

Global spotlight 10.2: Key additions for the second half of October 2021



There are four newly added syntheses and one update to a living evidence synthesis that is already included in the public-health measures parts of the COVID-END inventory of ‘best’ evidence syntheses*, 10 newly added syntheses and 10 updates to living evidence syntheses that are already included in the clinical management parts of the inventory, four newly added syntheses in the health-system arrangement part of the inventory, and three newly added 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	Public-health measures and non-pharmacological interventions (including compulsory mask wearing and community wide masking policies) were effective for mitigating the spread of COVID-19 [Review of studies of low to moderate quality]	Newly added full review	2021-03-16	6/10	No
Public-health measures	Evidence shows that close contacts and family clusters are the main route of COVID-19 transmission, although children are less likely to be infected than adults within a family cluster [Review of studies of unknown quality]	Newly added full review	2021-03-10	4/10	No
Public-health measures	Although no evidence has demonstrated a reduction of COVID-19 transmission using mouthwashes, rinsing with a solution 1% PVP-I or Listerine has shown to reduce the viral load [Review of observational studies of moderate quality]	Newly added full review	2021-02-01	7/10	No
Public-health measures	Ecological studies showed an association between increasing temperature and humidity and reducing COVID-19 mortality, whereas the association with wind speed was ambiguous [Review of studies of mainly low quality]	Newly added full review	2021-01-04	8/10	No
Public-health measures	[CoronaVac/Sinovac vaccine against variants of concern] Coronavac/Sinovac vaccine may prevent infection from the Delta and Gamma variants of concern, it may prevent severe infection from the Delta variant of concern, and it may prevent death from the Gamma variant of concern	Update to living rapid review	2021-10-20	7/9	No
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Losartan] Among hospitalized COVID-19 patients, losartan may not increase clinical improvement at 28 days; its effects on other outcomes are uncertain	Newly added living review	2021-10-22	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	Among children and youth admitted to hospital with COVID-19, teenagers, those with cardiac or neurological conditions, two or more comorbidities, and those who were significantly obese were more likely to develop severe disease or die, whereas no association was found with sex [Review of studies of variable quality with important heterogeneity among some of their findings]	Newly added full review	2021-05-21	7/11	No

Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	Evidence shows that having pre-existing asthma does not increase the risk of COVID-19 mortality, hospitalization or ICU admission [Review of studies of mainly moderate quality with important heterogeneity among some of their findings]	Newly added full review	2021-04-09	7/11	No
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	Whereas the prevalence of COVID-19 among Parkinson's disease patients has been estimated to be 2%, vitamin D supplementation was associated with a lower COVID-19 incidence among these patients [Review of studies of mainly moderate quality]	Newly added full review	2021-04-01	7/11	No
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	Evidence shows that COVID-19 related viral sepsis can occur in a significant proportion of patients, and 77% of ICU-admitted patients have viral sepsis [Review of studies of low to moderate quality with important heterogeneity among their findings]	Newly added full review	2021-03-29	7/11	No
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	Digital psychological interventions may be effective in treating the mental-health conditions of healthcare providers and informal caregivers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic [Review of studies of variable quality]	Newly added full review	2021-02-28	7/10	No
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	Evidence conducted in the context of cancer and non-COVID viral infections showed that the use of intravenous vitamin C could potentially help with reducing fatigue syndrome, and its use on post-COVID-19 infection might be feasible [Review of studies of unknown quality]	Newly added full review	2021-02-25	4/9	No
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	Cardiac sequelae have been frequently reported after COVID-19 infections in adults, and are more frequently detected when using higher accuracy tests [Review of studies of mainly moderate quality]	Newly added full review	2021-02-17	7/9	No
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	Although there might be a potential absence of classic symptoms, there is evidence showing subacute thyroiditis as a potential complication resulting from COVID-19 infection [Review of studies on unknown quality]	Newly added full review	2021-02-01	4/9	No
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	Among the 147 therapeutic options that have been studied in clinical trials, evidence shows that baricitinib, corticosteroids, REGEN-COV, sotrovimab and tocilizumab are the only alternatives that may have an effect on mortality and other clinical outcomes among COVID-19 patients	Update to living rapid review	2021-09-30	7/10	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	Among hospitalized COVID-19 patients, using convalescent plasma probably does not reduce mortality, the need for mechanical ventilation, or the time to symptom resolution, while it probably increases severe adverse events; among mild patients, it may not reduce hospitalizations	Update to living rapid review	2021-09-30	7/10	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Bamlanivimab] Using bamlanivimab probably decreases hospitalizations in patients with COVID-19, and its effects on other outcomes are uncertain	Update to living rapid review	2021-09-30	7/10	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and	[Corticosteroids] Low- or moderate-dose treatment with corticosteroids probably reduces	Update to living rapid review	2021-09-30	7/10	Yes

