



Minister of Communications
Yoaz Hendel Visits
MDA's National



In Order to Break
the Chain of Infection



Coronavirus in Numbers



Suddenly, Out of Nowhere,
the Fighting Begins



Mitzvah on Wheels



Picture of the week

Friends that save lives together, stay together!

Anat, a Jewish Israeli and
Miryam, a Muslim Israeli, are
MDA volunteers who are working
around the clock to treat Israelis
affected by Coronavirus.



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Minister of Communications Yoaz Hendel Visits MDA's National Operation Center

“I was privileged to see the hard and important work done all year round but especially now in managing the corona crisis”

The Minister of Communications, MK Yoaz Hendel (Derech Eretz), visited the MDA National Operation Center in Kiryat Ono last week and was accompanied by MDA Director General Eli Bin and senior members of the organization. Minister Hendel received a comprehensive overview of MDA activities, conducted a tour of the center and met with its teams to learn about the activities being carried out by MDA, Israel's National Emergency Medical and Blood Services Organization, who has been standing at the forefront of the fight against the corona virus in Israel.

During the tour, Minister Hendel learned about MDA's routine and emergency activities, the organization's response to the corona crisis and the wide range of tests and swab samples that MDA has been responsible for obtaining since the beginning of the corona crisis. Thus far, the organization's teams sampled more than one million eight hundred thousand people in the country. In addition, the Minister was shown the unique technologies developed in the organization in order to provide an

effective, professional response to citizens who call MDA's 101 Emergency Call Center in case of a medical emergency. The Minister also expressed interest in MDA's routine and emergency blood services.

Minister of Communications, MK Yoaz Hendel: “Today I was shown the hard and important work that MDA does all year, but especially now in managing the corona crisis. I came out here having seen a lot of creative solutions for dealing with the Corona and how we can get out of the crisis through medical means “We have a hard and hard job to do in the government and I thank you for the hard work and what you do. It is a sacred work.”

MDA Director General Eli Bin: “We were pleased to host Minister Hendel this morning, who expressed great interest in MDA's routine and emergency activities. I thank him for his visit and the time he has devoted to learning about the organization and meeting the MDA teams, who work diligently and continuously for the public.”



MDA launches “Corona Guardians” program

In light of the increase in Corona cases, Magen David Adom is launching a “corona guardians” project in which the organization trains the public to learn how the virus works and cut off the chain of infections among their family, friends, coworkers, and other places. In addition, the organization’s youth volunteers were trained to assist the public by handing out masks, spreading information, and teaching them to take responsibility.

“As part of the project, we invite the public to learn free of charge in an electronic and short course on the corona virus. The course also teaches the public to reduce and keep track of exposures which assists in the epidemiological investigation in case of an infection.” Dr. Eli Yaffe- MDA Deputy Director General explains, “In addition, MDA’s youth volunteers have been distributing masks to the public and helping them learn about the pandemic and prevention methods to raise public awareness and help break the cycle of infections.”

As part of the program, the new Corona Guardians learn about the virus and the ways of infection and avoidance, while emphasizing the importance of wearing a mask and social distancing. Those who complete the training, will keep a personal diary in which they will record their interactions during the last 14 days, with the aim of interrupting the cycle of infection and significantly reducing the cases of exposure to the virus in case of infection.

Today, if a person does not feel well, he goes to the doctor, waits for an appointment, is sent for a corona test, waits for the results and only then, when the answer is positive and only then the epidemiological investigation begins. The diary kept by the Corona Guardians is intended to reduce

the cycle of infection, and if necessary, will help to update quickly, immediately and effectively all those people to whom the patient has been exposed in the last 14 days.

In addition, “Corona Guardians” will teach in educational settings and community days for the public about the importance of adhering to the guidelines. In the initial phase, dozens of MDA volunteers joined the project, who serve as “Tav Sagol” instructors who are in the community and, as mentioned, distribute masks to citizens who walk around without a mask and help raise awareness of the precautions and dangers.

Adi Raanan (17), a youth volunteer from MDA’s Jerusalem Region who participates in the project: “Recently, we have been holding a lot of activities aiming to prevent the cycle of infection at the height of the second wave. We learn about the virus as much as possible in order to teach the public who are very naturally stressed as much knowledge as possible. We are here to explain, raise awareness and help. Even if I am not on duty on the ambulance and saving lives directly - I feel that through advocacy I do it in a different way, through mission, guidance and advocacy. People receive our service in a beautiful and respectful way and use us to break the cycle of infection and be healthier.”

