



90
Years of Saving Lives



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11.5.20

Lag Ba'Omer



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Magen David Adom stands in solidarity with the Jewish communities around the world that have been affected by the Corona virus

Lag BaOmer

Words of support and encouragement

by Rabbi **Israel Meir Lau** Shlita
former Chief Rabbi of Israel

Magen David Adom Director General
Eli Bin

Senior Surgeon
Prof. **Yehuda Skornick**

Prayers sung from the Western Wall
for the wellbeing of those ill
by **Shai Abramson**

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Magen David Adom stands in solidarity

with the Jewish communities around the world that have been affected by the Corona virus.



Against Corona, an Intermediate Summary

245,460 people have been sampled by 6,500 samplers, 4,270 Evacuations to hospital, and more than 2,000,000 calls since the beginning MDA has been at the forefront of the fight

Since the Corona virus arrived in Israel, Magen David Adom, as Israel's national emergency medical and blood services organization has been at the forefront of the national effort to prevent the spread of the virus and maintain public health. Since the first days of the crisis, MDA teams around the country have been carrying out swab samples of those suspected as having contracted the corona virus in the patient's houses, at various long term care facilities and "Drive-Thru" complexes, and in addition evacuating verified patients to hospitals and inpatient hotels.

Simultaneously, MDA's Blood Services are responsible for all plasma collection (the blood component containing the corona virus antibodies) from those recovered from the virus, to help treat patients in moderate and severe condition.

245,460 people were sampled by MDA teams across the country. Of these, 96,065 were sampled at the "Drive-Thru" complexes, 88,272 were sampled in their houses, and 61,123 were sampled in nursing homes and in long term care facilities across the country.

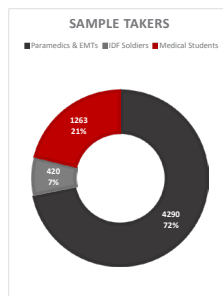
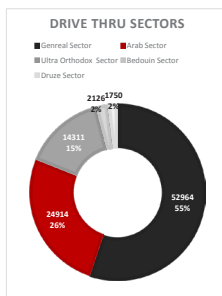
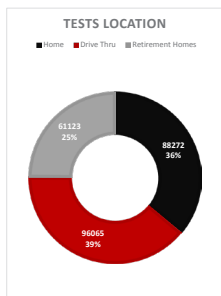
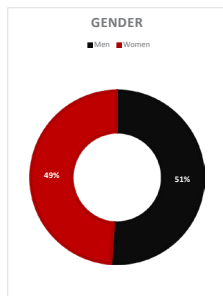
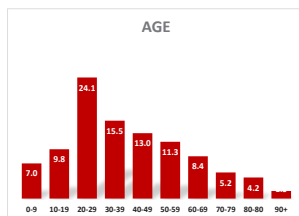
More than 2,000,000 calls have been received at MDA 101 Emergency Call Centers and the designated Corona call centers that have operated by MDA in the past two months, at an average of about 37,000 calls per day. On a routine day, 5,500 call are received marking an increase of 700%. On the busiest day at Magen David Adom around the country (Tuesday 31.3), 86,655 civilian calls were received within 24 hours.

At the same time as the call centers were being

operated and swabs were taken, Magen David Adom's EMTs and paramedics have thus far evacuated a total of 4,270 corona

A few weeks after the crisis began, the number of those recovered from corona in Israel began to rise, and under the guidance of the Ministry of Health, MDA's Blood Services began collecting plasma (the blood component that contains the corona antibody) from patients who had recovered at least two weeks prior. MDA Blood Services in Tel Hashomer and Jerusalem are responsible for the collection, and 51 corona patients have already been treated with the donor plasma.

MDA Director General Eli Bin: "For about two months, tens of thousands of volunteers have been fighting the Corona virus and thousands of Magen David Adom volunteers around the country, and alongside medical students, soldiers and all who have joined the effort. From the first day of the crisis, Magen David Adom, Israel's national emergency medical and blood services organization, has been working alongside the Ministry of Health and all the authorities, now we must remember that the crisis is not behind us, and that the improvement in the situation depends on the continued conduct of each and every one of us, citizens, as we pray for better days ahead."



Magen David Adom Begins Using Buses to Evacuate Patients and Injured at the ALS Level



Magen David Adom, in cooperation with the Osem Nestle Company and Dan Company, and with the assistance of the IDF's Ground Forces Technology Unit, has developed two dedicated buses in the past few weeks to evacuate multiple sick and injured, safely and efficiently. Each bus can evacuate up to thirteen patients at a time, with two of them placed in the middle of the bus, which is built at the ALS level, and eleven others sit in the back, if needed, the bus can be used to transport up to fourteen EMTs and paramedics to the scene of an incident.