pandemic-related health issues	mortality in severe COVID-19 patients, while higher-doses are probably more effective				
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Doxycycline] Doxycycline does not increase symptom resolution and clinical improvement, and it may not reduce hospitalizations	Update to living rapid review	2021-09-30	7/10	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Fluvoxamine] Among COVID-19 patients with mild disease, fluvoxamine probably reduces hospitalizations, and it may not increase adverse events	Update to living rapid review	2021-09-30	7/10	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Hydroxychloroquine] Hydroxychloroquine may not reduce the risk of infection in individuals exposed to COVID-19 and it may slightly increase mortality and serious adverse events	Update to living rapid review	2021-09-30	7/10	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Ivermectin] Among hospitalized COVID-19 patients, ivermectin may not reduce mortality and mechanical ventilation, while it probably does not improve time to symptom resolution; among non-severe patients, it may reduce hospitalizations	Update to living rapid review	2021-09-30	7/10	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[REGEN-COV (casirivimab and imdevimab)] Using REGEN-COV (casirivimab and imdevimab) in exposed asymptomatic individuals reduces symptomatic infections	Update to living rapid review	2021-09-30	7/10	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Tocilizumab] Using tocilizumab in patients with severe COVID-19 disease reduces mortality and the need for mechanical ventilation, whereas it does not importantly increase severe adverse events	Update to living rapid review	2021-09-30	7/10	Yes
Health-system arrangements	Safety, historical mistrust and accessibility may be important factors for seeking or not seeking vaccination, whereas collaboration with trusted leaders, effective risk-benefit communication from trusted sources and facilitating vaccine access probably encourage vaccine uptake among Indigenous communities, Black, African, Caribbean communities, and people experiencing homelessness [Review of studies conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic and before]	Newly added full review	2021-04-14	6/9	No
Health-system arrangements	Although limited evidence is available on the use of mass vaccination centres in COVID-19 times, the main organizational aspects to consider are the location, layout, staff members, and vaccine transportation and storage [Review of studies of unknown quality conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic and before]	Newly added rapid review	2021-04-04	6/9	No
Health-system arrangements	Whereas COVID-19 vaccination has been required for patients undergoing an elective surgery, timing of surgery, vaccine prioritization and disease prevalence need to be considered when deciding to resume elective surgeries [Review of studies of unknown quality]	Newly added rapid review	2021-03-30	4/9	No
Health-system arrangements	Inconclusive evidence was found on the use of home monitoring (virtual wards) for the treatment of patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 [Review of studies of unknown quality]	Newly added rapid review	2021-02-05	5/9	No
Economic and social responses	Food security has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and associated public-health measures (e.g., lockdowns), and this impact has been larger	Newly added full review	2021-04-01	5/10	No

	among low-income households [Review of studies of unknown quality]				
Economic and social responses	Public-health measures and non-pharmacological interventions (including travel and border restrictions, and quarantining travellers) were effective in mitigating the spread of COVID-19 [Review of studies of low to moderate quality]	Newly added full review	2021-03-16	6/10	No
Economic and social responses	Evidence has reported that the mental-health impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated infection prevention and control measures on people living in prisons has been overwhelmingly negative [Review of studies of unknown quality]	Newly added full review	2021-03-05	7/9	No