



## REVIEW PAPER

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# The Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak: The Israeli Experience

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### ABSTRACT

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-COV) and Sever Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-COV). The Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) refers to the cluster of viral pneumonia cases which first started occurring in Wuhan city, which has a population of 11 million people and is the largest city in Hubei province in central China, since December 2019. On Tuesday, the 11<sup>th</sup> of February 2020, the WHO officially named the disease caused by the new coronavirus "COVID-19", with more than 43,000 patients, and more than 1,000 deaths cases were reported in China. The Government of Israel, the Prime Minister's Office in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Defense and the Treasury, have decided to take early first steps to prevent the spread of the virus in the Country. The first step was banning Chinese tourists from entering the country via Ben-Gurion International Airport, and this was only the beginning, as afterwards the decision was made to close all border crossings. The idea was to reduce the number of entrances to the State of Israel as much as possible, and every citizen coming back from countries such as China and European countries was directly sent to home quarantine for a period of 14 days.

**Keywords:** COVID-19, Coronavirus, World Health Organization, worldwide spread, infection, disease.

## Coronaviruses Family

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that cause illnesses ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-COV) and Sever Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-COV).

The Coronaviruses are transmitted between animals and humans. The SARAS-COV was transmitted from civet cats to humans and MERS-COV from camels to humans [1].

## The Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19)

The Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) refers to the cluster of viral pneumonia cases which first started occurring in Wuhan city, which has a population of 11 million people and is the largest city in Hubei province in central China, since December 2019. According to investigations conducted by the Mainland health authorities, the novel coronavirus was found to be the caus-

ative agent [2]. COVID-19 is genetically related to SARS-COV, which caused a global epidemic with 8096 confirmed cases in more than 25 countries in the years 2002–2003 [3].

On December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019, 27 patients were initially reported. The patients were identified by local hospitals using a surveillance mechanism for “pneumonia of unknown etiology” that was established in the wake of the 2003 severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) outbreak with the aim of allowing timely identification of novel pathogens such as 2019-nCoV. In recent days, infections have been identified in other Chinese cities and in more than a dozen countries around the world [4].

On January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the number increased to 41 cases; with seven severe cases and one death. The geographical origin of the spread of the virus was linked to the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market, which was subsequently reported by journalists to be selling freshly slaughtered game animals [5]. In addition to seafood, the market also sold live cats, dogs, snakes and marmots. A notice posted outside the Huanan Seafood Market said that according to regulations for public health emergencies, the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission's Hanjiang District Bureau decided to suspend the seafood market's operations in order to improve its environment. On Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> of that month, videos uploaded to the internet showed masked, white-clad medical workers spraying sanitizer in the market [6]. On the 20<sup>th</sup> of January 2020, 282 laboratory-confirmed human cases have been reported. Confirmed cases in travelers from Wuhan were announced on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of January in Thailand, on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January in Japan, and on the 19<sup>th</sup> of January in South Korea [7].

As of March 10, 2020, 72,314 cases that were reviewed by the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention showed that less than 1% of the cases were in children younger than 10 years [8].

## Symptoms

The symptoms of the disease caused by the coronavirus are similar to those of the common flu. The following symptoms may appear 2–14 days after exposure to the virus [9]:

- › fever,
- › cough,

- › shortness of breath.

The virus can lead to severe pneumonia, and severe respiratory symptoms, kidney failure and death.

## The Spread of COVID-19

The SARS-CoV-2 can spread from person to person. The virus transmits between people who are in close contact with one another, within about 6 feet, through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Additionally, it can spread in case a person comes into contact with infected surfaces or objects contaminated by the virus, and then touches his mouth, nose, or eyes [10].

The SARS-CoV-2 is highly sensitive to all common cleaning and disinfecting agents. Increasing the frequency of cleaning using disinfectant products, including hand sanitizers, is effective in combating the virus. There is no specific protocol for cleaning to eradicate the coronavirus. The Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention issued guidelines for the daily cleaning of surfaces, especially those touched by people with suspected or confirmed coronavirus disease; it recommends that high-touch surfaces are disinfected on daily basis [11].

## Coronavirus Panic Outbreak

On Thursday, the 11<sup>th</sup> of February, WHO officially named the disease caused by the new coronavirus “COVID-19”. On that day, the number of reported cases was over 43,000 patients, and more than 1,000 deaths. Most of the diagnosed patients were from China and only 400 cases from other countries. Only one day later, the number of patients escalated sharply, reaching over sixty thousand, with 1,300 deaths, all from China, except for one death case recorded outside China.

