



COVID-END partners coordination call

Notes from 21 January 2021

<https://zoom.us/j/6163788736>

1. INTRODUCTIONS

- a. Jeremy welcomed colleagues of Ruth McQuillan's (from the University of Edinburgh's UNCOVER group) who will contribute to today's presentation about their group's work
 - i. Xiameng Zhang, a third-year PhD student at the University of Edinburgh
 - ii. Yiaji Dong, a medical student at the University of Edinburgh

2. REVIEW OF COVID-END ACTION ITEMS

- a. Jeremy pointed partners to the partner notes from 7 January (see attachment 2)

3. COVID-END NETWORK UPDATES

- a. Partners offered observations about COVID-19 vaccine roll-out plans and related issues in their countries
 - i. Australia
 - 1. Jeremy noted that, on the last twice-a-month call with our Australian colleagues, Kim Sutherland described how his agency maintains a living summary about COVID-19 vaccines
 - 2. **ACTION: Jeremy to ask Kim if this document is in the public domain and, if not, whether it could be shared in confidence**
 - ii. South Africa
 - 1. Ruth S noted that they're not expecting roll-out until at least mid-2021 (possibly slower), and the potential for significant vaccine hesitancy is a real concern
 - 2. Tamara K noted that she's involved with the country's vaccine sub-committee and is collaborating with COVID-NMA on their living evidence synthesis, and that there is coordination needed among regulator, ministry, local producers, and public private health systems
 - 3. Ruth S noted that social / economic issues are key when considering vaccines and that the current 'plan' for vaccine roll out doesn't consider the many non-documented people in South Africa (which will have real impacts on the potential effectiveness of vaccines here)
 - iii. UK
 - 1. Lynn L noted that she was involved in a rapid systematic review (<https://www.mdpi.com/2076-393X/9/2/72>) on the psychological aspects of vaccine uptake published yesterday in the journal Vaccine (and that what stood out to her is that we don't involve the public in any of the research/ work in this area)
 - 2. Claire A noted that: 1) they started rolling out the Pfizer vaccine in December and then later with the Oxford AstraZeneca (with now more than 4 million doses given); 2) Evidence Aid has some summaries on vaccine uptake

3. David T noted that the challenges of determining priorities and (increasingly) concerns on whether vaccinated people will continue to adhere to behavioural guidelines particularly since at the current time giving people a first dose is being prioritised over completing the course; he also provided an example of a low-risk individual being offered a vaccine because of professional relationships
 4. Lynn L agreed that information has been confusing and wondered if it has affected trust and willingness to receive the vaccine
 5. Ruth M noted other debates include timing of second dose, priority to care home residents (not just over 80s), and whether teachers/other frontline workers should be prioritized
 6. Additional observations were made about vaccine hesitancy being over-represented in some ethnic minority groups (e.g., South Asians) and that initiatives seem to be GP-led and not coordinated
- iv. India
1. Sunu noted that vaccination in India started on 16 January, with more than 630,000 frontline workers vaccinated as of yesterday.
- v. Canada
1. John L noted that his colleague, Mike Wilson, has prepared the first edition of a living evidence profile on vaccine roll-out and will be updating it bimonthly going forward
 2. Maureen S noted that there is lots of confusion around whether immunocompromised citizens in Canada should receive the vaccine (and Lynn L noted that this is the same in the UK)
- vi. Ireland
1. Declan D noted that their group will be conducting a EPOC qualitative evidence summary on factors influencing decisions of adults considering vaccination
- vii. General
1. Ruth asked if people realize what a significant role we all personally (and perhaps as a collective) have to counter vaccine hesitancy (e.g. people saying to her: ‘if I see you have the vaccine, then I will know it is safe’) and asked whether it is worth considering a COVID-END statement (or whether individuals and groups should focus on this in their own countries)
 2. Others noted that there are issues about currently not allowing people to ask questions or assuming that they are anti vaxxers if they do
 3. **ACTION: Secretariat to consider whether COVID-END can play a role in collecting and sharing documents about vaccine roll-out and should consider a statement about vaccination**
 4. **ACTION: Partners to email Mike Wilson (wilsom2@mcmaster.ca) evidence documents about vaccine roll-out or innovative jurisdiction-specific roll-out plans**
- b. John walked partners through the recent developments with working and task groups and terms of reference (see attachment 3)

- i. Shivit Bakrania noted that UNICEF is interested in joining the Profiling WG and will follow up with the secretariat about this and with questions about the Prioritizing and Engaging WGs

ACTION: Partners to consider self-nominating for the new working groups (Prioritizing, Profiling, and Advocating) and for new or existing task groups (Equity and Citizen partnership)

- c. John reviewed the revised meetings schedule (see attachment 4)

ACTION: Safa to send out updated meeting invitations

4. PARTNER PROFILE

- a. Ruth McQuillan, Xiameng Zhang and Yiaji Dong provided an overview of the work of UNCOVER in the evidence response to COVID-19
- b. Partners commended them for their superb work

5. NEWS AND INITIATIVES OF INTEREST TO PARTNERS

- a. Nikita and Declan profiled Evidence Synthesis Ireland’s webinar “Ready, set, go! Consumer involvement in systematic reviews”. Registration details can be found [here](#).

This webinar will provide the opportunity to:

- i. explain the rationale for consumer involvement in evidence synthesis
- ii. describe the framework for involvement from Pollock et al “Development of the ACTIVE framework to describe stakeholder involvement in systematic reviews” (2019) <https://doi.org/10.1177/1355819619841647>
- iii. hear from consumers and researchers who have collaborated in the production of systematic reviews and
- iv. share a range of practical resources for consumers and researchers

ACTION: Partners to consider joining this webinar, which will feature COVID-END’s Maureen Smith

- b. Andrew Pullin described the Collaboration for Environmental Evidence’s proposal to conduct a systematic map of evidence on the question 'What evidence exists on the impact of environmental factors on the risk of transmission of novel viruses to humans from other animals?

ACTION: Partners to email Andrew Pullin (a.s.pullin@bangor.ac.uk) if they are interested in contributing to this work

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Jeremy noted that there is no scheduled COVID-END meetings during the week of 25 January (quiet week as indicated in the calendar in attachment 4)
- b. Jerry Osheroff asked Jeremy Grimshaw to confirm that he’d be sharing his letter for ACTS soon and that Jerry could have an opportunity to provide an update about ACTS at an upcoming partners meeting
- c. **ACTION: Jeremy to send the letter tomorrow**
- d. **ACTION: Safa to add ACTS to the list of partners that will be presenting in future**