Buses allow many patients to be evacuated, thus saving the number of operational vehicles required to perform such a task. Every bus has sirens and an advanced communication system, which enables the communications between the teams located in the different parts of the bus and the MDA Dispatch Center. "We started developing these buses at the peak of the Corona epidemic in Israel," said the project manager, MDA paramedic Omri Gorga. "From the beginning we were facing a lot of challenges, but we knew we had to achieve the best result in no time, and make the buses operational. We worked days and nights, together with the IDF's Ground Forces Technology Unit, until the buses were ready."

The buses were donated by the Dan Company and fully converted to the designated evacuation vehicles, with the assistance of MDA Friends of Magen David Adom, who are also supporting Magen David Adom these days, and the "Osem Nestle" company, which has made a generous donation for the financing of the project. "Auto cool" company and "Merkavim" assisted as well.

Osem Nestle CEO Avi Ben Assayag said: "We are witnessing

tremendous assistance from all areas of Israeli society to help others and support the medical teams. MDA is at the forefront of the fight against the virus. Together with them, we sought an innovative and effective solution for evacuating patients in need of care, which would include advanced medical equipment. This is a part of the generous donations by the employees of Osem-Nestle. Today it may not be possible to hug, but many hearts can be touched by giving."

Head of the Technological Division of the IDF Ground Forces , Brigadier General Tal Aharon: "As part of the IDF, dealing with the Corona virus and providing assistance to the citizens of Israel, we have developed the Corona "MADABUS" bus, a first of its kind which has been developed and manufactured for evacuating patients in Israel. This is a collaboration of the rehabilitation and maintenance center, and the IDF's Ground Forces Technology Unit and the MDA, the Ministry of Transportation and the "Merkavim" company. The project that turned from a dream to reality in just a few weeks thanks to the cooperation of all organizations will make a significant contribution to saving lives."

MDA Director General Eli Bin: "This is the first emergency medical vehicle of its kind in Israel, which gives us high evacuation capabilities, and which will help to streamline our operations in various cases, where we are required to evacuate a large number of patients at once. I thank everyone who took part of the development and construction of the special buses, including the best minds in Magen David Adom and the IDF, Israeli Friends of Magen David Adom, the Osem Nestle Company, and the Ministry of Transport, led by Minister Betzalel Smotrich".



MDA is Preparing to Medically Secure the Limited Meron Events



Due to the Corona epidemic, the traditional Meron Hilulla (public celebration in memory of a saintly rabbi) will take place this year, with only dozens of people arriving to the mountain to participate at the Hilulla. Magen David Adom, who secures the Hilulla every year, is prepared ahead of time and will be ready this year to provide a medical response to every scenario.

Six ambulances, two MICUs, a command vehicle and other designated emergency vehicles will be deployed in the field, with MDA EMTs and paramedics at the highest level of alert to provide a fast and professional response to any call.

MDA Yarden regional manager, Oren Avitan: "In the wake of the Corona virus, the Hilulla will look completely different and will be much more limited. However, this year, Magen David Adom will also make the necessary preparations, in collaboration with the Israeli police and all the officials, with the teams in the field able to provide the best possible response to any scenario. For any medical need, call the teams on the ground or call MDA's 101 hotline.

MDA Director General Eli Bin: "Every year, the Meron Hilulla is one of the big public events that MDA has to prepare for. This year, due to the spread of the Corona virus in Israel and the need to prevent crowds, the event will take place with only tens of participants, compared

to the hundreds or thousands we saw in years past. I urge participants to follow the Ministry of Health's guidelines, to keep themselves and those around them, to assist with the national effort to maintain public health. "



MDA Teams Took 3,166 Swab Samples at the New “Keren Or” Mobile Station Developed by the IDF and MDA



In the Geula (ultra-orthodox) neighborhood of Jerusalem a special Coronavirus swab samples station was activated. The station, built in a container, developed by the IDF and MDA, is designated to swab civilians without signs and symptoms who may reach the location on foot. The name of the station is “Keren Or” – “A ray of light”, it includes 6 windows enabling teams to take hundreds of samples a day. Until now 3,166 people have been sampled.



Due to its unique design, the “Keren Or” station can be relocated on the back of a truck, and maintain the public order and social distancing procedures during operations. MDA team members are operating the station and the technical aspects are the responsibility of the soldiers and officers IDF’s Technology Brigade.

The new innovative station was stationed at the Shneller compound, located in Jerusalem’s Geula neighborhood, and order was kept by ushers in order to maintain social distancing. The MDA sampling teams sitting inside the container are protected by a high pressure air system that pushes out the air and maintains a fully sterile environment.

