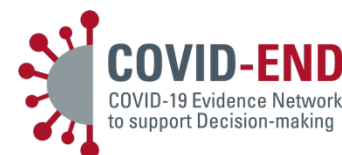


Global spotlight 7.1: Key additions for the first half of July 2021



There are five newly added evidence 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*, nine newly added evidence syntheses and 13 updates to living evidence syntheses that are already included in the clinical management parts of the inventory, and three newly added evidence syntheses 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 prolonged PCR positivity may lead to a higher presence of IgG antibodies, which could indicate that milder infections do not initiate a strong immune response; age, sex, BMI and length of stay were not associated with an increased risk of repeated positivity [Review of studies of unknown quality and important heterogeneity among their findings]	Newly added full review	2021-04-05	8/11	No
Public-health measures	A variety of machine learning and deep learning techniques have been used to detect COVID-19 using X-rays, CT images, RT-PCR and clinical blood data showing promising early diagnostic accuracy [Review of studies of unknown quality]	Newly added full review	2021-03-16	5/10	No
Public-health measures	Evidence suggests that non-pharmaceutical interventions for reducing COVID-19 appear to be more effective when used as a combination of multiple measures (social distancing, isolation and quarantine, and workplace distancing); a number of major enablers and barriers that impact the effectiveness of these interventions have been identified [Review of observational studies mainly of low quality]	Newly added full review	2021-03-12	6/9	No
Public-health measures	A review exploring factors influencing the efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines found that type of the vaccine technology (e.g., mRNA versus adenovirus), age, sex and the infection rate in the population did not influence vaccine efficacy	Newly added full review	2021-02-08	8/11	No
Public-health measures	[CT scan] CT scan assisted by artificial intelligence algorithms has shown to have a 90% pooled sensitivity and specificity [Review of studies of unknown quality and heterogeneity among their findings]	Newly added full review	2021-01-01	6/11	No
Public-health measures	[BioNTech/Fosun Pharma/Pfizer vaccine (age-group analysis available)] Compared to placebo, vaccination with BNT162b2 probably reduces the incidence of symptomatic cases of COVID-19 substantially, although there remains uncertainty	Update to living review	2021-07-09	10/11	Yes

	about the effect on mortality or severe disease, and the incidence of adverse events				
Public-health measures	[Novavax vaccine] The effects of vaccination against COVID-19 with the Novavax vaccine are currently uncertain; it probably slightly increase the risk of any adverse events	Update to living review	2021-07-09	10/11	Yes
Public-health measures	The risk of re-infection has found to be relatively low for at least ten months post-infection, whereas immune memory responding to SARS-CoV-2 infection has been found up to nine months post infection; important uncertainty exists about the role that natural infection and vaccination might play in the context of variants of concern [Review of studies of low to moderate quality]	Update to living review	2021-05-04	5/9	No
Public-health measures	[BioNTech/Pfizer against variants of concern] BioNTech/Pfizer vaccine probably prevents infection from the Alpha, Beta Gamma and Delta VOCs, and probably prevents severe disease from the Alpha VOC	Update to living rapid review	2021-07-07	7/9	No
Public-health measures	[Johnson & Johnson against variants of concern] Johnson & Johnson vaccine probably prevents infection from the Beta VOC	Update to living rapid review	2021-07-07	7/9	No
Public-health measures	[Moderna against variants of concern] Moderna vaccine probably prevents infection from the Alpha VOC, and it may prevent infection from the Beta and Gamma VOCs	Update to living rapid review	2021-07-07	7/9	No
Public-health measures	[Moderna against variants of concern] One dose of Moderna vaccine may prevent symptomatic infection from the Delta VOC	Update to living rapid review	2021-07-07	7/9	No
Public-health measures	[Novavax against variants of concern] Novavax vaccine probably prevents infection from the Alpha VOC, and it may prevent infection from the Beta VOC	Update to living rapid review	2021-07-07	7/9	No
Public-health measures	[Oxford/AstraZeneca against variants of concern] Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine probably prevents infection from the Alpha and Delta VOCs, and it probably does not substantially prevent infection from the Beta VOC	Update to living rapid review	2021-07-07	7/9	No
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	Variable estimates of pulmonary aspergillosis incidence among critically ill COVID-19 patients in the ICU have been reported (pool estimate 10%) [Review of studies of unknown quality and important heterogeneity among their findings]	Newly added full review	2021-04-04	4/11	No
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	The prevalence of COVID-19 among people living with HIV/AIDS could range from 0.8 to 9.7%, while chronic kidney disease, diabetes, hypertension and chronic cardiac disease have been identified as factors explaining worse prognosis among these patients [Review of studies of low to moderate quality with important heterogeneity among their findings]	Newly added full review	2021-03-09	7/11	No
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	While neuropsychiatric symptoms are common after recovery from COVID-19, sleep disorders and fatigue are the most frequent (25% of the patients), followed by cognitive impairment, anxiety, post-traumatic symptoms, and depression [Review of studies of low to moderate quality with important heterogeneity among their findings]	Newly added full review	2021-02-20	8/11	No

Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	Chinese herbal medicine has benefits for reducing the rate of COVID-19 aggravation, but it may not have an effect on gastrointestinal symptoms and liver function	Newly added full review	2021-02-09	9/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	Co-infection with other pathogens has been estimated in 19% of the patients with COVID-19 infection, while 24% of them had superinfection [Review of studies of moderate quality with important heterogeneity among their findings]	Newly added full review	2021-02-08	8/11	No
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	Subacute thyroiditis may be present as a symptom during or after COVID-19 infection, which could be facilitated by direct viral injury and post-viral inflammatory reaction [Review of mainly case series of unknown quality]	Newly added full review	2021-02-03	4/9	No
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	A highly variable frequency of long COVID-19 symptoms has been found, whereas the most common persistent symptoms are chest pain, fatigue, dyspnea, cough and sputum production	Newly added full review	2021-02-01	9/10	No
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	Patients who are male, obese, older, and have a history of smoking face higher risk of developing severe COVID-19; comorbidities that also explain a worse prognosis are hypertension, diabetes, chronic kidney disease, coronary heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cerebrovascular disease and chronic liver disease [Review of studies of moderate quality and heterogeneity among their findings]	Newly added full review	2021-02-01	8/11	No
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	The occurrence of hearing loss, tinnitus, and dizziness have been associated with COVID-19 infection [Review of studies on low to moderate quality with important heterogeneity among their findings]	Newly added full review	2021-01-01	7/11	No
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Azithromycin + hydroxychloroquine] In hospitalized COVID-19 patients, azithromycin + hydroxychloroquine may not have an effect on clinical improvement and disease progression, while it may lead to an increase in adverse events	Update to living review	2021-07-09	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Hydroxychloroquine] Hydroxychloroquine may not reduce mortality in mild and hospitalized patients, probably does not have an important effect on viral negative conversion (among mild outpatients), clinical improvement and disease progression (among hospitalized patients); it probably increases the risk of adverse events in hospitalized patients	Update to living review	2021-07-09	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	In hospitalized patients, adding convalescent plasma to standard care probably does not have an effect on mortality at 28 days and clinical improvement, while it may make little or no difference in disease progression and it may slightly reduce mortality at 60 days; it may not increase serious adverse events, and it probably slightly increases the frequency of any adverse event	Update to living review	2021-07-09	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Ivermectin] Adding ivermectin to standard care may have no effect on clinical improvement in mild outpatients or hospitalized patients, and it probably does not increase the risk of adverse events; in mild outpatients, it may not have an	Update to living review	2021-07-09	10/11	Yes

	effect on mortality at 28 days, while the effects on other outcomes are uncertain				
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Remdesivir] in hospitalized COVID-19 patients, remdesivir probably reduces disease progression, probably makes little or no difference in mortality and it may increase clinical improvement; it probably does not increase the incidence of adverse events	Update to living review	2021-07-09	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	Among the 122 therapeutic options that have been studied in clinical trials, evidence shows that steroids, tocilizumab REGEN-CoV, sotrovimab and baricitinib are the only alternatives that may have an effect on mortality and other clinical outcomes among COVID-19 patients; remdesivir may improve time to symptom resolution, but its effects on other outcomes may be of small relevance, whereas more evidence is needed to confirm the early effects shown by colchicine, lenzilumab, tofacitinib and stem cells	Update to living rapid review	2021-06-22	7/10	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Bamlanivimab] Using bamlanivimab probably does not have an important effect on time to symptom resolution, and its effects on other outcomes are uncertain	Update to living rapid review	2021-06-22	7/10	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Bamlinivimab] Bamlinivimab probably decreases the incidence of symptomatic infection among exposed individuals	Update to living rapid review	2021-06-22	7/10	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Sotrovimab] In patients with mild COVID-19 patients, sotrovimab probably reduces hospitalization and improves time to symptom resolution without increasing severe adverse events	Update to living rapid review	2021-06-22	7/10	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Tofacitinib] Tofacitinib may increase symptom resolution or improvement, while it may increase severe adverse events in hospitalized and severe COVID-19 patients	Update to living rapid review	2021-06-22	7/10	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Stem cells] Mesenchymal stem cells transplantation may reduce mortality in severe to critical COVID-19 patients	Update to living rapid review	2021-06-18	7/10	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	Using intermediate or full dose of prophylactic anticoagulation probably does not have a difference in mortality	Update to living rapid review	2021-06-18	7/10	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	While age is the most important prognostic factor for estimating the likelihood of hospitalization, severe disease or death among COVID-19 patients, most comorbidities, male sex, non-white ethnicity and deprivation are also important	Update to living rapid review	2021-03-31	4/10	No
Economic and social responses	Estimates of the prevalence of household food insecurity in North America as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic are currently uncertain	Newly added living rapid review	2021-05-05	8/9	Yes
Economic and social responses	Evidence suggests that non-pharmaceutical interventions for reducing COVID-19 appear to be more effective when used as a combination of multiple measures (social distancing, isolation and quarantine, and workplace distancing); a number of major enablers and barriers that impact the effectiveness of these interventions have been	Newly added full review	2021-03-12	6/9	No

	identified [Review of observational studies mainly of low quality]				
Economic and social responses	Estimates of the prevalence of anxiety among teachers during the COVID-19 pandemic range from 10% to 50%, while depression ranges from 16% to 29% [Review of studies of unknown quality]	Newly added full review	2021-01-01	6/10	No