

# Weekly Evidence Report



Health Technology Assessment Philippines

5-11 November 2020

## Overview

The following report presents summaries of evidence the Department of Health (DOH) - Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Unit reviewed for the period of 5 to 11 December 2020. The HTA Unit reviewed a total of N studies for the said period.

Evidence includes 3 studies on Epidemiology; 1 study on Transmission; 1 study on Drugs; 3 studies on Vaccines, 2 studies on Equipment and Devices; 0 studies on Medical and Surgical Procedures; 0 studies on Traditional Medicine; and 4 studies on Preventive & Promotive Health.

The following report notes that 3 studies have not been peer-reviewed, each highlighted accordingly.



## Sections

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Epidemiology

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Transmission

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Drugs

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Vaccines

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Equipment & Devices

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Medical & Surgical Procedures

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Traditional Medicine

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Preventive & Promotive Health

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## Evidence on Epidemiology

Local COVID-19 Tracker: <https://www.doh.gov.ph/covid19tracker>

Local COVID-19 Case Tracker: <https://www.doh.gov.ph/covid-19/case-tracker>

Our World in Data on Excess Mortality: <https://ourworldindata.org/excess-mortality-covid>

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
8 Dec 2020	WHO	<a href="#">Weekly Epidemiological Update- 8 December 2020</a>	WHO (Epidemiologic Report)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Global number of new cases remained similar to last week with under 4 million but with a slight increase in new deaths to over 73,000</li> <li>The Western Pacific region saw a 1% decrease in new cases and 4% increase in new deaths</li> </ul>
7 Dec 2020	WHO	<a href="#">Weekly Operational Update on COVID-19</a>	WHO (Situational Update)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The UN Crisis Management Team met on 2 Dec 2020 where vaccine updates were reported.</li> <li>Health learning via the OpenWHO platform currently carry 4.6 million course enrollments</li> </ul>

## Evidence on Vulnerable Population Epidemiology

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
4 Dec 2020	HIQA	<a href="#">Categorisation of 'extremely medically vulnerable' groups who may be at risk of severe illness from COVID-19: evidence review</a>	HIQA (Evidence Review)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Those highest risk of severe illness from COVID-19 are designated by the Health Protection Surveillance Center (HPSC) and Health Service Executive (HSE)</li> <li>The definition followed PHE's definition but is seen by HIQA to need to be reviewed</li> <li>4 systematic reviews and meta-analyses, 1 rapid review, and 24 primary studies were utilized in this review</li> </ul>

## Evidence on Transmission

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
8 Dec 2020	Abdulrahman, et.al.	<a href="#">Association between RT-PCR Ct Values and COVID-19 New Daily Cases: A Multicenter Cross-Sectional Study</a>	MedXRiv (Multicenter cross-sectional study)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>63,879 patients were studied from May to September in the Kingdom of Bahrain.</li> <li>Ct values were negatively and very weakly correlated with the fraction of daily positive cases; <math>r = -0.06</math> (95% CI; -0.06 to -0.05, <math>p = 0.001</math>)</li> </ul>

## Evidence on Drugs

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
1 Dec 2020	CADTH	<a href="#">Bamlanivimab (LY-CoV555) in the Treatment of Outpatients With COVID-19: A Critical Appraisal of an Interim Analysis of the BLAZE-1 Trial</a>	CADTH (Health Technology Review)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CADTH finds that the interim results of the phase II, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, multi-center trial still needs more published and peer-reviewed findings</li> <li>BLAZE-1 found in outpatients with mild to moderate symptoms that a one time dose of 2,800mg brought a statistically significant reduction in viral load at day 11</li> <li>IV administration of the drug was not found to have serious adverse events</li> </ul>

## Evidence on Vaccines

### NYT Coronavirus Vaccine Tracker:

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/science/coronavirus-vaccine-tracker.html>

### Bloomberg Vaccine Tracker:

<https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/covid-vaccine-tracker-global-distribution/>

### London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine Vaccine Trial Mapper and Tracker:

[https://vac-lshtm.shinyapps.io/ncov\\_vaccine\\_landscape/](https://vac-lshtm.shinyapps.io/ncov_vaccine_landscape/)

