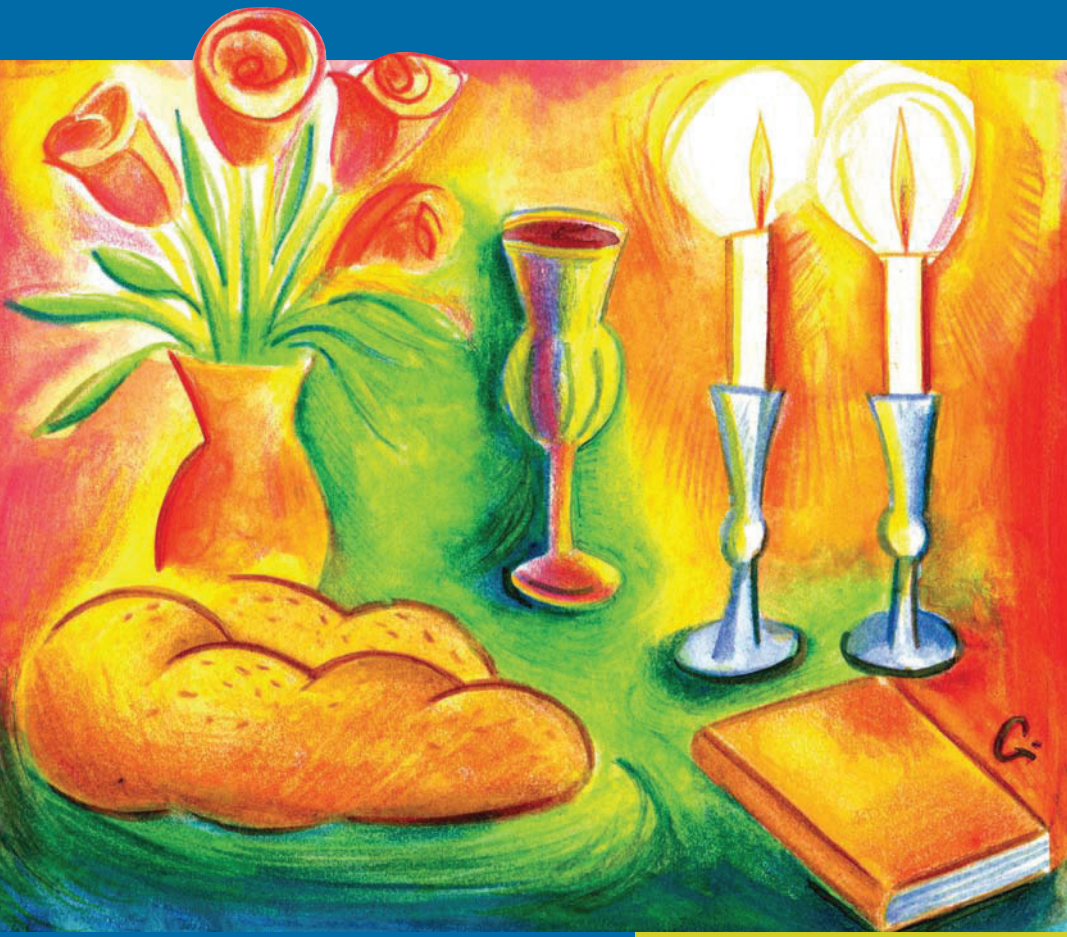
REVISED
TISHREI 5777

בס"ד

A Reference Guide to *Shabbos in the Hospital*



שבת היא מלזעוק
ורפואה קרובה לבא

Toronto
Bikur Cholim
בקור חולים וגמילות חסדים
Helping. Healing. Caring
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Shabbos and Yom Tov Hospital Access

BRIDGEPOINT HEALTH

There are manual doors into the hospital at the Ambulatory Entrance, located off St. Matthews Rd. The Main Entrance is automatic. Please note that all entrances into the hospital are open between 6:30 am to 8:00 pm. The staircases are locked. Ask a security officer, volunteer, or staff at the Information Desk near the entrance for assistance.

HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN

The doors of the University Avenue entrance are locked over the weekend. Enter through the main entrance on Elizabeth St., through the middle door only. There is a staircase open 24/7 that goes to each unit floor located next to the main elevators in the middle of the Atrium.

HUMBER RIVER HOSPITAL

All revolving doors are automatic at each hospital entrance. Next to the revolving doors are doors that say "Caution – Automatic Door." These doors are triggered by the weight of someone pushing on the door. However, if the door is gently pushed open 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.
The doors to the stairwell from the unit floor to the ground floor are also locked. A nurse can page a security officer to unlock it for you.

MACKENZIE HEALTH

There are manual doors at the B wing entrance. Doors to all stairwells are accessible. Any questions should be brought to the Security Office, located on the 1st Floor of the D Wing in 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 8:30pm. The entrance into the Emergency Department is automatic. There is a manual door from the Emergency Department into the main hospital. There is a Shabbos elevator. Staircases are always open, but access to geriatric, psychiatric, and maternal units are locked. To access these units, ask the Security Desk at the Murray St. entrance.