MDA Director General Eli Bin: “Magen David Adom has engraved on its banner to fight the spread of the corona virus and work to prevent the chain of infection. Together, hand in hand with the general public and while raising awareness - we will work against the corona virus, in order to drastically reduce the number the infections.”

More details about the project can be found on the MDA website <https://www.mdais.org/kursim/nc>





Coronavirus in Numbers - Official Data

Magen David Adom announced that since the beginning of the Coronavirus outbreak (February 24), MDA teams have sampled 1,854,680 people. The samples were performed, during the past 7 months, at a variety of sites, nationwide, in private homes, clinics, hospitals, nursing homes as part of the "Protecting Fathers and Mothers" project, educational institutions, and in MDA Drive and Test facilities.

Last week (1-7.10) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Home Front Command and the HMOs, MDA EMTs and paramedics have sampled 145,812. 19,040 samples were taken in people's homes and 49,160 at MDA's and Home Front Command's Drive and Test facilities.

According to MDA data, since the Coronavirus outbreak 320,241 samples were taken in people's homes.

610,680 samples were taken at MDA's Drive and Test facilities operating in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Home Front Command and HMOs.

In addition, as needed, Magen David Adom operates additional Drive and Test complexes throughout the country.

MDA is continuing to operate the Drive and Test facilities, whilst also carrying out testing in nursing homes and long term care facilities throughout the



country. In addition, as needed, MDA teams will sample those who are homebound.

To date, MDA sampled 3,896 travelers who returned to Israel from abroad at a special stand in Ben Gurion airport.

In addition, MDA Paramedics have taken 3,000 serological tests, and evacuated thousands of confirmed patients from their home for hospitalization

MDA's 101 Emergency Call Centers also show a significant increase in citizen inquiries, which reached 18,573 calls a day this week, an increase of about 300% compared to a routine day.

Along with taking more 1,800,000 of samples for Coronavirus, MDA blood services continue to collect plasma from those who have recovered from the Coronavirus for the treatment of severely ill patients and the production of a passive vaccine. To date, those who have recovered from Coronavirus have donated approximately 8,448 plasma units. 2,550 units have been given to 1,275 Coronavirus patients in moderate and severe condition (2 units each.)

MDA is continuing its activity of sampling in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, the Home Front Command and the four HMOs and carrying out verified patients' transfers to hospitalization, all in addition to the organization's routine and emergency activities.

Suddenly, Out of Nowhere, the Fighting Begins

Paramedic Ohad Moyal from the Lachish region has already seen complicated events in his life, but nothing seems to have really prepared him for the moment when a siren sounded and he rushed to treat the seriously injured.

Read the full story of the raging war under the radar and the struggle for the patient's life in the article below.

MDA paramedics have been trained to prepare for the worst. They know how each shift begins but never how it will end. Therefore, their training includes learning to adapt and developing capabilities to transition from routine to standby and immediate response - within seconds. That capability helped Ohad Moyal save the life of a 62-year-old Ashdod resident who was severely wounded by rocket fire last month.

"We were driving normally, when suddenly the rocket alert siren sounded. We immediately stopped on the side of the road, donned our helmets and flak jackets and lie down on the ground. I live in Ashdod, so I am used to such situations both at home and on duty, but am still always caught by surprise when the siren sounds.

A few seconds after we heard a big explosion. Dispatch had already called us on the radio, I felt it was a bad sign and reported a direct hit near the mall. We went to the scene of the incident with lights and sirens while preparing for a variety of possible scenarios which we can encounter in such situations including fatal injuries, trapped victims, occasional fires and others.

When we arrived, there were many people at the scene and a mess. We noticed that all the shop windows of the nearby shops were shattered. I saw people running from place to place with shouts and terribly stressed by the difficult situation. "

As a paramedic Ohad is required to command not only his team but also to manage the scene, locate the injured, prioritize care, manage the ambulance and crews arriving in the scene and cooperate with other rescue and security forces on the ground. Ohad successfully managed this complicated task. He immediately handed out tasks to all team members and began scanning the scene. Very quickly he was led to the most severely injured victim.

Ohad says, "When I met the injured man he was



lying on the floor and it was obvious that he was bleeding, I immediately realized that this was an urgent situation and I asked to expedite his evacuation as much as possible. I had to both stabilize his condition and evacuate him to the operating room as soon as possible.”

The MDA treatment protocol for the seriously injured requires contacting the nearest hospital, in order to prepare for the injured patient’s arrival.

