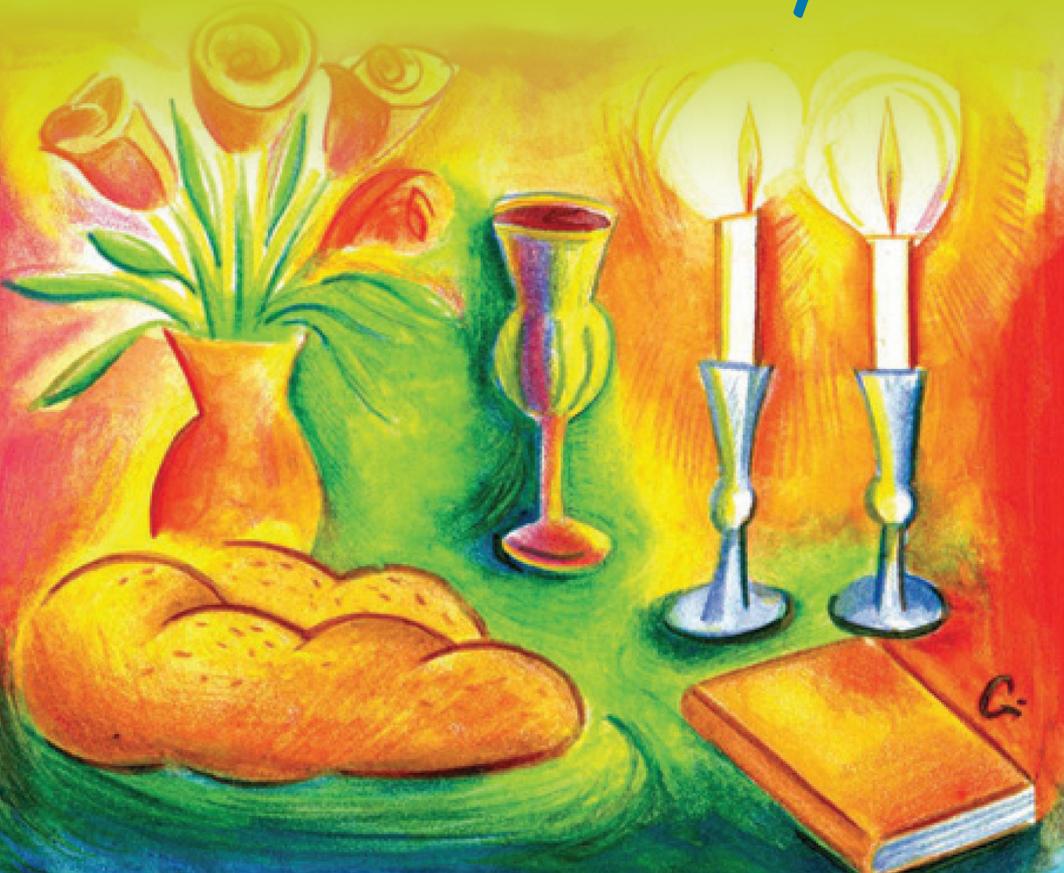


A Reference Guide to
Shabbos in the Hospital



שבת היא מלזעוק ורפואה קרובה לבא

Generously sponsored by the Bessin and Aronson Families

In memory of Maxine Bessin נ"ע

לע"נ מלכה בת ר' ישעיה ז"ל ותבלח"א בלומה

Important Halachic Issues

Bikur Cholim has received the following guidelines from Rav Yaakov Felder שליט"א, in consultation with Harav Shlomo Miller שליט"א. Guidelines assume that the patient (choleh) is either חולה שיש בו סכנה - a patient with a life-threatening illness - or even a חולה כל הגוף, the patient feels that he belongs in bed and cannot function, even if his life is not in danger.

1. How does a patient or family member use bathroom lights, toilets and sink taps that are controlled by an electric eye, when there is no other option?

The patient may ask a non-Jew directly to open the bathroom door or walk in so that the light turns on. Exiting the bathroom is allowed, even though the light may turn off.

The patient may use the toilet, even though it flushes automatically. Since the patient has no other option, this is an issue of כבוד הבריות - human dignity.

