



To:

Professor Hezi Levy - Director General of the Ministry of Health
Professor Nachman Ash - Head of the Israel Defense ("Magen") Program
Professor Ran Balicer – Head of the Israel Defense Cabinet of Experts

Calm Down - Come To Your Senses – Change Course!

There are no words to describe the feelings of anger and disgust evoked by reading of the latest reports on the Corona Cabinet Hearings.

We keep daily track of publications and data from all over the world. We assumed you did too, however, it appears you subscribe to other professional journals that provide data from countries unknown to anyone outside your secret circle in which Covid-19 has begun to decimate and kill the young.

You repeatedly choose a course of action of intimidation, threats and horror-predictions bearing no connection to professional literature. You rely on doomsayers lacking relevant academic qualifications, with backgrounds from fields unrelated to health and epidemics, and whose predictions have proven false time and time again.

You continually refer to "exponential growth" when millions of people have already been vaccinated, when the morbidity has been stable for a month, and during an ineffective lockdown which cannot even be enforced since the public is fed up.

You ignore the destruction sown by your irresponsible, short-sighted policy which is detrimental to health, mental illness, unemployment, violence, and worst of all harms the children.

You repeatedly ignore the figures showing that **we are indeed losing children, but not to illness.**

We are losing children who drop out of that system because they can no longer learn with Zoom, who are using drugs, who are becoming victims of abuse, who are developing eating disorders and obesity, and who arrive at hospitals in emergency states in absence of appropriate treatment.

You are ignoring clear data. **In every country in the world, the youth affected by COVID-19 is minimal to non-existent:** in Sweden, not a single child has died, despite an open education system; in the U.S.A a total of 134 children under the age of 15 have died, constituting a mortality rate of 0.000002% (in Israel 5 children have died which is less than half of the number of children who die each year from influenza-like diseases).

Your policies have deteriorated Israel's health, social and economic standards to historic lows.

Israel has become a leader in verified infection rates, losing the fight to prevent fatalities, leading in serious illness, and a champion of school and national lockdowns.

There is a difference between being careful and calculated and being hysterical and gripped by fear. You have built a panic-guided policy platform.

Like a surgeon who is afraid to make an incision for fear of the patient bleeding while the patient is dying on the table, you have violated your duty to patients and the public.

We call on you in the name of science, morality, ethics and the Hippocratic oath: change your policies immediately, open the schools.

The State of Israel has had, and still has, to do 7 things: immediately strengthen the health care system; prevent gatherings; wear masks indoors; protect and support at-risk populations; open the education system; continue to vaccinate, but without coercion, threats and discrimination; and of course, to restore public confidence if still possible, to reconnect the citizens of the country - Jews, Arabs, religious, secular, in culturally appropriate steps for each sector, in order to build and create rational conduct during the crisis.

Intimidation tactics undermine citizens' trust and ability to cooperate and is not recommended in times of crisis.



Despite a year of crisis and a 200 billion shekel expenditure, you have not developed significant and effective solutions.

You have divided the people. You have issued irrational and confusing guidelines.

You have created bizarre laws with negligible benefit and that only burden the public, who in any case cannot uphold them.

One praiseworthy accomplishment was that you brought the vaccine and through the HMOs you created a spectacular vaccination operation, a light for the nations. And then, you began to destroy it, and instead of investing in raising public cooperation with those concerned by the vaccine, you started to threaten, to incite and condemn those who refused vaccination – which only strengthened their refusal.

The public, whose trust you have long since lost, is exhausted. The time may have come for you to descend from the Olympus of exponential growth, to extricate yourselves from the grip of the politicians and most importantly, to open your eyes to perceptions different to your own, and your hearts to the severe difficulties and distress in which the citizens of Israel find themselves.

Signed,

The Public Emergency Council for the Covid19 Crisis



The Members of the Council* (in alphabetical order)



Dr. Yifat Abdi-Kork

An expert in epidemiology and molecular biology, served as a Consultant to the national health basket public committee and Head of Pharmacoeconomics Department, Israeli Center for Technology Assessment in Health Care, the Gertner Institute.



Prof. Zvika Granot

Professor of Immunology in the Faculty of Medicine at the Hebrew University. An international expert in the field of neutrophil research, is developing new approaches to immunotherapy.



Dr. Bruria Adini

PhD in Health Systems Management, serves as head of the Department of Emergency and Disaster Management at Tel Aviv University. Former Head of the IDF Emergency Preparedness Division (Lt. Col.) and Senior Consultant to the Ministry of Health's Emergency Division.



Dr. Michal Hemo Lotem

Pediatrician, Entrepreneur and author on leadership at medical futurism. Served as Vice President of Innovation at the Sheba Medical Center, and as a member of the Prime Minister's Advisory Council. Founded Beterem - Safe Kids Israel, and OSHEYA - Women Lead Wellness. Received Prime Minister's special Award for her contribution to children.



Prof. Amos Adler

Professor of Medicine in the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Specialist in Pediatrics and Clinical Microbiology. Director of the Microbiological Laboratory at Sourasky Medical Center Tel Aviv, Treasurer of the Israeli Association for Infectious Diseases.



