

Global spotlight 14.1: Key additions for the first half of February 2022



There are three newly added syntheses and two updates to living evidence syntheses that are already included in the public-health measures parts of the COVID-END inventory of 'best' evidence syntheses*, four newly added syntheses in the clinical management parts of the inventory, two newly added syntheses 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	Evidence shows that black and Hispanic individuals are more affected in cases, hospitalizations and deaths, compared to white individuals [Review of studies on unknown quality with important heterogeneity among their findings]	Newly added full review	2021-04-15	9/11	No
Public-health measures	A significant association has been found between influenza vaccination and reduced SARS-CoV-2 infection rate, while no evidence was found regarding the association of influenza vaccination with COVID-19 clinical outcomes [Review of studies of mainly low quality]	Newly added full review	2021-03-10	8/11	No
Public-health measures	Evidence from studying patients with hemoglobinopathies suggests that, compared to the general population, patients with sickle-cell disease have higher COVID-19 infection rates [Review of studies of important heterogeneity among some of their findings]	Newly added full review	2021-01-16	8/11	No
Public-health measures	[BioNTech/Pfizer against variants of concern] BioNTech/Pfizer vaccine probably prevents symptomatic infection from the Alpha, Beta Gamma and Delta variants of concern, it probably prevents severe disease, death, and transmission from the Alpha variant of concern, whereas it may prevent symptomatic infection from the Gamma variant of concern, and it may prevent death from the Delta variant of concern	Update to living rapid review	2021-09-22	7/9	No
Public-health measures	[CoronaVac/Sinovac vaccine against variants of concern] Coronavac/Sinovac vaccine may prevent infection from the Delta and Gamma variants of concern, while it may prevent severe infection from the Delta variant of concern	Update to living rapid review	2021-09-22	7/9	No

Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	Steroids with nasal irrigation is the only treatment that has been studied to treat persistent post-COVID-19 olfactory dysfunction; its effects are currently uncertain	Newly added living review	2020-12-16	10/10	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	Patients with COVID-19-associated mucormycosis have been found to have an underlying history of diabetes and received corticosteroids as part of their COVID-19 management, and a higher mortality was reported among them [Review of mainly case reports]	Newly added full review	2021-05-14	5/10	No
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	Evidence suggests that 4% of patients with multiple sclerosis have had COVID-19 infection, and 10% of those infected have been hospitalized [Review of studies of mainly moderate quality with important heterogeneity among their findings]	Newly added full review	2021-04-01	6/11	No
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	Tracheostomy has been associated with reduced mortality and shortened ICU stay among COVID-19 patients [Review of studies of variable quality with important heterogeneity among some of their findings]	Newly added full review	2021-03-04	5/11	No
Health-system arrangements	A moderate to severe disruption of neurological services has been described during the COVID-19 pandemic, while telemedicine has been the most frequently mentioned strategy to address these disruptions [Review of studies of unclear quality]	Newly added full review	2021-02-28	4/9	No
Health-system arrangements	The COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted the health and well-being of informal caregivers of people with dementia, with anxiety and depression being particularly prevalent [Review of studies of unclear quality]	Newly added rapid review	2021-03-15	5/9	No
Economic and social responses	The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on employment and work-related aspects may substantially vary by age [Review of studies of unclear quality]	Newly added rapid review	2021-04-01	5/9	No