Brigadier General Tal Aharon the head of the IDF Technology & Logistics Brigade: “the mobile lab was developed by the technology division who worked day and night in order to quickly find an innovative solution and assist in the battle against the Coronavirus outbreak. The mobile station is able to conduct multiple swab samples in a relatively short amount time and by doing so assisted in reducing the rate of infection and maintaining the safety of the medical teams. The Technology and Logistics Brigade as well as all the IDF will continue to assist in the fight against the Covid-19 outbreak”.



MDA Director General Eli Bin: “the Keren Or station is an amazing development by the IDF Technology & Logistics

Brigade, that placed the public health at the front and utilized their knowledge and expertise for the Israeli citizens. This development, like the DriveThru compounds, has a crucial role in the struggle against the Coronavirus outbreak, and make it possible to increase the number of swab samples taken throughout the country, while maintaining the safety of the Israeli public and the MDA teams. MDA will continue to be at the forefront of the struggle against the Coronavirus outbreak, with hope for better days soon”.

MDA's "Corona Version" First Mental Health Manual



all the COVID-19 tests, tests that were done by MDA's personnel. The call center was formed immediately, in several locations (to prevent viral transmission), and included hundreds of MDA volunteers, many of them youth volunteers, working in 2 shifts 24/7. The volunteers were supervised by professional MDA staff, and received dozens of thousands of calls daily. Such an efficient professional call center could be formed in such a short time only by MDA: Israel's emergency pre-hospital medical service. Most of the COVID-19 tests were performed by MDA's staff, in patients' homes and in drive in locations. MDA's ambulances transported COVID-19 patients. All these teams had of course to work using protective clothes and equipment.

The concern of exposure - the fear of being exposed to COVID-19 at work and taking the infection home to their family – were combined with a stressful situation: the sustained massive effort for all MDA's employees and most of the active volunteers. MDA's executives and supervisors were instructed to make sure that their staff members adhere to recommendations for well-being – for them and for their families.

Main factors that prevent mental problems among MDA staff due to the COVID-19 epidemic were: Strong professional personal and organizational confidence; Units' cohesiveness; The belief in the significance of the mission – successfully coordinating and treating the dangerous epidemic.

The ongoing gratitude of the Israeli public should help MDA's staff continue to be resilient. For that, the crucial role of MDA in the successful treatment of the COVID-19 epidemic must be emphasized!

During the last years, MDA is expanding the program of "First Mental Health" expanding the knowledge of teams - volunteers and employees - in mental health. Combined with lectures and seminars, a short guide was formed: a First Mental Health Manual. A special chapter was now added to the manual, making it a "COVID-19 edition".

During the COVID-19 epidemic, concerns on MDA staff's mental health continued, due to the crucial part of MDA in the struggle against the virus in Israel. The crucial role of MDA was not emphasized enough in the Israeli media: until recently all the handling of COVID-19 tests was coordinated by MDA. Since the beginning of the epidemic MDA formed a "Corona Call Center", that received the public's calls and coordinated

MDA Logistics Division - the team that provides the framework for the national battle against the COVID-19 outbreak

300,000 Swab Sample Kits and 200,000 Personal Anti - Viral Protective Kits

The working day at MDA's Logistics Center started about two months ago and has not stopped since, even for one minute. Dozens of employees, volunteers, youth volunteers and IDF soldiers, work day and night, in a humble and diligent way. They know that they are the team that provides the backing to the activities of tens of thousands of MDA volunteers and employees throughout the country and continue to work, head on, for the health and the wellbeing of the Israeli citizens.

The response to the Coronavirus converted the MDA Logistics Center in Holon into a factory. Overnight two massive tents were built, next to the existing storage buildings, hosting assembly lines for the employees and volunteers. 5,000 personal anti-viral protective kits were packed daily, in addition to 10,000 swab sampling kits, add to that additional logistic and medical equipment to deal with the Coronavirus and the routing EMS teams activities, distributing tens of thousands of items every day.

Shlomi Ohana (65) from Or Yehuda, served in the IDF for 29 years as a senior logistics NCO, since 2004 he works at MDA's logistics division. Shlomi took charge over the assembling of the MDA Anti-Viral protective kits. "Each shift, it is important to pass a key message to the soldiers and volunteers: our work must be conducted in perfect order", said Shlomi, "it is important that they understand how important the work that they are doing is and that they are a critical part in the medical treatment and lifesaving chain in Israel."

Or Cohen (16) from Beer Yaakov has been an MDA volunteer for more than a year, and is an emergency medical responder and instructor. "About a month ago, when school was cancelled, I've decided that I want to take advantage of the time and to assist MDA with the Coronavirus response", said Or, "in every shift at MDA Logistics Center I take part in preparing hundreds of swab sampling kits or protective gear. It gives me a great deal of satisfaction knowing that I'm part of this so important activity, and that teenagers have a central place in everything that MDA is doing during this outbreak".