The patient should NOT use the electric sink. If no manually-operated sink is available, the patient may use a liquid antiseptic cleanser. If nurses insist on hand-washing at an electric-eye-controlled sink, one may ask a non-Jew to cause the water to flow.

The person accompanying the patient should find a manually-operated bathroom in another part of the hospital, and may even directly ask a non-Jew to open the electric door in order to exit the unit. If this is not an option, the person may use the electric bathroom facilities in the way permitted for the patient.

2. May a choleh use a call button to summon a nurse?

When necessary, the patient may use the call button with a שנוי. For example, the patient could use the back of his hand to press the button.

3. May a choleh, as defined above, ask a non-Jew to adjust his or her electric bed?

Yes, the patient may ask a non-Jew directly, to adjust the bed.

4. If one has forgotten to unscrew the public refrigerator light bulb, or the bulb was screwed back in by a third party, may the refrigerator be opened by a non-Jew on Shabbos to take out kosher food for a) the patient and b) the family member?

One may ask a non-Jew directly, to open the refrigerator door for the patient as well as for the family member, since turning on the light is not the non-Jew's intent.

5. What is the proper procedure to enter the NICU or ICU on Shabbos, when one must call the nurses' station to announce oneself and when one's approach would cause the automatic door to open?

Since the visit is for the benefit of the patient, one may ask a non-Jew directly, to call the nurses' station as well as to open the door.

6. May one use an elevator to visit a patient on a high floor, for the needs of patient, if walking is difficult?

It is preferable to use the stairs rather than the elevator, if possible. If this is difficult, on the way up to visit the patient, one may ask a non-Jew directly, to press the button for the desired floor. Alternatively, one may enter the elevator with another rider, exiting at the floor

closest to the desired floor and walking by stairs to the correct floor.

When departing after the visit, it is preferable to walk downstairs, rather than to use the elevator. If this is not possible, one may enter the elevator with another rider going down.

In either case, one must enter only when the elevator doors have just opened. Otherwise, one's entering may cause the closing doors to reopen.

7. May the patient light the battery-operated candlesticks provided by Bikur Cholim, on the second night of Yom Tov, or when Yom Tov falls on Motzaei Shabbos?

One may not light battery-operated candlesticks once Yom Tov has begun. For visitors eating and sleeping at the Bikur Cholim apartments (located off hospital grounds), Bikur Cholim has provided a long-lasting Yahrzeit candle, which can be lit before Shabbos and/or Yom Tov, to kindle the tea lights in the apartment. Under no circumstances is a flame allowed in the hospital, for safety reasons. Patients in hospitals should rely on someone else to light candles for them.

8. May one ask a non-Jew to heat up a double-wrapped kosher meal in the microwave for a choleh on Shabbos?

One may ask a non-Jew directly, to heat up a double-wrapped meal on Shabbos for the patient.

One may not ask a non-Jew to simultaneously heat up additional food for visitors on Shabbos. For questions regarding Yom Tov, please consult your Rabbi.

9. What is the proper procedure for the patient, and for the person accompanying the patient, when the hospital wishes to discharge the patient on Shabbos?

One should ask for permission to remain until Shabbos ends. In all cases, one should wait till Shabbos is over, if at all possible.

Should the hospital refuse to let the patient stay longer, and if the patient is a choleh, as defined above, or elderly, or a young child, and there is no place to wait nearby, the patient may then go home in a taxi. In such case, it is important to have the driver open and close the taxi door, as the car lights would go on. Since most hospitals, with the exception of Sunnybrook and Humber, are not within the Eruv, the driver must carry any bags from the building to the taxi.

A non-Jew may call a taxi for a patient who is halachically permitted to do so, as described above.

Payment of taxi fare:

If one knows before Shabbos that the patient may be discharged on Shabbos, a taxi chit should be requested from Hatzoloh at 416-398-2300.

Alternately, money in an envelope, may be prepared in advance. In this case, the driver should handle the envelope.

