

Weekly Evidence Report



Health Technology Assessment Philippines

28 August to 3 September 2021

Overview

The following report presents summaries of evidence the Department of Health (DOH) - Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Unit reviewed for the period of **28 August to 3 September 2021**. The HTA Unit reviewed a total of 10 studies for the said period.

Evidence includes 3 studies on Epidemiology; 1 study on Transmission; 0 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 3 studies on Preventive & Promotive Health.

The following report notes that **4 studies** have not been peer-reviewed, each highlighted accordingly.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
31 August 2021	WHO Global	Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) External Situation Report	WHO Global (Situation Report)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Globally, 4.4 million new cases have been reported, similar to the previous week. All regions reported either a decline or a similar trend in new cases, except for the Western Pacific Region which experienced a 7% increase in cases. The cumulative number of cases globally is now nearly 216 million, and the cumulative number of deaths is under 4.5 million. Globally, cases of the Alpha variant have been reported in 193 countries (1 new country); 141 countries have reported cases of the Beta variant; 91 countries (5 new countries) have reported new cases of the Gamma variant; and 170 countries (7 new countries) have reported cases of the Delta variant. A new variant (Mu; B.1.621) has now been newly classified as a variant of interest as preliminary data shows a reduction in neutralization capacity of convalescent and vaccinee sera similar to that for the Beta variant.
01 September 2021	WHO Western Pacific Region	Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) External Situation Report	WHO WPRO (External Situation Report)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the Western Pacific Region, 560,789 new cases and 6,042 new deaths have been reported in the past week, leading to a cumulative number of 6,626,350 cases and 90,411 cumulative deaths. The Philippines is identified as one of the countries with large-scale community transmission, particularly in the National Capital Region, Region 3, and Region 4A.

Evidence on Vulnerable Population Epidemiology

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
31 August 2021	Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA)	Rapid review of public health guidance on protective measures for vulnerable groups in the context of COVID-19	Rapid review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This rapid review was conducted in line with HIQA's "Protocol for identification and review of new and updated relevant COVID-19 public health guidance", which is updated every two weeks. • In this review, people who are generally considered to be vulnerable to more severe COVID-19 illness are those of an older age, with chronic conditions that are not well-managed, and are receiving immunosuppressant therapies. • The general advice for these populations is to stay home, practice hand hygiene and social distancing, and avoid contact with others. Some countries distinguish those who are at high risk and those at highest risk and give proportionate advice according to their risk. • Additionally, Wales announced that children are no longer considered clinically extremely vulnerable and were thus given looser restrictions.
August 2021	Carrigan, M. et al.	What is the risk of severe disease in pregnant patients with COVID-19?	Evidence summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pregnancy does not increase susceptibility to SARS-CoV-2 but can worsen the clinical course of the disease compared to non-pregnant patients of the same age • Pregnant people with COVID-19 have higher rates of ICU admission but are not at increased risk of death from COVID-19 • SARS-CoV-2 infection at the time of birth can lead to higher rates of fetal death, pre-term birth, pre-eclampsia, and emergency Caesarean section. Risk of transmission of the disease to neonates is low.

Evidence on Transmission

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
02 Septem ber 2021	Reinhart, E., and Chen, D.L.	Association of Jail Decarceration and Anticontagion Policies with COVID-19 Case Growth Rates in US Counties	<i>JAMA Network Open</i>	The findings of this study suggest that anti-contagion policies, such as jail decarceration to minimize outbreaks and their spillover to surrounding communities, appear to be necessary for epidemic control, public health, and mitigation of racial health disparities.
02 Septem ber 2021	Wendling, J. et al.	COVID-19: Is the oral transmission route during shared meals and drinks credible?	<i>Virologie</i>	The study found that contamination of dining utensils previously used is possible through droplets projected during speech or through direct contacts by dirty hands. Biopersistence on hands and cold food supports the possible contamination by food. Hence, prevention among fast food chain and restaurant staff must be emphasized by ensuring strict hand hygiene measures, especially due to their increased risk.
01 Septem ber 2021	Zhang, J. et al.	Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 during air travel: a descriptive and modelling study	<i>Annals of Medicine</i>	The study found that the universal use of face masks during air travel, together with the plane's ventilation system, significantly decreased the infectivity of COVID-19. With this, the findings of the study also suggested that the risk of infection in aircraft was negligible.

Evidence on Drugs

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
01 Septem ber 2021	Strich, J.R., et al.	Fostamatinib for the treatment of hospitalized adults with COVID-19: A randomized trial	<i>Clinical Infectious Diseases</i>	The study was a double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled trial in hospitalized adults with COVID-19 requiring oxygen. It was found that the addition of fostamatinib to standard of care was safe and patients were observed to have improved clinical outcomes compared to a placebo. However, the results of this study warrant further validation in larger confirmatory trials.

Evidence on Drugs *(continued)*

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
23 August 2021	Andreas, M. et al.	Interventions for palliative symptom control in COVID-19 patients	<i>Cochrane</i> Systematic review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four uncontrolled retrospective cohort studies investigated pharmacological interventions (e.g. opioids, neuroleptics, anticholinergics, benzodiazepines) used for palliative symptom control in hospitalized patients and patients in nursing homes. All studies did not use a comparator. • The studies mainly reported on symptom relief, but with the very low certainty of evidence for the efficacy of pharmacological interventions for palliative symptom relief, more evidence is needed to draw a better conclusion on the effectiveness of such interventions.

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?pli=1

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
31 August 2021	US CDC	Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Approved or Authorized in the United States	Updated National Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added new ACIP recommendation on the use of US FDA-approved Pfizer-BioNTech (Comirnaty) Vaccine in persons aged 16 years and older Updated considerations for use of an additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine Updated laboratory testing information on timing of immune-based tests for tuberculosis infection in relation to COVID-19 vaccine administration
02 September 2021	US CDC	COVID-19 Vaccines for Moderately to Severely Immunocompromised People	Updated National Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CDC recommends that people with moderately to severely compromised immune systems receive an additional dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine at least 28 days after a second dose. There are no recommendations yet on additional doses or booster shots for other populations at this time.

Evidence on Medical and Surgical Procedures

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
---	---	---	---	---

Evidence on Equipment & Devices

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
02 September 2021	UK NICE	Non-invasive respiratory support	Updated rapid guideline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It must be ensured that pharmacological and non-pharmacological management strategies are optimized before escalating to non-invasive respiratory support. High-flow nasal oxygen is not recommended as the routine main form of respiratory support for people with COVID-19 and respiratory failure in whom escalation to invasive mechanical ventilation would be appropriate.

Evidence on Traditional Medicine

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
---	---	---	---	---

Evidence on Preventive & Promotive Health

Evidence on Screening

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
---	---	---	---	---

Evidence on Personal Measures

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
31 August 2021	Public Health England	Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection	Updated national guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms or a positive test result should stay at home and self-isolate immediately. Anyone who is symptomatic regardless of vaccination status is advised to arrange a PCR test as soon as possible. If living in the same household as someone with COVID-19, self-isolation is required. However, if already fully vaccinated or aged 18 years and 6 months, self-isolation would not be a requirement if they are a contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Evidence on Community Measures

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
---	---	---	---	---