

Covid-19 and LTCF's in Israel – Update 12.2021

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Proportion of LTCFs Covid-19 deaths within total Covid-19 deaths in Israel per week



Source: Centralized Management of the Covid-19 Pandemic in Long-Term Care Facilities in Israel
—work in progress

“Fathers & Mothers Shield”



The tripod effort

Three main policy measures that we identified as the tripod to manage the high risk of morbidity and mortality within the LTC facilities were;

- Changing the testing policy and introducing screen testing
- Managing the visitation policy (and defining one supervisor who is in charge)
- Setting up Coronavirus wards within geriatric institutions.



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RESEARCH

Centralized Management of the Covid-19 Pandemic in Long-Term Care Facilities in Israel

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Covid-19 was first diagnosed in Israel in late February 2020. During the first month following the outbreak, it became clear that the most severe outcomes were occurring in the Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCFs) and that the fragmented supervision of these facilities was a key weakness in the fight against the pandemic. It was therefore decided to establish the Fathers and Mothers Shield taskforce, which included representatives from all of the relevant government ministries and which would facilitate communication and consultation with the representatives of the LTCFs and with the relevant public sector organizations. We analyse three main policy measures implemented by the taskforce in the effort to mitigate the effects of the pandemic in the LTCFs: an increase in SARS-CoV-2 testing of LTCF residents and employees; the opening of specialized Corona wards in geriatric hospitals and LTCFs; and the regulation of family visits.

The introduction of centralized management of the pandemic in the LTCFs achieved a number of important outcomes and is considered to have been highly successful. The share of the LTCFs within total Covid-19 mortality dropped from 45% to 36%, and the load on general hospitals became more manageable. With the arrival of the SARS-CoV-2 vaccines, the taskforce viewed priority vaccination of the LTCF population as its main goal in early 2021.

Keywords: Long-Term Care Facilities; Covid-19; Centralized Management

1. Introduction

The first COVID-19 patient in Israel was diagnosed on February 27th 2020 and sixteen days later the first outbreak occurred in an Israeli Long-Term Care Facility (LTCF). A year later, on March 1st 2021, the number of confirmed cases in Israel rose to more than 700,000 and deaths increased to 5,758, of which about a third were in LTCFs. Nonetheless, more than 3.3 million Israelis were already vaccinated with a second dose including most of LTCFs residents and employees.¹

residents accounted for more than 50% of deaths, while representing less than 0.5% of the population.

A month after the first outbreak in the LTCFs, and following a massive public outcry and a request for assistance from the LTCF managers, the Israeli government appointed a national-level taskforce, called Fathers and Mothers Shield, on April 12th in order to centralize the management of the COVID-19 outbreaks in the LTCFs.²

The aim of this article is to analyze the three main policy

<https://journal.ilpnetwork.org/articles/10.31389/jltc.75/>

The four waves – Daily new confirmed cases in Israel

Daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases

7-day rolling average. Due to limited testing, the number of confirmed cases is lower than the true number of infections.



