

# Spiritual Care Corner



with Chaplain  
Hazzan Rob Menes

## Words in the Time of Coronavirus

Judaism teaches that words have power. We don't say things lightly. We don't speak of others or invoke the the name of the Creator without understanding completely the danger involved. At the Snider Campus, we are careful with our messaging. It is vital that all residents and families are aware of what we are doing, and why. However, in these times of heightened anxiety, we all must weigh our words carefully. They have an impact. They can be helpful, and they can also damage our ability to see the epidemic through to the end.

The research pathologists working on the covid19 virus know quite a lot about it, and epidemiologists know how it is spread. That doesn't mean we know everything about it and can completely predict who will acquire it and who won't. Incomplete knowledge doesn't invalidate the information we have. That is a mirror of our lives: we know some of what we see, but we have a difficult time predicting tomorrow.

So, how do we talk about it? We tell the truth as we know it, with honesty about what we know and what we don't know, avoiding hyperbole and fear-mongering, and paying attention to those things we know will keep us safe. And we use our words to bring compassion and mercy to those suffering in our midst.

*"You will certainly not doubt the necessity of studying astronomy and physics, if you are desirous of comprehending the relation between the world and Providence as it is in reality, and not according to imagination."* Maimonides

**Chaplain Rob Menes**

