

Global spotlight 3.2: Key additions for the second half of March 2021



There is one newly added synthesis and 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*, two updates to living evidence syntheses that are already included in the clinical management parts of the inventory, and one newly added synthesis in the health-system arrangement 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	The majority of isothermal nucleic acid point-of-care tests have reported at least 90% sensitivity and specificity, but the diagnostic accuracy increased in samples with medium to high viral load, without needing a RNA sample purification step [Review of studies mainly of low quality conducted during COVID-19 and other coronaviruses outbreaks]	Newly added full review	2020-09-28	9/11	No
Public-health measures	[Gamaleya Research Institute vaccine] Compared to placebo, vaccination with Gam-COVID-Vac rAd26-S/rAd5-S probably reduces the incidence of symptomatic and severe cases of COVID-19 substantially, although there remains uncertainty about the impact on reducing mortality. The vaccination may not increase the incidence of serious adverse event, but the incidence of any adverse event was not reported	Update to living review	2021-03-19	10/11	Yes
Public-health measures	[CT scan/lung ultrasound/x-ray] While important heterogeneity among studies was found, available evidence suggests that chest CT scan is sensitive but has moderate specificity (which was found to be higher low prevalence settings) while lung ultrasound and x-ray are both moderately sensitive but with very low specificity for detecting COVID-19 infection [Review mainly based on low quality studies]	Update to living review	2020-09-30	9/11	No
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	Adding convalescent plasma to standard care may slightly reduce mortality and disease progression but probably slightly increases serious adverse events	Update to living review	2021-03-19	10/11	No
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	2021-03-19	10/11	No
Health-system arrangements	Evidence suggests that refusal to get vaccinated against COVID-19 has increased over time, while being female, younger, of lower income or education level and belonging to an ethnic minority group are associated with less intention to be vaccinated [Review of studies of unknown quality]	Newly added rapid review	2020-11-01	8/11	No