Source: Johns Hopkins University CSSE COVID-19 Data

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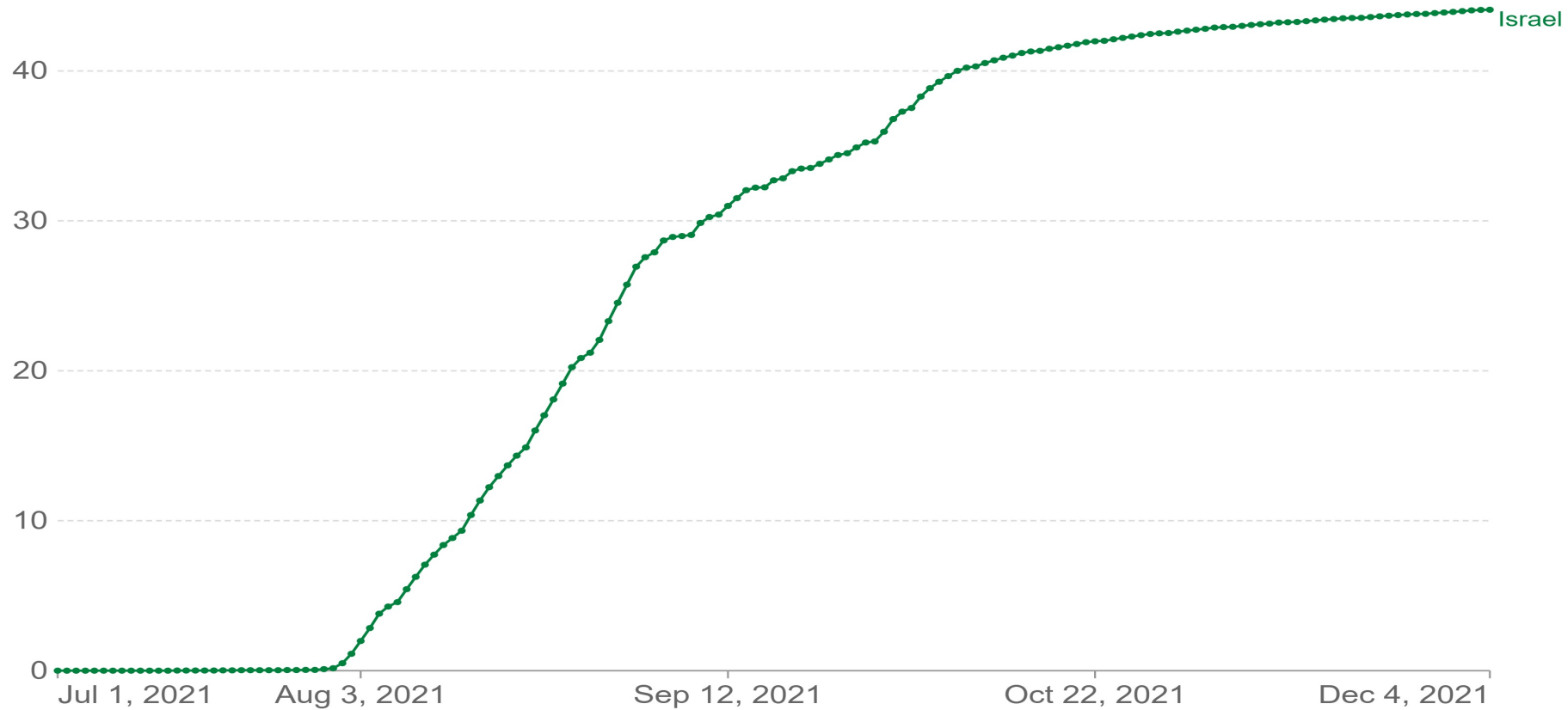
Source: *Our World in Data*

Booster shots in Israel – beginning date August 1st

COVID-19 vaccine booster doses administered per 100 people

Total number of vaccine booster doses administered, divided by the total population of the country. Booster doses are doses administered beyond those prescribed by the original vaccination protocol.

Our World
in Data



Source: Official data collated by Our World in Data.

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Source: *Our World in Data*

Outbreaks in LTCFs' in Israel – August 2021

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Haaretz Editorial

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Aug. 12, 2021

The government had enough time to prepare for another outbreak of COVID-19 at retirement homes but failed to do so. The headlines are once again screaming about an eruption at nursing homes, and the same failures are clear once again: results of coronavirus tests coming in slowly, difficulties in supplying

Update of the 4th wave – new directives 11.08.2021

- Monitoring the residents / patients
- Referral to general hospitals / transfers to Corona ward within the geriatric system
- Booster vaccination – started 01.08.2021 (with and without informed consent)
- Visitation - the remained directive from June 2021?
- PCR test prior to transfer to a LTCF
- "Outbreak Kit"

Thank You!

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