COVID-19

Introductions	xix
Approbations	xxii
Preface	xxv
Halachic Perspectives on Danger and COVID-19	
What to Do When Plagues Strike	29
What If It Is Not One's Time to Die?	35
Medical Professionals	40
Summary of Halachic Perspectives on Danger and COVID-19	42
Further Iyun: Balancing Risk and Reward: A Halachic Perspective on Societal Restrictions and CC	VID-1945
Tefilla and Minyanim During COVID-19	
Introduction	57
"Porch" and Outdoor Minyanim During COVID-19	58
Combining People in Different Locations for a Minyan	58
Other Problematic Separations	62
The Opinion of the Contemporary Poskim In the Era of COVID-19	63
Responding to a Minyan Seen or Heard Online	70
Making a Minyan Using Online Platforms	75
Differences in the Tefilla When Davening Alone	78
Differences in Tefilla During the Week	78
Keriat HaTorah During the Week and on Shabbat	80
Differences on Shabbat	80
Other Halachot Related to Tefilla At Home	88
Is There a Preferred Time to Daven at Home?	88
Proper Dress for Tefilla	90
Tefilla in the Proper Surroundings	91
Issues of Erva	92
Davening in the Same Room as Women	93
Davening in Front of a Mirror	94
Davening in a Fixed Spot	94
Avoiding Distractions	95
Eating Before Mincha and Ma'ariv	96
Conclusion	97
Summary of Tefilla and Minyanim During COVID-19	98
Responsa	104
Halachic Challenges Concerning Keriat HaTorah in the Era of COVID-19	
Introduction	111
What Is the Purpose of the Ba'al Korei?	111

Allowing One Who Is Blind to Receive an Aliya	115
One Person Receiving Seven Aliyot	121
Rulings of Contemporary Poskim in the Era of COVID-19	123
Holding on to the Etz Chaim	130
Summary of Halachic Challenges Concerning Keriat HaTorah in the Era of COVID-19	132
Further Iyun: Keriat HaTorah and Shomei'a K'oneh in the Shadow of the Coronavirus	135
Responsa	142
Halachot of Berachot and Other Orach Chaim Issues Related to COVID-19	
Reciting a Beracha Following a Loss of Taste or Smell	147
Loss of Smell and the Beracha on Besamim	150
Saying Shehechiyanu Upon Seeing One Who Has Recovered From COVID-19	152
Reciting Birkat HaGomel After Recovering From COVID-19	156
Brief Background of Birkat HaGomel	156
Application to Recovering from COVID-19	157
Keria Upon Visiting the Kotel Following the Government Lockdown	163
Summary of Halachot of Berachot and Other Orach Chaim Issues Related to COVID-19	167
Responsa	170
Halachot Related to Masks	
Introduction	175
Wearing Masks During Davening	176
Wearing a New or Special Mask for Shabbat	179
Tightening a Mask on Shabbat	183
Wearing a Mask on Shabbat in a Location Without an Eiruv	187
Shaving and N-95 Masks	192
Summary of Halachot Related to Masks	194
Halachot of COVID-19 Related to Shabbat	
Using Hand Sanitizers on Shabbat	201
The Use of Thermometers on Shabbat in Public Places	207
May Medical Staff Drive Themselves Home from the Hospital on Shabbat to Prevent Infection?	215
Informing Someone on Shabbat That They Tested Positive for COVID-19	217
Reciting Beracha Mei'ein Sheva in Minyanim Held Outside the Shul	219
Summary of Halachot of COVID-19 Related to Shabbat	222
Responsa	226
Halachot Related to Zoom	
Reciting Birkat HaGomel Over Zoom	231

	201
Brit Mila During COVID-19 and Reciting the Berachot Via Zoom	235
Performing a Brit Mila Without a Minyan	235
Brit Mila Via Zoom	237

Zoom and Weddings With Less Than a Minyan	241
Birkat Eirusin	241
Sheva Berachot	242
Forming a Minyan for Sheva Berachot on Zoom	244
Participating in a Siyum Over Zoom	250
Summary of Halachot Related to Zoom	254
Immersion in the Mikveh and Tevilat Keilim During COVID-19	
Immersion in the Mikveh in the Wake of COVID-19	261
Introduction	261
The Proper Time for Tevila	262
Tevila on the Eighth Day in Cases of Need	265
Applying the Sources to COVID-19	266
Tevilat Keilim in Light of COVID-19	270
Summary of Immersion in the Mikveh and Tevilat Keilim During COVID-19	279
Further Iyun: May a Woman Take a Shower Following Immersion in the Mikveh	
Due to Fear of Coronavirus Infection?	282
Dilemmas in Choshen Mishpat Caused by COVID-19	
Introduction	291
The Halachic Status of Ones	291
Is Makkat Medina Different?	294
The Classic Cases of Makkat Medina	294
Defining a Makkat Medina: How Many Must Be Affected?	296
Defining a Makkat Medina: Which Types of Cases Are Included?	298
Applications to Practical Cases During COVID-19	301
Cancelled Gans, Nurseries, and Playgroups	301
Yeshiva Tuition	306
Property Rentals	309
Standard House Rentals	309
Refunding Reservations for Cancelled Programs or Simchas	311
Summary of the Dilemmas in Choshen Mishpat Caused by COVID-19	315
Responsibility and Liability for Infecting Others With COVID-19	
The Responsibility of One With an Infectious Disease to Maintain Distance From Others	323
Liability for Damages for Infecting Someone With COVID-19	327
Can One Be Held Accountable for Infecting Someone Who Dies From COVID-19?	333
Summary of the Laws of Responsibility and Liability for Infecting Others With COVID-19	338
The Tefillot of Rosh Hashana and COVID-19: A Halachic Perspective	
Introduction	345
The Background to Reciting Piyyutim	345

Should Piyyutim Be Omitted Because of COVID-19?	354
Summary of the Tefillot of Rosh Hashana and COVID-19: A Halachic Perspective	362
Responsa	365