Ernan Ben Horin, Director of MDA's Logistics Division: "MDA logistics Division supplies all the necessary equipment to MDA team members across the country, for the routine work and for the Coronavirus response, including the swab sampling activities and evacuation of COVID-19 patients. Dozens of employees, volunteers, soldiers and youth volunteers are working for long hours every day, 7 days a week, in order to prepare the necessary kits, transported by dozens of trucks, to the MDA stations and to the "Drive Thru" complexes across the country. We constantly see our commitment to do our utmost to protect the health of the Israeli public, without compromising the safety of MDA employees and volunteers".





MDA Phlebotomists Arrive for a House Call

The restrictions on movement and congregation, designed to maintain public health, have reduced the ability of MDA's Blood Services to conduct large blood drives. However, because of the need to meet the healthcare system and IDF demands, the Blood Services must provide sufficient supply to avoid a shortage of national stock, and to provide blood products to all in need.

Therefore, MDA'S Blood Services are approaching donors and conducting blood drives as close as possible to citizens - in the heart of residential neighborhoods, apartment complexes, building clusters, tenants' rooms and workplaces.

"These days, it is especially important for the public to donate blood," said MDA Blood Donations Department Director Lior Altman. "We urge anyone who can, to donate to maintain the national blood supply."

MDA Deputy Director General- Blood Services, Prof. Eilat Shinar: "Since the beginning of the Corona crisis in Israel, we have encountered great difficulty in carrying out blood donations, and in addition to closed workplaces, factories and educational institutions, public gatherings have been banned. To meet the blood demand in Israel, we have taken on a new activity and as a result the MDA'S phlebotomists are coming to residential neighborhoods and building clusters all over the country. I thank everyone who donated and help us with the donations in the neighborhood."

MDA Director General Eli Bin: "The State of Israel cannot afford a shortage of blood, which is critical in the medical care of sick and injured, in routine and emergency. I urge citizens to contact MDA'S Blood Services and donate blood in a simple procedure, for the sake of saving lives".

Ultra-Orthodox Female Sample Takers

Four ultra-Orthodox women from the Bnei Brak area, all working and raising children, while at the same time finding time to volunteer at Magen David Adom, care for the sick and the injured, and save lives. Recently, they also are taking part in the national fight against the spread of the Corona virus, taking samples and evacuating confirmed patients to hospitals and inpatient hotels

Racheli Danhi (30), a mother of three children, has been working in tele-banking and has been a volunteer at Magen David Adom for a year and a half. "It has always been a dream to volunteer for MDA," Racheli said. "Growing up in a home where giving is of utmost value, and as I have always been attracted to the medical world, I viewed MDA as heroes. Beyond helping others, the power to save lives personally means a lot for me. I believe that everyone has something good that he can do for others, and I found it in volunteering at Magen David Adom and saving lives."

Naomi Knoll (28), mother of two children, a psychology student and in recent months also a volunteer at Magen David Adom. "After I became a mother, I had the desire to know how to give people medical treatment, and I decided to take the EMT course in MDA. After completing the course, I volunteered every week on the ambulance, and since the beginning of the Corona crisis in Israel, I volunteered at the 101 Emergency Call Center as well. My family has been very supportive of me from the beginning, helping me with the children and doing everything so I can to succeed. I had a particularly exciting moment when I heard that one of my sons, who was in a kindergarten, was proud to tell his friends

in the kindergarten that his mother was volunteering on ambulances. I feel that MDA is a supportive and embracing family that I've been privileged to be part of it, and that I just want to keep moving forward, helping as many people as possible and saving lives."

Ora Shafer (33), mother of a 9-year-old girl, works at a plant for various technological solutions, and for about two years has been a volunteer at MDA. "I decided not to give up on my dream of caring for people and saving lives, and two years later I participated in MDA'S EMT course. Today I am also an ambulance driver and volunteer almost every week. I think there is a real need for more and more ultra-orthodox women to work in the medical field. It is important first of all for our self-development, but not least for the cases where women in the sector need medical care, and feel much more comfortable that a woman will take care of them."

Miri Shulman, 26, a mother of a year and a half year old daughter, works as a personal assistant to the CEO and has been a volunteer at MDA for more than two years. "The medical world has always been very intriguing to me," Miri said. "From the age of 17, I worked as a lifeguard in the pool, and by that time I had realized how extensive first-aid knowledge was meaningful. My daughter was born at week 29, and my medical knowledge gave me a lot of confidence in coping with her condition, both initially at the hospital and later when we returned home with her. With full support from the family, I have volunteered several times at the "Drive Thru" testing complex in Bnei Brak, and it was a privilege for me to take part in the national struggle against the spread of the virus."

