Weekly Evidence Report

Health Technology Assessment Philippines

14 to 20 August 2021

Overview

The following report presents summaries of evidence the Department of Health (DOH) - Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Unit reviewed for the period of 14 to 20 August 2021. The HTA Unit reviewed a total of 18 studies, articles, and guidances for the said period.

Evidence includes 3 studies on Epidemiology; 1 study on Transmission; 2 studies on Drugs; 1 guideline and 2 studies on Vaccines, 2 study on Equipment and Devices; 0 study on Medical and Surgical Procedures; 1 studies on Traditional Medicine; and 5 recommendations/ guidance documents on Preventive & Promotive Health.

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
17 August 2021	WHO Global	Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiological Update	WHO Global (Situation Report)	• The global number of new cases has been increasing for the last 2 months with over 4.4 million cases reported in the past week (9 – 15 August 2021), bringing the cumulative number of globally to cases to over 206 million. • The cumulative number of cases reported globally is now over 206 million and the cumulative number of deaths is almost 4.4 million. • Cases of the Alpha variant have been reported in 190 countries, territories or areas, while 138 countries have reported cases of the Beta variant; 82 countries have reported cases of the Gamma variant; and 148 countries have reported cases of the Delta variant
			WHO Global (Situation Report) – *Regional Updates*	• All regions except the Western Pacific and the Eastern Mediterranean Regions reported similar or a decrease in the number of deaths this week as compared to the previous week. • The regions with the highest weekly incidence rates of cases and deaths per 100 000 population remain the same as last week: the Region of the Americas and the European Region reported the highest weekly case (147.4 and 121.6 new cases per 100 000 population, respectively), and death incidence (2.0 and 1.1 new deaths per 100 000 population, respectively).
19 August 2021	European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)	Weekly COVID-19 Surveillance Report	ECDC Data Set	• At the end of week 32 (week ending 15 August), the overall COVID-19 case notification rate for the European Union and European Economic Area (EU/EEA) was 205.1 per 100 000 population (209.2 the previous week). This rate has been stable for two weeks. • Among the 13 countries with an adequate sequencing volume in this period, the median (range) of the VOC reported in all samples sequenced was 97.2% (86.3–99.2%) for B.1.617.2 (Delta), 1.5% (0.6–3.6%) for B.1.1.7 (Alpha), 0.1% (0.0–1.0%) for P.1 (Gamma), 0.0% (0.0–0.3%) for B.1.1.7+E484K and 0.0% (0.0–0.2%) for B.1.351 (Beta).

Evidence on Vulnerable Population Epidemiology

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
18 August 2021	Panchal, U., et al.	The impact of COVID-19 lockdown on child and adolescent mental health: systematic review	*European Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*/ Systematic review	• 61 articles with 54,999 children and adolescents were included. Anxiety symptoms and depression symptoms were common in the included studies and ranged 1.8-49.5% and 2.2-63.8%, respectively. • Irritability (range = 16.7-73.2%) and anger (range = 30.0-51.3%), were also frequently reported by children and adolescents.

Evidence on Transmission

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
15 August 2021	Chen, B., et al.	Biocide-tolerance and antibiotic-resistance in community environments and risk of direct transfers to humans: Unintended consequences of community-wide surface disinfecting during COVID-19?	*Environmental Pollution*	• Regular chemical disinfecting on common touch surfaces advised by regulatory bodies. Constant selective pressure on microbes may exacerbate antimicrobial resistance. • The community and public settings are most severely impacted by intensive and regular chemical disinfecting during COVID-19 and, due to their proximity to humans, biocide-tolerant and antibiotic-resistant bacteria emerged in these environments may pose risks of direct transfers to humans, particularly in densely populated urban communities.