NORTH YORK GENERAL

There are manual doors 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 floor. All mental health units require visitors to "buzz in" for entry.

One should ask Security or the Information Desk to let the unit know that you will be coming up and will not be able to use the buzzer.

PRINCESS MARGARET CANCER CENTRE

Both University Ave. entrances and the revolving doors at the Murray St. entrance are manual. To get to the 24/7 accessible staircase to all hospital floors, make a

right after entering the hospital through the Murray St. entrance.
Walk down the hallway, past the main staircase and the pay phones. The door in the corner with the red exit sign above it is the accessible stairwell. Questions can be brought to the 24/7 Security Office, located next to the Information Desk in the Atrium.

ST JOHN'S REHAB. HOSPITAL

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

ST MICHAEL'S HOSPITAL

St. Michael's is undergoing construction until 2021. As such, this information is likely to change.

There are manual doors at the Victoria St. and Bond St. entrances on Floor 1.
The Shuter St. entrance on Floor 1 is also manual, but is locked after 9pm.
All stairwells in the hospital are open 24/7 and accessible to all floors.

SUNNYBROOK HEALTH SCIENCES CENTRE

There are manual doors between the H and E wings, underneath the "Auditorium" sign. All staircases are open 24/7, and most give access to all floors.

TORONTO GENERAL HOSPITAL

There are manual doors at the University Ave. entrance.
The Norman Urquhart Stair B is open 24/7 and accessible to all floors and wings. To access this stairwell from the University Ave. entrance: Go up the stairs next to the Information Desk into the Peter Munk Cardiac Centre. Proceed down the hall, following the sign for the Eaton Elevators. You will pass the hospital pharmacy and Tim Hortons. At the very end of the hall, make a right. Next to the women's washroom is the door to the stairwell, marked as Stair B.

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 Ave. entrance).

TORONTO WESTERN

Manual doors are located at the Dundas St. entrance and the Krembil entrance (at the corner of Nassua St. and Leonard Ave.). There are manual doors at the Bathurst St. entrance that can only be used to exit.
The staircases in the Fell Pavilion are open 24/7 and accessible to all floors.

Candlesticks

Bikur Cholim provides battery-operated candlesticks that are halachically and hospital-approved. One can make a bracha on these.

Patient Room Information

BRIDGEPOINT HEALTH

All lights, sinks, and toilets in patient rooms are electronically operated and have a motion sensor.

HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN

There is a patient-accessible fridge located near the nursing station on every floor. The lights, sinks, and toilets in all patient rooms are manual. The public washrooms on each unit floor have manual toilets and lights, but automatic sinks. A family member may stay overnight in patient rooms.

HUMBER RIVER HOSPITAL

The doors between the wings of the unit floors are automatic. There is a patient-accessible fridge near the nursing station on each floor. However, the sink and the washroom lights in the patient rooms, are operated by a motion sensor. Everything else is manual. The public washrooms in the hallways are automatic. Family can stay overnight in patient rooms. There are Courtesy Rooms for family to use on each floor. However, the sinks, toilets, and lights are automatic. In the ICU, the 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 for more information.

MACKENZIE HEALTH

There is a large patient-accessible fridge on each unit floor. All sinks, toilets, and lights in patient rooms and public washrooms are manual. Family members are generally not permitted to stay overnight in patient rooms, with the exception of Wing A.

MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL

There is a patient-accessible fridge in the pantry near the nursing station in each unit. All lights, sinks, and toilets in patient rooms and public washrooms are manual. Family is permitted to stay overnight in patient rooms on a case-by-case basis.

NORTH YORK GENERAL

There is a patient-accessible fridge in the pantry located near the nursing station. Lights, sinks, and toilets in patient rooms are all manual. Family members may stay in patient rooms, depending on the unit.

PRINCESS MARGARET CANCER CENTRE

There is a patient-accessible fridge near the nursing station in each unit. All lights, sinks, and toilets in patient rooms and public washrooms are manual. Family members are not permitted to stay overnight in patient rooms.

ST JOHN'S REHAB. HOSPITAL

There is a patient-accessible fridge in the pantry located near the nursing station in each unit. The lights, sinks, and toilets in patient rooms and public washrooms are all manual. Family members are only allowed to stay overnight in patient rooms for special circumstances.

ST MICHAEL'S HOSPITAL

St. Michael's is undergoing construction until 2021. As such, this information is likely to change.

There is a patient-accessible fridge in the pantry near the nursing station in each unit. The sinks, lights, and toilets in patient rooms are all manual. Family may

stay overnight in private patient rooms, and in semi-private rooms on a case-by-case basis.

SUNNYBROOK HEALTH SCIENCES CENTRE

There is a patient accessible fridge located near the nursing station in each unit. Patient rooms in maternity units have personal fridges. Family is allowed to stay overnight in patient 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 are motion-sensored. Doors on the ICU and Trauma units are locked between 10pm and 6am, and require family to buzz in for entry. Staff will unlock the doors for you if needed.

