

Global spotlight 6.2: Key additions for the second half of June 2021



There are two newly added evidence syntheses and four updates to living evidence syntheses that are already included in the public-health measures parts of the COVID-END inventory of 'best' evidence syntheses*, 16 newly added evidence syntheses and nine updates to living evidence syntheses that are already included in the clinical management parts of the inventory, three newly added evidence syntheses in the health-system arrangements part of the inventory, and two newly added evidence syntheses and two updates to living evidence syntheses that are already included 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	Estimates of the global seroprevalence of SARS-CoV-2 antibodies remain relatively low with important variations among geographical regions and specific populations [Review of studies of variable quality]	Newly added full review	2021-02-28	8/11	No
Public-health measures	Evidence suggests that most adults infected with COVID-19 developed antibodies that peaked between 20-25 days after the onset of symptoms before declining, and are detectable for at least 120 days; neutralizing antibody activity may also last for several months, and antibody prevalence may not vary by age or sex	Newly added rapid review	2020-12-15	6/10	No
Public-health measures	[BioNTech/Fosun Pharma/Pfizer vaccine (age-group analysis available)] Compared to placebo, vaccination with BNT162b2 probably reduces the incidence of symptomatic cases of COVID-19 substantially, although there remains uncertainty about the impact on reducing mortality or severe disease; the evidence shows that it may slightly increase the incidence of serious adverse events, and it probably increases the incidence of any adverse event	Update to living review	2021-06-18	10/11	Yes
Public-health measures	[EpiVacCorona] The effects of vaccination with EpiVacCorona are uncertain	Update to living review	2021-06-18	10/11	Yes
Public-health measures	[Sinopharm - strain HBO2] Vaccination with Sinopharm HBO2 probably reduces the incidence of symptomatic cases of COVID-19, and it may reduce severe disease, while the incidence of adverse events is probably not increased	Update to living review	2021-06-18	10/11	Yes
Public-health measures	[Sinopharm - strain WIV04] Vaccination with Sinopharm WIV04 probably reduces the incidence of symptomatic cases of COVID-19, and it may reduce severe disease, while the incidence of adverse events is probably not increased	Update to living review	2021-06-18	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Anakinra] In hospitalized COVID-19 patients, anakinra may slightly reduce mortality at 28 days and disease progression, while it probably slightly increases clinical improvement; its safety outcomes are uncertain	Newly added living review	2021-06-18	10/11	Yes

Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Azithromycin] The effects of azithromycin in mild and hospitalized COVID-19 patients are uncertain	Newly added living review	2021-06-18	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Budesonide] The safety of using budesonide in mild COVID-19 patients is currently uncertain	Newly added living review	2021-06-18	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Hydroxychloroquine] Hydroxychloroquine may not reduce mortality and probably does not have an important effect on viral negative conversion in mild and hospitalized patients; its effects on other benefits and safety outcomes are uncertain	Newly added living review	2021-06-18	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Hydroxychloroquine vs ivermectin] The effects of using hydroxychloroquine or ivermectin in hospitalized COVID-19 patients are uncertain	Newly added living review	2021-06-18	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Sofosbuvir/ledipasvir] The effects of sofosbuvir/ledipasvir are uncertain	Newly added living review	2021-06-18	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Zinc] The effects of using zinc in hospitalized COVID-19 patients are uncertain	Newly added living review	2021-06-18	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	Compared to prophylactic anticoagulants, using therapeutic anticoagulants probably makes little or no difference in clinical improvement, and it may not reduce disease progression among hospitalized COVID-19 patients	Newly added living review	2021-06-18	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	Compared to standard-dose prophylactic coagulation, using intermediate-dose prophylactic anticoagulation may make little or no difference in terms of mortality and clinical improvement among hospitalized COVID-19 patients	Newly added living review	2021-06-18	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	Evidence suggests that mental-health support using self-guided online interventions can effectively address mental-health needs during the COVID-19 pandemic [Review of studies of low to moderate quality]	Newly added living review	2021-03-22	8/10	No
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	Evidence suggests that mental-health support using lay- or peer-delivered interventions may be an effective strategy to address mental-health issues in vulnerable populations during the COVID-19 pandemic [Review of studies of low to moderate quality]	Newly added living review	2021-03-22	8/10	No
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	No consistent evidence was found suggesting mental health symptoms have worsened as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic when comparing mental health prior to and during the pandemic [Review of studies with substantial heterogeneity among their findings]	Newly added living review	2021-03-22	6/11	No
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Vitamin D] Vitamin D may reduce the need for invasive mechanical ventilation in moderate to severe patients; its effects on other outcomes are uncertain	Newly added living review	2021-03-11	9/10	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and	Among the 59 therapeutic options found to treat COVID-19, corticosteroids probably significantly reduces mortality in severe or critical patients,	Newly added living review	2020-12-10	9/11	No

