Lend a Hand Shoulder
COVID-19 Mass Vaccination Operation in Israel

Odeda Benin-Goren, RN, CEN, PhD
WADEM Nursing SIG Chair

Sigal Liverant-Taub, MD
Director, General Medicine Division, Medical Directorate
Israeli Ministry of Health
COVID-19 toll

By the 4th of February 2021, about 103 million COVID-19 cases were confirmed worldwide, and about 2.2 million people have died.
COVID-19 in Israel

- By the 5th of February 2021, there were about 84,784 active patients in Israel.

- About 1,800 patients were hospitalized.

- 1,101 patients were in a serious condition:
  - 404 were critical patients
  - 3331 patients were ventilated
  - 37 patients were on ECMO.

- More than 5,020 people have died.

- About 585,000 people are recovered.
Lend a Shoulder Mass Vaccination Operation – the beginning

• Started – December 2020.

• A national committee has decided the criteria and priorities for vaccination.
• Based on the accumulated data, criteria have been updated an ongoing process.

• The principle guidelines for priorities are:
  - safety
  - efficiency
  - effectiveness.

• The first priority was for medical personnel and high-risk population.
Mass vaccination – as of date 5\textsuperscript{th} of February 2021

As of the 5\textsuperscript{th} of February 2021 about 5.3 million Israeli citizens have been vaccinated (58.35%):
- 3.3 million have been vaccinated with the first dose of vaccine (36.79%).
- 1.9 million have been vaccinated with the second dose of vaccine (21.56%).
Mass Vaccination- “a rolling event”

- At the end of January, due to the increased number of patients, vaccination priorities have been updated:
  - population above 35 years old
  - pregnant women (from second trimester)
  - teachers
  - high school students (16 y/o and above).

- At the beginning of February all population above 16 y/o was encouraged to be vaccinated.
Vaccination side effects

Distribution of age and gender among vaccinated population and reported side effects.

Age distribution reported on side effects

Vaccine recipients age distribution
Side effects

Types of side effects classifications out of 1.7 million vaccinated people according to age.
Local side effects (N=381) out of 1.7 million vaccinated people.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symptom</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local inflammation</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rash</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local lymph node enlargement</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subcutaneous contact</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local color change</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Movement restriction</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redness and swelling</td>
<td>236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pain</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
General side effects (N=475) out of 1.7 million vaccinated people.
Neurological side effects (N= 92) out of 1.7 million vaccinated people.
Allergic reactions (N=76) out of 1.7 vaccinated people.
The way we do it

- The "Lend a Shoulder" operation is cooperatively between the MOH through:
  - MOH command and control center.

- Sub-centers dedicated to specific domains:
  - Hospitals and Nursing Homes
  - HMOs
  - Magen David Adom (MDA) the Israeli Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
  - Home Front Command (HFC) of the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF)
  - Welfare and other community services.
Logistic Command and control

- Only one deep-freeze storage for the whole state.
- One distributor of the vaccines to the different sites.
Challenges

Staff:

- Secure staff.
- Emotional support to keep team resilience and avoid burnout.
- Workforce reinforcement and training for this specific operation.
Challenges

Logistics:

• Only one deep-freeze storage.

• One supplier distributes the vaccines to the different sites, controlled by the logistic command center.

• Short duration of the vaccines expiry date.

• Some difficulty vaccinate confined populations due to the need for special storage and mobilization.

• Lack of communication between sub- center/ endpoint users/ distributor.
Challenges

Public:

• Secure public on vaccination sites (social distance).

• Fake news / Risk communication.

• Government loss of public trust.

• Need to be attentive to cultural diversity to gain public trust.

• Encouraging the public who have not yet been vaccinated to get vaccinated.
Summary

• Performing a mass vaccination is a major challenge to professional teams as well as the whole society.

• To increase public awareness and cooperation.

• To enforce regulations and at the same time to be sensitive and understand cultural differences.

• According to manufacturers’ and MOH reports, it look like the side effects are not different from side effects of other vaccines that are provided regularly.