

Top Ten Insights Into How COVID-END Can Help You Support Decision-making

Webinar, 20 May 2020

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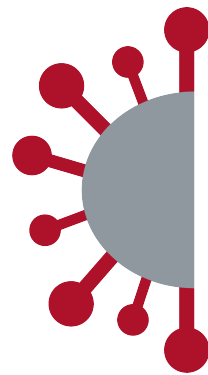
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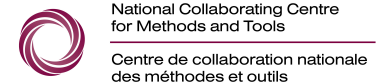
Background

- COVID-END is a **time-limited network** that has come together in response to an 'exogenous shock' (COVID-19) to collaboratively advance the evidence ecosystem in a way that
 - Makes the most of an explosion of interest in and demand for evidence synthesis (in part by reducing the noise-to-signal ratio)
 - Makes the evidence ecosystem even more robust and resilient in future
 - Strengthens existing institutions and processes



COVID-END

COVID-19 Evidence Network
to support Decision-making



Background (2)

- Three of the seven principles that underpin COVID-END's work
 - ❑ Supporting (not competing with or replacing) **well-positioned organizations** that are working in close partnership with key target audiences and already responding to their evidence needs
 - ❑ Supporting – with a common brand/identity, small agile secretariat, and simple working group structure – a **distributed network** of organizations and individuals to play to their comparative advantages and leverage one another's work
 - ❑ Seeking out **quick wins** for those supporting decision-makers and among those involved in preparing evidence syntheses, technology assessments and guidelines, and taking measured steps to **longer-term solutions** that can better support decision-makers

Overview of How COVID-END Can Help

- 1) Website
- 2) Guide(s)
- 3) Tips and tools
- 4) Taxonomy
- 5) Innovative model 1: Rapid evidence profile
- 6) Innovative model 2: Evidence contextualization service
- 7) Working groups
- 8) Working group achievements coming online
- 9) Listserv
- 10) *Insert your idea here*

1. Website

- We've structured our **website** (<https://www.covid-end.org>) to meet the needs of two target audiences
 - Those supporting decision-makers (e.g., evidence shop at WHO, ministry staff, groups like RISE and EVIPNet)
 - Researchers (e.g., the many groups doing duplicative daily searches, the many groups doing duplicative rapid reviews, etc.)

2. Guide(s)

- We created two versions of the **guide to COVID-19 evidence sources**
 - ❑ One for those supporting decision-makers (who just need pointing to the high-quality, high-yield links), which we've called the [guide to key COVID-19 evidences sources](#)
 - ❑ Another one for researchers (who can help with avoiding duplication and enhancing coordination), which we've called the [guide to all COVID-19 evidences sources](#)

3. Tips and Tools

- We've drafted and continue to revise two versions of **tips and tools**
 - [Tips and tools for those supporting decision-makers](#)
 - Two of the tips are about making sure you have the **right team and relationships** in place (on demand and supply sides)
 - Six of the tips focus on creating the **right processes** to respond to requests from decision-makers (start with the guide, look for quality-rated products, document the recency of the search)
 - Two of the tips relate to the **right balance between being reactive and proactive**
 - [Tips and tools for researchers](#) who are involved or who want to become involved in such work

4. Taxonomy

- We've created a four-part **taxonomy** of decisions related to COVID-19
 - [Public-health measures](#) (infection prevention and control as well as broader measures)
 - [Clinical management](#) of COVID-19 and related health issues (e.g., unmanaged chronic conditions, mental health issues, family violence)
 - [Health-system arrangements](#) (e.g., how to re-start ambulatory clinics, cancer treatments, and elective procedures, how to maintain and build on the gains achieved with virtual care)
 - [Economic and social responses](#) (e.g., education, financial protection, food safety & security, housing, recreation, transportation)

4. Taxonomy (2)

- The taxonomy is a work in progress that can help to:
 - ❑ Curate **existing** evidence syntheses, technology assessments, and guidelines (we are exploring the possibility of creating a single searchable portal using the taxonomy as filters)
 - ❑ Inform the prioritization of the questions that need to be answered **as issues emerge**
 - ❑ Inform the prioritization of evidence syntheses, technology assessments and guidelines that should be **kept up to date** for the foreseeable future
 - ❑ Inform the prioritization of evidence syntheses, technology assessments and guidelines that are likely to be needed at some point in **future phases** of the pandemic and pandemic response

5. Innovative Model 1: Rapid Evidence Profiles

- We've piloted a rapid-evidence model that can be used or adapted in any jurisdiction to describe – in a three-hour turn-around time – both **evidence and innovations** to inform a particular decision
 - Three of ten examples (with the full list [here](#))
 - What screening approaches can be used in non-healthcare settings (e.g., universities, stores and office settings) to identify people who may have COVID-19 and need to take appropriate action?
 - What are the international lessons learned from re-opening non-COVID-19 activities in hospitals?
 - What is known about strategies for supporting the use of masks under shortage conditions to prevent COVID-19?

6. Innovative Model 2: Contextualization Service

- We'll soon be piloting an evidence-contextualization model that can be used or adapted in any jurisdiction to engage local experts in interpreting **what the research evidence means for your context**
 - Rather than rely on them as a substitute for finding and using the best available research evidence

7. Working Groups

- We've convened working groups to achieve and document **quick wins** and establish processes to achieve and document **longer-term wins**
 - [Scoping](#) where support and coordination is most needed and what principles should underpin such support and coordination
 - [Engaging](#) those already supporting decision-makers to work in more coordinated and efficient ways
 - [Digitizing](#) as many aspects of the work as possible to facilitate coordination and capture efficiencies
 - [Synthesizing](#) the evidence that already exists in ways that are more coordinated and efficient and that balance quality and timeliness
 - [Recommending](#) evidence-based approaches in ways that are more coordinated and efficient and that balance quality and timeliness
 - [Packaging](#) evidence and guidelines in ways that meet the needs of citizens, providers, policymakers and researchers in different contexts and languages
 - [Sustaining](#) the efforts that strengthen institutions and processes so that we are even better prepared for future challenges

8. Working Group Achievements Coming Online

- Engaging
 - Identified **20+ networks** globally that we'll be regularly engaging
- Digitizing
 - Soliciting input on greatest **barriers** (where digitization may help)
- Synthesizing
 - Revising and adding to the **tips and tools for researchers**
- Recommending
 - Moving towards a **global guidance repository** (w/ quality ratings)
- Packaging
 - Drafted **principles** and **resource list** to support evidence packaging

9. Listserv

- We'll soon be launching a **listserv** for a community of practice among those who are supporting decision-making about COVID-19

10. Insert Your Idea Here

- We're open to additional **suggestions** about what else we can do

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Keep Up To Date and/or Share Your Insights

- 1) Website – <https://www.covid-end.org>
- 2) Twitter – @covid_e_n_d
- 3) Email – c/o forum@mcmaster.ca