

# Weekly Evidence Report



Health Technology Assessment Philippines

27 MARCH to 8 APRIL 2021

## Overview

The following report presents summaries of evidence the Department of Health (DOH) - Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Unit reviewed for the period of 27 to 31 March 2021. The HTA Unit reviewed a total of 9 studies for the said period.

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

The following report notes that 0 studies have not been peer-reviewed, each highlighted accordingly.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
30 Mar 2021	WHO	<a href="#">Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) External Situation Report</a>	WHO (Situation Report)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3.8 million new cases were and over 64,000 new deaths were reported in the past week.</li> <li>• Majority coming from the Southeast Asian, Western Pacific, and African regions</li> <li>• In the Western Pacific region, the Philippines has the highest number of cases and deaths</li> </ul>
29 Mar 2021	ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center	<a href="#">Risk Assessment for International Dissemination of COVID-19 to the ASEAN Region</a>	ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center (Risk Assessment)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sinopharm noted that reassessment is needed after the results of their phase III clinical trials to decide if a booster dose is needed</li> <li>• Varoam B.1.1.7 has been seen to be most prevalent in the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, and Italy.</li> <li>• Variant B.1.351 was seen to be most common in South Africa, the UK, Belgium, France, and Germany</li> <li>• Varian P,1 was seen to be most reported in Italy, Brazil, Belgium, Canada, and the UK</li> <li>• Thailand will open six areas--Phuket, Krabi, Chon Buri, Chiang Mai, Phang Nga, and Surat Thani for travelers with completed vaccination against COVID-19.</li> </ul>

## Evidence on Vulnerable Population Epidemiology

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
26 Mar 2021	Vidale, S, et al	<a href="#">Risk Factors, and Clinical and Etiological Characteristics of Ischemic Strokes in COVID-19 Infected Patients: A Systematic Review of Literature</a>	Cerebrovascular Disease (Systematic Review)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>14 articles with 93 patients were included with a mean age of 65 years old.</li> <li>Strokes were noted to have a median of 6 days from COVID-19 diagnosis with a severity of NIHSS score 19.</li> <li>Cryptogenic strokes encompassed a little more than half of the cases followed by cardioembolic strokes.</li> <li>Ischemic strokes were clinically severe in COVID-19 patients</li> </ul>

## Evidence on Transmission

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

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
25 Mar 2021	Petrelli, F., et al	<a href="#">Therapeutic and prognostic role of vitamin D for COVID-19 infection: A systematic review and meta-analysis of 43 observational studies</a>	Journal of Steroid Biochemistry and Molecular Biology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>43 observational studies were conducted</li> <li>Reduced vitamin D values led to higher infection risk, mortality, and COVID-19 severity.</li> <li>Among the subjects deficient in vitamin D, an OR of 2.6 was noted (95%CI, 1.84-3.67; p&lt;0.01) compared to non-deficient (OR=1.22, 95% CI, 1.04-1.43; p&lt;0.01) when it came to worse severity and higher mortality</li> </ul>

## Evidence on Vaccines

Link to HTA Living Database: <https://bit.ly/3gOOSmG>  
 LAST UPDATE: 19 MARCH 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/](https://vac-lshtm.shinyapps.io/ncov_vaccine_landscape/)

### ACIP Files:

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

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
29 Mar 2021	Wright, L.	<a href="#">Belgian researchers identify new coronavirus variant</a>	DW (news article)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A new variant, B.1.214.2 was noted by the University of Liege.</li> <li>The variant has also been found in France, the UK, Germany, Ireland, Portugal, the USA, Senegal, the Netherlands, and Bulgaria</li> </ul>
31 Mar 2021	Mull, NK; Mitchell, MD	<a href="#">COVID-19: Mandatory Vaccination</a>	University of Pennsylvania Center for Evidence-based Practice (Annotated Bibliography)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mandatory vaccination has been suggested to ensure a substantial number of population would get vaccinated</li> <li>Several resources have been cited in the bibliography</li> </ul>

## Evidence on Traditional Medicine

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
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## Evidence on Equipment & Devices

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
24 Mar 2021	Khiabani, K., et al	<a href="#">Are saliva and deep throat sputum as reliable as common respiratory specimens for SARS-CoV-2 detection? A systematic review and meta-analysis</a>	American Journal of Infection Control (Systematic Review and Meta-analysis)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>26 studies were included in the systematic review</li> <li>An overall sensitivity of 97% (95% CI, 86-100) was noted for bronchoalveolar lavage, 92% (95% CI, 80-99) for both nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swabs, 87% (95% CI, 77-95) for nasopharyngeal swabs, 83% (95% CI, 77-89) for saliva, 82% (95% CI, 76-88) for throat swab, and 82% (95% CI, 35-52) for oropharyngeal swabs</li> </ul>

## 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
29 Mar 2021	HSE	<a href="#">What is the best evidence on the impact of remote working during the COVID-19 pandemic?</a>	HSE (Evidence Summary)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A variation of mental and physical health impacts were found in various studies included.</li> <li>The minimum suggested is to open lines of communication between managers and colleagues</li> <li>Loneliness, technostress, and other mental health issues were noted by Finnish workers in a longitudinal study</li> <li>Eye and muscle strain was noted among Japanese workers.</li> </ul>

## Evidence on Community Measures

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
30 Mar 2021	Gunn, H., McCormick, S.	<a href="#">COVID-19 Impact on Intimate Partner Violence and Child Maltreatment</a>	CADTH (Evidence Summary)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support services must be available for individuals to avail and could include telehealth support and remote delivery of services</li><li>• Limited evidence is available on the topic but has shown that COVID-19 may have led to an increase in risk factors for violence</li></ul>