



Canadian spotlight 3.2: Key additions from the second half of March 2021

In the second half of March, contributing evidence-synthesis teams have shared with us 14 completed evidence syntheses (some of which are newly completed and others were completed since December) and four questions that they have been newly taken on, which are listed in the table below. These syntheses provide insights about public-health measures (n=10), clinical management (n=2), and health-system arrangements (n=2). The four synthesis questions currently being addressed by teams focus on public-health measures (n=3) and clinical management (n=1).

| Taxonomy section | Title | Type of product | Date of last search (and publication) | Evidence synthesis team |
|--------------------------|---|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| • Public-health measures | COVID-19 Rapid evidence profile #26: When and in what order can COVID-19-related public-health measures be lifted (or stringency be reduced) as vaccination rates and seasonal temperatures increase? | Rapid evidence profile | 2021-03-17 (published 2021-03-18) | McMaster Health Forum COVID-END Secretariat |
| • Public-health measures | Transmissibility of COVID-19 among vaccinated individuals: Targeted literature search | Living evidence synthesis | 2021-03-11 (published 2021-03-12) | Health Technology Assessment Unit, O'Brien Institute of Public Health, University of Calgary |
| • Public-health measures | Transmission characteristics of SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern | Living evidence synthesis | 2021-03-01 (published 2021-03-17) | School of Nursing, Dalhousie University |
| • Public-health measures | Double masking and improved mask fit | Rapid evidence report | 2021-02-22 (published 2021-03-19) | Alberta Health Services |
| • Public-health measures | SARS-CoV-2 and the role of airborne transmission: A systematic review | Systematic review | 2020-12-20 (published 2021-03-24) | University of Calgary and Alberta Health Services |
| • Public-health measures | SARS-CoV-2 and the role of fomite transmission: A systematic review | Systematic review | 2020-12-20 (published 2021-03-24) | University of Calgary and |

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| • Public-health measures | SARS-CoV-2 and the role of orofecal transmission: A systematic review | Systematic review | 2020-12-20 (published 2021-03-24) | University of Calgary and Alberta Health Services |
| • Public-health measures | Serial testing of asymptomatic health care workers | Update to a briefing note | Not stated (published 2021-03-11) | Research, Analysis and Evaluation Branch (RAEB), Ministry of Health – Evidence Synthesis Network |
| • Public-health measures | Best practices for limiting the transmission of COVID-19 variants of concern | Briefing note | Not stated (published 2021-02-24) | RAEB, Ministry of Health – Evidence Synthesis Network |
| • Public-health measures | What criteria should AHS use to inform changes to COVID-19 personal protective equipment (PPE) guidelines in acute and long-term care? | Rapid evidence report | 2020-11-19 (published 2020-12-15) | Alberta Health Services |
| • Public-health measures | Rapid testing deployment and non-essential business sectors (to be published) | Briefing note | Not yet available | RAEB, Ministry of Health – Evidence Synthesis Network |
| • Public-health measures | Point of care testing in non-traditional groups (synthesis not yet completed) | Briefing note | Not yet available | RAEB, Ministry of Health – Evidence Synthesis Network |
| • Public-health measures | Strategies for testing in schools (synthesis not yet completed) | Briefing note | Not yet available | RAEB, Ministry of Health – Evidence Synthesis Network |
| • Clinical management | Colchicine in the treatment of COVID-19 | Rapid evidence report | 2021-01-25 (published 2021-02-23) | Alberta Health Services |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical management | COVID-19 outcomes for priority populations and settings | Briefing note | Not stated (published 2021-02-22) | RAEB, Ministry of Health – Evidence Synthesis Network |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical management | What symptoms are predictive of a positive COVID-19 test in children and adults? (to be published) | Rapid evidence report | Not yet available | Alberta Health Services |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health-system arrangements | Transporting COVID-19 patients on non-invasive ventilation support via emergency medical service units | Briefing note | Not stated (published 2021-03-04) | RAEB, Ministry of Health – Evidence Synthesis Network |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health-system arrangements | Cohorting in community hospitals during COVID-19 | Briefing note | Not stated (published 2021-02-19) | RAEB, Ministry of Health – Evidence Synthesis Network |