

Weekly Evidence Report



Health Technology Assessment Philippines

13 - 19 November 2021

Overview

The following report presents summaries of evidence the Department of Health (DOH) - Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Unit reviewed for the period of 13 - 19 November 2021. The HTA Unit reviewed a total of 10 studies for the said period.

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

The following report notes that 1 study have not been peer-reviewed, each highlighted accordingly.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

Other Health Technologies

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
16 Nov 2021	WHO Global	Weekly epidemiological update on COVID-19 - 16 November 2021	<i>WHO Global Situation Report</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 3.3 million new cases and under 50,000 new deaths were reported globally the past week. Cases of COVID-19 in the American, European and Western Pacific regions continue to increase while the rest of the regions reported stable or declining cases. In the case of deaths, only the European region reported an increase in the cases of deaths while the other regions reported a decline or stable death cases.
15 Nov 2021	ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center	COVID-19 Situational Report in the ASEAN Region	ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center (Situation Report)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over the past week, the South-East Asia region reported a decline of 13% in new COVID-19 cases and a decline of 29% in the number of deaths. Meanwhile, in the context of vaccination, the Philippines reported that > 90% of the high risk population has already been vaccinated with at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine. However, only 33.7% of the eligible Philippine population was reported to be vaccinated with at least one dose. On the other hand, starting November 15, 2021 the Thailand's Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) allowed schools to offer on-site, face-to-face classes after 80% of the secondary school students were vaccinated. Safety measures such as social distancing, mask wearing, hand washing, COVID testing, reducing crowdedness and cleaning will be part of the implementation of the face-to-face classes. Meanwhile, it was noted that only a maximum of 25 students per classroom will be allowed while schools may consider on-site schooling every other day.

Evidence on Transmission

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
15 Nov 2021	Agency for Clinical Innovation	COVID-19 Critical Intelligence Unit: Test, trace, isolate and quarantine	<i>Agency for Clinical Innovation - Rapid Review, In Brief Document</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was found that the testing and isolation alone cannot substantially prevent COVID-19 transmission thus, modelling studies found that the combination of testing and isolation plus contact tracing and quarantine can significantly prevent transmission, hospitalization, and mortality. • Specific elements of this strategy such as border control, increased identification and isolation of symptomatic index cases, effective test-trace-isolate programs, timeliness of contact tracing, high testing rate and isolation and quarantine protocols if incorporated in the COVID-19 prevention programs can effectively lessen the diseases burden. • Further, it was also found that the use of contact tracing applications and softwares is an efficient tool to the tracing process which leads to early prevention of virus spread through quarantine. • The review also noted that different strategies may not be applicable to every country thus, tailored-fit public health measures are needed to effectively mitigate COVID-19 infection.

Evidence on Drugs

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
15 Nov 2021	Oskotsky, T., Maric, I., Tang, A. 2021	Mortality Risk Among Patients With COVID-19 Prescribed Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitor Antidepressants	<i>Jama Network - Retrospective cohort study</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The study of Oskotsky et al. on adult patients with COVID-19 prescribed with selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) looked into the association of SSRIs particularly fluoxetine hydrochloride and fluvoxamine maleate and mortality. The SSRIs are the commonly prescribed antidepressants. According to this study, antidepressants may be associated with reduced levels of several proinflammatory cytokines suggested to be involved with the development of severe COVID-19 A total of 3,401 adult patients with COVID-19 prescribed with SSRIs were included in this study. The results show that mortality was lower in the group where patients received SSRIs compared with those not prescribed with SSRIs. Although reduction in mortality was found, the study noted that there may be unaccounted confounding variables and further investigation via large, randomized clinical trials is needed.
17 Nov 2021	Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)	Americas report surge in drug-resistant infections due to misuse of antimicrobials during pandemic	<i>PAHO - News Release</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Director, Dr. Carissa F. Etienne warned about the unprecedented misuse of antimicrobial drugs in the treatment of COVID-19 since bacteria can develop resistance and make these drugs ineffective overtime. This was brought by the surge in number of Americans reported to have drug resistance. Data shows that more than 90% of hospitalized COVID patients in the Americas were given an antimicrobial, while only 7% required these drugs to treat a secondary infection. Drugs such as Ivermectin, Azithromycin and Chloroquine were also widely used, despite strong evidence that they have no benefit against COVID-19. The PAHO Director also called for better surveillance, stewardship, and drugs to preserve the power of antimicrobials. While many countries have expanded their surveillance systems during the pandemic, these networks must now be leveraged to track antimicrobial resistance. Countries should also develop evidence-based treatment guidelines for clinicians and must invest in new and better antimicrobial drugs.