If discharge on Shabbos has not been anticipated, please note the following suggested procedures, in order of preference:

- a) Upon arriving home, one may show the driver where to find money for the fare
- b) If this is not possible, one may ask a child under Bar or Bas Mitzvah age to take money and pay the driver.
- c) Failing this, one should handle the money without using one's hands (טלשוּרוּ בַּנּוּף).

If the patient requires an escort, the person accompanying him may use the same taxi. If not, the person accompanying the patient should walk home.

Shabbos and Yom Tov Hospital Access

BRIDGEPOINT HEALTH

Manual doors to the hospital are located at the Ambulatory Entrance, off St. Matthews Road. The main entrance is automatic. Please note that all entrances to the hospital are open between 6:30 am and 8:00 pm. Staircases are locked. Please ask a security officer, volunteer, or staff at the Information Desk near the entrance, for assistance.

HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN

The doors to the University Avenue entrance are locked over the weekend. Enter through the main entrance on Elizabeth Street, through the revolving doors. The revolving doors are not operated by motion sensors and can be used on Shabbos. A staircase leading to units on each floor, is located next to the main elevators in the middle of the Atrium, and is open 24/7.

HUMBER RIVER HOSPITAL

All revolving doors, at each of the entrances, are automatic. Doors which read, Caution - Automatic Door, are located next to the revolving doors. These doors are triggered by the weight of a person pushing on them. Should the door be pushed open gently, just wide enough to pass through, the automatic sensor will not be triggered. Stairwell doors are locked and must be opened by the Security Office, located on the first floor across from the Rexall Pharmacy. Doors to the stairwell from units on each floor to the ground floor, are also locked. A nurse could page a security officer to unlock it for you.

MACKENZIE HEALTH

Manual doors can be found at the B Wing entrance. Doors to all stairwells

are accessible. Any questions should be directed to the Security Office, located on the 1st Floor of D Wing, Room 1306C.

MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL

The revolving doors are not operated by motion sensors and can be used on Shabbos. However, these doors are locked daily at 8:30 pm. The entrance door to the Emergency Department is automatic. There is a manual door from the Emergency Department to the hospital's main lobby. A Shabbos elevator is available. Staircases are always open, but access to the Geriatric, Psychiatric, and Maternity units are locked. To access these units, please ask staff at the Security Desk, located at the Murray Street entrance.

NORTH YORK GENERAL

Manual doors are located at the Main entrance and West entrance (Ambulatory Care Centre). The revolving doors are automatic. The middle elevator at the Main Entrance is a Shabbos elevator. The Main and South stairwells are open and accessible to all floors except the 2nd. All mental health units require visitors to buzz in for entry.

Please ask staff at the Security or Information Desk to let the unit know that you cannot use the buzzer.

PRINCESS MARGARET CANCER CENTRE

Enter through the manual doors at the University Avenue, or Murray Street entrance. Due to construction, none of the stairwells are presently open. See "Important Halachic Issues" in this guide for use of elevators on Shabbos. Please check with Security, as construction changes may alter this information.

ST. JOHN'S REHAB. HOSPITAL

All entrances to the hospital are automatic. One should follow a non-Jew entering the building. Staircases in the Agnew Wing are open 24/7 and are accessible to all floors.

ST. MICHAEL'S HOSPITAL

St. Michael's Hospital is undergoing construction until 2021. This information, therefore, is likely to change.

There are manual doors at the Victoria Street and Bond Street entrances on Floor 1. Although the Shuter Street door on Floor 1 is also manual, it is locked after 5 pm. All stairwells in the hospital are open 24/7 and are accessible to all floors.

SUNNYBROOK HEALTH SCIENCES

Manual doors are located between H and E Wings, under the Auditorium sign. All staircases are open 24/7, and most are accessible to all floors.

TORONTO GENERAL HOSPITAL

There are manual doors at the University Avenue entrance. The Norman Urquhart Stair B is open 24/7 and is accessible to all floors and wings. To access this stairwell from the University Avenue entrance, please go up the few stairs next to the Information Desk, to the Peter Munk Cardiac Centre. Proceed down the hall, following the sign for

the Eaton Elevators. You will pass the hospital pharmacy and Tim Horton's. At the very end of the hall, turn right. You'll find the door to the stairwell, marked Stair B, next to the women's washroom.