The Novel Coronavirus continues to hit worldwide day after day. On Thursday the 13<sup>th</sup> of February, 219 patients were found in the Diamond Princess cruise ship at Yokohama port near Tokyo, Japan [12]. On that cruise ship, there were 16 Israeli civilians, three of them were diagnosed with Coronavirus. The three patients who suffered from a mild condition were transferred to a hospital in Japan for further treatment. The Israeli

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Israeli Ministry of Health began to take steps of transferring the citizens to Israel to continue their follow up. On February 19<sup>th</sup>, the siege on the Diamond Princess Cruise ship was ended, with total of 621 cases of Coronavirus patients (three of which are Israeli citizens), and 6 deaths [12]. The uninfected Israeli citizens were flown to Israel, upon arrival in Israel, they were immediately transferred to home quarantine for a period of 14 days [13].

One day after the arrival of the uninfected Israeli citizens, the Israeli Ministry of Health imposed more strict guidelines on quarantine and the banning tourists. Any Israeli citizen returning from South Korea and Japan should stay in home quarantine for 14 days. The Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a travel warning to these countries, in addition to Thailand [13].

Towards the end of February, the largest outbreaks outside China were reported in South Korea, with more than 200 cases reported on February 21<sup>st</sup>. One day later, the number of cases in South Korea continued to escalate, 430 cases of Coronavirus were identified, around the world the number of infected cases continued to rise as well, according to the WHO daily update, 77,809 cases and 2,372 deaths in 31 countries were reported.

In the period from the 8<sup>th</sup> till the 18<sup>th</sup> of February 2020, a group of 9 tourists from South Korean visited the state of Israel and were diagnosed with Coronavirus immediately after returning to their country. The Israeli Ministry of Health issued a warning to all people who came into contact with those tourists. Additionally, the Ministry of Health published a map showing the locations that these tourists visited. Immediately, on the same day, 30 high school students who were in one of the locations visited by the tourists group at the same time, were sent to home quarantine for 14 days.

Despite its global spread, the WHO did not rush to declare the Coronavirus a global Pandemic. On Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> of February, and according to Italian reports, the number of Coronavirus cases in Italy was 2019 patients and six deaths, which made it the most and serious outbreak in Europe. Israel issued a travel warning to Israeli citizens traveling to Italy, especially the northern district of Italy, and anyone returning from Italy is immediately sent to home quarantine for 14 days [13].

In Israel, the first Corona case was found in a citizen who returned from the Diamond Princess Cruise ship; with which the number of the Israeli patients from the cruise ship increased to 4 cases, the patient was placed in home isolation. Simultaneously, news channels from the worldwide continue reporting about the vast spreading of the virus. Reports included cases from Iran, Oman, Iraq, Kuwait, Afghanistan and Bahrain [13].

The Israeli Ministry of Health issued another travel warning to European countries and to all countries of the world in general. Citizens were advised to avoid trips to conferences and gathering events in which large numbers of people from different countries come together, as well as avoiding and cancelling any international conferences in Israel. On that same day (February 25<sup>th</sup>), it was reported that one Israeli citizen who was infected on the cruise ship and hospitalized in Japan had fully recovered from the virus, and returned to Israel that day. The rest of Israeli citizens in Japan were also in good shape, and were later released on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February [13].

On Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, the virus continued to spread to other countries, including Croatia, Switzerland, Vietnam, Spain, Austria, Denmark and Estonia. The second Israeli citizen with coronavirus arrived from northern-Italy. On that day, the number of the infected people all around the world rose to 80,377, and 2,707 deaths. Israeli flight companies stopped all flight to Tokyo, Italy, Thailand and Hong Kong.

As the virus continues to spread to 59 countries, new cases were reported in seven other countries- Azerbaijan, Belarus, Lithuania, Iceland, Mexico, New-Zeeland and Nigeria. In the Middle East, Iran had the most serious outbreak. In Europe, Italy had the most serious outbreak.

