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Letter

New microbial threats in israel-salmonella and new corona BA 4. and BA 5 variants.

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Introduction

The nosocomial pandemic is actively present in Israel for over a decade [1,2]. However, Israel's population overcomes the microbial health threats by abolishing the last measure of wearing antimicrobial breathing masks as of yesterday, April 25, 2022.

Salmonella was discovered in the chocolate-producing plant in the Galilee region. The Strauss Group, one of the largest manufacturers of food products in Israel, said that many popular chocolate products produced by the elite subsidiary will be returned to the market due to fears of salmonella contamination.

The recall was huge, and Channel 12 characterized it as the most significant food recall ever held in Israel.

"Several samples containing the salmonella bacterium were discovered in the factory's production line and in the chocolate used as a raw material for product creation," the Strauss Group said this morning (Monday), causing the company's shares to fall by 2.85%.

But the company may face public outrage after several reports in the Hebrew media claimed that the food manufacturing giant became aware of the health hazard last week and waited days to inform the public of the danger.

According to reports in The Marker and Walla, the company did not order the recall before receiving final test results for products, which were delayed due to Passover and were only received on Sunday [3].

Three cases of a new version of COVID-19 were found in people returning to Israel

The version, BA4, spread in South Africa, causing an increase in mortality.

By Jerusalem Post Workers Posted: April 25, 2022 5:21 pm

Updated: April 25, 2022 9:34 PM Twitter Facebook Facebook fb-messenger

Hikers in the departure halls of Ben Gurion Airport ahead of the Jewish Passover holiday. April 14, 2022.

A new version of COVID-19 found in three PCR tests taken at Ben-Gurion Airport from travelers returning to Israel, the Ministry of Health reported (Figure 1).

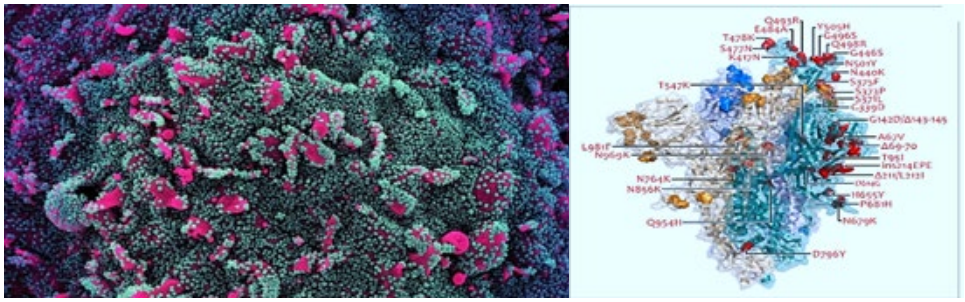

Figure 1: Coronavirus has undergone several mutations in the last two years., credit ref [1].

Omicron variant spike protein mutations (MRC-University of Glasgow Centre for Virus Research) (https://sars2.cvr.gla.ac.uk/cog-uk/mutants_BA.1_ME_web.png; accessed on 31 January 2022).credit ref [4]

Version BA.4 spread in South Africa, causing an increase in mortality. The three cases came from passengers returning from South Africa, Singapore and Italy. The ministry said there is currently no further information about the version, but it is following it. Health Minister Nitzan Horowitz said that the new version discovered at the airport indicates how important it is to keep the testing center open.

"This indicates the importance of the tests we are doing at Ben Gurion Airport," he said in an interview with Network B. "We are monitoring [the situation] and examining" the significance of the discovery.

"Unfortunately, we did not get rid of the corona-neither we nor the world," he warned. "We passed the omicron, not the corona. If we have to take new steps, we will take them."

Israel canceled its mask mandate this week. However, if the new version of BA.4 turns out to be problematic, the masks may be mandatory again.

There is talk of stopping PCR tests at the airport on passengers arriving in Israel, but this new discovery could cause the government to rethink this possibility [5].

Summary

Considering all the evidence, we believe it is very likely that the Omicron version confers natural immunity and that this is an early stage of what happened in previous epidemics. It is assumed that SARS-CoV-2 is overloaded with mutations and that it will eventually become less lethal over time. The Omicron variant may not be the final version, but the first in a series of processes that will eventually end the COVID-19 epidemic, or turn it into a common disease with few or no deaths. The wise course of action is to adhere to the vaccination schedule and health protocols recommended so far. However, there is still a risk of severe symptoms as a result of the Omicron variant, especially those at high risk and those with concurrent conditions. Adherence to health and accelerator immunization protocols will be significant in ending the COVID-19 epidemic faster than previous epidemics that lasted decades or even centuries. These epidemics lacked modern information systems, detailed medical knowledge and the best treatment that existed at the time and perhaps could have been prevented. We hope that the SARS-CoV-2 Omicron version is the latest version against which the community has developed immunity or that new versions with fewer symptoms continue to appear, allowing this epidemic to evolve into a new monument.

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