



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu on a Special Visit to MDA's National Operations Center



Photo: MDA Spokesmen and MDA Operational unit



PM Benjamin Netanyahu arrived on Thursday to visit MDA's National Operations Center in Kiryat Ono, where a joint call center for Magen David Adom and the Ministry of Health was established on Saturday night specifically to deal with the Corona virus. The Prime Minister was accompanied by Minister of Health Rabbi Yaakov Litzman, Finance Minister Moshe Kahlon, Minister of Tourism Yariv Levin, Chairman of the National Security Council Meir Ben Shabbat and the Director General of the Ministry of Health Moshe Bar Siman Tov.

The Prime Minister and Ministers received a review from MDA Director General Eli Bin about the joint call center for the Corona virus treatment and the protection measures taken by the teams that are dispatched to carry out the testing of the civilians who are in quarantine.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and ministers met with MDA's protected medical teams, learned about the safety measures in the ambulances, and toured the active dispatch work stations.

At the end of the visit, **Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said:** "Today I am announcing a

dramatic step forward which is already being implemented and is to my knowledge, the first in the world. We are pioneering the treatment and prevention of this virus. We ask anyone from any country in the world displaying symptoms of the virus to call MDA's 101 Emergency Call Center which has medical teams on staff will assess those who are symptomatic. Need be, paramedics will be sent to their house to perform a test kit. This is an innovative thing, one that can prevent the spread of the disease and I ask for your cooperation with the citizens of Israel."

Eli Bin, MDA Director General: "We have opened the joint call center in conjunction with the Ministry of Health under the direction of the Prime Minister as part of the effort to prevent the spread of the virus and to give the citizens the necessary information, guidelines and calm them. We have already carried out over 400 samples from civilians who are in quarantine at home and if necessary we are prepared to treat them and evacuate them to the hospital. I appeal to the public to adhere to the Ministry of Health's guidelines so that we can prevent the spread of the virus."



Photos: MDA Spokesmen and MDA Operational unit



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"MDA's activity is not only important, but does truly holy work"



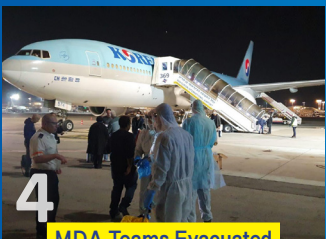
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"MDA Reacted Admirably, and I am Sure that Together We will Give the Best Response to the Situation"



3

The Joint Hotline of the Ministry of Health, Health Insurance Companies and Magen David Adom Opens



4

MDA Teams Evacuated Passengers that Landed in Israel after Staying in South Korea to Home Isolation



5

"We Did Everything We Could to Make Them Feel Calm and Safe"



6

Ofek Received the Minister of Education Award for Volunteering in MDA



Photo: MDA Spokesmen

Due to the escalation in the south, no school was held in Ashkelon and surrounding areas, allowing youth volunteers to assist in packing Corona virus protective kits



7

A Productive Cooperation



8

A Running Marathon Miracle

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An exciting news?
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“As the 90th Anniversary of MDA’s Establishment Approaches, MDA Continues as they have for Decades to Embody the Phrase ‘He Who Saves One Life is as if He Saved an Entire World’”

On Tuesday February 25th, during his visit to Australia the President of Israel Mr. Reuven

(Ruvi) Rivlin partook in an event in his honor hosted by Australian Friends of Magen David Adom, Sydney.

In his speech to more than 100 donors and supporters at the event, the President praised MDA saying “MDA is not only important, but does truly holy work which is provided to all citizens, tourists and even residents of other countries, some of which we do not have peace with, all in an effort to save lives.”

The President continued and praised the joint work

of MDA's volunteers and employees across all sectors of Israeli society and demographics, stating, “our power is in our unity”.

“We would not be able to do what we do without your support”, he praised those in attendance “and therefore, I am here, to thank you as the President of Israel and a citizen of Israel. Every life saved or blood product donated is because of you. Thanks to you, MDA is able to provide extensive services throughout the country and make use of the most advanced technologies.”

Mr. Rivlin concluded by saying, “all Jews are responsible for one another”.





“MDA Reacted Admirably, and I am Sure that Together We will Give the Best Response to the Situation”

Director General of the Ministry of Health during his visit at MDA

Director General of the Ministry of Health Mr. Moshe Bar-Siman-tov paid a visit on Wednesday' February 26th to the MDA National Emergency Dispatch Center in Kiryat Ono, to closely observe the activities in the dedicated joint hotline of the Ministry of Health and MDA, which was established to deal with the Coronavirus. MDA Director General Eli Bin presented MDA's rapid response, establishment and operation of the designated hotline. So far, 145 MDA paramedics across the country have been trained to take samples from civilians in solitary confinement suspected of being infected with the Coronavirus, that have been ordered by a physician to have the sample taken and sent forward to lab testing.