On February 26<sup>th</sup>, there were seven cases of Coronavirus, three infected from the Diamond Princess Cruise ship, three others who returned from Italy, and one case (wife of one of the patients) that was infected in the Country. The Israeli Ministry of Health imposed stricter instructions, and published a list of places in which patients are to stay from the moment of their returned to Israel until the onset of symptoms.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Health warned that anyone who was close to the patients (about 2 meters away from the patients), or those who have stayed for 15 minutes in the same area as

any of the patients, must stay in home quarantine and report immediately to the National Emergency Service – the Magen-David Adom (MDA). If within 14 days of contact with diagnosed patient an individual develops signs of fever of 38 degrees or over, cough, difficulty breathing or other respiratory symptoms appears, then he/she must call the MDA, and do not reach any clinics or hospitals.

On Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Israeli Ministry of Health continued to issue travel warnings to various countries around the world, any person returning from Spain, Switzerland, France and Austria were ordered to stay in home quarantine for 14 days. People who returned from other countries were instructed not to attend any public events. The Ministry of Health published instructions for maintaining personal hygiene, making sure to wash hands with soap and alcohol, and avoiding shaking hands [13].

On Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, the Coronavirus continued to spread and take on human lives around the world. On that day, the number of the infected people was 107,933, with 3,664 deaths; these numbers included the cases that have been documented in at least 104 countries [13].

Sixteen days after the virus outbreak in Italy, which has the largest spread in Europe, 6,000 cases have been diagnosed with the Coronavirus, 570 of whom were in serious condition. The Italian government decided to take an unusual emergency measure and imposed full closure on the northern part of the country, in an effort to reduce the spread of the virus. The closure affects around 16 million Italians living in the 14 counties in the north of Italy. The closure included schools, universities, museums, cultural centers and sports events. [13]

In the Palestinian Territories, the authorities have decided to ban foreign tourists for two weeks, and to close the churches and mosques in Bethlehem after 19 cases of COVID-19 infections were diagnosed. In addition, 13 Americans tourists were placed in isolation at a hotel in Bethlehem city. With the evolving spread of the virus worldwide, the Israeli Ministry of Health continues to issue more instructions, any citizen who returned from Australia or Taiwan with signs of a sore throat, cough, or fever was required to be immediately checked by the Emergency Response Services of MDA that is located in an incoming

passengers' lane of the transit hall at Tel-Aviv International Airport "Ben-Gurion". Moreover, Israel closed its land borders with Egypt, and the international flights terminal, Terminal 1, at Ben-Gurion Airport was also closed for all international flights [13].

The Israeli Ministry of National Security announced that it is considering declaring a national state of emergency that will give the police additional authority to close certain areas as the virus continues to spread. The Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin-Netanyahu and US Vice president Mike Pence discussed the imposition of a potential closure order for people arriving to Israel from a number of destinations in the USA.

On Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, the WHO announced the COVID-19 outbreak a global pandemic, which is the first time since the announcement of the H1N1 pandemic in 2009. On that day, the Israeli Ministry of Health updated the number of Corona patients in Israel to 77, including a nine-year old child. A total of 465 elementary schools students from south Tel-Aviv and about 50 educators and school staff were placed in home quarantine after being in contact with the nine-year old student who was diagnosed with the novel Coronavirus [13].

The Israeli Ministry of Health continues publishing new guidelines for Israeli citizens. The new guideline including banning any gathering of more than 50 people, this includes wedding ceremonies, crowds at sports events, as well as shopping malls and stores.

In Israel, the updated number of individuals diagnosed with COVID-19 by the 13<sup>th</sup> of March increased to 126. About 949 doctors are in quarantine and are unable to work, although they are needed most. Around 635 nurses and 171 paramedics are also in solitary confinement. Some have been exposed to patients with symptoms as part of their work and are very likely become ill as well. In Israel, a decision to close most of the educational system was taken as a preventive measure [13].

As of the 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2020, the total number of people diagnosed with COVID-19 around the world has reached 220,229 this morning, about 9,000 of which have died. The number of patients who recovered from the illness is 85,769.

In Israel, the number of coronavirus patients is 529, and the number of patients who recovered from the illness is 14.

On the morning of March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020, Palestinian and Israeli news channels reported the first time two cases of COVID-19 in Gaza Strip, the patients arrived from Pakistan and they tested positive as COVID-19 patients. In the Palestinian Territories, the total number of infected people became 59 in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip, according to official Palestinian Authority reports [14]. According to worldwide reports, Rise in numbers of diagnosed in Italy, Spain, the United States, Iran, France, Germany, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Other countries have been added to the Corona map, including Papua New Guinea and East Timor in the Pacific, as well as countries in several regions of Africa: Niger, Eritrea, Uganda, Fun Verde, Angola and Madagascar [13].

