

# Weekly Evidence Report



Health Technology Assessment Philippines

30 January to 3 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 N to N Month 2020. The HTA Unit reviewed a total of 10 studies for the said period.

Evidence includes 2 studies on Epidemiology; 1 study on Transmission; 0 studies on Drugs; 3 studies on Vaccines, 0 studies on Equipment and Devices; 1 study on Medical and Surgical Procedures; 0 studies on Traditional Medicine; and 3 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The following report notes that 3 studies have not been peer-reviewed, each highlighted accordingly.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>

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
29 Jan 2021	ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center	<a href="#">Risk Assessment for International Dissemination of COVID-19 to the ASEAN Region</a>	ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center (Situation Report)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 101.9 million cases and 2.19 COVID-19-related deaths are recorded globally</li> <li>• Vietnam extended its quarantine period to 21 days from 14 days due to two cases of local transmission of the UK variant and has since then locked down its airport</li> <li>• Singapore and India are discussing a possible travel bubble similar to that of Singapore and Hong Kong</li> </ul>

## Evidence on Vulnerable Population Epidemiology

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
29 Jan 2021	Flannery, DD, Gouma, S, Dhudasia, MB, et al	<a href="#">Assessment of Maternal and Neonatal Cord Blood SARS-CoV-2 Antibodies and Placental Transfer Ratios</a>	JAMA Pediatrics (Cohort Study)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,714 women were included in the study wherein antibody measurement was done on cord blood sera.</li> <li>• SARS-CoV-2 IgG and/or IgM antibodies were detected in 83 of the women at the time of delivery and IgG in cord blood from 72 of the 83 newborns</li> <li>• Maternal IgGs were transferred in both asymptomatic and symptomatic infection during pregnancy</li> </ul>

## Evidence on Transmission

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
29 Jan 2021	Mahase, E.	<a href="#">Covid-19: Sore throat, fatigue, and myalgia are more common with new UK variant</a>	BMJ (News Article)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss of taste and anosmia were significantly less common in the new B.1.1.7 variant</li> <li>The new variants are reported to cause more symptoms of upper respiratory tract infection</li> <li>Therefore, staying home if with such symptoms is crucial since the newer variants is more transmissible</li> </ul>

## 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: 3 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/>

### European CDC Vaccine Tracker:

<https://qap.ecdc.europa.eu/public/extensions/COVID-19/COVID-19.html#vaccine-tracker-tab>

ACIP Files: [https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1v-jd66qllxnUkfzXWKqiD0mkVvqy\\_VvJ](https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1v-jd66qllxnUkfzXWKqiD0mkVvqy_VvJ)

### ASEAN Vaccine Tracker:

<https://www.aseanbriefing.com/news/covid-19-vaccine-roll-outs-in-asean-asia-live-updates-by-count ry/>

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29 Jan 2021	ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center	<a href="#">Risk Assessment for International Dissemination of COVID-19 to the ASEAN Region</a>	ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center (Situation Report)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After 113,000 vaccinated with the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine, 432 adverse event reports were noted with symptoms associated with all vaccines in general</li> <li>Biotech announced an experimental coronavirus vaccine Novovax is 89.3% effective against COVID-19 and has been tested effective against the UK and South Africa variants</li> </ul>
22 Jan 2021  Updated 25 Jan 2021	UK NHS	<a href="#">Mutual Aid and the transfer of COVID-19 vaccines between Hospital Hubs, Vaccination Centres, and Local Vaccination Services</a>	NHS (Policy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generally, no mutual aid shall be given since the supplies made available and delivered to organizations are expected to be used</li> <li>Vaccination schedules should not be on the same day of vaccine delivery</li> </ul>
1 Feb 2021	ECDC	<a href="#">Integrated COVID-19 response in the vaccination era</a>	ECDC (Technical Report)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Findings showed that if a new strain of COVID-19 with an increased transmissibility of 70% replaces the previous strains, non-pharmaceutical measures may not be enough to prevent spikes in mortality</li> <li>Thus, a targeted approach to vaccination prioritizing groups with the highest risk for morbidity and mortality is the most effective way</li> </ul>

### Evidence on Equipment & Devices

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
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## Evidence on Medical & Surgical Procedures

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
1 Feb 2021	Huang, L, Li, Q., Sayed, SZA, et al	<a href="#">Ultra-short-wave diathermy shortens the course of moderate and severe COVID-19: a randomized controlled trial</a>	MedRxiv (Randomized Controlled Trial)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A single-center, evaluator-blinded, 2-arm parallel design superiority randomized controlled clinical trial was conducted on 50 patients</li> <li>• Median SIRS score at day 28 was 0 in the USWD (P=0.003) and control group (P=0.011)</li> <li>• Among moderate and severe COVID cases, using USWD as an adjunctive therapy could enhance clinical improvement</li> </ul>

## 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
1 Feb 2021	Watson, D, Baralle, NL, Alagil, J, et al	<a href="#">How best do we engage the general population in testing for COVID-19?</a>	MedRxiv (Qualitative Study)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A rapid qualitative evaluation was conducted that included 77 interviews and 20 focus group discussions with 223 individuals</li> <li>• The study showed that high levels of communication, trust, and engagement were needed to engage people with a testing program</li> <li>• The study suggests community leaders and stakeholder organizations to be visible in the program implementation process</li> </ul>

## Evidence on Personal Measures

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
1 Feb 2021	McGowan, L, Lee, EC, Grantz, KH, et al	<a href="#">Testing out of quarantine</a>	MedRxiv (Modelling Study)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A biologically plausible model was created to calculate the probability that infected individuals testing negative on a particular day</li> <li>• A 20.1% chance (95%CI: 9.8 to 32.6) of testing negative on RT-PCR on day five and stay asymptomatic until day seven was found</li> <li>• A less sensitive test is thus more preferable to a more sensitive test with a delay</li> </ul>

## Evidence on Community Measures

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
29 Jan 2021	HIQA	<a href="#">Current public health guidance for community settings and infection prevention and control measures in healthcare settings for COVID-19: a rapid review</a>	HIQA (Rapid review)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPE and proper distancing is required for community pharmacies in Ireland</li> <li>• The use of public transport is only allowed for those aged 13 years or older with the use of face covering lest they be asked to leave the vehicle</li> <li>• Face-to-face education mandates social distancing for two meters from entry, occupation, and exit of the space. Face coverings are recommended where more than 15 minutes and social distancing cannot be maintained</li> </ul>