

Weekly Evidence Report

Health Technology Assessment Philippines



21 to 27 November 2020

Overview

The following report presents summaries of evidence the Department of Health (DOH) - Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Unit reviewed for the period of 21 to 27 Nov 2020. The HTA Unit reviewed a total of 14 studies for the said period.

Evidence includes 4 studies on Epidemiology; 1 study on Transmission; 1 study on Drugs; 1 study on Vaccines, 2 studies on Equipment and Devices; 1 study on Medical and Surgical Procedures; 0 studies on Traditional Medicine; and 4 studies on Preventive & Promotive Health.

The following report notes that 3 studies have not been peer-reviewed, each highlighted accordingly.



Sections

Epidemiology

Transmission

Drugs

Vaccines

Equipment & Devices

Medical & Surgical Procedures

Traditional Medicine

Preventive & Promotive Health

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
24 Nov 2020	WHO	Weekly Epidemiological Update- 24 November 2020	WHO (Situation Report)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of 22 November, 57.8 million cases and .3 million deaths are reported since the pandemic began Europe is still the largest contributor but with downward trends compared to the Americas still with increased numbers for new cases and new deaths 36,000 new cases and 439 new deaths recorded in the Western Pacific Region. Japan, South Korea, Mongolia, and Australia notes increase in cases compared to other WPRO members. New cases in Japan was noted to come from high-density prefectures (Tokyo, Osaka, and Hokkaido) producing the largest number of daily cases
23 Nov 2020	ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center	Risk Assessment for International Dissemination of COVID-19 to the ASEAN Region As of November 23, 2020	ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center (Risk Assessment)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indonesia has plans of reopening schools for the remainder SY 2020-2021. It will release their interim results to the Indonesian Food and Drug Monitoring Agency (BPOM) from Sinovac's third phase by January 2021 India has high hopes in their locally-developed COVID-19 vaccine candidate expected to complete its final trial by December 2020 or January 2021 Travel bubbles are expected to be launched between Singapore and Hong Kong and among green zones in Malaysia.

Evidence on Vulnerable Population Epidemiology

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
24 Nov 2020	Bowles, et. al.	Surviving COVID-19 After Hospital Discharge: Symptom, Functional, and Adverse Outcomes of Home Health Recipients	Annals of Internal Medicine (Retrospective observational cohort)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,409 COVID-19 patients in home health care were included. Covariates and outcomes are gotten from the Outcome and Assessment Information Set (OASIS) and hazard ratios were estimated After 32 days, 94% of patients were discharged with significant improvements and decreased activity-of-daily-living dependencies Co-morbidities were seen to present more with higher risk for adverse events after surviving COVID-19
24 Nov 2020	Kwong, et.al.	Mental health before and during COVID-19 in two longitudinal UK population cohorts	British Journal of Psychology (Cohort Study)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two generations were included in this study. The first includes 2,850 participants with mean age of 28 and the second of 3,720 individuals with a mean age of 59 and an additional 4,233 participants with mean age of 59 Short Mood and Feelings Questionnaire, Patient Health Questionnaire, General Anxiety Disorder Assessment, and the Short Warwick Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale Depression was noted to be the same level as pre-pandemic for the younger generation with noted doubling in anxiety at 24% (95% CI, 23%-61%)

Evidence on Transmission

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
24 Nov 2020	Ray, et.al.	Association between ABO and Rh Blood Groups and SARS-CoV-2 Infection or Severe COVID-19 Illness	Annals of Internal Medicine (Cohort Study)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 225,556 individuals with a mean age of 54 years old in Ontario were included in the study. aRR of SARS-CoV-2 infection for O blood group compared to A, AB, and B groups were at 0.88 (95% CI, 0.84 to 0.92; ARD, -3.9 per 1000 [CI -5.4 to -2.5]) Rh- blood type was seen to have a protective factor with aRR 0.79 (95% CI, 0.73 to 0.85; ARD -6.8 per 1000 [CI -8.9 to -4.7]) O Blood group showed lower risk for severe illness compared to others with an aRR 0.87 (95% CI, 0.78 to 0.97); ARD -0.8 per 1000 [CI -1.4 to -0.2]

Evidence on Drugs

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
20 Nov 2020	WHO	Therapeutics and COVID-9: Living Guideline	WHO (Living Guideline)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A living guideline by the WHO on various therapeutics being studied An emphasis on Remdesivir in a section wherein the WHO provides a conditional recommendation of its use

