

Covid-19 Dating Guidelines from YUConnects
Issued May 5, 2020:

Based on discussions with our advisors, Rabbi Mordechai Willig and Rabbi Dr. Aaron Glatt, YUConnects strongly recommends that all new dates are conducted virtually, by phone or video.

After a number of virtual dates, if the relationship cannot deepen solely in this manner but does have potential, a Rav and doctor should be consulted.

Each Rav and physician should consider the following factors on a case by case basis. A generalized rule cannot be made:

Factors:

- Whether either or both parties have already tested positive for Covid-19
- Are they living alone? With young roommate(s)? With older family members?
- What are the underlying health conditions of each person, as well as their relatives who they are living with?
- General anxiety and risk tolerance of each party, and their relatives;
- Parental concerns;

Should they decide to meet in person, they should still

- conform to government guidelines, and not be more liberal;
- meet only outdoors, not even in a large basement or other indoor venue;
- maintain proper social distancing, and wear masks if they are in close proximity (e.g. within 8 feet)
- drive in separate cars or transportation for meeting
- date in a public venue or park or in their own backyard appropriately distanced, rather than in a backyard of a well-meaning host

One suggestion to meet social distancing guidelines is to have each party wear headphones and speak by phone even as they are walking or sitting apart. This allows a more intimate conversation although they are physically separated by 8 feet.

YUConnects hopes to update these guidelines as medical circumstances change. If there are any questions about these recommendations that cannot be resolved by a personal physician and/or Rav, email yuconnects@yu.edu.