

# Israel, Coronavirus, and Slivers of Hope for the Future



There was something slightly eerie about watching the Knesset's swearing-in ceremony this week, as each legislator-to-be filed in Noah's-ark-style – two by two, or in some cases, threes – to avoid going over the mandated maximum of gathering. The irony of the name Knesset, which means “gathering,” was not lost.

During this time of a near breakdown in societal norms, **Israel is rapidly dealing with the spread of COVID-19**, closing all major opportunities for gathering, including restaurants, bars, and the school system; it is now even limiting public transportation.

The other big news this week hinted that we may see a leadership turnover after 11 consecutive years (and three years in the '90s) of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's rule.

Early this week, 61 Members of Knesset publicly recommended to President Reuven Rivlin that Benny Gantz become the country's next prime minister. Not

45  
Shares

