

Kosher Pantry Locations in Hospitals

CORTELLUCCI VAUGHAN HOSPITAL

1. Acute Care Unit, behind the Nursing Station in the Team Lead Room. Ask a nurse for access.

2. Spiritual Room. Level 2 (street level) Room number 2.102. The cabinet is to the left of the door. Lights will turn on via motion sensor.

HOLLAND BLOORVIEW REHABILITATION HOSPITAL

Family lounge located on the 3rd floor, Room 3W 115. Press 3R in the elevator.

HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN

1. On "Main Street" inside the hospital. Across from the Specialty Food shop. Street level.

2. Emergency Department, East Wing nursing station. Ask a nurse for access.

3. Meditation & Contemplation room. 2nd Floor Atrium, Room #2713.

HUMBER RIVER HOSPITAL

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

MACKENZIE HEALTH

1. Yellow Zone of the Emergency Department behind the nurse's station, in the cabinet labeled "Kosher Food".

2. D Wing 5th floor, outside the ICU.

MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL

1. Nussie Werner z"l Hospitality Room, 16th floor.

2. Hospital Synagogue, next to the food court. Please ask for key #14 from the security desk at the Murray Street entrance.

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday: 9:30am-4:30pm
Friday: 9:30am-1:00pm
(Office) 416.783.7983
(Emergency Line) 416.831.6757

MICHAEL GARRON HOSPITAL

G Wing ground floor, in the corridor near the cashier office and Emergency Department.

NORTH YORK GENERAL HOSPITAL

1. Main entrance to the Emergency Department, on the right hand side of the doors.

2. 4 North Pediatric Wing nursing station. Ask nurse for access. * for Pediatric Department use only.

PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL

Main floor, near the Magic Castle and the Boyd Family Lounge, by the emergency exit. Follow signs to the Magic Castle.

ST. MICHAEL'S HOSPITAL

Zone C of the Emergency Department, in the Hallway. Request entry from the Info desk.

SUNNYBROOK HEALTH SCIENCES CENTRE

1. M wing ground floor. Take the food court stairs down, walk into the service elevator corridor. The pantry is just past the service elevators.

2. M Wing 2nd floor beside patient elevators (to the right upon exit of elevator).

3. M Wing 4th floor beside patient elevators (to the right upon exit of elevator).

4. M Wing 6th floor beside patient elevators (to the right upon exit of elevator).

5. K Wing Centre, 1st Floor, upstairs from the main entrance, K1C Recreation Lounge, near the windows.

TORONTO GENERAL HOSPITAL

R. Fraser Elliot wing at the entrance to Emergency Department, across from the patient elevator. (Corner of Gerard and Elizabeth).



Revised
Aug 2025- Av 5785

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 ובלומה ז"ל

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 כל הגוף (patient with a life-threatening illness) or even חולה בו סכנה (patient feels that he belongs in bed and cannot function, even if his life is not in danger. This is the default status of a hospitalized patient.)

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 to walk in so that the lights turn on. Exiting the bathroom is allowed, even though the lights may turn off. The patient may use the toilet, even though it flushes automatically. Since the patient has no other options, this is an issue of כבוד הבריות - human dignity. The patient should NOT use the electric sink, but should rather use a manually operated sink or liquid anti-septic 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. If it is necessary to have an electric door opened in order to leave the unit for this purpose, it is permissible to indirectly hint to non-Jewish hospital staff their need to exit the unit. If a manually-operated bathroom is not available, the person may use the electric bathroom facilities in the way permitted for the patient.

2. 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 intention.

3. May one get food for a patient if the only access to the food is through automatic doors?

It is preferable to follow a non-Jew through the doors. If necessary, one may ask a non-Jew directly to open the doors for them.

4. May one get food for someone accompanying a patient, if the only access to the food is through automatic doors?

It is preferable to follow a non-Jew through the doors. If necessary, one may indirectly hint to a non-Jewish hospital staff their need to exit through the doors. In a case of significant necessity, one may directly ask a non-Jewish hospital staff to open the doors.

5. What is the proper procedure to enter a hospital on Shabbos with only automatic door access?

One should follow a non-Jew entering the building. In the event that a patient is entering the building in order to seek urgent medical care, they should not wait to follow a non-Jew if doing so will cause an undue delay, and should rather enter the hospital immediately.