TORONTO GENERAL HOSPITAL

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

TORONTO REHAB. INSTITUTE

There is a patient-accessible fridge in the kitchen located near the nursing station in each unit. The lights, toilets, and sinks in the patient rooms are all manual.
Family members are allowed to stay overnight in patient rooms.

TORONTO WESTERN HOSPITAL

There is a patient-accessible fridge in the pantry located near the nursing station. Families may be allowed to stay overnight in the patient rooms. The sinks, toilets, and lights in patient rooms and public washrooms are all manual.

ERUV INFORMATION

Please note that 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 St., under the 401, to Wilson Ave. Walk West along Wilson Ave. to the hospital. From North: one can access the hospital by walking South anywhere East of the 400 (Jane St.) to Wilson Ave.
Carrying under the 401 at Dufferin is not permitted as it is not included in the Eruv. The 3 North and South Eruv "crossovers" are at Wilson Ave. and Bathurst St. under the 401 on Bathurst St., under the 401 on Wilson Ave. east of Bathurst St., and Bayview Ave. under the 401.

END OF LIFE ISSUES

In the rare event that one finds oneself with a *meis* (deceased person) on Shabbos, the halacha is 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 in this situation should then wait for the *Chevra Kadisha* to come after Shabbos.

For more information relating to the end of life, 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 cabinet.

Important Halachic Issues

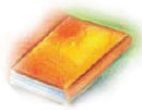
Bikur Cholim has received the following guidelines from Rav Yaakov Felder שליט"א, in consultation with Harav Shlomo Miller שליט"א. Guidelines assume that the patient (choleh) is either חולה שיש בו סכנה - a patient with a life - threatening illness - or even a חולה כל הגוף, the patient feels that he or she belongs in bed and cannot function, although there is no threat to life.

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

- The patient may directly ask a non-Jew 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. When 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, then this person may use the electric bathroom facilities in the same way as permitted for the patient.

2) 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.



3) May a choleh use a call button to summon a nurse?

When necessary, the patient may use the call button with a שינוי — change. For example, the patient may use the back of his or her hand to press the button.

4) If one has forgotten to unscrew the public refrigerator light bulb, or the bulb was screwed in again 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 and even for the family member, since it is not the non-Jew's intent to turn on the light.

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 will 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 and also to open the door.

6) May one use an elevator to visit a patient on a high floor, for the needs of the 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 most preferred to walk downstairs rather than using 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, since otherwise one's entrance 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 in 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.

8) May one ask a non-Jew to heat up a double-wrapped kosher meal in the microwave for the 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, speak to your Rabbi.

9) What is the proper procedure for the patient, and for the person accompanying the patient, if the hospital discharges the patient on Shabbos?

• One should ask if the hospital would allow the patient to remain until Shabbos ends. In any case, if Shabbos is nearly over, one should wait if possible.

• If the hospital refuses to let the patient stay longer, and if the patient is a choleh, as above, or if the patient is elderly, or a young child, and there is no place nearby for the patient to stay, then the patient may go home in a taxi. In this case, it is important to have the driver open and close the taxi door, as car lights will 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.

• If the patient is halachically permitted to go home in a taxi, as described above, then a non-Jew may call for a taxi.

10) Payment of taxi fare:

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

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

• If discharge on Shabbos has not been anticipated, then the following are suggested procedures, in order of preference:

a) Upon arriving home, one may show the driver where to take money for payment of the fare.

b) If this is not possible, one may ask a child under bar or bas mitzvah age to take money to pay the driver.

c) Failing this, one should handle the money without using one's hands (טלטול בגופו).

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

Bikur Cholim Kosher Cabinets

HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN

Located in the Emergency Department at the East Wing nursing station.
Most doors into and within the Emergency Department are automatic, and therefore the Kosher Cabinet should be accessed before Shabbos if possible.

HUMBER RIVER HOSPITAL

Located in the Spiritual Centre which is on the first floor, across from the Rexall pharmacy. The Spiritual Centre is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

MACKENZIE HEALTH

1) Located in the ICU (D Wing, 5th floor) in the "Family Area" (Room 5055). There is a cabinet labelled "Kosher Cupboard".
2) Located in the Yellow Zone of the Emergency Department behind the nurse's station, in the cabinet labelled "Kosher Food".

MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL

Located in the new hospital synagogue next to the food court.

NORTH YORK GENERAL

Located in the Spiritual & Religious Care Office, on the Ground Floor. The office is open weekdays from 9 – 5. At all other times, a nurse can ask Security to open the office for you. There is a cabinet in the office labelled "Food" which contains the kosher food packages.

SUNNYBROOK HEALTH SCIENCES CENTRE

1) Located in the Jewish Chapel on the Ground Floor of the E wing, Room EG06 (next to the R.S. McLaughlin Education Centre).
2) Located in the Office of Spiritual and Religious Care (Room A-151).

Sponsorship Opportunities

Shabbos candlesticks for patient use in hospital - one year	$15,000
Shabbos In a Box for families in hospital - one year	$6,000
Food for the emergency Kosher Cabinet - one hospital per year	$5,000

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