Evidence on Drugs

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
18 August 2021	Esposti, L.D., et al.	The Use of Oral Amino-Bisphosphonates and COVID-19 Outcomes	*Journal of Bone and Mineral research* / Observational study	• Administrative ICD-9-CM and ATC data, representative of Italian population were analyzed. • Incidence of Covid-19 hospitalization was 12.32 [95%CI 9.61–15.04] and 11.55 [95%CI 8.91–14.20], of ICU utilization due to COVID-19 was 1.25 [95%CI 0.38–2.11] and 1.42 [95%CI 0.49–2.36] and of all-cause death was 4.06 [95%CI 2.50–5.61] and 3.96 [95%CI 2.41–5.51] for oral N-BPs users and non-users, respectively. • Results do not support the hypothesis that oral N-BPs can prevent COVID-19 infection and/or severe COVID-19; however, they do not seem to increase the risk..

Evidence on Drugs (cont.)

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
17 August 2021	Langela, V., et al.	Edoxaban for the treatment of pulmonary embolism in hospitalized COVID-19 patients	*Expert review of Clinical Pharmacology*/ Observational study	• Patients with pulmonary embolism (PE) resolution (84%) were younger (*P = 0.03*), had a shorter duration of fondaparinux therapy (9.9 ± 3.8 vs 15.8 ± 7.5 days; *P = 0.0015)* and length of hospitalization (36 ± 8 vs 46 ± 9 days: P = *0.0023)* compared with those without PE resolution. • Edoxaban was an effective and safe treatment for acute PE in COVID-19 setting.

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-jd66qIIxnUkfzXWKqiD0mkVvqy_VvJ?pli=1

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
19 August 2021	US CDC	Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People	Updated National Guidelines	• Updated information for fully vaccinated people given new evidence on the B.1.617.2 (Delta) variant currently circulating in the United States. • Added a recommendation for fully vaccinated people to wear a mask - in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission. - regardless of the level of transmission, particularly if they are immunocompromised or at increased risk for severe disease from COVID-19, or if they have someone in their household who is immunocompromised, at increased risk of severe disease or not fully vaccinated.

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Evidence on Vaccines (cont.)

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
19 August 2021	US CDC	Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People *(continuation)*	Updated National Guidelines	• Added a recommendation for fully vaccinated people who have come into close contact with someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 to be tested 3-5 days after exposure, and to wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result. • CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to schools, regardless of vaccination status.
16 August 2021	Debes, A.K., et al	Association of Vaccine Type and Prior SARS-CoV-2 Infection With Symptoms and Antibody Measurements Following Vaccination Among Health Care Workers	*JAMA Internal Medicine*/ Research Letter	• Nearly 100% of HCWs in this study mounted a strong antibody response to the spike protein after dose 2 of the SARS-CoV-2 mRNA vaccine independent of vaccine-induced reactions. • Spike IgG antibody measurements were higher in HWs who received the Moderna vaccine, had prior SARS-CoV-2 infection, and reported clinically significant reactions. • Overall, the findings suggest that regardless of vaccine reactions or prior SARS-CoV-2 infection, either spike mRNA vaccine will provide a robust spike antibody response.
17 August 2021	Kachikis, A., et al.	Short-term Reactions Among Pregnant and Lactating Individuals in the First Wave of the COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout	*JAMA Network Open*/ Research Letter	• Among pregnant participants, any obstetrical symptoms were reported by 346 of 7809 individuals (4.4%) after the first dose and 484 of 6444 individuals (7.5%) after the second dose. • All groups reported increased reactions following dose 2 of BNT162b2 and mRNA-1273 vaccines • This large prospective cohort study found that COVID-19 vaccines were well-tolerated among individuals who were pregnant, lactating, or planning pregnancy.

