

Global spotlight 2.1: Key additions for the first half of February 2021



There are 16 key additions to the public-health measures and clinical management, health-system arrangements and economic and social responses parts of the COVID-END inventory of ‘best’ evidence syntheses*, as well as three updates to ‘best’ living evidence syntheses that are already included in the inventory in the clinical management parts 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	Using PPE was found to be the strongest factor associated with reducing risk of coronavirus infection among health care workers [Review of observational studies]	Newly added living rapid review	2020-09-24	6/10	No
Public-health measures	No important differences were found on the sensitivity of testing for SARS-CoV-2 infection with saliva versus nasopharyngeal swabs, although the results substantially change depending on the method of saliva collection [Review of observational studies of variable quality]	Newly added full review	2020-11-01	7/11	No
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Azithromycin] Adding azithromycin to hydroxychloroquine therapy may make little or no difference with respect to disease progression, and may increase the risk of adverse events, with the effects on other outcomes uncertain	Newly added living review	2021-01-29	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Bamlanivimab] Bamlanivimab may make little or no difference in terms of mortality and clinical improvement, and may not increase the risk of adverse events	Newly added living review	2021-01-29	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Colony-stimulating factor] Adding recombinant human granulocyte colony-stimulating factor to standard care may reduce mortality and increase adverse events	Newly added living review	2021-01-29	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Favipiravir] Adding favipiravir to standard care may lead to clinical improvement at day 7, but may make little or no difference at days 14-28. The effects on other outcomes are uncertain	Newly added living review	2021-01-29	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Peginterferon lambda-1] Peginterferon lambda-1 may reduce viral conversion at day three and may increase the viral conversion at day seven, and probably increases the risk of adverse events	Newly added living review	2021-01-29	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Remdesivir] Using remdesivir for five days compared to 10 days may have little impact on mortality but it may lead to clinical improvement, reduce disease progression, and reduce the frequency of serious adverse events	Newly added living review	2021-01-29	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Sarilumab] Sarilumab may increase survival and lead to clinical improvement in severe/critical COVID-19 patients, but the effects on other outcomes are uncertain	Newly added living review	2021-01-29	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and	[Stem cells] Using human umbilical cord mesenchymal stem cell infusion may reduce	Newly added living review	2021-01-29	10/11	Yes

pandemic-related health issues	mortality and not increase adverse events, but the effects on other outcomes are uncertain				
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 relation to clinical improvement, and may not affect disease progression	Update to living review	2021-02-05	10/11	No
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Lopinavir + ritonavir] Adding lopinavir + ritonavir to standard care makes little or no difference on mortality and may not lead to clinical improvement, but may not increase serious adverse events	Update to living review	2021-02-05	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Tocilizumab] Tocilizumab may produce little or no difference in mortality, probably does not lead to clinical improvement, but probably does not increase adverse events	Update to living review	2021-02-05	10/11	Yes
Health-system arrangements	Training in infection prevention and control has consistently been associated with a decreased risk of coronavirus infection among healthcare workers [Review of studies conducted during COVID-19, MERS and SARS outbreaks]	Newly added living rapid review	2020-09-24	6/10	No
Health-system arrangements	There have been steep declines in certain orthopedic services including elective surgeries and outpatient services due to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, although this decline hasn't been seen for trauma surgeries [Review of studies of variable quality]	Newly added full review	2020-07-20	6/11	No
Health-system arrangements	A number of COVID-19 mobile apps have shown benefits related to patient and provider information provision, and may help facilitate patient monitoring and follow-up [Review mainly based on observational studies of low quality]	Newly added full review	2020-06-01	6/10	No
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	Newly added rapid review	2020-11-30	7/10	Yes
Economic and social responses	Local context and circumstances surrounding community outbreaks should be considered when easing school and workplace lockdown restrictions, and when developing and implementing mitigation strategies and public-health measures [Review of observational studies of unknown quality]	Newly added full review	2020-07-01	5/9	No
Economic and social responses	The risk of transmitting COVID-19 while singing or playing wind instruments, as well as the effects of strategies to mitigate risks associated with these activities, are uncertain	Newly added rapid review	2021-01-04	7/9	Yes