

What's allowed and what's not: New coronavirus guidelines

As the number of daily coronavirus diagnoses keeps dropping, Israeli government announced on May 4th evening a slew of new leniencies to strict health orders. Here is a list of all the updated directives, which have either already come into effect or will be enacted in the coming days and weeks.

Israelis are no longer confined to 100 meters from home and can roam the streets freely, in accordance with health orders. It is allowed to visit first-degree relatives, including elders. However, the Health Ministry recommends refraining from hugging, kissing, and touching each other and maintaining a safe distance.

Gatherings of up to 20 people are allowed in open areas. If the new diagnoses continue to decline, gatherings of up to 100 people will be allowed starting May 31.

Restaurants and other eateries are allowed to serve take-outs but sitting at a food establishment is still prohibited.

Parks, libraries, museums and public sporting facilities such as swimming pools and gyms, will begin gradually reopening starting this week and are set to be fully opened by mid-June.

Preschools will resume activity on May 10. No decision has yet been made on the reopening of nurseries.

All students are expected to return to school by the end of May.

Summer vacation for teachers and students will be cut by nine days to make up for time lost because of the coronavirus lockdowns.

Extracurricular activities and youth movements, as well as higher education institutions, will reopen from May 31.

Synagogues will remain shuttered for the time being.

Brit milah (circumcision ceremony) will be allowed with up to 19 participants present.

Exercise is allowed everywhere but alone or in pairs of two. Fitness studios will reopen this week and maritime sports is also allowed but sunbathing on the beach or swimming in the sea is still prohibited.

Shopping malls and street markets are now open under certain health restrictions. One customer will be allowed to enter the establishment for every 20 square meters (215 square feet). Inside the stores, shopper capacity will be restricted to the highest of a few options: one customer per 15 square meters (160 square feet), only two customers at a time in stores smaller than 100 square meters (1070 square feet), or four customers at a time in stores over 100 square meters.

The Israeli Premier League in soccer (Ligat Ha'al) is expected to resume training by the end of May and no later than mid-June. Concerts and live shows will less than 500 people will be allowed by mid-June at the earliest.

Gilad Erdan to serve as U.S., UN envoy

Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan will be heading to the United States after accepting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's offer to serve as Israel's next ambassador to the United Nations, replacing Danny Danon.

But in an unconventional move, the Prime Minister's Office also announced that Erdan will be taking over as the country's next Ambassador to the U.S. from Ron Dermer, who has served in Washington since July 2013.

"I am proud and emotional about the honor to fight for the justice of our cause in the international arena and defend Israel in the face of the challenges ahead," Erdan said in a statement.

It remains unclear how will Erdan juggle between the responsibilities of both offices, but a spokesman for his office said that he was confident he can manage each role effectively and will travel between Washington D.C. and New York.

Erdan has been reluctant to assume a diplomatic role in the past, rejecting multiple offers in recent years, but was finally persuaded after meeting with Netanyahu in Jerusalem over the weekend.

Netanyahu will now have more latitude in appointing the ministers of his next government with Erdan's new post in the states.

IDF soldier killed when rock thrown at his head in

West Bank raid

An IDF soldier was killed in the West Bank on May 12th when a large rock was thrown at his head near the city of Jenin.

Staff Sergeant Amit Ben Yigal, 21, and his comrades from a reconnaissance unit of the Golani Brigade were conducting arrests of four terror suspects in the village of Yabed, the IDF said.

As the troops were leaving the village a large stone was hurled off the roof of one of the buildings in which arrests were being conducted in the village, the perpetrator of the attack lay waiting for the soldier to look up and then dropped the rock on his head. Ben Yigal sustained critical injuries.

He was evacuated to the Rambam Healthcare Campus in Haifa where he was pronounced dead.

IDF troops were searching for the stone-throwers.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said following the incident that Israel's long arm will find the terrorists responsible.

President Reuven Rivlin paid tribute to the soldier and also vowed that Israel would find his killers.

Ben Yigal, from the city of Ramat Gan near Tel Aviv, is the first IDF casualty in the West Bank since the beginning of the year. His father told "Kan" Radio that Amit was an only child, "he was the only purpose of my life, I don't know how I will go on."

The fallen soldier was posthumously promoted to sergeant first class.

The Hamas terror organization praised the killing saying, "the incident proves the ability of our people in the West Bank to continue their struggle against the occupation until the Israeli military and the settlements are pushed out."



May his memory be a blessing.



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I've created a website that is all about Israel! You can find on the website a fun escape room, activities you can do from home, Israeli music, movies, TV shows and so much more! Check it out and add it to your bookmarks!



Spinach casserole

Ingredients:

- Olive oil
- 5 Tablespoons bread crumbs
- 18 oz. spinach – Roughly chopped
- 9 oz. Feta cheese – crumbled
- 4 Eggs
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 11x7 oven pan

How to make it?

- Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.
- Mix in a bowl eggs, 3 tablespoons bread crumbs, feta cheese and salt and pepper.
- Add spinach to the mix and mix well.
- Put olive oil on the pan and spread the 2 tablespoons bread crumbs.
- Pour the mix into the pan and sprinkle parmesan cheese on top (optional)
- Put in the oven for 30 minutes.