In Poland, the first confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported by Poland's Minister of Health on Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> 2020 [15]. After that new case, cases were confirmed in seven other voivode ships throughout Poland during the period from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> of March 2020 [16].

Upon the emergence of these cases, Poland's Prime Minister announced some new restrictions and decisions.

The major decisions include [17]:

- › Imposing a limit on the number of people allowed inside a store, up to three people per cash desk. At marketplaces, the limit of people allowed is three customers per sales point, and in post offices two people per window.
- › From 10:00 to 12:00, stores and service points are allowed to receive and serve only people over 65 (in the remaining time, shops and service points are available to everyone, including seniors).

- › All customers must shop while wearing disposable gloves.
- › Large-space construction stores will be closed during weekends.
- › Pedestrians are to maintain a distance of at least two meters between one another. This also applies to families and relatives (except for children under 13 years of age and people with disabilities or those who are unable to move independently).
- › Children and adolescents under 18 years of age are not be allowed to leave their homes unattended.
- › As of the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2020, all household members living with a person who was quarantined shall be automatically quarantined.
- › Parks, beaches and boulevards are not to be used. City bike rental stores will be closed.
- › Hotels and other accommodation places, in addition to beauty and hair salons, will be closed.
- › Rehabilitation treatments and massages are suspended – both in public and private facilities (except the cases when rehabilitation is absolutely necessary).
- › A distance of one and a half meters should be maintained in the workplaces. Additionally, disinfectants shall be provided in all workplaces.
- › The passenger seat limit will also apply to private carriers.
- › Any person violating the above regulations will be subject to a fine ranging from PLN 5,000 to PLN 30,000 [17].

As of the 2<sup>nd</sup> of 2020, 392 new cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in Poland. Thus, the

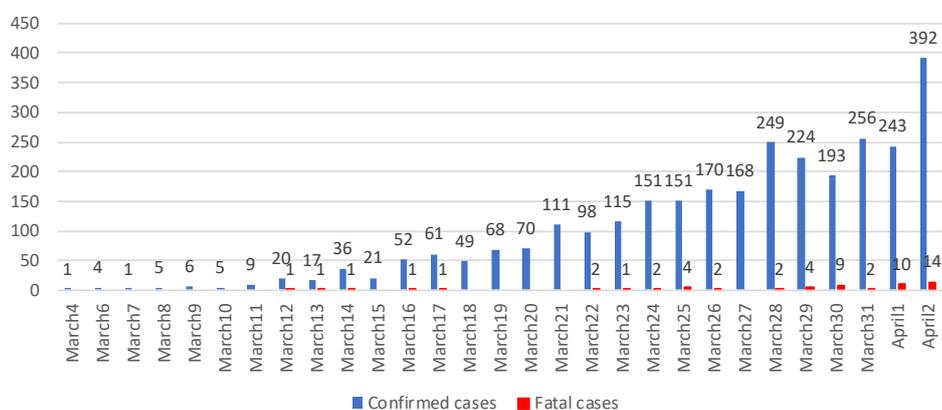
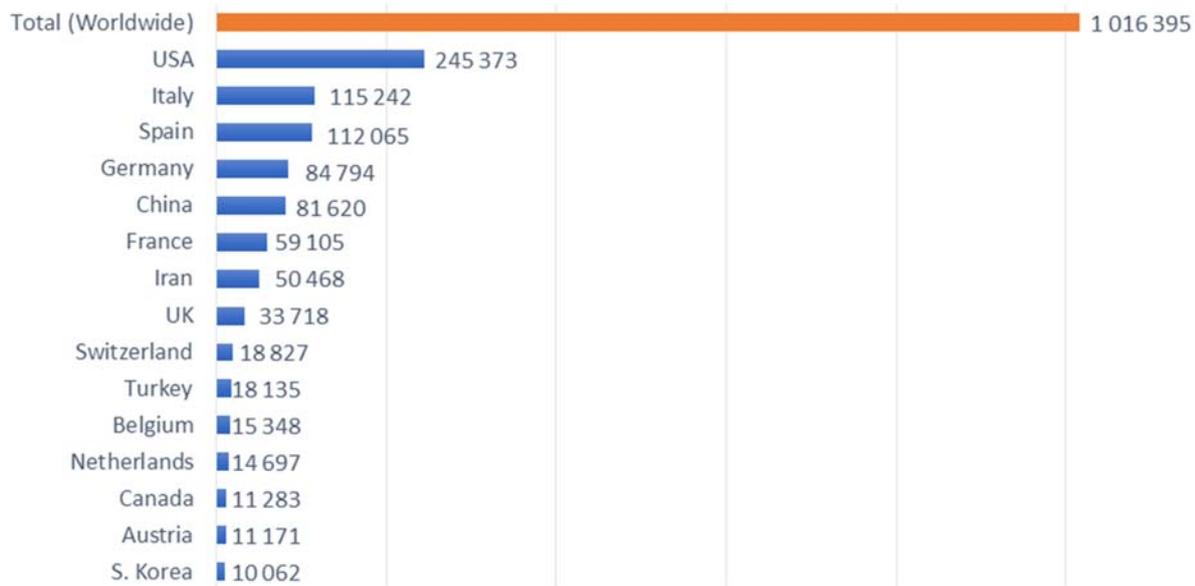


