COVID-19 REPORT

latest news and updates from the workers of Israel

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ISRAEL COVID-19
Confirmed Cases 16,193;
9,634 recovered
230 Fatalities

RESTRICTIONS:
May 3, public service returned to work.
Schools partially reopened for grades 1-3 and 11-12

Israel Employment Service:
Unemployment over one million, 27% of workforce, are registered with the employment service.

In October 2019, unemployment reached a historic low of 3.4%

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Collective agreement brings the public sector back to work

According to the agreement which was signed between the Histadrut Chairman and the Director of Salary in the Finance Ministry, a worker who can't return under the “purple badge” restrictions will remain at home and receive 80% of his salary | The agreement will be valid until the end of June.

Following extensive negotiations the Histadrut Chairman, Arnon Bar-David, and the Director of Salary in the Finance
Ministry, Kobi Bar-Nathan, signed a collective agreement to return the public sector to work. According to the agreement, the public sector workers will return to full-time Sunday. The renewal of activities will be done under the safety conditions of the "purple badge," and workers who can't return to work under the restrictions, will remain at home and receive 80% of their wages (12.5% will be considered as an advance payment that will be returned in a distribution of 10 months onward after their return to work), until their return to work.

According to the agreement, in order to enable the return of as many workers as possible to work, the Histadrut will allow the government one-time and exceptionally, to carry out worker mobility and a transition to work in shifts for the limited period of the agreement, until the end of June. The agreement also includes a mechanism for settling disputes with the participation of a representative of the Director of Salary in the Finance Ministry and a representative of the Chairman of the Trade Union Division in the Histadrut, and, if necessary, a representative of the Local Authorities.

At the beginning of the COVI-19 crisis in March, a collective agreement between the Histadrut and the government and the Local Authorities determined that public sector workers who would not be defined as 'essential', would stay on paid leave at the expense of their accumulated vacation days. In mid-April, an additional agreement was signed that determined that the employers would bear half of the cost of the leave until the end of the month. The current agreement transfers the payment of wages for workers who will not return to work solely to the employers.

The Histadrut Chairman, Arnon Bar-David, referred to the agreement and said, "The agreement is a significant stage in restoring the routine and increasing the response that the State of Israel provides to the public in these days. We have ensured a responsible return of the workers to regular work, while spreading a safety net and ensuring a continuum of rights even to the few workers who, at this stage, are still unable to return to their work. We won't leave anyone behind."

In his May Day address Arnon Bar David said: “The Coronavirus proves the need for solidarity. It is the working men and women on the frontlines of this battle. Only by working together can we overcome this challenge for humanity while putting people first. This year we are celebrating 100 years since the establishment of the Histadrut. With our solid foundations we will overcome this crisis and push forward for all the workers of Israel.”

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