

Weekly Evidence Report



Health Technology Assessment Philippines

26 June to 2 July 2021

Overview

The following report presents summaries of evidence the Department of Health (DOH) - Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Unit reviewed for the period of 26 June to 2 July 2021. The HTA Unit reviewed a total of 12 studies for the said period.

Evidence includes 4 studies on Epidemiology; 1 study on Transmission; 2 studies on Drugs; 1 study 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The following report notes that there is no study that has not been peer-reviewed.



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
29 Jun 2021	WHO Global	Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) External Situation Report	WHO Global (Situation Report)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 2.6 million new cases and 57,000 new deaths were reported globally the past week. This is the lowest weekly mortality figure since those recorded in early November 2020. All the regions reported a decline in deaths except for the African region.
30 Jun 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"> Laos, on June 30, reported the first three cases of Delta variant of COVID-19 in the country. In Vietnam, the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine was approved for emergency use making it their 5th vaccine to address COVID-19. For the past week, the ASEAN region have reported a total of 4,850,761 confirmed cases of COVID-19 meanwhile deaths reported at a total of 93,674.
29 Jun 2021	WHO	COVID-19 Weekly Epidemiological Update	WHO (Situation Report)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The B.1.617.2 (Delta) variant of COVID-19 which was estimated to be 55% more transmissible than the Alpha variant is expected to become the dominant variant in the next coming months.

Evidence on Vulnerable Population Epidemiology

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
30 Jun 2021	Department Of Health and Social Care, UK	Most vulnerable could be offered booster COVID-19 vaccines from September	Department Of Health and Social Care (Press Release)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vulnerable groups in the UK may be offered a booster vaccination starting September this year. The booster will ensure that the protection will be prolonged from the first and second dose following the emerging of new variants and the upcoming winter season.

Evidence on Transmission

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
30 Jun 2021	ABC Science Collaborative	Re: “The Reopen Our Schools Act of 2021”	ABC Science (Case Series)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of face masks is adequate in preventing within-school COVID-19 transmission. The amount of distancing, whether less than 3 or 6 feet or no distancing at all didn't show a significant difference on the spread of the virus provided that there is a proper use of face mask.

Evidence on Drugs

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
30 Jun 2021	Reuters Health Information	Five Indian Drugmakers to Jointly Start Trial of Merck's COVID-19 Drug	Reuters Health Information (News)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five Indian generic drug makers will conduct a joint clinical trial of Merck & Co's anti-viral drug to treat mild COVID-19 in non-hospitalized patients in India. The clinical trial for the antiviral drug, molnupiravir, will run from June to September this year, with 1,200 clinical patients.
30 Jun 2021	European Commission	COVID-19 Therapeutics Strategy: Commission identifies five promising candidate therapeutics	European Commission (Press Release)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The five candidate therapeutic drugs are in the advance stage of development which have a high possibility to be among the three new COVID-19 therapeutics that may received authorization by October this year. Out of the 5 COVID-19 identified therapeutics, 4 drugs (combination of bamlanivimab and etesevimab, combination of casirivimab and imdevimab, regdanivimab, sotrovimab) are monoclonal antibodies while 1 drug (baricitinib) is an immunosuppressant.

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/

ACIP Files:

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

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
29 Jun 2021	Moderna, Inc.	Moderna Provides a Clinical Update on the Neutralizing Activity of its COVID-19 Vaccine on Emerging Variants Including the Delta Variant First Identified in India	Moderna, Inc. (Press Release)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The vaccination with the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine produced neutralizing titers against all variants tested, including additional versions of the Beta variant, Delta variants and the Eta variant. The analysis was done using serum samples from eight participants who were fully vaccinated. Samples were taken a week after the administration of the second dose of the Moderna vaccine.

Evidence on Equipment & Devices

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
27 Jun 2021	Abu Dhabi Government Media Office	Department of Health - Abu Dhabi authorizes the use of EDE scanners to detect Covid-19 infections	Abu Dhabi Government Media Office (News Article)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Abu Dhabi government approved the use of EDE scanners to detect COVID-19 infection. The scanners measure the electromagnetic wave that changes when RNA particles from the virus is present in a person's body. The trial results on more than 20,000 people showed a sensitivity of 90.3% and a specificity of 83%.

Evidence on Medical and Surgical Procedures

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
1 Jul 2021	Vanderlind, WM., Rabinovitz, B., Mioa, I., Oberlin, L., Bueno-Castellano, C., Fridman, C., Jaywant, A., Kanellopoulos, D.	A Systematic Review of Neuropsychological and Psychiatric Sequelae of COVID-19	Systematic Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 patients experiencing psychiatric symptoms may contribute to the poor adherence to the medical treatments. • Patient survivors must be monitored for any psychiatric symptoms like depression, anxiety, fatigue, and sleep disruption since it may significantly affect their daily lives. • A cognitive screening may be done for those manifesting psychiatric symptoms with referral for a more comprehensive neuropsychological assessment.

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
29 Jun 2021	Alkhalidi, G., Aljurraiban, G., Alhurishi, S., De Souza, R., Lamahewa, K., Lau, R., Alshaikh, F.	Perceptions towards COVID-19 and adoption of preventive measures among the public in Saudi Arabia: a cross sectional study	Cross sectional study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the early phase of the pandemic, a high level of compliance to the set public health standards and willingness to self-isolate was reported. • However, a lower adoption rate to the set preventive measures and the willingness to self-isolate were identified more on the vulnerable groups like the elderly and those with low socioeconomic status. • As such, it was recommended that a tailored public health messages and information on interventions are needed to acquire a high compliance rate for all.
28 Jun 2021	County of Los Angeles Public Health	As Delta Variant Circulates, Public Health Recommends Masking Indoors as a Precaution - 3 New Deaths and 259 New Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 in Los Angeles County	County of Los Angeles Public Health (Press Release)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department of Public Health in Los Angeles strongly reiterates the recommendation to wear masks indoors in public places regardless of the vaccination status brought by the emergence of the highly transmissible Delta variant. • The CDC reported that the Delta variant is evident in one of every five new infections in the country following the report a week before of one in every 10 new cases. • Strong recommendation on the use of face masks on public places such as grocery or retail stores, theaters, entertainment centers and workplaces where you do not know everyone's vaccination status is highly suggested.