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### **OUR AFFILIATES**

#### Member of:



#### We Support:





Home of:



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



"The deep roots never doubt spring will come." - Marty Rubin

Soon, it will be Spring! A dash of color across the landscape as trees will bloom with fresh leaves and flowers. A time when plans for the warmer days are being lined up. And just as spring brings anticipation of freshness, so can we look forward to normalcy returning to our daily lives as the restrictions are eased out.

To inspire people, especially the younger folks, and encourage them to read books, the **Youth Subcommittee** is working on a **"Little Free library"** at ZRCC. More details are available in the Youth section of this Newsletter. The Youth are looking for donations to kick-start the project by Navroze.

This year's Muktad ceremonies are nearly upon us and this will no doubt be a difficult time for many within the community. Prayer is omni-powerful and always helps in assisting to a speedier recovery. We will be performing all the prayers during the Muktad days (March 16-20) and in-person attendance will be allowed; details are provided in the events section of this Newsletter. During the Gatha days, please turn your thoughts to those who require our collective prayers. As it will be another tough year in terms of revenue generation for OZCF, we request the community to donate generously.

The arrival of the Vernal Equinox on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March coincides with Navroze or Naurooz (Jamshedi Navroze for the Parsis), one of our most important festivals, signalling the New Year for Iranians and Zarathushtis following the Fasli Calendar. Did you know that Navroze is observed in numerous countries around the world? Wherever the arms of the once mighty Zoroastrian empire spanned, Navroze is still celebrated today with much fanfare. In all, approximately 300 million people celebrate Navroze. So whichever way you opt to celebrate, whether at home or with your friends and the community, observance is key. And pass this message onto your kids so that they too are aware of its importance and significance. **Navroze Mubarak!** 

OZCF will be celebrating Navroze with a Jashan on Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, at 7:00 pm at ZRCC, followed by dinner. Please stay tuned for more details over the next few days.

The next AGM is planned on Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at ZRCC. Please mark this date in your calendar. The current Board enters the final stretch of its term and over the past one and a half years, we have worked on making OZCF sustainable – streamlining procedures & operating policies and collating original documents in a central repository. This, in addition to working on ways to ensure the operations make some profit. There are more initiatives being looked at and will be discussed with the membership in due course.

It is encouraging to note that our Membership numbers have grown over the past 2 years. The Board appreciates the prompt renewals and welcomes new members. It gives us the confidence that we are on the right track and the community values the efforts of our subcommittees in keeping all engaged. For those who have yet to renew their membership, please pay at your earliest convenience.

Finally, as always, we wish Tandarosti to our community. Stay Safe and Stay Well!

Ushtaa Ahmaai Yahmaai Ushtaa Kahmaaichit! - Happiness to those who give happiness to others!

Xerxes Madan President





# PLACE OF WORSHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

After several meetings with Halton Region Staff and our local councillor we have resolved the hydrogeological issue. We will continue with our original plan to build a new septic system to manage wastewater specifically for the new building. For water supply we will use the well together with our present holding tank. We will now resubmit the Site Plan Approval application with some modifications. We would expect approval by mid-April, while concurrently applying for building permit.

We will keep the community updated of progress and sincerely thank you for your continued patience and generosity to bring our dream to reality.

May Ahura Mazda always bless our community.

Phil Sidhwa

Chair, PWAC







# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## HALL RENTAL RATES:

Please note new rates to rent the hall for social events. These rates are significantly lower than renting at halls and hotel rooms and allow members and non-members the entire use of our facilities.

Members: \$400 Non-members: \$500 Rental of Audio/Video equipment is \$100.

## RATES TO ADVERTISE IN THE NEWSLETTER:

Members often inquire about rates to advertise in the newsletter. See the rate structure below:

Business Card 1/4 Page 1/2 Page Full Page Last Full Page \$25 per issue\$50 per issue\$75 per issue\$125 per issue\$150 per issue

\$150 per year \$300 per year \$450 per year \$750 per year \$900 per year

If paid in full at the beginning of the year by the end of January, a 10% discount will be applied. There are six issues per year – January, March, May, July, September and November.