Evidence on Vaccines

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
12 Nov 2020	Teerawattananon, et.al.	COVID Vaccination Logistics: five steps to take now	Nature (Commentary)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Considering pilot projects which can be done in small areas and could be done to test community engagement The WHO Pre-qualification programme is something to consider to address barriers to delay in the registration process for vaccines Establishing a national task force is needed to coordinate efforts Discourage bilateral negotiations to ensure equitable access Country collaboration is crucial to ensure success is measured correctly,

Evidence on Equipment & Devices

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
24 Nov 2020	Schwob, et.al.	<u>Antigen rapid tests, nasopharyngeal PCR, and saliva PCR to detect SARS-CoV-2: a prospective comparative clinical trial</u>	MedRxiv (Prospective comparative clinical trial)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 928 out of 949 patients were introduced the three tests. Detection rates were as follows: 35.2% (95%CI 32.2-38.4%) by RDT, 39.8% (36.6-43.0%) by saliva PCR, 40.1% (36.9-43.3%) by NP PCR, and 41.5% (38.3-44.7%) by any test. Sensitivity of RDT compared to NP PCR was 87.4% (83.6-90.6%) for all positive patients and 96.5% (93.6-98.3%) for those with VL\geq106 and Specificity of RDT was 100% (99.3-100%) compared to any PCR. RDT sensitivity was similar <4 days (87.8%) and \geq4 days (85.7%) after symptoms onset (p=0.6). Sensitivities of saliva and NP PCR were 95.7% (93.1-97.5%) and 96.5% (94.1-98.1%), respectively, compared to the other PCR.
24 Nov 2020	Sahaipal, et.al.	<u>SalivaSTAT: Direct-PCR and pooling of saliva samples collected in healthcare and community setting for SARS-CoV-2 nass surveillance</u>	MedRxiv (Experimental Study)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A SalivaSTAT protocol was utilized to reassess 872 saliva samples previously tested using the FDA-EUA method 630 saliva samples used the SalivaSTAT protocol with 600 samples using PerkinElmer and 30 samples using the CDC RT-PCR assay achieved positive (PPA) and negative percent agreement (NPA) of 95.8% and 100%, respectively. ~20-60 copies/ml by absolute quantification was the LoD determined

Evidence on Medical & Surgical Procedures

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
23 Nov 2020	Yu, et.al.	Insulin treatment is associated with increased mortality in patients with COVID-19	Cell Metabolism (Cohort Study)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 689 COVID-19 patients with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus were included in the retrospective study Increased mortality at 27.2% vs 3.5% were found in those taking insulin treatment vs those without. It has an adjusted HR or 5.38 (2.75-10.54)

Evidence on Traditional Medicine

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
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Evidence on Preventive & Promotive Health

Evidence on Screening

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
24 Nov 2020	Hellewell, et.al.	Estimating the effectiveness of routine asymptomatic PCR testing at different frequencies for the detection of SARS-CoV-2 infections	MedRxiv	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Bayesian statistical model was used to a dataset of UK healthcare workers on a biweekly basis Peak of PCR tests at 77% (54-88%) were noted at 4 days after infection and decreasing to 50% (38-65%) at 10 days 5% (33-76%) of symptomatic and 94% (75-99%) of asymptomatic cases are detected within 7 days using an every other day test

Evidence on Personal Measures

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
24 Nov 2020	France, et.al.	How can patients with COVID-19 and their family or unpaid carers be enabled and supported to manage palliative care treatment safely and effectively at home?	CEBM (Evidence Summary)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently, no empirical research was conducted looking at support for carers of palliative patients Digital technology can help in bridging carers to healthcare professionals Education for carers on topics relevant to their roles could be beneficial but a dilemma with the challenges posed by the pandemic

Evidence on Community Measures

Date	Author/s	Title	Journal/ Article Type	Summary
24 Nov 2020	Public Health England	COVID-19: guidance for arranging or attending a funeral during the coronavirus pandemic	Public Health England (Guidance Document)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No more than 30 people excluding funeral staff are allowed at a funeral whether indoor or outdoor Organizers are encouraged to consider inviting only closer friends and family only to reduce the risk of infection spread Remote participation via live streaming is also encouraged
20 Nov 2020	WHO	Continuity of essential health services: Facility assessment tool	WHO (Interim Guidance)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An assessment tool was created by the WHO to gauge the capacities and needs of health facilities The guidance contains the copies of the questionnaires for the assessment