

Pediatric ENT in the COVID Era

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Disclaimer

- I'm not an expert on COVID-19 and hope not to become one
- Unfortunately, we all have become experts (sort of)
- I cannot read 40-page guidelines
- Most of us are not in the front lines
- My suggestions are my opinions

Waiting for Something Positive

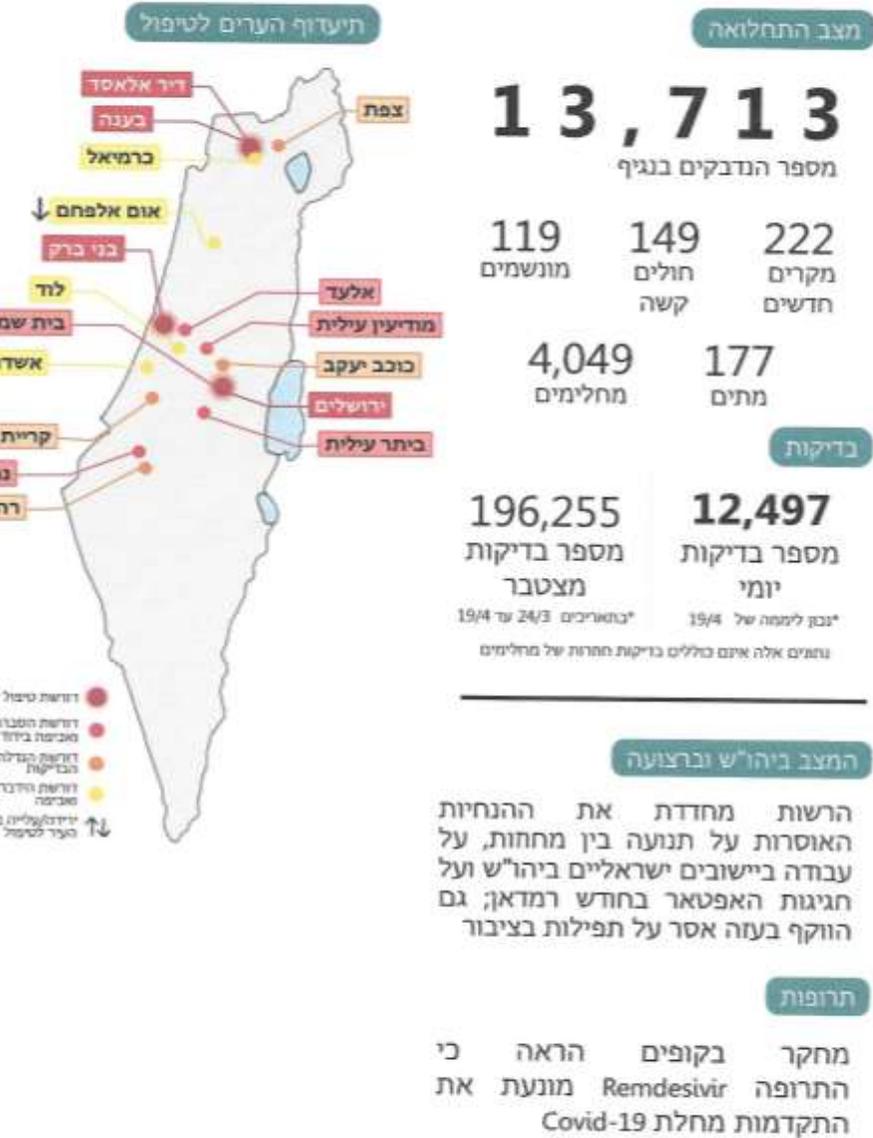


Asitha Jayawardena, M.D., M.P.H. April 22, 2020,
NEJM

“Like many clinicians, I am not quite sure what tomorrow will bring. For now, my tiny family and I go back to our own fight. Waiting for something positive”

COVID in children

- A recent review of 72,314 cases by the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention showed that less than 1% of the cases were in children younger than 10 years of age
- Milder disease?
- Less infected?



Considerations

- Children are less sick so what is the actual risk
- Social distancing resulted in less acute cases of other pediatric disease, e.g. otitis/sinusitis complications
- Pediatric ENT shut down to allow for hospital resources to address adult ICU
- COVID-19 is around for the next 2-3 years!
- So the question in PEDS-ENT is how can we continue care of children in such an environment?



Dilemma

- Our/staff risk of contamination
- Patient risk of avoiding treatment

Reduce our risk:

1. PPE
2. Pre-procedure COVID testing for child
3. Only one parent
4. COVID testing for parents from “endemic” areas



Intubation

- Full PPE
- Glide-a-scope
- Cuffed tube no leak
- Consider paralyzing
- Extubation is the biggest problem



Surgery

- Use your imagination
- Safety for staff but don't forget patient safety

From: **Pediatric Microlaryngoscopy and Bronchoscopy in the COVID-19 Era**

JAMA Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg. Published online April 28, 2020.



Child Under the Perspex Box and Plastic Sheet



Benjamin-Lindholm Laryngoscope in Suspension for Supraglottoplasty and Visualization With Hopkins Rod

Post-op



ONE PARENT



SINGLE ROOM



Surgery in COVID-19 Era

- Will not be the same
- Will require careful pre-op evaluation
- Will take more time and preparation
- Will require cooperation between teams
- Will demand more resources