

To our ALYN family,

We appreciate that this is a challenging time for everyone and that each of you has your own immediate concerns and obligations that are priorities for you and your family. If this were not a true emergency, we would not be contacting you at this time. Sadly, we are in a position where we have no choice but to engage and turn to our supporters.

We ask you to strongly consider this urgent message from Dr. Maurit Beerli, Director General of ALYN Hospital:

"We do not know if children with disabilities are at a special risk to be harmed from COVID-19, but we do know that people with lung disease definitely are at a higher risk, so we consider all our children on respirators as a highly vulnerable population.

*ALYN's vision and work circles around the ideal of having even the children with the most significant limitations participating in everyday life and all of its aspects. Thus, **we are not built to isolate and quarantine, but rather to socialize and interact.** As such, it is a great challenge for us and our patients to continue providing necessary, immediate care.*

The hospital is compliant with Israel's Ministry of Health's (MOH) regulations and edicts. We have made numerous hard decisions, after consulting with the MOH, to minimize where possible the chance of infection at the hospital. We have closed our SHACHAR Day Care program even before Israel's education system was closed. We have canceled for now our afternoon programs, including the sports therapy and the Skill Building Center. There is the looming possibility that we might be forced soon to stop our outpatient work, which would be a tremendous blow.

As of today, we are breaking the hospital into two units: one will include the Respiratory Rehabilitation Unit, Bayit Ham and the Independent Living Neighborhood; and one for other rehabilitation activities. The bottom floor of the inpatient area will be divided into two departments: younger ventilated patients and older ventilated patients, each with about 20 beds. This has required a tremendous amount of logistics, coordination and implementation by the ALYN staff.

With all the restrictions and limitations, we are still trying to provide the best care for each child. Children with injuries and diseases cannot put rehabilitation on hold. Every day without treatment means not only losing the potential for recovery, but actually widening the gap between them and their peers and making a serious situation even worse. This is why we will fight to keep as much of our activity operating as smoothly as possible.

On a positive note, this crisis is offering us an opportunity to develop new, innovative and alternative rehabilitation solutions, such as remote and online sessions, so that we can continue to treat our patients safely.

What worries me are the medium- and longer-term consequences of handling this crisis. The facts are that we now have to operate and run the whole facility, pay salaries as usual and incur additional expenses while our income is being drastically reduced, which is alarming. Add to that the crashing financial markets around us and the fact that the whole health system is in crisis mode, and this makes for a particularly gloomy picture for the foreseeable future.

What we need most of all at this time, besides your friendship, is help to overcome the shortfall I foresee. My many projects and dreams will have to wait. We need to survive before we invest in developing and providing more services. Any assistance you can provide us at this time in dealing with this unforeseen crisis will truly be appreciated.

Please consider donating to ALYN during this difficult time. While covering the shortfall is an annual struggle, it is particularly pressing at this time. Investing in ALYN now will ensure that the hospital can continue to do its important work until the crisis has passed.

Wishing health and safety to you and your families and with deepest gratitude –

Maayan Aviv

Executive Director, American Friends of ALYN Hospital (AFAH)



Minette Brown

AFAH Board Chairwoman



Joanne Blye

AFAH Board President



WAYS TO GIVE

Online:

www.alynus.org/donation

By mail:

American Friends of ALYN
122 E. 42nd Street, Suite 1519
New York, NY 10168

For more information:

Please email maayan@alynus.org