pandemic-related health issues	whereas remdesivir is the safest option in terms of severe adverse events				
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	Being older than 60 and having two or more comorbidities are probably the most important factors explaining high mortality rates due to COVID-19	Newly added living rapid review	2021-04-01	5/10	No
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	An important proportion of patients with COVID-19 suffered an in-hospital cardiac arrest with an important fatality rate, although this mortality is comparable to pre-pandemic rates for cardiac arrests patients [Review of studies of mainly moderate quality]	Newly added full review	2021-06-01	9/11	No
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Lopinavir + ritonavir vs umifenovir] Among hospitalized patients, umifenovir may reduce adverse events compared with lopinavir + ritonavir, and its effects on other clinical outcomes are uncertain	Update to living review	2021-06-18	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Ivermectin] Adding ivermectin to standard care may have no effect on clinical improvement in mild outpatients or hospitalized patients, and it probably does not increase the risk of adverse events, but the effects on other outcomes are uncertain	Update to living review	2021-06-18	10/11	Yes (last updated on 2021-06-08)
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Sarilumab] The effects of sarilumab for COVID-19 patients are uncertain, whereas it may slightly increase adverse events	Update to living review	2021-06-18	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Stem cells] In hospitalized patients, human umbilical cord mesenchymal stem cell infusion may slightly increase the incidence of clinical improvement, and it may not increase adverse events; its effects on other outcomes are uncertain	Update to living review	2021-06-18	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	In hospitalized patients, adding convalescent plasma to standard care may slightly reduce mortality and disease progression, while it probably makes little or no difference in clinical improvement; it may not increase serious adverse events, and it probably slightly increases the frequency of any adverse event	Update to living review	2021-06-18	10/11	Yes
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	[Tocilizumab] Tocilizumab reduces the risk of mechanical ventilation, while it probably does not decrease mortality, and probably reduces the risk of secondary infections in hospitalized COVID-19 patients	Update to living review	2021-02-04	9/11	No
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	Inconsistent estimates of the impact of COVID-19 on suicide rates have been reported across studies and countries, but some evidence shows a rise in community distress and frequency of suicidal thoughts in individuals infected with COVID-19 [Review of observational studies, mainly case series]	Update to living review	2020-10-19	8/10	No
Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	Clinical staff working in high-exposure roles may report higher rates of anxiety and depression compared to low-exposure roles, and in both groups baseline rates of poor mental health are high [Review of studies of unknown quality conducted during COVID-19, Ebola, H1N1, MERS, and SARS outbreaks]	Update to living rapid review	2021-06-07	4/11	No

Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related health issues	An increasing number of rehabilitation research is being conducted to address post COVID-19 symptoms and sequelae, in response to an increased report of common post-COVID impairments [Review of studies of unknown quality]	Update to living rapid review	2021-05-04	7/11	No
Health-system arrangements	Studies show that vaccination acceptance rates varied from 40% to 92%, whereas capability factors, opportunity factors and motivation factors were key in driving vaccination acceptance among the general public [Review of studies of unknown quality]	Newly added living rapid review	2021-04-20	5/9	No
Health-system arrangements	Evidence shows that negative beliefs about vaccine efficacy and safety were associated with lower vaccination acceptance among healthcare workers, non-physician professionals were more likely to have lower acceptance rates, and having a history of accepting influenza vaccination was associated with an increase COVID-19 vaccine acceptance rate [Review of studies of unknown quality conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic and before]	Newly added living rapid review	2021-02-03	5/9	No
Health-system arrangements	It is uncertain whether SARS-CoV-2 can be detected in abdominal tissues, fluids and surgical smoke associated with laparoscopies [Review of mainly case reports and series]	Newly added full review	2021-02-11	4/9	No
Economic and social responses	The risk of transmission of COVID-19 within post-secondary institutions and the effects of strategies to mitigate on-campus outbreaks is currently uncertain	Newly added living rapid review	2021-05-03	8/10	No
Economic and social responses	No robust evidence has been found supporting an association between COVID-19 spread and the use of recreational skiing facilities [Review of studies of unknown quality]	Newly added rapid review	2021-02-15	5/9	No
Economic and social responses	Reopening schools may not have an important role in COVID-19 transmission in the community	Update to living review	2021-05-31	8/10	No
Economic and social responses	When infection prevention and control measures are in place and adhered to, the risk of transmission among children in schools, daycares and camps, and from children to adults more generally is probably low	Update to living review	2021-05-31	8/10	No