Weekly Evidence Report

Health Technology Assessment Philippines

11 to 17 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 11 to 17 September 2021. The HTA Unit reviewed a total of 12 studies for the said period.

Evidence includes 3 studies on Epidemiology; 1 study on Transmission; 2 studies on Drugs; 4 studies on Vaccines, no study on Equipment and Devices; no study on Medical and Surgical Procedures; 1 study on Traditional Medicine; and 1 study on Preventive & Promotive Health.

The following report notes that 1 study has not been peer-reviewed, highlighted accordingly.

Sections

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
14 September 2021	WHO Global	Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) External Situation Report	WHO Global (Situation Report)	• With nearly 4 million new cases reported globally in the past week (6-12 September), this represents the first • substantial decline in weekly cases in more than two months. All regions reported declines in new cases as compared to the previous week. • The number of deaths reported globally in the past week also decreased as compared to previous week, with just over 62 000 new deaths. The numbers of deaths reported in the European and the Western Pacific Regions were similar to last week. The cumulative number of cases reported globally is now over 224 million and the cumulative number of deaths is just over 4.6 million. • Globally, the Delta variant, since it was first reported in October 2020, it has been reported in 180 (six new countries since last week) countries across all six WHO regions as of 14 September.
14 September 2021	WHO Western Pacific Region	Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) External Situation Report	WHO WPRO (External Situation Report)	• In the Western Pacific Region, a total of 490 721 cases with 6 879 deaths were reported, for a cumulative 7 644 719 cases with 103 793 deaths (proportion of fatal cases (PFC) 1.4%). • 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.
17 September 2021	European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)	Weekly COVID-19 Surveillance Report	ECDC Data Set	• At the end of week 36 (week ending Sunday 12 September 2021), the overall epidemiological situation in the European Union and European Economic Area (EU/EEA) was characterised by a high, slowly decreasing overall case notification rate and a low, stable death rate, with these trends forecast to continue over the next two weeks. Hospitalisations and ICU admissions are forecast to remain stable. • The estimated distribution (median and range of values from 16 countries for weeks 34 to 35, 23 August to 5 September 2021) of variants of concern (VOC) was 99.4% (71.0–100.0%) for B.1.617.2 (Delta), 0.0% (0.0–0.7%) for P.1 (Gamma) and 0.0% (0.0–0.3%) for B.1.351 (Beta). The distribution was 0.1% (0.0–13.7%) for B.1.1.7 (Alpha), which has been downgraded from the list of VOCs.

Evidence on Vulnerable Population Epidemiology

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
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Evidence on Transmission

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
13 September 2021	Martins et al.	Clinical overview for pediatric population with SARS-CoV-2 and care: review - PubMed (nih.gov)	Rev. Gaúcha Enferm / Scoping Review	The most frequent clinical overview was respiratory, gastrointestinal symptoms and fever. The images showed irregular frosted glass opacification. It is recommended to screen the pediatric population and family members who show signs and symptoms and to adopt isolation for more than fourteen days. The clinical overview in pediatric population is varied, not exclusively with respiratory symptoms, and a significant number of asymptomatic patients. The importance of new investigations is highlighted, such as randomized clinical trial or cohort studies, identifying their participation in the transmission of COVID-19.

Evidence on Drugs

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
15 September 2021	(Young and Spry, 2021) CADTH	CADTH Health Technology Review: Sotrovimab for the Treatment of COVID-19	Rapid Review	• No relevant evidence found regarding the clinical effectiveness of sotrovimab for the treatment of individuals with confirmed COVID-19 infection. • One pre-print from an interim analysis from an ongoing RCT of early treatment of non-hospitalized patients was excluded in their review.
15 September 2021	Yadav et al, 2021	Reviews of "SARS-CoV-2 variant B.1.617 is resistant to Bamlanivimab and evades antibodies induced by infection and vaccination"	Evidence Appraisal	The pre-print on Bamlanivimab against B.1.617 claims that the B.1.617 variant displays resistance to Bamlanivimab and a higher degree of immune escape to antibodies induced by either vaccination or prior infection. Reviewers found it timely but in need of minor revisions to make it more specific to B.1.617.2.

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-jd66qIlxnUkfzXWKqiD0mkVvqy_VvJ?pli=1

Evidence on Vaccines (cont.)

