



Horizon Scanning Global Panel

Update on third global panel: 30 September 2020

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HEALTH FORUM



The Ottawa
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Centre for Implementation
Research

Reminder...

- Global horizon-scanning panel, comprised of diverse strategic and ‘out-of-the-box’ thinkers and doers, to proactively identify both **long-term and emergent issues** that need to be prioritized in efforts to synthesize the best available research evidence to support decision-making about COVID-19
 - Diverse in their coverage across the parts of the taxonomy and the four key target audiences (citizens, providers, policymakers and researchers)
 - Diversity in terms of WHO region and primary language
- Main focus is to identify priorities for **living reviews** on recurring priorities (and full or rapid reviews on one-off priorities) as we **transition from a sprint to a marathon**

Panel Membership

- 49 invitations sent → 36 confirmed participants (so far)
- 4 types of participants: citizens, service providers, policy makers, researchers
- WHO regional spread (of those who have accepted)

Global	2
Africa	8
Americas	9
Eastern Mediterranean	3
Europe	9
South East Asia	0
Western Pacific	5

Example issues for consideration

1) Public-health measures

- Identification and contact tracing across borders
- Innovations in testing such as pooled testing, self-swabbing, rapid testing in congregate settings

2) Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related conditions

- COVID-19-related mental-health concerns for COVID-19 patients and other members of the public, such as those facing school closures and social and economic disadvantages

3) Health-system arrangements

- Decision making in vaccine allocation to consider prioritization of disadvantaged populations, healthcare workers, high-risk conditions and high-risk occupations (such as educators and those in housing)
- Recovery of the health system risks exacerbating inequalities and vulnerabilities if pre-existing challenges are not also addressed

4) Economic and social responses

- Tax-reform strategies and other monetary and fiscal responses to COVID-19
- 'Networks of cities' may better respond to COVID-19 by sharing lessons learned and coordinating planning for future risks such as climate change

Examples of insights shared

Public-health measures

- Exploring the role of enforcement (e.g., policing) in supporting adherence to public-health measures
- Better linking the effects of public-health measures (e.g., mask use) with local incidence rates
- Strengthening public-health surveillance with government

Health-system arrangements

- Learning from the variation in health-system responses to local and regional outbreaks
- Exploring governance arrangements that balance centralized and decentralized (local level) pandemic responses
- Examining strategies for implementing occupational health and safety protocols and services

Economic and social responses

- Exploring how to protect users of the judicial system (e.g., support for virtual vs. face-to-face court hearings and reduce spread within prisons)
- Clarifying how regime type (e.g. democratic versus authoritarian) affects pandemic response and recovery
- Understanding the options available to managing the risks related to tourism

Top priorities for ‘living’ evidence syntheses

1) Public-health measures

- Supporting adoption and adherence to public-health measures
- Effective communication about public-health measures to citizens
- Balancing public-health considerations with economic and social costs
- Examining the causes of variation in death rates across countries and identifying potential implications for future pandemic responses

2) Clinical management of COVID-19 and pandemic-related conditions

- Understanding and addressing the medium-to-long-term effects of COVID-19

3) Health-system arrangements

- Managing vaccine hesitancy, vaccine distribution allocation and approaches under shortage conditions
- Strategic purchasing of supplies and equipment (e.g., personal protective equipment, liquid nitrogen for vaccine storage)

4) Economic and social responses

- Formalizing policy learning related to the pandemic response and considering what changes should be sustained in the post-pandemic future