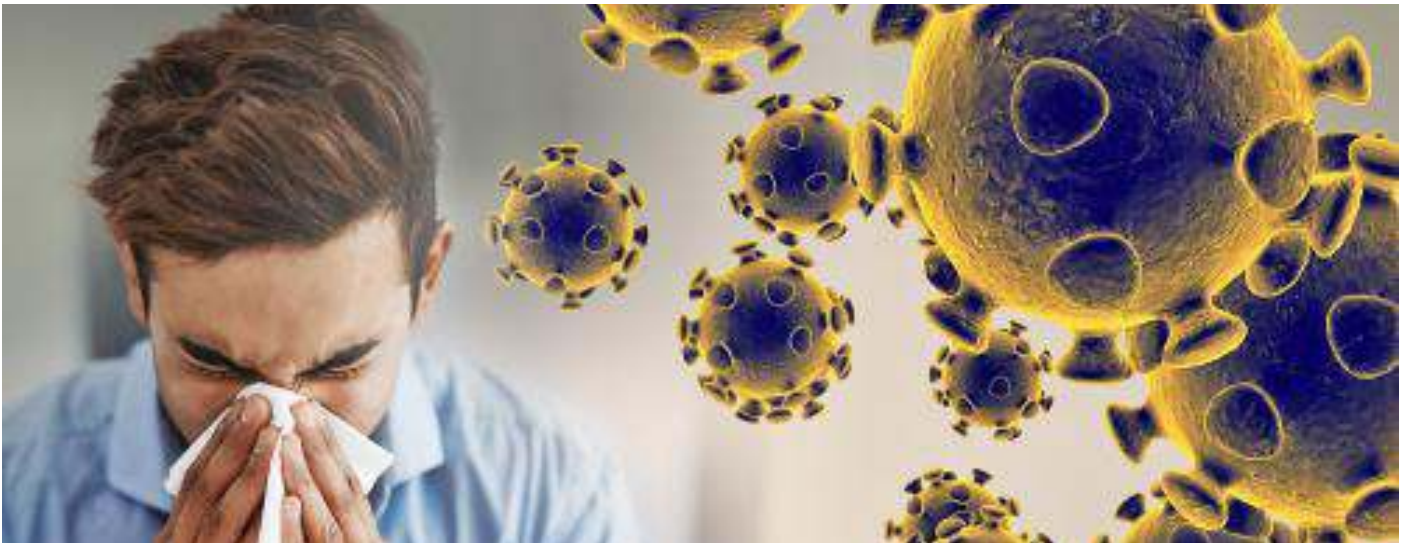


# The BASH

THE BNEI AKIVA SCHOOLS HEADLINES

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## COVID-19 in BAS Toronto

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It is currently Day 5 of self-isolation and social distancing. My sister just asked me for the fifth time what time it was, and I replied with “does it honestly matter?” School has been piling work through the roof, which I am in no mood to do anymore. We may not even graduate this year, so does it honestly matter? I’ve run out of things to watch on YouTube. Everyone is doing in-house vlogs, which gets kind of boring after watching the same video format on five or more channels. I tried to go on a walk today and it took 20 minutes for me to convince my parents that no, I was most likely not going to contract the disease if I went outside and touched nothing. When I finally got out of the house, my walk turned into a run because I had so much energy. I had never been so happy to breathe in fresh air. The closest thing to hanging out with friends

has become virtual movie nights or *Zoomzitzes*. I can’t go out on Shabbat. Days have become repetitive. The only thing I look forward to is exercising (something I never thought I would say), and I can’t hold a conversation with anyone without the topic turning to the trials and tribulations of the novel coronavirus.

This is the reality of a high school student in BAS Toronto in March 2020.

I feel like we shouldn’t complain. We have it good compared to the people who can’t go out of the house at all, or worse, have the virus themselves. Yet, this has been a hard hit on our school community. We really are one Mishpacha, and not being able to have real human interaction makes this predicament worse. I, for one, miss my classmates. I am worried that our “graduation” in *early* March was, without any of us realizing, one of the

last times we will be able to see each other in person. I know that I am not alone. Many people throughout the student body feel as if they are cut off, having no opportunity to learn, participate in extracurriculars, or even just hang out with their peers.

Yael, an Ulpana junior, says “I miss those classes that were more relaxed, where we had the chance to schmooze with the teacher. I also really miss the extracurricular activities at school, such as baking club, play practice, and movie club. They were fun ways for students in all grades to bond over something we enjoyed, and they gave us something to look forward to during a hard day at school.”

Jojo, an Ulpana senior says “I loved going to school, and I loved spending time with my grade each and every day. I miss being at school because there is barely anymore time left to spend with my grade before every-