# HALL RENTAL RATES FOR FUNERAL SERVICES

Members: \$100 per day (over the 4-day period)

Non-members: \$150 per day





## **MEMBERSHIP:**

A gentle reminder that it is that time of the year to fulfill your membership requirements for 2022. To start the renewal process, we have made it easy to be able to renew your membership using the following options:

1. Pay through your Credit Card or PayPal.

2. Sending in a cheque is also available for those that wish to do so.

You may set up for direct deposit payment so that your membership self-renews annually. <u>PAD form is attached</u> and also available online at <u>www.ozcf.com</u>

Here's the breakdown of the membership category and fees for 2022:

		Membership Category and Fees				
Category Description	Youth	Single	Seniors	Family		
	Youth are Individuals of age 19 to 24 years	Single are Individuals of age 25 to 64 years	Seniors are Individuals age 65 and above	Family Includes Spouses/Partners and children up to the age of 18 years		
Fees	\$40	\$100	\$50	\$150		

<u>A Membership form has been included</u>, should any changes be required to your personal information or you can make these changes yourself online at <u>www.ozcf.com</u>

Feel free to contact Shirin Chaturvedi at <u>cshirinm@hotmail.com</u> or Rumi Jasavala at <u>rumi\_jasavala@ozcf.com</u>, for any assistance required in membership renewal.

Thank you to all for your kind support, as always.

- Membership Committee

# VISION



# **COVID SCREENING:**

We have simplified the Covid screening process whereby you can click on the link below which will take you to an electronic form.

## https://www.jotform.com/app/213555136332248

For your convenience, we have also included the original screening form in this newsletter which you can print out and bring with you.

Screening remains mandatory and we ask our members to remain cautious, bearing in mind the safety of others. The OZCF appreciates your understanding and cooperation.







The OZCF prayer room and facility is not open regularly. For personal requests, you may contact the following:

#### **Prayer Room Access**

Nozer Kotwal 905-820-0461 nskotwal1@gmail.com

#### Hall Rentals

Cyrus Gazdar 647-294-6462 cygazdar@yahoo.ca

#### **ZRCC** Coordinator

Armaity Anandasgar 905-271-0366 armaity.a@gmail.com

#### **OZCF President**

Xerxes Madan 416-254-0685 president@ozcf.com

#### Webmaster & Facilities

Rumi Jasavala 647-885-1759 rumijas@hotmail.com

### Need a Mobed

Our Mobeds are available to help in times of need to offer their guidance & services to the community. Please contact:

Bamji, Ervad Xerxes (905) 702- 1034
Bulsara, Ervad Firdosh (905) 824- 7692
Dastur, Ervad Mehbad (416) 917- 9195
Dhabhar, Ervad Jamshed (905) 819-0089
Katrak, Ervad Kerman (647) 444- 7359 (Speaks Farsi)
Kotwal, Ervad Nozer (905) 820- 0461
Madan, Ervad Xerxes (416) 254- 0685
Panthaky, Ervad Jal (905) 568- 4946
Zarolia, Ervad Kobad (647) 8879213

# **RELIGIOUS EVENTS AND UPDATES**

## MUKTAD (F) PRAYERS – MARCH 16<sup>TH</sup> – 20<sup>TH</sup>

The R&L Committee, in discussion with the OZCF Board, have worked out a procedure on accommodating members wishing to come out to the ZRCC to pray over the Fasli Muktad period March  $16^{th} - 20^{th}$ .

We will be performing all the prayers during the Muktad days – three Satoom sessions (morning, afternoon and evening), and Afringan & Farokshi in the morning. If you wish to give the names of your dearly departed for daily prayers, please download, and complete the Muktad Names Form from the OZCF website. The form is also included within this newsletter. Send it along with your donation cheque payable to OZCF to reach Er. Nozer Kotwal **by March 13<sup>th</sup>**. As it will be another tough year in terms of revenue generation for OZCF, we request the community to donate generously.

The Hall will be open for a few hours during the prayers. Prayer timings are:

6:30 am – Morning Satoom 7:00 am – Afringan and Farokshi 11:30 am – Afternoon Satoom 7:00 pm – Evening Satoom

Please note – based on the current Provincial guidelines for reopening, the number of people in the Hall will be restricted to 50 at any given time. We will review numbers allowed closer to the dates. Meals will be served on all days (afternoon and evening) and donations for the meals will be highly appreciated.

