COVID 19 response
Israel-
NO FEAR WADEM webinar
April 2nd 2020
Chaim Rafalowski | Magen David Adom
haimr@mda.org.il
A pan-European Challenge

• **Scattered and complex chain of actors in security-related incidents**: EMS, hospital staff, police, firemen, citizens

• **Fear of new threats**: terrorism, armed conflicts, dirty weapons, new infectious diseases

• **Lack of communication between practitioners and suppliers**: suppliers are not aware of the specific needs of practitioners, practitioners are not aware of new products and innovation

• **No common methodologies** and standardized actions
The network will be structured along
3 main pillars, with transversal expert groups

- Acute care of the patient
  - Care in hospital and pre-hospital setting
  - Continuity of care between EMS and receiving hospitals
  - Psychological support

- Acute care operations in security related incidents
  - Preparedness, planning and coordination with the authorities before the incident
  - Calling, activation of system, scene management and on-site coordination
  - Transportation and coordination with treatment facilities

- Training and education of personnel and volunteers
  - Innovative curricula and training methodologies
  - New simulation tools in pre- and in-hospital preparedness and response
  - Inclusion of pre-hospital care, disaster and emergency medicine in medical and nursing schools
The Israeli Health care System

• 9.2 million inhabitants
• Mandatory medical insurance

Ministry of Health

Supreme emergency health authority

Primary Health care (HMO)
General Hospitals
Pre Hospital care (MDA)
Private sector
Legal status

• Public Health Act– contagious disease activated
Health Care providers – special status

• 14 days mandatory quarantine –
  o Persons who travelled abroad
  o Direct contact with a confirmed case
(MOH App)
  Use of security high technology

• Public gatherings (more 10 persons) prohibited

• Limitations on work, “stay at home”,
public transportation, schools closed

• Recommendation to all public to wear
face masks in public
Situation (2-4 07:00)

- Information distributed by MoH daily
- Confirmed cases – **6211** **(645 in last 24h)**
  - Minimum signs – 5659
  - Moderate cases – 127
  - Severe cases – 107 (83)
  - Deaths – 29
  - Recovered – 289

- Home quarantine -
  - Total – 166592
  - At the moment – 34065
Epidemiology

COVID-19 Cases in Israel by Age Group

- 661 (16%) under 40 years old
- 1,227 (30%) 40-59 years old
- 1,612 (39%) 60 years old and above
- 611 (15%) unknown age

Total cases: 4,111

Data as of 1.4.2020
Hospitalization Policy—

• Positive, a-symptomatic – at home, HMO to follow up 2 times a day, using tele medicine (3672 patients)

• Positive with minimal signs and symptoms – “hotels” (operated by Home Front and HMO) (769 patients) 7 active centers, more planned.

• Moderate and severe – hospitalized (735 patients)

• All hospitals admit COVID 19 patients

• Contingency plans for increasing hospitals and ICU capacity.

• All positive patients transports conducted by MDA
PPE and Hygiene

• National stock management by MoH
• National standard for PPE
• All EMS response with face masks
• Need to shave
• Standards for personal hygiene, disinfection of ambulances, equipment
• Waste management
Main activities

• Joint call center (MDA emergency line – 101) – MDA, Primary Health and Public Health to triage calls of “suspected exposures” (25’000 call per day)

• Transportation of positive cases and people under Home - Quarantine

• Taking lab test and home / Drive through facilities

• Increasing the national blood stockpile
Lessons learned

• Personnel in quarantine – “whatsapp group”
• Safety measures at work:
  ○ Masks for every response
  ○ Face masks for patient / accompanying partner
  ○ Minimizing number of persons on ambulance
  ○ All calls are triaged for “possible contacts”
• Personal Hygiene and distancing – mandatory
• Risk groups are out of street roster
• Long term contingency planning (worst case scenario)
• Daily updates on the situation and guidelines
• Public support
Lessons learned - Italy

• logistics
• Ethical dilemmas
• Psychosocial support to the teams
• 500 patients on Oxigen simultaneously
• Patients ventilated dor 2 weeks and longer
• Military medical units support
• Death body management / grief
Thank you