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
9 Dec 2020	UK MHRA	<a href="#">Confirmation of guidance to vaccination centres on managing allergic reactions following COVID-19 vaccination with the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine</a>	UK MHRA (Press Release)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With two reports of anaphylaxis and one report of possible allergic reaction post-vaccination, an expert group of the Commission on Human Medicines were convened to update the guidances on vaccine use</li> <li>Updates include that a person with prior history of anaphylaxis should not be given the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine and a second dose will not be given to those with a reaction from the first dose. A 15-minute observation after vaccination shall be conducted,</li> </ul>
9 Dec 2020	Health Canada	<a href="#">Regulatory Decision Summary - Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine</a>	Health Canada (Regulatory Decision Summary)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 mRNA vaccine (Tozinameran or BNT62b2) has been given authorization by the Canadian government through an interim order</li> <li>Terms include a monthly post-market monitoring, studies on long-term safety and effectiveness, and other data on manufacturing</li> <li>A risk management plan has also been set up</li> <li>The vaccine would be given two doses 21 days apart of 0.3mL per dose to persons over 16 years old, and the initiation of an anaphylaxis pack shall ensue for instances of anaphylaxis</li> </ul>
2 Dec 2020	MHRA	<a href="#">Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation: advice on priority groups for COVID-19 vaccination</a>	MHRA (Guidance Document)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On the first phase, generally older individuals are targeted for vaccination and those with higher risk of serious disease and mortality</li> <li>The priority goes down depending on risk</li> </ul>

## Evidence on Equipment & Devices

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
8 Dec 2020	Zhu, et.al.	<a href="#">Smartwatch data help detect COVID-19</a>	Nature (Experimental Study)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Results from the DETECT study was shown here where 30, 529 participants from the USA were included</li> <li>Detection window was defined as 14 days before symptom onset and ending 7 days after</li> <li>22 of 32 COVID-19 positive participants were found to have had an alert before symptom onset.</li> </ul>
3 Dec 2020	Mitze, et.al.	<a href="#">Face masks considerably reduce COVID-19 cases in Germany</a>	PNAS (Experimental Study)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A synthetic control method was used in 401 regions in Germany.</li> <li>Newly registered number of SARS-CoV-2 infections were reduced by wearing face masks by 15-20% over a 20-day period</li> </ul>

## Evidence on Medical & Surgical Procedures

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
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## Evidence on Traditional Medicine

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
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## Evidence on Preventive & Promotive Health

### Evidence on Screening

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
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### Evidence on Personal Measures

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
8 Dec 2020	Hunter, et.al.	<a href="#">Effect of COVID-9 response policies on walking behavior in US cities</a>	MedXRiv (Cohort Study)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.62 million anonymous users in the US were studied using their mobile devices and area-level data in 10 metropolitan areas during mid-February to late June 2020</li> <li>Utilitarian walking was found to have declined inversely with the rise in recreational walking</li> <li>A societal aspect appeared in findings where it was seen that low-income areas, people of low education, and those using public transport more are the most affected by the pandemic</li> </ul>

### Evidence on Community Measures

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
2 Dec 2020	ECDC	<a href="#">Guidelines for COVID-19 testing and quarantine of air travellers: Addendum to the COVID-19 Aviation Health Safety Protocol</a>	ECDC (Guidance document)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ECDC states that travellers from Europe do not need systematic testing or quarantine since they are generally low risk.</li> <li>Due to SARS-CoV-2 being present in most EU countries, imported cases are not likely to increase largely transmission rates.</li> <li>Imported cases only account for less than 1% of total cases</li> </ul>
23 Mar 2020  Updated 7 Dec 2020	HIQA	<a href="#">Rapid review of public health guidance on protective measures for vulnerable groups in the context of COVID-19</a>	HIQA (Rapid Review)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The latest update included the inclusions to the list of population in the highest risk groups to include adults with Down's syndrome, adults with stage 5 chronic kidney disease, and those who have had splenectomies</li> </ul>

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
7 Dec 2020`	Rozhnova, et.al.	<u><a href="#">Model-based evaluation of school- and non-school-related measures to control the COVID-19 pandemic</a></u>	MedXRiv (Modelling)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The model showed that maintaining schools to be closed in November 2020 could reduce effective reproduction rate of the virus.</li><li>• 8% was the decrease in reproduction rate noted for 10 to 20 year olds, 5% for 5 to 10 year olds, and negligible for 0 to 5 year olds</li><li>• It concluded that non-school-based measures should be exhausted first as school-based measures rely on outcomes from non-school-based practices</li></ul>