6. May a patient ask a non-Jew to adjust his or her electric bed?

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

7. 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?

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

8. May one visit a patient (for the needs of the patient) if the only access to the patient is via elevator or a stairwell with automatic lights? Which is preferable?

In such a situation it is preferable to take the elevator. Ideally, one should enter the elevator with another rider. If necessary, one may ask a non-Jew directly to press the button for the elevator. In either case, one should try to avoid entering the elevator when the doors are expected to close imminently, as one's entering may cause the closing doors to reopen.

9. 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 Motzei 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. A patient in the hospital who is married may rely on their spouse's candle-lighting at home. In other circumstances, one should consult a Rabbi.

10. May one ask a non-Jew to heat up a double-wrapped Kosher meal in the microwave for a patient on Shabbos?

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

11. Can a non-Jew be asked to turn off lights in a room in order that a patient can sleep?

Yes, a non-Jew may be asked directly to turn off the lights for the benefit of the patient.

12. What should a patient do if they are asked by hospital staff to sign documents?

If the need to sign documents is not urgent, and the hospital will allow them to be signed after Shabbos, the patient (or person assisting the patient) should ask to wait until after Shabbos to sign. If it is important for the documents to be signed on Shabbos, the patient (or person assisting the patient) should sign the documents with their non-dominant hand, ideally with only a scribble or single initial.

End of Life Issues

In the rare event that one finds oneself with a meis (deceased person) on Shabbos, the Halacha requires one 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. After Shabbos, one should call one's Rabbi for information

regarding the Chevra Kadisha, and then wait for the Chevra Kadisha to arrive. 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.

Shul Information Near Hospitals

HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN, MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL, PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL, TORONTO GENERAL HOSPITAL

Anshei Minsk - 15 min. walk
10 St. Andrew St.
Rabbi Shmuel Spero
647-770-3479

ST. MICHAEL'S HOSPITAL

Anshei Minsk - 30 min. walk
10 St. Andrew St.
Rabbi Shmuel Spero
647-770-3479

TORONTO WESTERN HOSPITAL

Anshei Minsk - 8 min. walk
10 St. Andrew St.
Rabbi Shmuel Spero
647-770-3479

SUNNYBROOK HEALTH SCIENCES CENTRE

Chabad of York Mills - 32 min. walk
2437 Bayview Ave.
Rabbi Levi Gansburg
416-551-9391

NORTH YORK GENERAL

Kehillat Shaarei Torah - 45 min. walk
2640 Bayview Ave.
Rabbi Joseph Kanofsky
416-229-2600

HUMBER RIVER HOSPITAL

Agudas Yisroel - 1 hour walk
129 McGillvray Ave.
Rabbi Moshe Mordechai Lowy
416-633-1542

