

## Israel will hold a national exercise tomorrow on the possibility of a deadly corona outbreak

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### Introduction

An exercise to be held in the format of a “war game” named “Omega Exercise”

Government ministries, the defense establishment, the Home Front Command, the National Security Council, and other bodies will participate in an exercise to be held in the format of a “war game” and named “Omega Exercise” [1,2] Prime Minister Bennett: “We are always looking to the future and preparing for the battle for the first time in the world - Israel will qualify for the outbreak of a new Corona strain. The OMEGA variant has not yet been detected in the country.

The exercise will be led by the Defense Ministry’s Defense Commissioner Brigadier General (Res.) Moshe Edri. It will be held at the National Administration Center in Jerusalem, designed to manage crises at the national level and attended by directors of government ministries and representatives of professional bodies. The Corona Commissioner, the Head of Public Health Services at the Ministry of Health, the Chairman of the Constitution Committee, the National Security Staff (National Security Council) and IDF representatives, the Home Front Command, and more.

As part of the large-scale exercise, a wide range of government ministries and various security bodies will take part, including the Home Front Command, the National Security Council, other intelligence and emergency bodies, and the readiness of state systems in extreme security scenarios will be examined. The exercise will be carried out in the format of a “war game” as an inter-organizational simulation at senior levels to practice national coping with a new strain the “omega” strain which has not yet been located in the State of Israel.

In order to simulate a real situation, the exercise will be held in three sessions that simulate a transition between the different scenarios. In the meantime, there will be ministerial and inter-ministerial situation assessments, in which the data will be reviewed and recommendations for action will be presented, and in the end, there will be a comprehensive situation assessment, during which the Prime Minister will summarize and guide all bodies to continue activities.

The exercise will deal with a number of aspects, and the various professional mechanisms will be examined under extreme situations along different stages. Factors will practice decision-making regarding crowd restriction, traffic restriction, isolation policy, event outline, differential area restriction, tourism outline. In addition, the health system will take into account the health aspects. Such as monitoring, monitoring, control, and alerting when developing a new and dangerous variant, flooring, vaccine-protected examination, epidemiological investigations, tests, hospital flow, dedicated procurement, mass testing operations, procurement of trustworthy drugs, and vaccines (booster dose / another vaccine, etc.).

The exercise will cover legal aspects such as restricted areas, restrictive policies, approval of designated regulations and required legislation, and economic factors such as assistance to the national effort and economic support to the population.

- ✓ The Corona Supervisor: “The vaccination campaign for children aged 5-11 will begin next week”
- ✓ The Ministry of Health will consider turning part of Europe “red.”
- ✓ The Center for the Blind.

The additional emphasis in the exercise will be the policy in everything related to internal aspects such as enforcing isolations, restricted areas, enforcing regulations as well as aspects in the education system such as maintaining student health, closing schools in outbreaks and adjusting the outline of education (green classrooms and green gardens, capsules, distance learning ).

The professional factors will also practice decisions regarding the policy at Ben Gurion Airport and the border crossings, emphasizing exit and entry restrictions and selective closure depending on the circumstances National.

“The State of Israel is in excellent shape, we have won the fourth wave, and we are on the verge of leaving the Delta. But, at the same time,” said Prime Minister Naftali Bennett. “We do not” fold equipment “and do not close the management and order of forces against the virus, but on the contrary continue to practice and

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challenge ourselves. While in the world, the situation of the corona is deteriorating, Israel is safe and protected. Keep your finger on the pulse and prepare for any scenario.

*PM Bennett: "I will take my little son for a corona vaccine".*

The children's vaccine against Corona will be approved during the day. Read on [3].

The Prime Minister, Naftali Bennett, referred to the corona situation in the world and in Israel when the government returned. "In the corona world, especially in Europe, which is currently breaking records in morbidity indices. There are countries in Europe, such as the Netherlands and Austria, that are returning to restrictions and closures, while here in Israel - everything is open. Therefore, we must not rest on our laurels. Pulse and continue to adhere to the guidelines," Bennett said.

Bennett congratulated their participants in the national exercise "Omega" held last Thursday to prepare for the scenario of a new strain of the virus. "We are not complacent because of the success in managing the fourth wave, because it is impossible to know what awaits us around the corner," Bennett added.

The Prime Minister also referred to the approval of the children's vaccine in Israel and said that the vaccine will be approved during the day. "This is of course, every parent's choice, but I call on parents to take care of their children and vaccinate them. I will of course, vaccinate my youngest son, David, as soon as possible. Mother may take him, but we will take him to get vaccinated," the prime minister stressed [4].