TORONTO REHAB. INSTITUTE

There are no manual entrances into the hospital. One should follow a non-Jew entering the building. Staircases are open and accessible to most floors. One should check with the Information Desk or the Security Office (both located on the first floor near the University Avenue entrance).

University entrance: turn right to get to the East Elevators, then walk left all the way to the end of the hallway, through the door. You'll see the stairwell on your right.

Elm entrance: Walk straight past the South Elevators. The stairwell is on the right.

TORONTO WESTERN

Use the manual door of the Krembil entrance, at the corner of Nassua Street and Leonard Avenue. (The Dundas entrance is under construction) There are manual doors at the Bathurst Street entrance, however, they may be used only to exit. The staircases in the Fell Pavilion are open 24/7 and are accessible to all floors.

End of Life Issues

In the rare event that one finds oneself with a meis (deceased person) on Shabbos, the halacha requires to cover the deceased with a thin sheet and, if possible, to guard the meis.

Arrangements should be made to keep the room as cold as possible. One should

wait for the Chevra Kadisha to arrive after Shabbos.

For more information relating to end of life issues, please refer to "ותשחק ליום אחרון" - A Guide to the Laws and Customs Pertaining to the End of Life, found in the hospital's Bikur Cholim pantry.

Patient Room Information

BRIDGEPOINT HEALTH

All lights, sinks, and toilets in patients' rooms are electronically operated and have a motion sensor. See the Important Halachic Issues in this guide for directions to use the facilities on Shabbos.

HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN

A patient-accessible fridge is located near the nursing station on every floor. The lights, sinks and toilets in all patients' rooms are manual. Public washrooms in units on each floor have manual toilets and lights, but automatic sinks. A family member may stay overnight in the patient's room.

HUMBER RIVER HOSPITAL

Doors between the wings in the units on all floors are automatic. A patient-accessible fridge is located near the nursing station on each floor. However, the sink and the washroom lights in patients' rooms are operated by a motion sensor. Everything else is manual. Public washrooms in the hallways are automatic. A family member may stay overnight in the patient's room. There are Courtesy Rooms for the family on each floor. However, the sinks, toilets and lights in these rooms are automatic. In the ICU, doors between the wings of the unit can be opened manually by gently pushing on them. The sinks and toilets are automatic. Please contact Bikur Cholim or see the Important Halachic Information for further guidance.

MACKENZIE HEALTH

A large patient-accessible fridge can be found at each unit. All sinks, toilets and lights in patients' rooms and public washrooms are manual. Family members are generally not permitted to stay

overnight in patients' rooms, with the exception of Wing A. There is a Family Quiet Room where one can relax and have access to our Kosher Pantry.

MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL

A patient-accessible fridge can be found in the pantry near the nursing station in every unit. All lights, sinks and toilets in patients' rooms and public washrooms are manual. Family is permitted to stay overnight in the patient's room on a case-by-case basis.

NORTH YORK GENERAL

A patient-accessible fridge can be found in the pantry, near the nursing station. All lights, sinks and toilets in patients' rooms are manual. Family members may stay in the patient's room, depending on the unit.

PRINCESS MARGARET CANCER CENTRE

A patient-accessible fridge can be found near the nursing station in every unit. All lights, sinks and toilets in patients' rooms and public washrooms are manual. Family members are not permitted to stay overnight in the patient's room.

ST. JOHN'S REHAB. HOSPITAL

A patient-accessible fridge can be found in the pantry, near the nursing station in each unit. All lights, sinks and toilets in patients' rooms and public washrooms are manual. Family members are allowed to stay overnight in the patient's room only under special circumstances.

ST. MICHAEL'S HOSPITAL

The hospital is undergoing construction until 2021. This information, therefore, is likely to change.

A patient-accessible fridge can be found in the pantry near the nursing station in each unit. All lights, sinks and toilets in patients' rooms are manual. Family may stay overnight in private patients' rooms, and in semi-private rooms on a case-by-case basis.