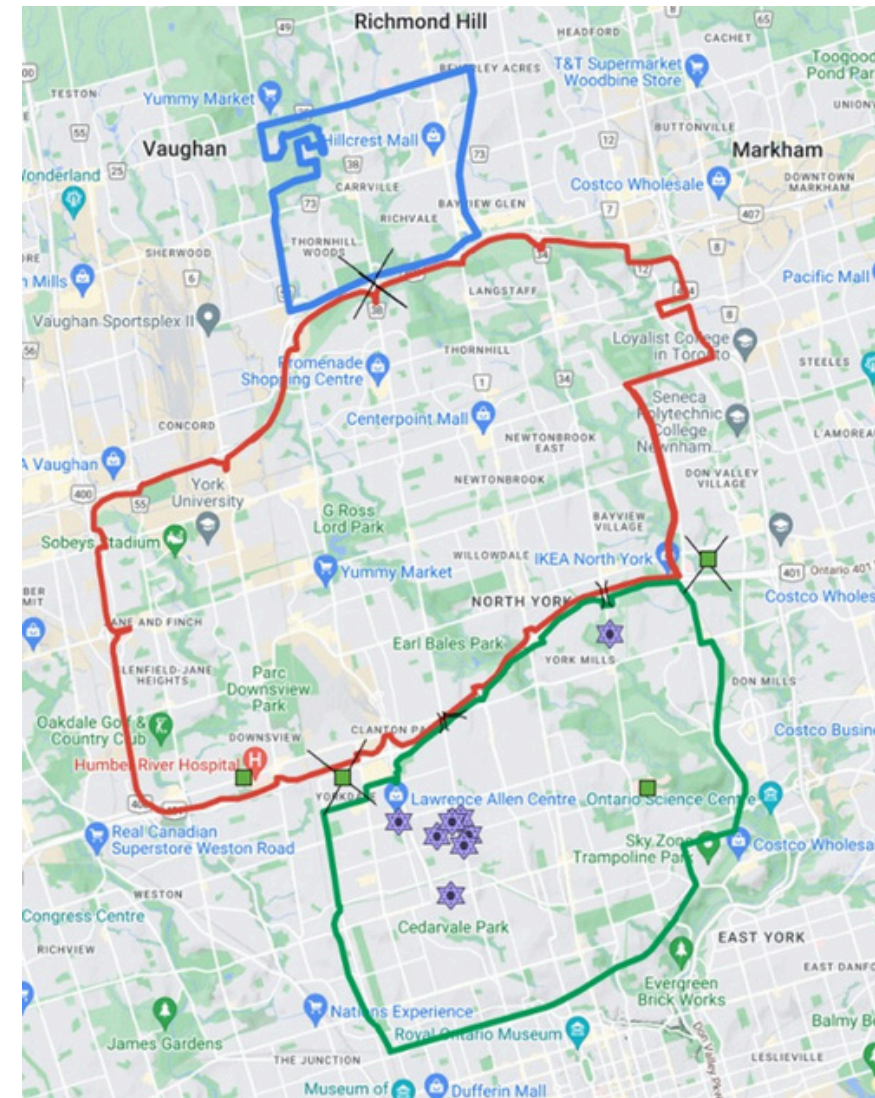
MACKENZIE HEALTH

JRCC South Richmond Hill - 25 min. walk
9699 Bathurst St.
Rabbi Avrohom Zaltzman
416-222-7105 x247

CORTELLUCCI VAUGHN HOSPITAL

Chabad of Woodbridge - 50 min. walk
25 Carling Rd.
Rabbi Shalom Ber Bakshi
647-982-3419

Eruv Information



Hospitals IN the Eruv:

- Humber River Hospital
- Schouldice Hospital
- Sunnybrook Medical Centre

Hospitals NOT in the Eruv:

- Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital
- Hospital For Sick Children
- Mackenzie Health

Hospitals NOT in the Eruv:

- Mount Sinai Hospital
- North York General Hospital
- Princess Margaret Hospital
- St. Michael's Hospital
- Toronto General Hospital
- Toronto Rehab
- Toronto Western Hospital

312 people stayed in Bikur Cholim accommodations near hospitals for Shabbos and Yom Tov.

848 articles of medical equipment loaned out.

15,712 meals cooked in Yenta's Kitchen and delivered to hospitals.

SOME OF OUR 2025 NUMBERS.

TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO OUR COMMUNITY, BIKUR CHOLIM COUNTS ON YOUR SUPPORT.

21 Hospital Kosher Pantries were restocked **1,092** times.

555 dedicated volunteers giving of their time to meet the needs of our community members.

To Donate:
www.bikurcholim.ca
416.783.7983



Medical Equipment Gemach

The following medical equipment items are available for short term loan.

- Ace Bandages
- Air Cast Boots
- Baby Scale
- Bed Rails
- Blood Pressure Monitors
- Braces
- Breast pump
- Canes/Quad Canes
- Commodes
- Compression Therapy Machines
- CPAP Machine/Portable Oxygen Tank
- Crutches
- Cryo Cuff Ice Machines
- Donut Pillows
- Dry Shampoo
- Glucometers
- Grabbers
- Heating & Cooling Pads
- Hospital Beds
- Hospital Bed Tables
- Hoyer lifts
- IV Poles
- Knee Scooters/i-Walk
- Lift Chairs
- Nebulizers
- Oximeters
- Peddlers
- Portable Washbasins
- Pediatric Blood Pressure Monitors
- Pediatric Equipment
- Raised Toilet Seats
- Pumps
- Roho Cushions
- Shoe Horns
- Shower Chairs/Transfer Bench/ Grab Bars
- Sock Aids
- Turners
- Tzniusdig Hospital Gowns
- Walkers
- Wedge Pillows
- Wheelchairs

If you need equipment not on this list please call the office to enquire.