

On the Front Lines of the Pandemic

By Alden (<http://tobendlight.com/author/alden-2-2-2/>), March 25, 2020

(<http://tobendlight.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Medical-Cross-and-Stethoscope.jpg>) A prayer for those on the front lines of the pandemic. It begins with the medical professionals putting themselves in harm's way. The second stanza broadens the view of what's included as 'the front lines.' It ends with two universal prayers. For a focused prayer for medical professionals, skip the second paragraph, although I believe this crisis calls for the inclusive view. Here are three related prayers: "Healing from Coronavirus (<http://tobendlight.com/2020/03/healing-from-coronavirus/>)", "Coronavirus: A Prayer for Medical Scientists (<http://tobendlight.com/2020/02/coronavirus-prayer/>)" and "Traveler's Prayer in a Time of Pandemic (<http://tobendlight.com/2020/03/travel-prayer-pandemic/>)."



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Source of mercy,
Watch over the medical professionals –
Doctors, nurses and all health care workers –
On the front lines of the pandemic
As they tend to the sick,
Putting themselves in harm's way
To care for us.
Protect them from illness.
Shield them from trauma.
Guard them from all harm.
Bless their limbs with strength,
Their eyes with courage,
Their hands with gentleness,
For they are a source of hope and love.
May their deeds
Find favor in heaven
And bring healing on earth.

Rock of love,
Watch over those who are caring for the vulnerable,
The disabled, infirm, chronically-ill and elder populations,
And those who are called upon to serve the public in new ways,
All who cannot protect themselves with self-isolation,
Among them police, fire, ambulance and sanitation,
As well as those providing for our basic needs,
Workers in grocery stores, pharmacies and other essential services,
All who are doing Your work with love,
Putting themselves at additional risk
In service to humankind.

G-d of healing,
Extend your tabernacle of health and peace
To all in need.
Bring a speedy end to this pandemic,
And all disease and suffering,
So that we may know
Your compassion and Your grace.

Let deliverance rise up from heaven,
Let joy and celebration resound
From the four corners of the earth,
And may peace,
At long last,
Reign on earth.

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Postscript: Thanks to Michael Jarvis, a student cantor at HUC-JIR (<http://huc.edu/>), who suggested the idea for this prayer. Here are prayers "For Nurses (<http://tobendlight.com/2013/06/for-nurses/>)" and "For Physicians (<http://tobendlight.com/2013/06/for-physicians/>)." Both appear in my book, *Jewish Prayers of Hope and Healing* (<http://tobendlight.com/product/jewish-prayers-of-hope-and-healing/>).

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