If you wish to offer your home-made Malido, Ravo, Sev, Batasa, Bhakras, and/or dry-fruits, flowers, fruits, Sukhad, Loban, we ask that you make arrangements with Er. Kotwal before the Muktad begin.

Members wishing to attend in-person must give their names to Er. Nozer Kotwal at (905) 820-0461 or at <u>nskotwal1@gmail.com</u> well before the Muktad begin, **and no later than March 13<sup>th</sup>**. Attendees will be allowed in on a firstcome basis and access limited to 50 members in the Hall. The evening Satoom prayers will be live-streamed, and members not attending in-person are encouraged to join in the prayers online. The link for the broadcast is <u>www.ozcf.com</u> at 7 pm on each day.



## HAMASPATHMAIDYEM GAHAMBAR (F) – SATURDAY MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup>

The Hamaspathmaidyem Gahambar prayers as per Fasli Calendar, will be held on Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> (on Gatha Vohukshatra) at 7:00 am at the ZRCC, 1187 Burnhamthorpe Rd. East, Oakville.

## NAVROZE (F) JASHAN – MONDAY MARCH 21<sup>ST</sup>

OZCF will be celebrating Navroze on Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, at the ZRCC. The prayer ceremony will commence at 7:00 pm followed by dinner.

Members wishing to attend in-person must give their names in advance to Jeroo Madan at jerromadan@ozcf.com or call (647) 339-0052. The cost of attending the Jashan & dinner is \$15 per person for OZCF members and \$25 per person for non-members. The Jashan prayers will be live-streamed, and members not attending in-person are encouraged to join online, at 7:00 pm. The link for the broadcast is <u>www.ozcf.com</u>

Please note – based on the current Provincial guidelines for reopening, the number of people in the Hall will be restricted to 50 at any given time. We will review numbers allowed closer to the date.

## KHORDAD SAL (F) JASHAN – SATURDAY MARCH 26<sup>TH</sup>

OZCF will be holding a Jashan on Khordad Sal day, as per Fasli Calendar, on Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, at the ZRCC. The prayer ceremony will commence at 11:00 am, followed by Chasni.

Members wishing to attend in-person must give their names to Er. Nozer Kotwal at (905) 820-0461 or at <u>nskotwal1@gmail.com</u> in advance. The Jashan prayers will be live-streamed, and members not attending in-person are encouraged to join in the prayers online. The link for the broadcast is <u>www.ozcf.com</u> at 11:00 am.

# VISION



# FARVARDEGAN (F) PRAYERS – FRIDAY APRIL 8<sup>TH</sup>

OZCF will be holding a prayer ceremony on Farvardegan day, as per Fasli Calendar, on Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, at the ZRCC. The prayer ceremony will commence at 7:00 pm, followed by Chasni.

# MAIDYOZAREM GAHAMBAR (F) – SATURDAY APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup>

OZCF will be celebrating Maidyozarem Gahambar, as per Fasli Calendar, on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, at the ZRCC.

The Gahambar Jashan will commence at 11:00 am, followed by lunch. The cost of attending the Jashan & lunch is \$5 per person; children up to the age of 20 years are free. Members wishing to attend in-person must give their names to Er. Nozer Kotwal at (905) 820-0461 or at <u>nskot-wal1@gmail.com</u> in advance, **and no later than April 27**<sup>th</sup>.

If you wish to offer your home-made Malido, Ravo, Sev and/or dry-fruits, flowers, fruits, Sukhad, Loban, we ask that you make arrangements with Er. Kotwal.

For all these events, all members who come to the property MUST follow the laid down protocols of **providing proof of being fully vaccinated** against Covid-19, bearing in mind the volunteer has the right to refuse a member entry if they feel the member could be endangering the health and safety of others.

The OZCF really appreciates your patience throughout the pandemic whereby restrictions have been imposed and our activities have had to be curtailed. We ask, you the membership, to continue practising safety protocols of masking, sanitizing and filling out the Covid forms prior to entry into our facility. You can now also scan your phone to fill out the screening process upon entry into the hall. Doing so will continue enhancing the security of our members, volunteers and Mobeds. OZCF appreciates your continued understanding.



# **OZCF SENIORS SUB-COMMITTEE APPRECIATION**

We all talk about how seniors amongst our OZCF community are important and their support for the OZCF continues to go from strength to strength. In early 2020, the whole world experienced the onset of COVID and the pandemic spread around the world. At the start, the possible impact and length of COVID was not known or anticipated. Globally, the human race experienced illnesses and deaths never seen for many decades.

