

Global spotlight 12.1: Key additions for December 2021



There are two newly added syntheses and nine updates to living evidence syntheses that are already included in the public-health measures parts of the COVID-END inventory of ‘best’ evidence syntheses*, eight newly added syntheses and two updates to living evidence syntheses that are already included in the clinical management parts of the inventory, one newly added synthesis in the health-system arrangement part of the inventory and one newly added synthesis in the economic and social responses part of the inventory.

**COVID-END assigns ‘best’ status to evidence syntheses based on an assessment of how up-to-date they are (i.e., the date of the last search, with priority given to living reviews), quality (using the AMSTAR tool), and whether there is an evidence profile available (e.g., GRADE).*

Taxonomy section	Title	Type of synthesis	Criteria for best evidence synthesis		
			Date of last search	Quality (AMSTAR) rating	Evidence profile (e.g., GRADE) available
Public-health measures	The diagnostic accuracy of antigen rapid diagnostic tests for COVID-19 has been estimated at 71.2% sensitivity and 98.9% specificity, and is particularly high when performed during the first week of illness, although a large number of studies did not perform the tests following manufacturers recommendations [Review of studies of variable quality and important heterogeneity among some of their findings]	Newly added living review	2021-04-30	10/11	No
Public-health measures	Taste disorders among COVID-19 patients occurs in 38% of the cases, whereas it may be more frequent in men than women; the prevalence of xerostomia in COVID-19 patients is 43%	Newly added living review	2021-01-25	10/11	Yes
Public-health measures	[BioNTech/Pfizer against variants of concern] Pfizer/Comirnaty vaccine may prevent infection, severe disease, death and transmission, while it probably prevents symptomatic infection from the Delta variant of concern (other variants are also included in the report)	Update to living rapid review	2021-12-01	7/9	No
Public-health measures	[BioNTech/Pfizer or Moderna to complete vaccination scheme started with Astra Zeneca against variants of concern] Vaccinating with Astra Zeneca followed by BioNTech/Pfizer or Moderna vaccine may prevent infection (including symptomatic infection) from the Delta variant of concern	Update to living rapid review	2021-12-01	7/9	No
Public-health measures	[CoronaVac/Sinovac vaccine against variants of concern] Coronavac/Sinovac vaccine may prevent symptomatic infection and severe disease from the Delta variant of concern	Update to living rapid review	2021-12-01	7/9	No
Public-health measures	[Covaxin vaccine against variants of concern] Covaxin/BBV152 vaccine may provide protection against symptomatic infection due to the Delta variant of concern	Update to living rapid review	2021-12-01	7/9	No
Public-health measures	[Johnson & Johnson against variants of concern] Johnson & Johnson/AD26.COV2.S vaccine may prevent infection (including symptomatic infection	Update to living rapid review	2021-12-01	7/9	No

	and death from the Delta variant of concern (other variants are also included in the report)				
Public-health measures	[Moderna against variants of concern] Moderna/Spikevax vaccine may prevent infection (including symptomatic infection), severe disease, death and transmission from the Delta variant of concern (other variants are also included in the report)	Update to living rapid review	2021-12-01	7/9	No
Public-health measures	[Novavax against variants of concern] No studies have been identified evaluating Novavax/NVX-Co2373 vaccine against the Delta variant of concern	Update to living rapid review	2021-12-01	7/9	No
Public-health measures	[Oxford/AstraZeneca against variants of concern] Oxford/AstraZeneca/ Vaxzevria vaccine may prevent symptomatic infection and death, while it may provide limited protection from transmission of the Delta variant of concern (other variants are also included in the report)	Update to living rapid review	2021-12-01	7/9	No
Public-health measures	Vaccination in individuals who had a prior COVID-19 infection probably results in a stronger humoral response (e.g., binding and neutralizing antibodies) compared to those with no prior infection; vaccination in individuals with previous COVID-19 infection may slightly reduce the risk of infection compared to those without previous infection	Update to living rapid review	2021-10-06	9/10	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	Whereas there is a wide range of symptoms of long COVID the most commons seem to be fatigue, weakness, general malaise, breathlessness and concentration impairment [Review of studies of mainly low or moderate quality with important heterogeneity among their findings]	Newly added living review	2021-03-17	8/11	No
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	The prevalence of acute myocardial injury in patients with COVID-19 has been estimated to be 22%, whereas history of smoking, acute coronary disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and hypertension were key predictors of COVID-19 myocardial injury [Review of studies of mainly moderate quality with important heterogeneity among their findings]	Newly added full review	2021-05-01	8/11	No
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	Some evidence suggests that convalescent plasma therapy may be effective at treating COVID-19 when provided early, whereas using a high-antibody titer would not increase its effectiveness [Review of randomized and observational studies of variable quality with some heterogeneity among their findings]	Newly added full review	2021-03-31	9/11	No
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	Older adults seem to have experienced social isolation, loneliness, and a decrease in quality of life, which appears to have a connection with restrictions imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic [Review of studies on unclear quality]	Newly added full review	2021-03-01	4/9	No
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	Subacute thyroiditis may be produced by direct viral injury and post-inflammatory reaction due to COVID-19 infection [Review of studies on unclear quality]	Newly added full review	2021-02-03	4/9	No
Clinical management of COVID-19 and	Evidence suggests that the COVID-19 pandemic might have negatively affected health-related	Newly added full review	2021-02-01	6/10	No

pandemic-related health issues	quality of life among adolescents and children [Review of studies of mainly moderate quality]				
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	Although the incidence of COVID-19 related multisystem inflammatory syndrome (MIS-C) in children has been reported as low, these patients could present a high rate of severity [Review of studies of mainly moderate quality with important heterogeneity among their findings]	Newly added full review	2021-01-15	9/11	No
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	Although only case reports have been found to date, a bimodal pattern of the acute pancreatitis onset after COVID-19 infection has been found, supporting both the cytotoxic and the immune-related pathogenesis [Review of studies of mainly low quality]	Newly added full review	2021-01-01	5/10	No
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[REGEN-COV] REGEN-COV (casirimab + imdevimab) may not increase serious adverse events, while its effects on other outcomes are uncertain	Update to living review	2021-12-10	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Sarilumab] Using sarilumab for hospitalized COVID-19 patients may slightly reduce mortality at 28 days, it may make little or no difference in clinical improvement and may not have an effect on disease progression; it may also slightly increase adverse events	Update to living review	2021-12-10	10/11	Yes
Health-system arrangements	Several different mass-vaccination strategies against COVID-19 have been identified across different countries [Review of studies of unclear quality]	Newly added rapid review	2021-03-01	5/9	No
Economic and social responses	The prevalence of depression and anxiety during the COVID-19 pandemic among college students has been estimated to be 39% and 36% respectively, which varies depending on country and date [Review of studies with important heterogeneity among their findings]	Newly added full review	2020-10-01	9/11	No