

Monday, April 15, 2019



## Ezras Nashim Statement on Vaccinations

In light of the recent measles outbreaks in the Chasidic/Orthodox Jewish community, Ezras Nashim wishes to make clear that we do not support the misguided anti-vaccination movement, which has no medical basis and is antithetical to the Torah. Jewish law commands us: *"venishmartem me'od lenafshoseichem"* - "carefully guard your health." (*Devarim/Deuteronomy 4:15*).

Chasidic/Orthodox Jewish culture is based on strong family values. Unfortunately, a minority of our community has misrepresented the views, values, and actions of the majority. Many in our community are old enough to remember a time when vaccines were not yet available, and they will never forget the devastating personal losses they suffered. As a result, the vast majority of our community is deeply grateful for vaccines and proudly vaccinates our children.

We are a tight knit community that looks out for one another. As the Talmud (Shevuot 39a) states: *"kol Yisrael arevim zeh lazeh"* - "all of Israel are responsible for each other". We also recognize that our actions have repercussions beyond our Chasidic/Orthodox community, and we must take steps to guard and protect the well-being of all of our neighbors. As such, we understand the importance of vaccinating every eligible individual so that we can protect those who are genuinely medically unable to do so.

We urge all parents to vaccinate their children and ensure that they themselves are properly immunized. If you have questions or concerns regarding vaccinations, please contact your pediatrician or primary care physician. General vaccination guidelines are available on the CDC website (<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/index.html>), and specific recommendations for your community are available from your local Department of Health.

Ezras Nashim, BLS First Response Agency

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