

Global spotlight 3.1: Key additions for the first half of March 2021



There are 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*, seven updates to living evidence syntheses that are already included in the clinical management parts of the inventory, one newly added synthesis and one update to a living evidence synthesis in the health-system arrangement part of the inventory, and two 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	Implementation of a comprehensive COVID-19 plan, with strategies to prevent introduction of COVID-19 into long-term care facilities, identify and isolate cases, decrease likelihood of transmission and provide high-quality medical care to residents, may be effective to reduce both viral transmission and mortality within-long term care homes	Update to living rapid review	2021-02-01	7/10	No
Public-health measures	Although they may not be viable, fragments of SARS-CoV-2 can probably be detected on surfaces in community settings for up to seven days; cleaning and disinfecting procedures probably decrease or eliminate SARS-CoV-2 fragments	Update to living rapid review	2020-12-31	8/9	No
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Colchicine] Adding colchicine to standard care may reduce disease progression and it probably increases the risk of adverse events. The effects on other outcomes are uncertain	Update to living review	2021-03-05	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Favipiravir] Adding favipiravir to standard care may increase viral negative conversion and may make little or no difference in clinical improvement. The effects on other outcomes are uncertain	Update to living review	2021-03-05	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Hydroxychloroquine vs placebo/standard care] Hydroxychloroquine slightly increases mortality at 14-28 days, probably makes little or no difference in the incidence of clinical improvement or disease and disease progression	Update to living review	2021-03-05	10/11	No
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	Adding convalescent plasma to standard care may have little or no difference in mortality and may increase viral negative conversion, and it may increase adverse events	Update to living review	2021-02-26	10/11	No
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Corticosteroids] Adding corticosteroids to standard care slightly reduces mortality and disease progression and may not increase severe adverse events	Update to living review	2021-02-26	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Ivermectin] Adding ivermectin to standard care may reduce all-cause mortality and may have little or no difference on clinical improvement, whereas the risk of adverse events is uncertain	Update to living review	2021-02-26	8/9	Yes

Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Tocilizumab] Tocilizumab slightly reduces mortality and probably slightly increases the incidence of clinical improvement, whereas it probably does not increase serious adverse events	Update to living review	2021-02-26	10/11	Yes
Health-system arrangements	The effects of mass testing with contact tracing compared to test and trace for effective suppression of COVID-19 are uncertain	Newly added rapid review	2020-12-22	9/11	Yes
Health-system arrangements	Community incidence is probably the strongest factor associated with outbreaks in long-term care facilities, and PPE use and cleaning and hygiene measures may be associated with reduced outbreak risk	Update to living rapid review	2021-02-01	7/10	No
Economic and social responses	The risk of COVID-19 transmission in indoor physical activity settings, such as gyms and fitness centres is uncertain	Newly added rapid review	2021-02-19	8/9	No
Economic and social responses	Significant variation was found among studies evaluating the impacts of working at home on individuals' mental and physical health, however communication between managers and colleagues as well as financial compensation might be useful to mitigate any potential risks associated with remote work [Review of observational studies conducted during before COVID-19 pandemic]	Newly added rapid review	2020-05-05	6/10	No