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“Don't touch mezuzah for fear of Corona”

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Chief Rabbi of Israel David Lowe urges the public to refrain from kissing mezuzas due to the spread of the corona virus. In a statement published by the rabbi, it says: "There is no doubt that mezuzas should not be touched and not touched at all. It is enough for a person to think at the time of his entry and exit that indeed the things that are written in mezuzah, and this will accompany him later on."

"There is no commandment and obligation for mezuzah weapons," explained the chief rabbi, in response to a request he received. "There is a custom that has ancient sources that they used to touch mezuzah, and only later began to use weapons."

According to him, "When they became aware of the fact that this was a danger, it was as early as the nineteenth century that one of the famous Admirers ruled. Also, my teacher and Rabbi Shlomo Zalman Auerbach saw no value in kissing the hand and would only place his hand on the mezuzah. "

Accordingly, he stated that "these days, which we should not witness the spread of a serious illness," the custom must be avoided. As a general rule, the rabbi wrote, there is a religious commandment to obey the instructions of the authorities following the corona's spread, emphasizing: "It is imperative to follow the instructions of the trustees on public health."

The Conference of European Rabbis also issued new guidelines to Jewish communities on the continent not to kiss mezuzahs, humans, Torah scrolls, errands and prayer shawls. The organization's president, Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt, circulated a document on the 700 rabbis operating on his behalf across Europe.

"We consulted an infectious disease and public health expert to formulate guidelines for the





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synagogues that are associated with us," Rabbi Goldschmidt wrote to friends, concluding that "the chances of getting the virus through the air are very low, so wearing a mask is much less important."

Instead, care should be taken that a person who does not feel well will not come to the synagogue, even if it is a grief that Kaddish has to say. He should stay home even if he has to say Kaddish.

Rabbis and synagogues discount: "Put disinfectants in public places, such as entrance to synagogues, schools, halls, etc., make sure soap is accessible at hand-washing stations.

Goldschmidt concluded: "We pray for those who are infected with this disease. God will contain the plague, cure patients and try scientists to find a vaccine for it."

<https://www.news1.news/2020/03/dont-touch-mezuzah-for-fear-of-corona.html>

