

# COVID-19

## IDF Passover Update

4.7.2020



**International Cooperation Division**  
Strategic Military Information Section (SMIS)

Dear Friends and Partners,

Despite the evident drop in contagion rates and a relatively low number of people severely affected in Israel by COVID-19, the battle is yet to be over. With continued adherence to government requirements, we might see some restrictions lifted in about two weeks from now.

With the holiday of Passover approaching, the traditional 'Sedder' will be celebrated across the country under curfew. The nationwide lockdown announced yesterday by the Prime Minister is a harsh yet essential measure taken to prevent the disease from spreading even further.

This week, the IDF took an active role in assisting the police and providing humanitarian aid to various populations.

We are proud to take part in the national efforts and will draw encouragement and inspiration from the people we serve as we continue in the coming weeks.

I wish you and your families health in hopes to see better days soon.

Sincerely yours,

**BG                      Efraim                      (Effie)                      Defrin**  
Head of the International Cooperation Division  
Israel                                      Defense                                      Forces



# Passover

**Passover (Hebrew: Pesach) commemorates the story of the Exodus**, in which the Israelites were freed from slavery in Egypt. Passover is celebrated for eight days (seven in Israel). It is one of the most widely observed Jewish holidays.

According to Jewish tradition, **10 plagues** were sent upon Egypt when Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites free from slavery. The last of the ten was the killing of all firstborns, however whilst doing so, the children of Israel were saved, 'passing over' their homes, hence the name of the holiday. Pharaoh's resistance was broken and the Israelites escaped, in such a hurry that the bread they baked as provisions for the way did not have time to rise!

To commemorate the unleavened bread, Jews are forbidden to eat any '**chametz**' throughout the holiday. instead **Matzah** is eaten - a flat, unleavened bread.



The highlight of Passover is the **Seder**, which is celebrated the first two nights (in Israel only the 1st night) of Passover and is a fifteen-step family orientated tradition, with a ritual important meal.

This year, due to the Coronavirus pandemic, Passover will not be celebrated in big groups, with extended family coming together, like it usually is. Although families are celebrating in smaller groups, we are all together!





# General

## Worldwide

Total Cases: **1,347,300+**    Recovered: **277,400**    Died: **74,700**



## Israel

Total Cases: **9,000+**    Recovered: **683**    Died: **60**



### How to Reduce the Risk of Getting Infected?

- Follow the instructions issued by the Ministry of Health (next page)
- Stay Home, Keep Social Distancing
- Wash your hands with soap and water
- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing



### Symptoms

Fever, cough, shortness of breath, respiratory distress

### Coronavirus Exposures



Emergency: **101**    Ministry of Health: **\*5400**





## Minimizing Public Presence

Keep at least 2 meters away from other people

Do not stay with more than 2 people in the same space

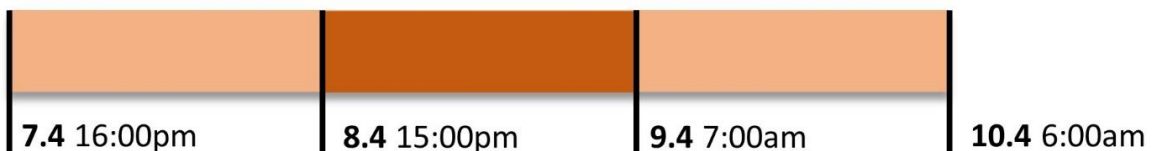
If you must leave the house, wear a mask




### Leaving the house is permitted for the following purposes only:

- Short walks in a radius of 100 meters from home
- Assisting a person with difficulty
- Buying food, medicine or optical aids
- Medical treatment, blood donation, welfare services
- Funerals (up to 20 people)
- Legal proceedings, demonstrations
- Receiving all kinds of deliveries to outside the home entrance
- Taxis – 1 passenger (2 if medical escort is needed)
- Essential car travel – 2 passengers at most

## Passover Restrictions



 Leaving your town of residence is prohibited

 Leaving your house only up to a 100 meter radius is permitted





# IDF Assistance to the Civilian Population

## Technological Developments



### ✓ Mobile Diagnosis Lab



## Operating Convalescent Motels



### Assisting the Elderly



### Communication – Information Centers



### MDA



### Massive Blood Donation Drive



## Cleaning and Disinfection Efforts



Police - patrols, isolation, area security, roadblocks and more



local authorities - supply and distribution of food and medical equipment



✓ Providing Aid Throughout the City of Bnei Brak



✓ Supplies and Food Packing



Assisting Israelis returning home from abroad



Child Care for the children of the medical staff







**STAY HOME,  
STAY SAFE!**