Ohad recounts, “We performed a number of urgent interventions to stop the bleeding quickly and began evacuation to Assuta Hospital in the city, while simultaneously requesting that the trauma team to be ready to receive the him as soon as we arrive so as not to waste even one second. During the evacuation, I talked to him a bit to understand where he was exactly when the incident occurred.

He said he had just been on his way to the homes of needy families to provide them with food baskets and assistance. We only exchanged a few sentences but I immediately realized that he has a special personality. I later realized that his name is Asher Bitton, he is a rabbi in the city and the father of 15 children. I was hoping he would be fine despite the serious injuries.

When we arrived at the hospital, we transferred the treatment to the doctors and they confirmed what we had thought at the scene, that his condition was serious. I was worried. “After he went up for surgery and in the days that followed, I made sure to keep up to date with his condition, talked to his doctors and prayed for him to survive the injury.”

After a day in the hospital, the injured man’s condition deteriorated and he was sedated and placed on a ventilator. The injuries were serious and his life was in danger. Ohad followed his condition behind the scenes and waited for good

news. After several days in intensive care Asher began to recover. Within a few days he even regained consciousness and on Rosh Hashana, did the unbelievable, when he asked to blow the shofar. As a man of faith, this was a symbol of his return to life and recovery.

Ohad, “I felt immense joy and satisfaction. Among all the difficult situations we see in our work, to receive such a message and to know that the severely wounded patient has returned to function is the happiest thing in the world for us.”

Ohad joined MDA in 2014 as a youth volunteer and first aid provider. Even then, he recalls, he



had a burning desire to help others and save lives. “This sense of satisfaction you get from helping patients is something you don’t get anywhere else. For this reason, I decided I wanted to become a paramedic. “I enlisted in the IDF to become a military paramedic and was placed in an intensive care unit in the Arava area. After my release, I was hired by the MDA and since then I have been working in the organization and working shifts every day.”

Asher’s wife said in a phone call: “Thank G-D we are at home, Asher is at home, and he is making a full recovery, all thanks to the dedication and speed with which the MDA team treated him. This is what saved his life. I thank everyone who took care of him. He suffered a severe injury, a ruptured spleen and massive bleeding, and we have a long way to go, but he is alive and I have a husband and father for my children. I thank the paramedic who treated him, thanks to his speed and dedication we are here today. We G-D willing we’ll have a meal of thanks after Asher recovers, and this Corona is over, and we very much hope that the paramedic Ohad, and his team, will come to the meal. We would love to meet them. Thank you for everything.”



Mitzvah on Wheels

The special holiday operation of the MDA ambulance driver

Yonatan Spitzer, MDA ambulance driver and EMT in the Jerusalem Region, is used to celebrating Sukkot every year. But this time, in the light of the Corona crisis, the lockdown and the wave of illness, he realized that the holiday would be different. Instead of bringing people to the sukkah - he brought the sukkah to them. Spitzer set up a mobile sukkah towed by an ambulance, and traveled around the country between the MDA stations to spread the holiday spirit to the medical staff.

In addition to being an EMT and ambulance driver, Spitzer is responsible for coordinating the Chabad activities for MDA during the holidays. For example, on Purim he distributes Mishloach Manot and on Passover he distributes Matzo. This year, due to the corona virus crisis, he realized that Sukkot would be different and he had the idea to bring the Sukka to them.

Spitzer built a mobile sukkah, attached to an ambulance trailer and embarked on a cross-Israel journey between the various MDA stations, where he maintained the Ministry of Health's guidelines for keeping distance and wearing masks. He brought joy to the employees with a holiday atmosphere, a bright sukkah, four species and refreshments at MDA Drive and Test complexes in the Jerusalem area, in

the center of the country and in the south, and last week travelled between the MDA station in the north. So far, hundreds of MDA employees have been visited by the mobile sukkah.

On the project and the reactions, he said: "MDA employees and volunteers are very happy and excited to see the sukkah. Many of them felt that they lacked a holiday atmosphere due to the workload. For me this is a very big mission. It makes everyone happy and brings all the employees and volunteers together. Even on the road drivers are beeping at me and smiling, as they see the sukkah attached to an ambulance. It's something very special for everyone."

MDA Director General, Eli Bin: "Between operating the "Drive and Test" complexes, treating and evacuating Corona patients to hospitals, performing home samples for the Corona virus, treating emergency calls and routine MDA activities, we are happy about the opportunity given to us and the welcome initiative to stop for a moment to breathe the holiday spirit and smile. We all hope that the corona crisis will pass soon and that next holiday we will celebrate its end. On behalf of the MDA organization, the workers and volunteers would like to congratulate the citizens of Israel on a happy holiday and good health."