“We took the task very seriously and are dealing with it effectively in parallel with MDA's routine activities. On average, 6,500 calls are received

each day in MDA's 101 Emergency Dispatch Center, and we have the ability to handle even greater loads, as is the case nowadays, where close to 9,000 calls are being answered daily.” Explained MDA Director General Eli Bin.

In order that there will be no shortage, MDA has acquired tens of thousands of top level protection kits.

Director General of the Ministry of Health Mr. Moshe Bar-Siman-Tov took a look inside the hotline center put together by MDA and the Ministry of Health, and recieved a live briefing on how the center runs. Afterwards, he was shown the protection that is being used by the MDA medical teams. He concluded by stating; “MDA reacted admirably, and I am sure that together we will give the best response to the situation”





The Joint Hotline of the Ministry of Health, Health Insurance Companies and Magen David Adom Opens

More than 8,000 of inquiries pertaining to Corona virus were received at Magen David Adom's 101 Emergency call center.

On Saturday evening, February 22 under the guidelines of the Ministry of Health, Magen David Adom opened a special hotline focusing on treating people suspected of contracting Corona virus. Since the opening of the hotline, more than 8,000 of citizen inquiries have been received regarding the Corona at Magen David Adom's 101 hotline.

Anyone who, according to the Department of Health's guidelines, is required to be in solitary confinement, or a person who has been in contact with a Corona patient or someone who is suspected of being infected with the virus, and who has symptoms such as fever, cough, or other respiratory symptoms, should call the MDA 101 Emergency Call Center. The EMTs and paramedics at the hotline will join the call with the on call doctor or nurse, who decides to consult with a physician of the Ministry of Health on how to proceed with medical care.

According to the patients' symptoms, a decision is made whether to send an ambulance to evacuate the patient to the hospital, or to send a paramedic to the patient in his home and take a sample to be analyzed without evacuating the patient at this time. The sample will be sent forward to Sheba Medical Center in Tel Hashomer, in order to deny the presence of Corona virus. If necessary, an ambulance will be called to evacuate the patient to the hospital under special isolation conditions.

Dozens of paramedics at Magen David Adom underwent dedicated training on how to collect samples from the patients, in order to deny the presence of the Corona virus. As part of the training, paramedics practiced taking the patient's samples while staying

fully protected against infection. The medics and paramedics in MDA 101 Emergency Call Center were also trained to question and manage the cases. Magen David Adom has developed a special system, where among other things, a video call with the patient can be made. More than 180 samples have been collected so far.

Magen David Adom continues to operate the inspection post at Ben Gurion Airport, where MDA EMTs and paramedics question travelers and perform tests to those who arrive at the stand. This is done according to clear medical protocols set by the Ministry of Health.

MDA Director General, Eli Bin: "At the request of the Ministry of Health, Magen David Adom, as Israel's national rescue organization, has set up a dedicated hotline for Corona treatment, and if necessary, MDA sends paramedics to patients' homes, to take a sample, in order to rule out the presence of the virus in their bodies. Dozens of experienced and professional paramedics have joined the mission, as they recognize the importance of conducting medical examinations in the patient's home to prevent the spread of the virus in Israel. Paramedics are protected at the highest level, using dedicated anti-infection kits, according to the protocol used in infectious cases, where we see routinely. Magen David Adom works in full cooperation and coordination with the Ministry of Health, Hospitals and health insurance companies, and will continue to do everything possible to assist in the national effort of preventing the spread of the Corona virus in Israel."





MDA Teams Evacuated Passengers that Landed in Israel after Staying in South Korea to Home Isolation

Twelve Israeli passengers landed at Ben Gurion Airport after a stay in South Korea. According to the Ministry of Health's instructions, they are obliged to be in isolation so that other citizens do not come into contact with them. After landing, they are were evacuated to their homes by Magen David Adom teams.

MDA EMTs and paramedics were prepared to evacuate the passengers, and were protected by a special suit, mask, hat and glasses, according to the protocol used in cases where there is a chance a patient carries an infectious disease. After the evacuation, the vehicles in which were used were disinfected by a special system.

"Magen David Adom teams are always prepared to provide skill and professional care whenever required including the evacuation of patients suspected of having communicable diseases",

explains MDA Medical Division Director, Rami Miller, "Magen David EMTs and Paramedics were safely evacuating passengers that arrived from South Korea, while fully protected against infection".

MDA Director General Eli Bin: "Magen David Adom was prepared in advance for home isolation of passengers who landed in Israel, after staying in South Korea. The EMTs and paramedics evacuating them are equipped with full kits designed for these cases, so as not to pose a risk to their health. Magen David Adom is working in full cooperation with the Ministry of Health, the Foreign Ministry, the Airports Authority and other agencies, and will continue to do everything possible to help the national effort to prevent the spread of the Corona virus in Israel".





We Did Everything We Could to Make Them Feel Calm and Safe”

The eleven Israeli travelers who have spent the last two weeks quarantined on the cruise ship off the coast of Japan, fearing that the Corona virus, landed on Friday, February 21, at Ben Gurion Airport, would infect them. Upon landing, they were greeted with a big smiles, from Magen David Adom paramedics, who evacuated them on a MDA bus to Sheba Medical Center in Tel Hashomer.

