

In the Shadow of Your Wings: Blessing on Receiving COVID-19 Vaccine

By Miriam Stewart, MD



As I was waiting in line for the COVID-19 vaccine I was quite nervous but also filled with gratitude for human ingenuity and the collective will to survive and protect each other. I was reflecting on the Hebrew word for vaccine – חיסון – which shares a root with the word “יְהַסִּימֶן” – meaning protection or refuge – from one of my favorite phrases of [Psalm 36](#), from verse 8:

וּבְנֵי אָדָם בְּצֶל כְּנָפֶיךָ יְהַסִּימֶן

In the shadow of your wings humankind finds protection (or shelter or refuge – whichever word resonates most for you)

As the needle entered my skin – with all the hope and uncertainty it represents – this blessing came to me:

עִם חִסּוֹן זֶה בְּצֶל כְּנָפֶיךָ יְהַסִּימֶן

Im hisun zeh b'tzel kenafekha yehesayun

With this vaccine, may we be protected in the shadow of Your wings.

When I go to get my second dose, I'm going to wear my tallit and say this blessing again, because receiving this vaccine feels like a gift from the universe, an act of faith, and a sacred obligation – a mitzvah – all at once.

Ritualwell content is available for free thanks to the generous support of readers like you! Please help us continue to offer meaningful content with a donation today.

DONATE

Sign up for our newsletter

Email Address *

SUBSCRIBE

Prayer

FOUND IN: **Coronavirus**

TAGS: **Covid, Vaccine, Healing, Health Care, Doctor**

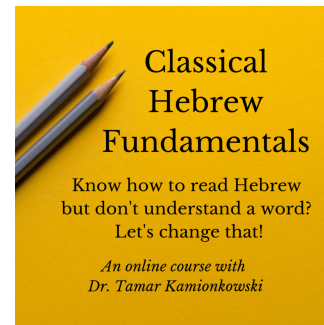
0 Comments

Sort by **Oldest**



Add a comment...

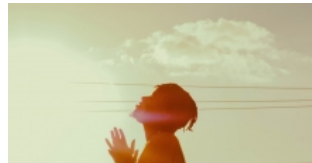
Facebook Comments Plugin



Related Rituals



The Burden and the Blessings: A Prayer for Those Caring for an Aging Parent



Hear Our Prayers



The Voyage Home: A Prayer for Re-Entry after Rehab