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
13 September 2021	White et. al, 2021 National Health Library and Knowledge Service Evidence (Ireland) (NHLKS)	How safe and effective are COVID 19 vaccines in adolescents, and what is the uptake of COVID 19 vaccines in adolescents?	NHLKS Evidence Summary	• Authorization of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for adolescents is based on an ongoing clinical trial that reports 100% vaccine efficacy against SARS-CoV-2 infection from 7 days after the second dose, and immunogenicity and adverse effect profiles comparable to those in the adult population. No vaccine-related severe adverse events have been observed. • Cases of myocarditis and pericarditis following mRNA vaccination in children and adolescents are rare and typically resolve rapidly. • Based on cross-sectional studies in Canada, Israel and Italy, intention to vaccinate children and adolescents against COVID-19 is high (~80%-90%). Obtaining reliable information about adolescent COVID-19 vaccine safety and efficacy, and having parents or guardians who have been vaccinated are among the factors that increase vaccination intent among both parents and adolescents. Parents inclined not to vaccinate indicate short development time and possible long-term effects as dissuading factors
14 September 2021	Boonyawat et al, 2021	Reviews of "Anti-PF4 levels of patients with VITT do not reduce 4 months following AZD1222 vaccination"	Evidence Appraisal	• This recently published paper claims that, although anti-PF4 antibody levels remain high in VITT patients months after follow-up, it is not associated with increased platelet activation Reviewers found it timely and reliable but in need of minor revisions on its methodology and discussion.
15 September 2021	Caple et al, 2021	Interrogating COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy in the Philippines with a Nationwide Open-Access Online Survey	medRxiv / Vaccine Acceptability Study	• A majority of 7,193 respondents (62.5%) indicated that they were willing to be vaccinated against COVID19. Perceptions of high susceptibility, high severity, and significant benefits were all good predictors for vaccination intent. • Large majorities of our respondents would only receive the COVID-19 vaccines after many others had received it (72.8%) or after politicians had received it (68.2%). • Most (21%) were willing to pay an amount of PHP1,000 [USD20] for the COVID-19 vaccines with an average willing-to-pay amount of PHP1,892 [USD38].

Note. Studies that have not been peer-reviewed are highlighted in red.

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Evidence on Vaccines (cont.)

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
16 September 2021	COVID-19 Critical Intelligence Unit, Agency for Clinical Innovation	COVID-19 vaccines and fertility	Evidence in brief	• The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation recommend that - pregnant women are routinely offered Pfizer mRNA vaccine (Cominarty) at any stage of pregnancy - pregnant women are encouraged to discuss the decision in relation to the timing of vaccination with their health professional - women who are trying to become pregnant do not need to delay vaccination or avoid becoming pregnant after vaccination. • There is no evidence to suggest COVID-19 vaccines affect fertility. • Observational studies have found that - COVID-19 vaccines did not affect patients' performance or ovarian reserve in couples undergoing IVF - in men, there are no significant decreases in any sperm parameters, compared with people who weren't vaccinated.

Evidence on Equipment & Devices

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

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Evidence on Traditional Medicine

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
16 September 2021	Wang et al (2021)	Chinese herbal medicine ("3 medicines and 3 formulations") for COVID-19: rapid systematic review and meta-analysis - PubMed (nih.gov)	Journal of Evaluation in Clinical Practice / Rapid Systematic Review and Meta-analysis	Of 607 articles identified, 13 primary studies (6 RCTs and 7 retrospective non-randomized comparative studies) with 1467 participants met our final inclusion criteria. Studies were small and had significant methodological limitations, most notably potential bias in assessment of outcomes. No study convincingly demonstrated a statistically significant impact on change in disease severity. Eight studies reported sufficiently similar secondary outcomes to be included in a meta-analysis. Some statistically significant impacts on symptoms, chest CT manifestations, laboratory variables and length of stay were demonstrated, but such findings were sparse and many remain unreplicated.

Evidence on Preventive & Promotive Health

Evidence on Screening

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
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Evidence on Personal Measures

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Evidence on Preventive & Promotive Health

Evidence on Community Measures

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
17 September 2021	COVID-19 Critical Intelligence Unit, Agency for Center Innvoation	Furloughing staff following exposure to COVID-19	Evidence Summary	• Recommendations for quarantine have been made throughout the course of the pandemic for people who have COVID-19, have either been exposed or potentially exposed to COVID-19 and those who have travelled. Recommendations are generally based on a risk assessment which considers exposure type and, more recently, vaccination status. • Workforce reconfigurations, such as splitting teams, have been described for a range of specialties in order to minimise staff exposure. • This evidence brief focuses on furloughing (leave of absence from work) and self-isolation of healthcare workers following exposure to COVID-19 and the implications for staffing levels. It is based on small descriptive studies and recommendations from healthcare organisations.