The OZCF had over 140 paid senior members and the Ontario Zoroastrian community as a whole has even more. Some are living alone, and some have the support of their families. We have also witnessed some of our Zoroastrians passing away due to COVID and not just in Ontario.

During the last two years of COVID our Seniors' Sub-Committee members have continued to provide activities to try and give the OZCF seniors some comfort and inclusion. They have thought out of the box, encouraged the seniors, developed plans to cope and what they can do. The OZCF Seniors' Sub-Committee members are Minnie Mirza, Gulrukh Patel and Kamal Driver with Khushi Doctor being the Board liaison. In addition, the background help of Cawas Patel and Khushroo Mirza has been invaluable.

They have embraced technology by continuing Online Zumba throughout and have gained worldwide recognition as seniors from abroad have heard of this and joined the sessions, with some also becoming OZCF members.

Other online events they have held are a Parsee Natak, Bingo, Tell Me About Yourself, Antakshari, Seniors Meal program, a Christmas event, a Valentine's event, a fall prevention webinar, a nutrition webinar and more.

During the difficult times of COVID, the mental and physical health of all people, especially the vulnerable seniors and children has been affected. The Sub-Committee has addressed issues facing seniors and they have definitely made a huge positive impact.

The time, energy and caring nature is appreciated, and they should be applauded for all they have done and continue to do. We also thank the OZCF Board of Directors for supporting the Seniors' Sub-Committee during this time.

Three cheers for our Seniors Sub-Committee!

- Rumi Jasavala





## SUPER BOWL FUNDRAISER

The OZCF Fundraising Committee is always looking at ways to keep the community engaged as well as raise funds. For the first time, the Committee had a Super Bowl Event held on February 13, 2022. Of course, it was a curbside pickup event in line with the provincial guidelines.

When you think of the Super Bowl, you think of chicken wings, ribs and fries, and YES, that was all on the menu including salad and brownies. The Committee prepared all the items and met at the OZCF to box them for easy take out. The food was well liked and the feedback received was very positive. Kudos to the Committee on another successful event !





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# **YOUTH EXPLOSION**

The Youth Committee continued their initiative to recognize Zoroastrian youth who understand the importance of giving back to the community and taking on leadership roles to strengthen our organizations.

## Zoroastrian Youth of the Month for February was Rohaan Kotwal.



Ervad Rohaan Kotwal is a young Mobed who has been an active member and volunteer at the OZCF. He became an ordained Navar in 2000 and has been regularly performing religious events within the Zoroastrian community.

Rohaan has studied hospitality and tourism, and business management at Niagara College.

We are very proud of Rohaan and extremely pleased to recognize his services to the Zoroastrian community.

"All your dreams can come true if you have the courage to pursue them" – Walt Disney

# VISION



# THE OZCF LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

## TAKE A BOOK – SHARE A BOOK

#### Idea:

The concept of "The OZCF Little Free Library" is to inspire readers and expand book access to everyone. The goal is to have a book available for every reader, irrespective of their age. With no limitations like time, space, or privilege, we believe people are empowered when they read a book that connects to them personally.

#### How will this work?

- 24/7 book access: sharing box will be open 7days a week, 24 hours a day and is accessible to everyone
- Fostering new Little Free Libraries: this concept educates and guides volunteers to establish similar libraries elsewhere
- Granting books to all ages: the library includes books for all ages
- Diversity: part of the project is to represent diverse voices to promote understanding and inclusion in readers
- Improve literacy: studies have repeatedly shown that books in the hands of children have a meaningful impact on Improving literacy – the more the books, the more likely a child will learn and love to read!









#### Where will it be?

OZCF grounds - accessible to everyone

#### How do we make this?

This is an OZCF youth initiative. To include our very own personal touch, the Youth Committee plans on purchasing raw material and building this library themselves over a weekend (of course, with the guidance of some experienced people in the community who do woodwork) – but rest assured, it will be a youth made project!

#### How much will this cost?

The OZCF Youth suggests this to be a fundraiser event and for it to be advertised as such. With a target of \$1000, the share box and a bunch of books for all ages can be purchased. All surplus donations will go to the OZCF for maintenance of the OZCF Little Free Library as needed.

