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IN CASE OF ILLNESS...

...You probably will want to have a prayer recited for the patient in the synagogue.

First, remember that the patient should pray for himself or herself, if at all possible. Relatives and friends may mention the patient in their prayers during the weekday *Amidah*, in the appropriate blessing (for health).

The other way of offering a prayer for the sick, is by reciting the *Mi-She'berakh* during the Reading of the Torah.

However, here we must reckon with a countervailing principle -- that of *Tirha de'tzibbura*, inconveniencing of an entire community. Hence, if there is an inordinately long list of people for whom the *Mi-She'berakh* must be recited, it disrupts the service and incites the congregation to impatience.

In order to satisfy both the desire for praying for the sick and respect for the convenience of the community, we suggest the following guidelines:

1. Request a *Mi-She'berakh* only for a patient who is *seriously ill*.

A mere indisposition is not enough to warrant a public prayer of this sort! If a patient is in the hospital, or is critically ill at home, then you may request that the prayer be recited.

2. Except in cases of emergency which occur on Friday night or Saturday morning, please make sure that you have given the necessary information about the patient to Rabbi Wermuth by Friday morning at the latest. He will include the name in the collective prayer for all the ill.

Please do cooperate in this matter. And may the Almighty grant that all of us be blessed with full health and happiness.