MDA paramedics were protected with a special suit, mask, hat, and special glasses, according to the protocol used in cases where there is a risk of infection.

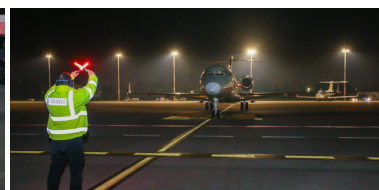
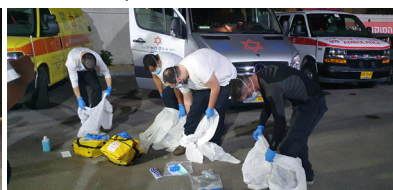
One of the paramedics who greeted the travelers upon landing in Israel, is Itzik Peer (42) from Ashdod: “When they asked me to take part in the evacuation of the Israelis who were on the cruise ship off the coast of Japan, I had no doubt in my mind that it is exactly what I would do,” **Itzik said** “As emergency personnel in Magen David Adom, it is important to us to help all those in need, and we are sure to protect ourselves as well when we are on duty.”

Rami Meushar (35) from Lod, MDA paramedic and a volunteer since the age of 15, also took part in evacuating the Israeli’s who arrived from the cruise ship off the coast of Japan “It’s a great honor, as a paramedic in the national rescue organization of Israel, to take part in the national effort to prevent

the spread of Corona in Israel.” **Said Rami,** “To greet the Israelis as they finally landed back in Israel, after being held in isolation on the cruise ship, was very exciting. It was important to us to act courteous, and we took all measures to make sure that they felt calm and safe.

MDA Medical Division Director, Rami Miller: “The Magen David Adom teams are prepared throughout the year, and work skillfully and professionally wherever they are required to provide medical care and evacuation of patients suspected of carrying infectious diseases. Therefore, the issue of protecting MDA teams is not something new for us, and we are practiced and experienced in the routine.”

MDA Director General, Eli Bin: “At Magen David Adom, we were prepared ahead of time for the evacuation of the eleven Israelis who landed in the country, after spending two weeks in isolation on a ship off the coast of Japan. The paramedics, who evacuated them, were provided with full kits designed for these cases. In order to prevent any possibility of infection. MDA works in full coordination and cooperation with the health and foreign ministries, with the airport authority and the Sheba hospital in Tel Hashomer, and will continue to assist in the national effort to prevent the spread of the Corona virus in Israel.”





Ofek Received the Minister of Education Award for Volunteering in MDA

MDA Volunteer Ofek Amir (17) from Kiryat Bialik received the Minister of Education's Award for Youth Volunteer in memory of Elad Riven. Together with eight other youth volunteers from around the country, Ofek received the honorable award for his work as part of the national EMS organization Magen David Adom. Ofek began volunteering in MDA two years ago, and he acts as a first aid provider in ambulances, tutors and instructs youth, and in addition leads humanitarian projects for the public benefit.

"When I was notified of my award, I was very excited,"

Ofek said, "Winning is very valuable to me because it recognizes my activity for the sake of saving lives. Becoming a lifesaver in Israel's National Rescue Organization is a huge privilege."

MDA Director General Eli Bin: "We are proud of the Ofek for his winning as well as his extensive activities in the organization, and wish him much success in the future. There are ten thousand youth volunteers in MDA, which are a very significant part of our activities, helping the sick and injured and saving lives across the country"





Productive Cooperation

This week, Senior Managers of MDA's Asher region met with Mr. Yasser Gadban, head of the Kisra-Sumei Local Council.

The meeting was a continuation of the ongoing collaboration between the Magen David Adom and the Council that included training 10th grade students at the local high school in first aid, and installing a defibrillator in the local council building.

15 local council employees learned how to provide first aid and operate the life-saving device.

Mr. Gadban added that he hopes that with the training of emergency medical personnel, a community ambulance and motorcycle will be able to be stationed in the community for the wellbeing and benefit of all residents in the area



A Running Marathon Miracle

Exactly one year ago, Shachar David (46) from Dimona was running in the Dead Sea Marathon, when his heart stopped beating, and he collapsed mid-race. One of the participants in the marathon who happened to run next to him, was Meir Furmanski from Jerusalem, who volunteers as an EMT at Magen David Adom. He immediately began performing CPR, and saved David's life. After intense rehabilitation, they had a heart-warming experience, when they ran the same marathon last Friday, this time side by side.

"Running the same run, in the same place, with the person who saved my life, was truly a remedial

experience," **said Shachar David.** "If someone would have told me a year ago what I was about to encounter, I would not have believed it, but after the fact, it was clear to me that I had to get back to my myself, and I am proud to say that I was able to do that."

"It was a bit strange when we met at the starting point, but also very exciting to stand there together," **explained Meir Furmanski.** It's amazing to see this miracle right in front of my eyes, and to know that I have taken a part in it. I have been running regularly for many years, but there is no other run, that both prior to, and during, I was so excited for."