Evidence on Medical and Surgical Procedures

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
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Evidence on Equipment & Devices

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
15 August 2021	Gniazdowski, B., et al.	Repeated Coronavirus Disease 2019 Molecular Testing: Correlation of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 Culture With Molecular Assays and Cycle Thresholds	*Clinical Infectious Diseases* / Observational study	• Virus recovery in cell culture was noted in specimens with a mean Ct value of 18.8 (3.4) for SARS-CoV-2 target genes. Prolonged viral RNA shedding was associated with positive virus growth in culture in specimens collected up to 21 days after the first positive result but mostly in individuals symptomatic at the time of sample collection. Whole-genome sequencing provided evidence the same virus was carried over time. • Low Ct values in SARS-CoV-2 diagnostic tests were associated with virus growth in cell culture. Symptomatic patients with prolonged viral RNA shedding can also be infectious.
16 August 2021	Fujimoto, A.B., et al.	Significance of SARS-CoV-2 specific antibody testing during COVID-19 vaccine allocation	*Vaccine*/ Modelling study	• An extended susceptible-infected-recovered (SIR) compartmental model was used to simulate COVID-19 spread when considering diagnosis, isolation, and vaccination of a cohort of 1 million individuals. • The use of antibody testing to prioritize the allocation of limited vaccines reduces infection attack rates and deaths. The largest percentage reduction in cases and deaths occurs when the vaccine is deployed before and close to the infection peak day. The reduction in the number of cases and deaths diminishes as vaccine deployment is delayed.

Evidence on Traditional Medicine

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
15 August 2021	Koshak, A.E., et al.	Nigella sativa for the treatment of COVID-19: an open-label randomized controlled clinical trial	*Complementary Therapies in Medicine* / Randomized Controlled Trial	• The percentage of recovered patients in *Nigella sativa* oil (NSO) group (54[62%]) was significantly higher than that in the control group (31[36%]; p = 0.001). The mean duration to recovery was also shorterforpatientsreceivingNSO(10.7±3.2 days) compared with the control group (12.3 ± 2.8 days); p = 0.001. • NSO supplementation was associated with faster recovery of symptoms than usual care alone for patients with mild COVID-19 infection.

Evidence on Preventive & Promotive Health

Evidence on Screening

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

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
19 August 2021	US CDC	Breastfeeding and Caring for Newborns if You Have COVID-19	Guidance and Recommendations	• Pregnant and recently pregnant people are more likely to get severely ill from COVID-19 compared with nonpregnant people. Pregnant people with COVID-19 are also more likely to give birth early. • Most newborns of people who had COVID-19 during pregnancy do not have COVID-19 when they are born. • Some newborns have tested positive for COVID-19 shortly after birth. We don't know if these newborns got the virus before, during, or after birth. • Most newborns who tested positive for COVID-19 had mild or no symptoms and recovered. Reports say some newborns developed severe COVID-19 illness.

Evidence on Community Measures

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
17 August 2021	Public Health England	Coronavirus (COVID-19): admission and care of people in care homes	Guidance	• Updated to provide the latest guidance on isolation for admissions of residents from interim care facilities, hospitals and the community. • Residents will no longer be advised to self-isolate if they are fully vaccinated, subject to them satisfying the requirements set out in the guidance below. • Updated advice on self-isolation for staff who have come into close contact with a resident who is a confirmed or possible case of COVID-19. • Additional information on self-isolation for staff returning from international travel.
17 August 2021	Public Health England	COVID-19: arranging or attending a funeral or commemorative event	Guidance	This guidance is for: • members of the public who may be attending a funeral or commemorative event • members of the public who may be involved in arranging a funeral or commemorative event • professionals who may be involved in arranging or managing a funeral or commemorative event
16 August 2021	Public Health England	Guidance for care of the deceased with suspected or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19)	Guidance	This guidance is designed for people who may be involved in managing the body of a deceased person during the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes deaths where COVID-19 infection was present.
16 August 2021	Public Health England	Preventing and controlling outbreaks of COVID-19 in prisons and places of detention	Guidance	The following establishments in England are included within the definition of PPDs used in this guidance: • prisons (both public and privately managed) • immigration removal centres (IRC) • children and young people's secure estate (CYPSE): ○ Young Offender Institutions (YOIs) ○ Secure Training Centres (STCs) ○ and Secure Children's Homes (SCHs)