



Your Honors:

Prime Minister, Mr. Naftali Bennett

Health Minister, Mr. Nitzan Horowitz

Health Ministry Director-General, Professor Nachman Ash

Lack of Evidence and Research Justifying Administration of a Third Vaccine Dose

Honorable representatives,

It is with great sorrow that we read the proposals of various parties, internal and external to the Ministry, to go ahead with the administration of a third vaccine dose to the immunocompromised and to the public in general.

Modern medicine is based on evidence: studies and data that guide us in making clinical decisions. At this time, only a few studies have been conducted on a few patients, without controlled conditions and which have produced modest results (responses in less than half of the subjects). Therefore, there is no solid factually-researched basis showing the efficacy or safety of administering a third vaccine dose to immunocompromised or other people.

It should be noted that the world health organizations (CDC, FDA, WHO) are refusing at this stage to administer a third booster-dose of the vaccine.

We know that the percentage of side-effects among vaccinated people increases significantly with the second dose, and it is possible that the very immunocompromised patients who react to the vaccine will suffer significant side-effects. A study currently being conducted is examining a series of corneal implants that failed because of the Covid vaccination. The scenario whereby future implant patients may suffer this because of a third dose of the vaccine is truly terrible.

Lack of knowledge at this stage – this is precisely the point of failure and crisis: the vaccine itself has not passed all regulatory procedures and is defined as "under examination". The State of Israel is now preparing to perform an act that is even outside the scope defined by the manufacturing company, and even this without sufficient research evidence. The recommendation to perform serological tests, the clinical value of which is unknown, further testifies that this is in fact an experiment that is not based on accepted clinical procedures.

The Ministry of Health's directive to provide treatment without a proper scientific basis is unprecedented and places medical staff in a difficult ethical and professional dilemma. This is a guideline that places medical staff on a slippery slope which is a blatant deviation from the way medicine is practiced.

Accordingly, the Ministry of Health should treat the administration of a third vaccine to immunocompromised individuals (or other populations) as an experiment for all intents and purposes. The Helsinki Committee should be consulted, those vaccinated should first sign informed consent agreements, and most importantly, the process should be stringently monitored, as is characteristic of clinical trials.

From a scientific, medical, regulatory, and ethical standpoint – it would be correct to go down this path under a research protocol setting.

Administering the vaccine outside of a research-setting will result in data not being collected optimally and will therefore make it difficult to draw any conclusions.

Carrying out the procedure as part of a research study protocol could also contribute to public confidence in the Ministry's decisions and help alleviate concerns of the public that the Ministry's COVID19 policy is based on whim or stockpile considerations.

Yours sincerely,

Members of the Public Emergency Council for the Covid19 Crisis



The Members of the Council* (in alphabetical order)



Dr. Ifat Abadi-Korek

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 at 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 the Prime Minister's special Award for 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. Mira Barak

Professor of Medical Sciences, head of Medical Laboratory Sciences at Zefat Academic College. Managed the R&D division in Carmel Hospital, Director of Haifa and Western Galilee Central Laboratories in Clalit Health Services, founded and managed numerous clinical laboratories, including the central lab of Clalit, the Corona lab in the Northern region, and the designated corona lab at Ben Gurion airport.



Prof. Retsef Levi

Professor of Operations Management at MIT School of Management. An international expert in safety, risk management, design and optimization of health systems and 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.



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. Lechaim Naggan

Professor of public health and epidemiology. Previously served as deputy chief medical officer in the IDF, the dean of the Department of Health Sciences at Ben Gurion University and, subsequently, as Vice President of the University and Dean of Research and Development. Prof. Naggan was awarded a Life Achievement award by the Union of Public Health Doctors



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 in the Faculty of Medicine in the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology. Awarded the chemistry Nobel Prize, as well as the Lasker Award, the Israel Prize, and the EMET Prize. 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, Health administration and Ethics in Medicine. He served as Surgeon General of the IDF, Director of Internal Medicine Department, Chairman of the Medical Association's Ethics Bureau 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 HMO, and as the CEO of Meuhedet HMO. He served as chairman of the National Council for Health in the Community. Family doctor in the Negev.



Dr. Yoav Yehzekelli

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, Specialist in Internal Medicine and Medical Genetics, PhD from Karolinska Institute in Sweden. Established the Ontogenetic Unit and Clinic for High-Risk Women at Sheba Hospital, 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 in which they are affiliated with.