*The FDA has issued an emergency approval for the Pfizer vaccine for children.*

The US Food and Drug Administration, FDA, has approved Pfizer vaccines against Corona in children aged 11-5, after receiving the experts' recommendation that the vaccine is effective and safe. On Thursday, the epidemic treatment team is expected to hold a discussion prior to the vaccine's approval in Israel as well. The hearing will be broadcast live Pfizer's Child Vaccines Launch: The U.S. Food and Drug Administration last night (Friday) upheld the panel of experts' decision and issued an emergency approval for Pfizer's coronary vaccines for children ages 5 to 11. The FDA agreed with the experts' decision that the vaccine will be given in a third of adults. And significantly effective in preventing corona infection and morbidity.

This coming Thursday, the Ministry of Health's epidemic treatment team is expected to hold a similar discussion ahead of the recommendation to approve vaccines in Israel. The debate will be held for the first time live, in total transparency and in a format similar to that in the United States, so that the public can participate in it, raise arguments and ask questions.

According to all estimates, the Ministry of Health will also approve the vaccine in Israel, and starters of Pfizer's vaccines for children are expected to arrive within about two weeks.

The dose of vaccine prescribed to children is one-third that of adults. In addition, Pfizer has announced that it will produce new vials that will avoid "confusion" and allow nursing staff to pump

the vaccine directly without having to dilute it with sterile water, as is currently the case.

The children will be vaccinated by nursing staff in separate room or in schools. This is to prevent confusion in the dose of the vaccine - a third of the dose of adults, and also so as not to expose high-risk adults to children, who may infect them with a serious illness.

### **More about the Children's Vaccines**

The decision to approve the emergency vaccinations for children came after hours of discussion attended by 18 medical experts who are part of the advisory committee independent and external to the FDA.

The experts reviewed the Pfizer study in children and the infection and morbidity data in children, and determined that the data indicate that the vaccine is very safe and highly effective in children aged 5 and over, with minimal side effects, most of them very mild and transient.

### **FDA Expert Recommendation**

The panel chair of the recent and current FDA discussions was Professor Arnold Monte, an epidemiologist at Michigan.

Pfizer presented the pediatric study at the FDA's live broadcast center that followed 2,258 subjects aged 5 to 11 years, who received two injections three weeks apart.

Some children received a placebo injection without an active ingredient, others received the usual dose of an adult, or the dose of one-third of an adult dose. In addition, the researchers examined in each child the levels of antibodies formed in their bodies at different times after the vaccine and monitored the infection rates of all groups. Meanwhile, reports of any possible side effects were examined.

The results of the study showed that 16 children who received a placebo injection (dummy injection without active ingredient) were infected with corona, compared to only 3 in the vaccinated group. Because twice the number of children in the study received the vaccine compared to the number of children who received the placebo, processing the findings revealed that the vaccine efficacy in children reaches 90.7% in preventing symptomatic infection. Pfizer said the level of antibodies found in the vaccinated children was extremely high, and met FDA requirements.

### **High Safety Profile for Vaccine**

Pfizer reported that the side effect profile was found to be very safe: no serious post-vaccine side effects were reported in the vaccinated children, and the mild side effects found were similar to those reported in children aged 12 and over.

It is important to note that in recent months, children aged 11-5, who suffer from chronic diseases that put them at risk for chronic corona, have also been vaccinated in Israel in recent months. According to the HMOs, no unusual side effects were observed in Israel either, and the condition of the hundreds of children who were vaccinated is very good. It is likely that Israel passed on to Pfizer the Israeli data that may also be presented to the FDA.

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The Pfizer study also vaccinated children at the usual dose of adults, and no abnormal risk was reported as a result of this dose. Thus, even if a child receives an adult dose, no serious side effects are expected, and the effectiveness of the vaccine will be similar.

The low dose prescribed for children aged 5 to 11, as mentioned, one-third of an adult dose, is intended to reduce the possible chance of side effects, after it has been found that this dose is sufficient for maximum protection against corona at these ages.

During the panel of experts' discussion, not only data on vaccine efficacy were presented, but also the dire consequences of corona infection in the pediatric population: Thousands of children in the U.S. infected in Corona, out of hundreds of thousands, hospitalized Lungs, heart dysfunction, and damage to the nervous system and brain.

*The Israeli expert committee advising the Ministry of Health has approved the administration of Corona vaccines to 5-11 year old.*

73 of the experts voted in favor of the decision and only two opposed. Experts have been divided over the vaccination of

recovering children, and the decision on the matter is expected to be postponed. If the director general of the Ministry of Health approves the recommendations, the vaccination campaign will begin within ten days.

The Vaccines Committee and the team for the treatment of epidemics (CCTV) approved this evening (Wednesday) to vaccinate children aged 5 to 11 in Corona. 73 of the experts voted in favor of the decision and only two objected. Will wait with the decision and the committee will hold further discussions on the issue. The official decision is now being made by the director general of the Ministry of Health, Professor Nachman Ash, and if he approves the recommendations, the vaccination campaign is expected to begin within a few days.

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