

DATE: January 7, 2010

TO: The Beth Israel Medical Center Community

FROM: Harris M. Nagler, MD
Interim President

RE: **Temporary Closing of Beth Israel-Petrie Division's Kosher Kitchen**

I am happy to report that we are under way with the second phase of the Emergency Department (ED) expansion at Beth Israel-Petrie Division -- the renovation and redesign of the old ED space. This phase in the project requires the replacement of all of the plumbing in the affected space which, in turn, requires the opening of the ceiling in the Dazian Pavilion basement. As a result, we must temporarily close our main food preparation kitchen, one floor below the affected work space, on or about February 1, 2010 for an anticipated period of less than four months.

In order to continue Beth Israel's founding tradition as a kosher facility, we are partnering in a cooperative effort to create temporary kosher kitchen facilities at our sister institution, St. Luke's Hospital. Some of you may recall that for six years St. Luke's maintained a kosher kitchen while serving as the principle meal preparation center for many of the Continuum hospitals, including Beth Israel. The renovations to the St. Luke's kitchen will be strictly observed and reviewed by rabbinical representatives from the Orthodox Union to assure they meet the highest standards of kosher law. We are confident that St. Luke's, once again, will do an excellent job in providing high quality, kosher meals to Beth Israel's patients.

The Linsky Lobby Café also will continue to serve kosher food while the Beth Israel kitchen is temporarily closed.

If you have any questions, please contact the Department of Food and Nutritional Services at (212) 420-2822. Thank you.