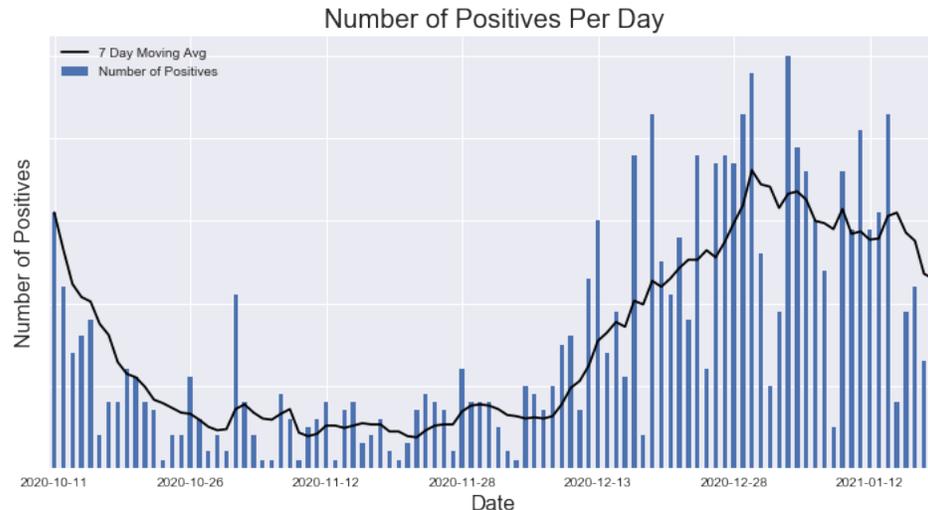
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- We have unfortunately seen dozens of cases involving high risk and elderly individuals over the last two weeks as the virus has become more pervasive.

- There are still many cases amongst children, especially school age children.
- Exposures to extended family (those who live in a different household) has resurfaced as a major source of infection especially over the last week.
- Some communities have recently seen an increase in younger people (40's-50's) getting more severe COVID symptoms. People should not take for granted that just because they are not in the high-risk age groups that they won't contract a severe case of COVID.

Bottom Line: Our efforts are paying off and the situation is improving however we are not out of the woods just yet.

Key Takeaways:

- **Extreme caution must be exercised before meeting with extended family and midwinter vacation plans** must be carefully considered to ensure the safety of the whole community. The major spike we experienced recently came on the heels of Thanksgiving and Chanukah vacations and the impact is still being felt today. Everyone should be concerned that without proper

precautions vacations can *chas vishalom* fuel another spike especially since we are starting with higher levels of community transmission.

- **Masking, distancing, hand hygiene, and quarantining** (when exposed or showing symptoms) remain the most effective tools to prevent spread.
 - These must be done even by those who are less vulnerable to ensure the safety of the whole community. Adhering to quarantine guidelines is of vital importance to avoid placing vulnerable people at risk.
- **Preventing spread in our schools remains of vital importance.** Children with COVID-19-like symptoms should not be sent to school and adherence to school quarantine and carpool guidelines can help significantly reduce the spread.
- It is important to get tested, even if you just have minor cold symptoms. Don't just attribute it to a "cold that I get every winter", as many people have had minor cold symptoms as presenting symptoms of COVID, and without getting tested, they would have spread the disease and infected others.

Hatzalah of Baltimore now has Monoclonal Antibody Treatments available for those classified by the FDA as high risk. This treatment is most effective when administered soon after a COVID diagnosis. Anyone who may benefit from this treatment should contact their medical provider as soon as they receive a positive test result to discuss if this treatment option is appropriate for them.

Hashem should send a Refuah Shleima to all those who are ill and protect our community and Klal Yisrael.

Dr. Yosef Levenbrowm

Hatzalah Analytics Team