Figure 1. Number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Poland as of April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020, by date of report [18]



**Figure 2.** Number of COVID-19 cases worldwide as of April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020, categorized by country [19]

total number of cases in the country since March 4 2020, became 2,946 (2,889 active cases). However, over 48 thousand people were under epidemiological supervision. According to the Minister of Health, 57 infected patients died, all of them had serious health problems before the infection [18] (Figure 1, 2).

## The Israeli Experience

The Government of Israel, the Prime Minister's Office in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Defense and the Treasury, have decided to take early first steps compared to other countries around the world in order to prevent the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in the Country. The first step was preventing Chinese tourists from entering the country via Ben-Gurion International Airport, and this was only the beginning. The decision was followed by a full closure of all borders of the Country. The idea was to reduce the number of entrances to Israel as much as possible, and every citizen who coming from countries such as China and European countries was sent straight to home quarantine for a period of 14 days.

Even before the first cases of COVID-19 were discovered in Israel, Israeli authorities took preventive measures to prevent its spread. On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, the Ministry of Health issued guidelines and information in case a person develops any symptoms related to the disease and instruc-

tions on how to deal with such person in order to protect other individuals who are close to him, and how to protect the medical staff. According to the orders of the Ministry of Health, anyone who has spent the last two weeks in Wuhan City, China, or has been in contact with a person who has been there, and develops symptoms of the disease – fever, cough, pneumonia – is required to go to the closet hospital for medical examinations. Once the case is checked in into the medical center, it should be placed in isolation; medical teams shall work according to the defined protocols which protect them against infection, and shall performs all types of virus tests for the patient. All samples are then sent to the Central Laboratory of the Ministry of Health, located in Sheba Tel-Hashomer Medical Center (located near Tel-Aviv), where the lab staff will be able to identify the virus from the Corona family, if any [20].

### Actions were taken before the border was closed

In all border crossings, information sheets and instructions have been posted in different languages (Hebrew, Arabic, Chinese and English), detailing the guidelines for those coming from China. If any passenger reports fever or respiratory symptoms within two weeks prior to their arrival from China or upon arrival, then he/she needs to contact the first emergency response Magen-David Adom (the Israeli first emergency response) [21].

At Ben-Gurion International Airport in Tel Aviv, special workstations were installed and staffed in collaboration with Magen-David Adom (MDA) in the transit hall, and equipped with a special space for isolation before sending a passenger who is suspected of infection to a hospital's emergency room.

In the case of a passenger reporting fever or respiratory symptoms while staying at the airport, the passenger was directed to the MDA station, which includes an isolation compound. The MDA will constantly apply protective measures in accordance with the protocol and guidelines for coping with the outbreak of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Upon arrival of a suspected passenger, MDA staff will provide the passenger with a face mask that he/she must wear, and will measure the passenger's body temperature measurement, in case an emergency evacuation is decided, MDA will then transfer the passenger to the hospital in an ambulance containing special isolation equipment, in accordance with the protocols of the Israeli Ministry of Health and in cooperation with the hospital that will receive the patient.

### Home Isolation

The Israeli Ministry of Health has instructed those returning to the State of Israel from Austria, Italy, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, Macau, China, Singapore, Spain, France, South Korea, Switzerland and Thailand, or those who have been in close contact with a COVID-19 patient (close contact is defined as a staying less than 2 meters far from a patient for 15 minutes) to stay in home quarantine for a period of 14 days from the date of their departure from these locations. Those who are instructed to go into home quarantine are forbidden from going to public places, educational institutions (universities or schools), workplaces, public transportation, recreational and shopping places, hospitals and clinics [22].