Please feel free to donate cash or books on Zoroastrianism that you think will benefit this project. For more details you can email us on <u>ozcfyouthevents@gmail.com</u> or call Armita Bhesania at 647-391-0306.

# **SENIORS' UPDATE**

Food is a great catalyst for bringing people together, and what could be better than enjoying good Parsi food prepared especially for you and talking about it with your friends.

The main thrust of our seniors meal program was to break the isolation and "feeling blue" due to our long and very cold winter months. All this was made possible by the Seniors Sub Committee of OZCF who obtained a "Seniors Community Grant" from the "Ontario Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility".

Among the many goals and requirements of the Ontario Government's Grant for Seniors through our meal program was to experience feelings of connectedness and caring from the community to which they belong. Our meal program has certainly been very successful in doing this. By constantly monitoring the working of the program at every stage the Seniors Sub Committee has been able to ensure the smooth running of our project to everyone's satisfaction and enjoyment.

This project has also provided an opportunity for many of our seniors to learn and gain some independent living skills on the computer, as they were eager to participate in our project. Learning how to fill out the jot form and make e-transfers was indeed quite thrilling for some seniors and gave them increased feelings of self-confidence.

We have also provided an opportunity for an Ontario based service provider "The Maharaja" restaurant and the delivery person to earn an income during this very restrictive and bleak Covid enforced lifestyle.

For those seniors who were unable to pick up their meal from the Maharaja many members volunteered to do it for them. We were also obliged to monitor the satisfaction quotient of the participants and this was done after every meal by means of a survey.

As the Seniors Meal Program approaches its end we would like to take this opportunity to thank Kekky and Jehangir Khan of the The Maharaja Restaurant and their delivery person for their excellent co-operation and help given to us, and to the many volunteers who have given so freely of their valuable time to making this project so very successful. A big thank you to all our senior participants as well and we hope that we have helped to make the long dark days of winter more bearable for you all.







Nowruz food fair Pre-Order ONLY

Saturday, March 12, 22 | 3pm - 4pm | ZSO & OZCF

Click here or scan the QR Code



Pre-order by March 6th using the online order request form 15% of all sales will be donated to ZSO

Detailed Menu available on www.zso.org

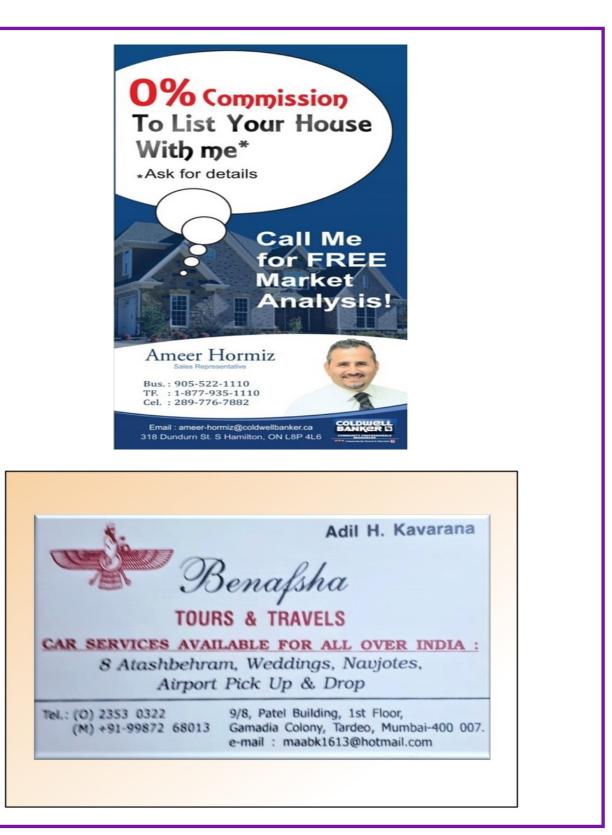
Payment Method: e-transfer ONLY to vp@zso.org All payments must be received by March 6th

> ZSO Pickup: March 12th (3pm - 4pm) OZCF Pickup: March 12th (3pm - 4pm)













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ONTARIO ZORO		Y FOUNDATION

# MEMBERSHIP FORM

January 01 to December 31, 2022

Membership Application:

Renewal

Membership Category / Fees

New

Youth	Single	Seniors	Family
Individuals of age 19 to	Individuals of age 25 and	Individuals of age 65 years	Includes children up to age
24 years	below 65 years	and above	18 years
\$40	\$100	\$50	\$150
APPLICANT INFORMATION			
First Name:		Last Name:	
Address:		Apartn	nent No:
City:		Province:	Postal Code:
Home Phone: () -		Cell Phone: ()	
Email:		_	
DEPENDANT INFORMATION			
1. First Name	Las	t Name	Age
2. First Name	Las	t Name	Age
3. First Name	Las	t Name	Age
4. First Name	Las	t Name	Age
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	I		
I (We) select OZCF as ou	r Prime Membership Group fo	r FEZANA membership	
□ □ (We) do not require the	e VISION Newsletter by post. (	you must include your email add	dress above)
L I (We) would like to prov	vide Donation. One time: \$	or ongoing \$	per:
L I (We) are interested in v	volunteering with OZCF		
		or Credit Card (paid vi	
	-	website www.ozcf.com, and a	
signing this form I give con	sent to OZCF to contact me by	email / phone for announcem	ents and requests.
Signature:		Date:	
OZCF, 1187 Burnha	mthorpe Road, East, Oakville,	ON. L6H 7B3   Tel: 289-725-84	484 www.ozcf.com







### Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD) Agreement

#### For Annual Membership Fees

Please debit my Bank Account Annually (attach VOID cheque) for

\$40	□ <b>\$100</b>	\$50	\$150
Youth	Single	Seniors	Family
Individuals of age 19 to	Individuals of age 25	Individuals of age 65	Includes children up to
24 years	and below 65 years	years and above	age 18 years

Member Name:

Address/Contact Information:

Signature:

Date:

I may revoke my authorization at any time, subject to providing notice of (Payee to insert period – <u>not to</u> <u>exceed 30 days</u>). To obtain a sample cancellation form, or for more information on my right to cancel a PAD Agreement, I may contact my financial institution or visit www.cdnpay.ca

> Ontario Zoroastrian Community Foundation 1187 Burnhamthorpe Road East, Oakville, ON. L6H 7B3 Tel: (289) 725-8484 president@ozcf.com | www.ozcf.com

I have certain recourse rights if any debit does not comply with this agreement. For example, I have the right to receive reimbursement for any debit that is not authorized or is not consistent with this PAD Agreement. To obtain more information on my recourse rights, I may contact my financial institution or visit www.cdnpay.ca





		COVID-19 SCREENING CHECK SHEET					
OZCE		To be completed <b>Prior</b> to Entering ZRCC					
		A separate Form for everyone must be completed					
A CONTRACTOR OF CONTRACTOR							
/isit Date:	Day:	Time	:	i	am / pm		
Screening Questions	:						
. I am fully vaccinated again	nst COVID-19 (it has l	been 14 days or more since you	ur final dose of	either	a		
two-dose or a one-dose v	accine series)?						
				YES	NO		
Vaccinated as per above							
. Have you had any of the	following symptoms	in the last 24 hours?		YES	NO		
Severe difficulty breathing							
Severe chest pain							
Sore throat							
Feeling confused or unsure	of where you are						
Losing consciousness							
Are you currently experienci	ng any of these symp	otoms?					
				YES	NO		
Fever and/or chills (temp of		er)					
Cough or barking cough (cr	oup)						
Shortness of breath				_			
Decrease or loss of taste or Muscle aches/joint pain	smell						
Extreme tiredness							
Exa cific arcaness							
	you:			1155			
3. In the last 14 days have y		red with COVID 102		YES	NO		
8. In the last 14 days have y	one who was diagos			-			
Been in contact with some		()VID_10 symptoms?					
Been in contact with some Been in close contact with	someone who had (	OVID-10 symptoms?					
Been in contact with some Been in close contact with Travelled internationally o	someone who had ( r taken a cruise	oviD-10 symptoms? ease DO NOT enter the OZCF fa	acility.				
Been in contact with some Been in close contact with Travelled internationally o f you answer "YES" to any q	someone who had ( r taken a cruise uestions in 2 or 3, pl	ease DO NOT enter the OZCF fa	cility. Phone No.				