SUNNYBROOK HEALTH SCIENCES

A patient-accessible fridge is located near the nursing station in each unit. Patients' rooms in Maternity units have personal fridges. Family is allowed to stay overnight in patients' rooms on a case-by-case basis. Sinks and toilets in patient rooms are manual. Washroom lights are automatic, but the motion sensor can be switched off before Shabbos. Certain doors in the ICU have motion-sensors. Doors to the ICU and Trauma units are locked between 10 pm and 6 am, and require the family to buzz in for entry. Staff will unlock the doors if needed.

TORONTO GENERAL HOSPITAL

A patient-accessible fridge is located near the nursing station on each floor. The family is allowed to stay overnight in private patients' rooms on a case-by-case basis, but may not stay in semi-private rooms. All lights, sinks and toilets in patients' rooms and public washrooms are manual.

TORONTO REHAB. INSTITUTE

A patient-accessible fridge can be found in the kitchen, near the nursing station in each unit. All lights, sinks and toilets in patients' rooms are manual. Family members are allowed to stay overnight in the patient's room.

TORONTO WESTERN HOSPITAL

A patient-accessible fridge can be found in the pantry, near the nursing station. A family member may be allowed to stay overnight in the patient's room. All lights, sinks and toilets in patients' rooms and public washrooms are manual.

Eruv Information

Please Note: Only Baycrest, the new Humber River (HRH), and Sunnybrook Hospitals are within the Toronto Eruv. To walk to HRH within the Eruv boundaries: From South: Walk North along Bathurst Street, under the 401, to Wilson Avenue. Continue West along Wilson Avenue to the hospital. From North: The hospital can be reached by walking South, anywhere East of Highway 400 (Jane Street) to Wilson Avenue.

Carrying is not permitted under Highway 401 at Dufferin Street, as the location is not included in the Eruv.

The 3 North and South Eruv "crossovers" are:
A) Under the 401 on Bathurst Street (Wilson Avenue and Bathurst Street)
B) Under the 401 on Wilson Avenue (East of Bathurst Street)
C) Under the 401 on Bayview Avenue

*Wishing you a complete and speedy recovery,
and a restful and peaceful Shabbos.*

Feel free to call our office with any questions you may have.
Monday - Thursday: 9:30am-4:30pm Friday: 9:30am-1:00pm

(Office) 416.783.7983 (Emergency Line) 416-831-6757

Bikur Cholim Kosher Pantry Locations

If the pantry has a combination lock, the code is: ת-ב-ש = 3-2-4.

For a map of each hospital's pantry location, visit our website: www.bikurcholim.ca

HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN

At the Emergency Department, East Wing nursing station. Most doors into and within this Emergency Department are automatic. The Kosher pantry, therefore, should be accessed before Shabbos, if possible.

HUMBER RIVER HOSPITAL

At the Spiritual Centre, on the first floor, across from the Rexall Pharmacy. The Spiritual Centre is open 24/7.

*During the pandemic, the pantry can be found at the Spiritual Care office on the 3rd Floor in the Professional Practice area.

MACKENZIE HEALTH

1. At the ICU, D Wing, 5th floor in the Family Area, Room 5055. Look for the cabinet labeled Kosher Cupboard.
2. In the Yellow Zone of the Emergency Department, behind the nursing station. Look for the cabinet labeled Kosher Food.

MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL

At the new hospital synagogue, next to the food court. Please ask for key #14 from the security desk at the Murray Street entrance.

NORTH YORK GENERAL

1. At the 3 North Pediatric and Teen Unit nursing station.
2. At the main entrance to the emergency department, on the right-hand side of the doors. (*Not in use during pandemic.)

ST. MICHAEL'S HOSPITAL

At the Acute Emergency Department, in the hallway, Zone C. Please ask at the Main Nursing Station/Acute Communication Centre.

SUNNYBROOK HEALTH SCIENCES

At the Ground Floor, in the corridor of the M Wing Inpatient Service elevators.



For accommodations, meals for Shabbat, electric Shabbat candles, or other information related to spending Shabbat in the hospital, please call Sherry at our office 416.783.7983, ext 1.