The Ministry of Health has published a self-report method which can be done using one of the following ways:

- › Reporting using the "Self-Reporting Form on Home Isolation" (electronic form found on the Ministry of Health's website).
- › Reporting using the "Form for those who came in contact with a patient" (electronic form).
- › Through the dedicated call center using the number published by the Ministry of Health on its website.

Absence from work will be considered absence due to illness. In case no signs of illness appear, on the 15<sup>th</sup> day, and upon the end of the home quarantine period, the individual can return to work and normal activities. The purpose of the home quarantine is to stop the infection and prevent the spread of the virus in the State of Israel. To do so, every citizen who is in solitary confinement is required to refrain conducting any activity or being in public places as well as to ensure the protection of the rest of the family members with whom he/she lives.

In case a citizen develops a fever of over 38 degrees, cough, difficulty in breathing or other respiratory symptoms within 14 days of returning from one of the high-risk destinations, or after close contact with a verified patient, the citizen should call the first emergency response services "MDA" [17]. In this case, the citizen shall refrain from coming to any clinics or hospitals. If necessary, a paramedic will be sent to the patient to take the laboratory tests at home (patient's home).

### Guidelines for Home Isolation issued by The Israeli Ministry of Health [23]:

- › A person in home isolation should not be allowed to leave home except for being transferred to a hospital.
- › The person should stay in a separate, well-ventilated room with a closed door, exiting the room when necessary and for brief time only. When leaving the room, the person must cover his/her mouth and nose using a face mask.
- › The entry of other people into the isolation room should be reduced, with priority to one healthy person without a background of disease that can increase risks of infection.
- › Health-workers should wear face masks and a full suit that includes gloves when contacting anyone in isolation. Contact with body fluids should be avoided, especially oral secretions, airway secretions, urine and feces of the person in isolation.
- › The laundry of the individual in isolation shall be placed in a dedicated bag in the isolation room until the date of washing the laundry. Any disposable products will be thrown into a designated bag in the room until the time of disposal for external garbage.

- › Avoid co-using any items used or accessed by the infected person.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2020 the State of Israel has declared a state of emergency in the country, and has taken significant steps to combat the SARS-CoV-2 virus outbreak. These steps included disabling transportation lines, including buses and trains; closing all of educational institutions, including kindergartens; closing leisure and recreational sites; in addition to closing any non-essential spaces.

In his dramatic statement made on that day, the Israeli Prime Minister announced that the government will be using the technology used in its wars against terrorist organizations to locate corona patients across the state, the technology has been passed to court, which has approved its use and the tracking of all citizens of the State of Israel. From the day of infection and the onset of symptoms, the technology will send text messages to the cellphone of any person who has been in contact with a COVID-19 patient, the content of the message will be that the recipient of the message must stay in home quarantine for a period of 14 days, the message content also provides some explanations

about the disease and its symptoms, including vital phone numbers for the Ministry of Health.

The use of this technology was put into use as of Wednesday, the 18<sup>th</sup> of March. According to the Israeli news channels, citizens were already getting messages on their cell phones. Thus, even those who do not obey instructions, the technology follow every citizen who violates the isolation or quarantine instructions.

As emergency measures, the Israeli Prime Minister's Office issued emergency guidelines for Israeli citizens. These measures are: [24]

- › Reduce presence in public space: citizens cannot leave their home except for one of the following purposes: work, equipping food or medicine, for medical treatment, blood donation, demonstration, sport activity maximum two persons, attending wedding or funeral, helping person with medical condition.
- › Rules and behavior in public places: maintain a distance of two meters between one person and the other, while driving a maximum of two passengers in the same car.
- › Delivery services: shipment must be placed near the home door.