Evidence on Vaccines

Bloomberg Vaccine Tracker:

<https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/covid-vaccine-tracker-global-distribution/>

WHO COVID-19 Vaccine Tracker:

<https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/draft-landscape-of-covid-19-candidate-vaccines>

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
17 Nov 2021	Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)	COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shots	<i>CDC - Guidance (Update)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who received mRNA vaccines either Pfizer or Moderna as their primary vaccine and are 65 years and older, 50–64 years with underlying medical conditions, or 18 years and older who live in long-term care settings can receive a booster shot with any of the COVID-19 vaccines authorized in the United States. • Meanwhile, persons aged 18-49 years old with underlying medical conditions, or 18 years and older who work or live in high-risk settings are also eligible for the booster dose given that they completed their primary series with an mRNA vaccine. • Further, for those people who received the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine and are 18 years and older may receive a booster shot at least 2 months after receiving their primary vaccine dose. • Generally, it was recommended that booster shot can be any of the COVID-19 vaccines authorized in the United States (Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson/Janssen). Some people may have a preference for the vaccine type that they originally received, and others may prefer to get a different booster. CDC's recommendations now allow for this type of mix and match dosing for booster shots.

Evidence on Equipment and Devices

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

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
16 Nov 2021	Ferris et al., 2021	Efficacy of FFP3 respirators for prevention of SARS-CoV-2 infection in healthcare workers	<i>Pubmed - Randomized Control Trial</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UK healthcare workers specifically those in the COVID wards use a fluid resistant surgical mask (FRSM) as one of their respiratory protective equipment. In this review, the efficacy of a filtering face piece 3 (FFP3) respirators as a substitute for FRSM was studied. Results show that there was a 31-fold (and at least 5-fold) increased risk of direct, ward-based infection on healthcare workers in the COVID ward meanwhile, it was found that the use of FFP3 respirators reduced the risk of ward-based infection to about 52-100%. The study concluded that FP3 respirators may therefore provide more effective protection than FRSMs for healthcare workers caring for patients with COVID-19.

Evidence on Traditional Medicine

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
14 Nov 2021	Bai et al., 2021	Inhibitory effects and mechanisms of the anti-covid-19 traditional Chinese prescription, Keguan-1, on acute lung injury	<i>PubMed/ Mouse Clinical Trial</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) prescription, Keguan-1, is developed to treat SARS-CoV-2 infection. The Chinese medicine is comprised of seven Chinese herbs. In summary, the results showed that Keguan-1 can improve LPS-induced ALI by reducing inflammation and pulmonary vascular endothelial injury, providing scientific support for the clinical treatment of patients with COVID-19. Moreover, it also provides a theoretical basis and technical support for the scientific use of TCMs in emerging infectious diseases.

Evidence on Preventive & Promotive Health

Evidence on Screening

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Evidence on Personal Measures

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Evidence on Other Health Technologies

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18 Nov 2021	Ryskina et al., 2021	Older Adults' Access to Primary Care: Gender, Racial, and Ethnic Disparities in Telemedicine	<i>Medscape - Retrospective Cross-sectional study</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The study of Ryskina et al. studied on the effects of telemedicine use versus in-person primary care visits in older adults aged ≥ 65 years in the Mid-Atlantic. Results show that compared with the in-person group, patients in the telemedicine group had lower odds of ambulatory care sensitive condition (ACSC) hospitalization. Meanwhile, patients aged 85 or older seen via telemedicine had higher odds of an ACSC hospitalization compared with patients aged 65–74.
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15 Nov 2021	Khatami et al., 2021	Curating, collecting, and cataloguing global COVID-19 datasets for the aim of predicting personalized risk	<i>MedRxiv - Preprint Data Catalogue</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This COVID-19 data catalogue is a repository of the COVID-19 studies and datasets that will help researchers to develop personalized COVID-19 predictive risk models which may lead to opportunities for therapeutic interventions. The data catalogue includes information from different research body and data bases such as COVID-Analytics, COVID-NMA, COVID-evidence, COVID-19 Data Catalogue, the Global Health Drug Discovery Institute and CORONAWHY. Meanwhile, clinical trials are also gathered for this data catalogue. Clinical trial repositories include Clinical Trials Map (HeiGIT), Chinese Clinical Trial Registry (ChiCTR) and the WHO-International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (ICTRP).
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