Prof. Asa Kasher

Professor Emeritus of Professional Ethics and Philosophy at Tel Aviv University. Laureate of the Israel Prize for Philosophy. Member of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts. Wrote dozens of state and public codes of ethics, including the military code of ethics, as well as serving as a member of several national public committees



Prof. Elian Alkrinawi

Professor of Social Work, served as president of the Achva College, head of the Department of Social Work at Ben-Gurion University and as dean of the School of Social Work at Memorial University in Canada. Killam Award winner and beacon lighter at the 2013 Independence Day ceremony.



Prof. Amnon Lahad

Specialist in Family Medicine (ISR) and Public health (US). Head departments of Family Medicine Hebrew University & Clalit Health Services, Jerusalem, Israel. Vice Dean Academia – Family medicine, Hebrew University. Chairman of the National Council for the Health of the Community. Active Family physician in Jerusalem.



Prof. Zvi Bentwich

Professor of Medicine, specialist in Clinical Immunology and Infectious Diseases. Served as Chief of Department of Medicine, and pioneered AIDS medicine in Israel. Currently Head of Center for Tropical Diseases and AIDS at Ben-Gurion University. President of NALA Foundation for the Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases in Developing Countries and Board Member of Physicians for Human Rights in Israel.



Prof. Retsef Levi

Professor of Operations Management at the MIT Sloan School of Management. An international expert in safety, risk management and analytics-driven design and optimization of health systems and biologic drugs manufacturing systems. He is leading several large-scale research collaborations across the world with leading industry enterprises and government organizations. He has consulted multiple state governments during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Dr. Orna Blondheim

Specialist in Pediatrics and Neonatology as well as Director of Health Systems. She served as the director of the Schneider Children's Hospital and served 16 years as CEO of Emek Medical Center



Prof. Udi Qimron

Chair of the Department of Clinical Microbiology and Immunology at Tel Aviv University. Expert in T cells, mucosal vaccines, genetic engineering of bacterial viruses, and CRISPR. Published in Science, Nature and Cell and has won prestigious research grants including the ERC. Partner in the establishment of the SARS-CoV-2 testing laboratories.



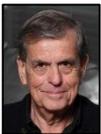
Prof. Emerita Rivka Carmi

Professor of Medicine, Specialist in Pediatrics, Neonatology and Medical Genetics. Served as Director of the Genetic Institute at Soroka Hospital, Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences at Ben-Gurion University, Chairman of the Dean of Medical Schools Association, President of Ben-Gurion University and Chairman of the Board of Universities.



Dr. Amir Shachar

Specialist in internal medicine, cardiology, emergency medicine and health administration. Established and managed the Department of Emergency Medicine at Sheba Hospital, was deputy director of Meir Hospital and currently heading the ER at Laniado Hospital. Founded the Emergency Medicine department at Tel Aviv University.



Prof. Aaron Ciechanover

Serves as a Distinguished Professor at the Faculty of Medicine in the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology. Awarded with the chemistry Nobel Prize, as well as the Lasker Award, the Israel Prize, and the EMET Prize. He is a member of the US National Academies of Sciences (NAS) and Medicine (NAM), the Israeli National Academy of Sciences and Humanities, and the Pontifical Academy of Sciences at the Vatican.



Prof. Mordechai Shani

Professor of Medicine and Medical Management, Specialist in Internal Medicine. Winner of the Israel Prize. Served twice as Director General of the Ministry of Health and Director of Sheba Hospital, as well as Chairman of the Medicines Committee. Founded and managed the School of Public Health at Tel Aviv University, and also established and managed the National Institute for Health Policy Research.



Prof. Eran Dolev

Professor of Medicine, Military Medicine and Medical History, Specialist in Internal Medicine, Director of Health Systems and Ethics in Medicine. He served as Surgeon General of the IDF, as Director of the Internal Medicine Department, and as Chairman of the Ethics Bureau of the Medical Association and Head of the International Review Board of Tel Aviv University.



Prof Emerita Zahava Solomon

Lt. Col (ret). Recipient of the Israel Prize, the Emet Prize and The Laufer Award. Her research in Social Work and Psychiatric Epidemiology focuses on man - made trauma. Served as head of research in mental health IDF. Head of the School of Social Work and director of the Trauma I-Core, TAU and DSM-4 (APA) committee.



Prof. Asher Elhayany

Professor of Medicine, Specialist in Family Medicine and Public Administration. He served as the CEO of Meir Hospital, the director of the Central District at Clalit Medical Centre, and as the director of the United Health Fund. He served as chairman of the National Council for Health in the Community. Family doctor in the Negev.



Dr. Yoav Yehezkeili

Specialist in Internal Medicine and Medical Management. Lecturer in the Department of Emergency and Disaster Management at Tel Aviv University. Lt. Col. Res., One of the founders of the epidemic treatment team and evaluation programs for extreme biological incidents. Served as a hospital's deputy director, district physician, director of the primary care division in the HMOs. Medical consultant to KI research institute.



Prof. Eitan Friedman

Professor of Medicine in the Department of Genetics and Biochemistry, Specialist in Internal Medicine and Medical Genetics, PhD from the Karolinska Institute in Sweden. Established the Ontogenetic Unit and Clinic for High-Risk Women at Sheba Hospital, serves as chair of the Ministry of Health's Supreme Helsinki Committee.

*The opinions expressed are the individual opinions of the members, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the institutions to which the members are affiliated.