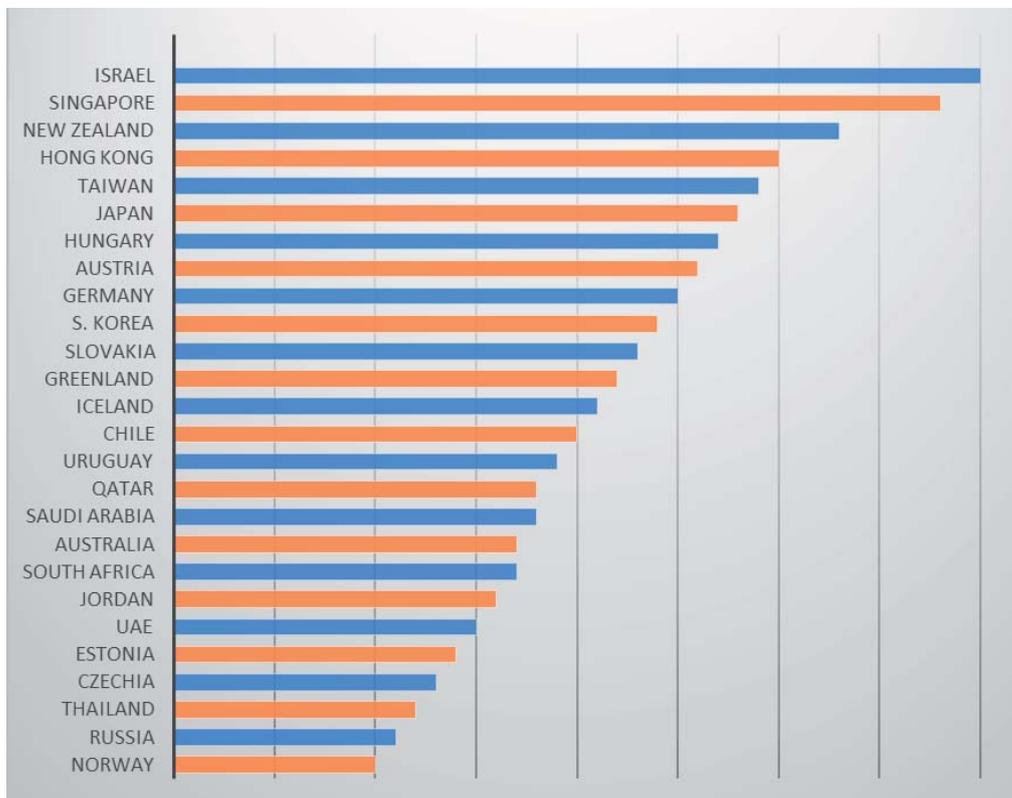


Figure 3. Coronavirus Health Safety Country Ranking, April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020 [26]

- › Restrict trading activity: the following business locations/stores shall not operate: malls or any shopping center containing over 10 stores, nightclubs, bars, wedding-halls, swimming pools, water parks, zoos, safaris, bathhouses, cinemas, museums and all cultural institutions, any business that do not provide medical treatment, national parks, and tourist attractions.
- › Restaurants: only for take away services.
- › Pharmacies: customers must maintain the recommended distance between each other (2 meters). The maximum number of customers inside a store at any given should be four customers only.

As of the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April 2020, the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Israel increased to 6,211, with a total of 31 death cases. The Israeli Health Minister, Jacob Litzman, and his wife were diagnosed with COVID-19. The Ministry of Health instructed all Israeli citizens to wear protective face-masks when leaving home. The number of people diagnosed around the world is 976,249. As in recent days, the United States continues to lead the number of patients across the rest of the world with approximately 215,000 people, followed by Italy and Spain. The global death toll is about 50,000 people, and the number of recovered cases is about 195,000 [13].

Despite the increase in the number of Israeli citizens infected with COVID-19, following the instructions of the Israeli Ministry of Health and the Government, Israel ranked in the first place in the COVID-19 Health Safety Countries Ranking on the Deep Knowledge Group Website [25] (**Figure 3**).

## Summary

Up to the date of writing of this article, the Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) continues to attack more countries worldwide; the numbers of patients around the world are raising, as well as the number of death cases.

SARS-CoV-2 has caused a global panic in all countries of the world; the Corona panic has also hit the stock market, causing the worst economic losses in 30 years.

The first steps taken in the State of Israel were correct, the purpose was only to prevent the spread of the virus among the citizens of

the country. The Israeli government knew that SARS-CoV-2 was about to spread in the Country, the Israeli Ministry of Health issued a statement even before the first case was discovered in the country noting that "the spread of the virus in the State of Israel is only a matter of time."

Many countries are racing against time to find a cure and a vaccine for the virus. Meanwhile, the virus will disappear with the arrival of spring and the increase in temperature, but scientists believe that it will reappear next autumn.

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### Conflict of interest statement

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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