

Weekly Evidence Report



Health Technology Assessment Philippines

20-26 FEBRUARY 2021

Overview

The following report presents summaries of evidence the Department of Health (DOH) - Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Unit reviewed for the period of 20 to 26 February 2021. The HTA Unit reviewed a total of 10 studies for the said period.

Evidence includes 5 studies on Epidemiology; 1 study on Transmission; 0 studies on Drugs; 0 studies on Vaccines, 1 study on Equipment and Devices; 1 study on Medical and Surgical Procedures; 0 studies on Traditional Medicine; and 2 studies on Preventive & Promotive Health.

The following report notes that 1 study have not been peer-reviewed, each highlighted accordingly.



Sections

Epidemiology

Transmission

Drugs

Vaccines

Equipment & Devices

Medical & Surgical Procedures

Traditional Medicine

Preventive & Promotive Health

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>

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
25 Feb 2021	WHO	COVID-19 Weekly Epidemiological Update	WHO (Epidemiologic Report)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed working definitions of SARS-CoV-2 variants of interest (VOI) and variants of concern (VOC) were discussed A VOI is one where a phenotypical change was observed causing community or cluster transmission A VOC is a VOI with increased transmissibility/virulence or a decrease in measures to address the variant Members are encouraged to strengthen surveillance and screening with the onset of variants
24 Feb 2021	ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center	Risk Assessment for International Dissemination of COVID-19 to the ASEAN Region	ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center (Risk Assessment)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vietnam has identified healthcare workers, diplomats, and the military as their first recipients of vaccines as they begin their program Thailand expects to vaccinate 200,000 with their first batch of the Sinovac vaccine and sees that they be distributed 5 days from arrival to 13 provinces IATA has developed a travel pass that could help travellers in the region to unify the database of verified certifications for COVID-19. Coordination with countries ensues to kickstart travel

Evidence on Vulnerable Population Epidemiology

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
18 Feb 2021	Soheili, M., et al	Clinical manifestation and maternal complications and neonatal outcomes in pregnant women with COVID-19: a comprehensive evidence synthesis and meta-analysis	Journal of Maternal and Fetal Neonatal Medicine (Systematic review and Meta-analysis)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 74 studies were included with a total of 5,660 pregnant women COVID-19 positive pregnant women with or without pneumonia are at a higher risk for preeclampsia, preterm birth, miscarriage, and caesarean delivery Neonates are at risk for low birth weight and IUGR Higher risk of COVID-19 is noted in the third trimester of pregnancy
22 Feb 2021	Martins, M.M., et al	Update on SARS-CoV-2 infection in children	Pediatrics and International Child Health (Non-systematic Review)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Databases were used with a search from 1 January until 30 September, 2020 Generally, asymptomatic or mild to moderate signs are observed in SARS-CoV-2 positive children The impact of COVID-19 is in the perinatal period
17 Feb 2021	Widyadharna, IPE, et al	Neurologic manifestations of COVID-19 infection in Asia: a systematic review	The Egyptian Journal of Neurology, Psychiatry, and Neurosurgery (Systematic Review)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 included studies with 5 of them being case reports, 1 case series, 1 prospective multi-center cohort study, 1 retrospective multi-center study, and 1 retrospective observational study Encephalitis and ADEM, Acute cerebrovascular disease, Acute symptomatic seizure, and Guillain-Barre syndrome were noted in the review The most well-known mechanism of cerebrovascular disease in COVID-19 is coagulopathy

Evidence on Transmission

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
15 Feb 2021	Rambo, APS, Goncalves, LF, Gozales, AI, Rech, CR, de Paiva, KM, Haas, P.	Impact of super-spreaders on COVID-19: systematic review	Sao Paulo Medical Journal (Systematic Review)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From 41 initial articles, four were included in the review Little evidence is found in the detection of super-spreaders which affects the recognition and understanding of such

Evidence on Drugs

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
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Evidence on Vaccines

Link to HTA Living Database: <https://bit.ly/3gOOSmG>
LAST UPDATE: 19 FEBRUARY 2021

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/

ACIP Files:

https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1v-jd66qllxnUkfzXWKqiD0mkVvqy_VvJ

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Evidence on Equipment & Devices

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
23 Feb 2021	HSE	Is there an increased risk of transmission of COVID-19 associated with the use of nebulizers? Do nebulizers aerosolize SARS-CoV-2 particles?	HSE (Summary of Evidence)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was found that aerosols are from a non-patient source and does not carry viral particles and once it coalesces with the mucous membrane, it will stop from being airborne and not be part of the aerosol A complication arise in those 1 meter from the patient since the nebulization can provoke coughing or sneezing

Evidence on Medical & Surgical Procedures

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
22 Feb 2021	Corona, G., et al	Diabetes is most important cause for mortality in COVID-19 hospitalized patients: Systematic review and meta-analysis	Reviews in Endocrine and Metabolic Disorders (Systematic Review and Meta-analyses)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 87 studies were included out of 3,714 retrieved articles. Western countries (US and EU) had a higher mortality rate than Asian countries (25 [20;29]% and 20 [17;23]% vs. 13 [10;17]%; both p<0.02) The best predictors of mortality rate noted were: dyspnea, fatigue and myalgia, respiratory rate Optimization of glucose profile with adequate thrombotic complications preventive strategy must become routine practice for COVID-19 patients

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

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Evidence on Community Measures

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
24 Feb 2021	HIQA	Rapid review: Measures to support people in self-isolation or restriction of movements and the evidence of the effectiveness of such measures	HIQA (Rapid Review)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two international agencies (ECDC, WHO) and 19 countries were included in the review Variations were found in terms of range and intensity of support given A lack in evidence were seen in the primary studies relating to effectiveness of these measures in either spread reduction or increased compliance
23 Feb 2021	Jamebozorgi, AH, et al	Coronavirus and its Impacts on Health Workers Retention: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis	Human Resources for Health (Systematic Review and Meta-analysis)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 23 articles were included in the review Stigma and violence against staff, burnout and stress, increased workload, acquisition of communication skills, mental and physical health, employee safety during disaster, staff mobilization, expansion of cyberscape infrastructures, and motivational-health incentives were used as codes Retention of health workers is caused by multifaceted effects, therefore, several strategies must be implemented