

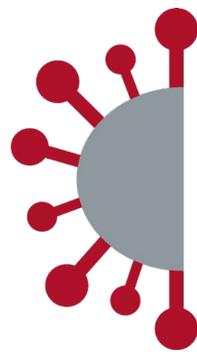
COVID-END update

**WHO ECC-19 meeting
18th February 2021**

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COVID-END

COVID-19 Evidence Network
to support Decision-making



AGENCY FOR
**CLINICAL
INNOVATION**



**Campbell
Collaboration**

- Centre for
- Evidence
- Based
- Health
- Care



**Cochrane
France**



**Cochrane
Ireland**



- Evidence
- Synthesis
- International



**EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS
IRELAND**



The Global Evidence
Synthesis Initiative



International
Initiative for
Impact Evaluation



Ministério da Saúde
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Fundação Oswaldo Cruz
Brasília**



National Collaborating Centre
for Methods and Tools
Centre de collaboration nationale
des méthodes et outils



Norwegian Institute of Public Health

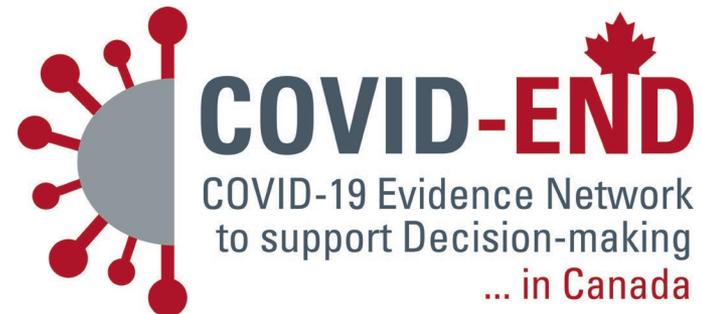


Early achievements (covid-end.org)

- **Resources for decision makers**
 - Living hub of COVID-19 knowledge hubs
 - Evidence packaging resources
 - Evidence support models
 - Tips and tools
 - Taxonomy of decisions
 - (Guide to key COVID-19 evidence sources)
- **Resources from researchers**
 - Supports for evidence synthesisers

Funding update

- **Canadian Institutes of Health Research** is now supporting pan-Canadian work and Canada-relevant parts of our global work ('**COVID-END in Canada**'), which includes all types of responses
 - Public-health measures
 - Clinical management
 - Health-system arrangements
 - Economic and social responses



Case for Doing Things Differently As We Transition from a Sprint to a Marathon

- Remarkable number of single studies being published every day has created a very **high noise-to-signal ratio**
- One-off reviews on long-term and recurring issues are quickly **out of date**
- Many rapid (and full) reviews are of **low quality**
- Few reviews about interventions provide a GRADE evidence profile that speaks to the **level of certainty** of the available evidence
- Too many evidence syntheses address the **same topic** (e.g., by June, >200 prognostic reviews and only 5 such reviews address ≥ 5 factors)
- Too many key decisions have **no available evidence synthesis** (let alone a living evidence synthesis that is updated as new studies are published)
- The small number of existing **living evidence syntheses often address same topic** (e.g., 3 living network meta-analyses of COVID-19 treatments)

Priorities: 1) Inventory of best evidence syntheses

- Inventory of ‘best evidence syntheses’ for all types of decisions being faced by those who are part of the COVID-19 pandemic response, which will save time and avoid duplication for those providing ‘front-line’ decision support in government (who can then focus on what the evidence means for their context)
 - Evidence syntheses harvested from sources in COVID-END guide
 - Filters applied for all parts of the COVID-END taxonomy of decisions (COVID-focused for all parts and often COVID-relevant too for health-system arrangements and economic & social responses)
 - ‘Best evidence syntheses’ rank-ordered within any given ‘row’ in taxonomy, based on
 - Date of search (e.g., 2020-07-01)
 - Quality (AMSTAR) rating (e.g., 8/11)
 - Evidence profile available (e.g., yes, with hyperlink)
 - Re-worded title with details to support relevance assessment (e.g., participants, exposure / intervention / phenomenon, and outcomes)

Priorities: 1) Inventory of best evidence syntheses

Broad and specific decisions			Criteria for 'best evidence synthesis'			Details to support relevance assessment	Additional decision-relevant details		
			Date of last search	Quality (AMSTAR) rating	Evidence profile (e.g., GRADE) available	Key findings	Living evidence synthesis	Type of synthesis	Type of question
		Anti-virals	2021-02-05	8/9	Yes	<u>conducted</u> <u>[Aztidine] Synthesis pending.</u>	Yes (row content last updated on 2021-02-08)	Full review	Benefits and harms
			2021-02-05	10/11	Yes	<u>[Baloxavir marboxil] The effects of adding baloxavir marboxil to standard care are uncertain</u>	Yes (row content last updated on 2021-02-08)	Full review	Benefits and harms
			2021-02-05	10/11	No	<u>[Baloxavir marboxil vs favipiravir] The effects of baloxavir marboxil compared with favipiravir are uncertain</u>	Yes (row content last updated on 2021-02-08)	Full review	Benefits and harms

Priorities: 2) Horizon Scans for Emerging Issues

- 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)
 - Diverse 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)

Priorities: 3) Living Systematic Reviews

- In the short-term
 - Create a list of **priority topics** where living systematic reviews are needed (based upon our inventory and horizon-scanning activities)
- In the medium-term
 - Cajole, encourage and nudge groups to collectively take **responsibility** for a full set of living reviews addressing all priority issues related to the pandemic and pandemic response

Priorities: 3) Living Systematic Reviews

COVID-END in Canada

- Living evidence profiles
 - vaccine roll-out
 - long-term care crisis management and renewal)
- Living rapid evidence syntheses
 - real-world effectiveness of vaccines to complement the living ESs of safety and efficacy from trials
 - variants and their implications for public-health measures, clinical management, and health-system arrangements

Priorities: 4) COVID-END Community Listserv

- Targets **individuals with the following attributes**
 - Creating and/or using evidence syntheses, technology assessments, and/or guidelines as the focus of their support to decision-making about COVID-19
 - Engaging with decision-making about COVID-19 by citizens/service users, providers, and/or health- and social-system policymakers
 - Keen to learn from others about how to support decision-making about COVID-19 and willing to explore challenges and/or share experiences through online discussions
 - Share the values of the COVID-END partnership
- **300+ members** from around the globe, and counting
- Vibrant list **discussion topics and facilitators**
- **Webinar series**
- Plan to summarize and share the **insights** from both organized topic discussions and ad hoc interactions

Priorities: 5) Global co-ordination and collaboration

- COVID-END and Cochrane have joined the secretariat of WHO ECC-19
- Currently producing a position paper on better co-ordination and collaboration of the global evidence synthesis response

Priorities: 6) COVID-END in Canada

- CIHR funding to provide:
 - Rapid evidence syntheses and profiles addressing needs of Canadian decision makers
 - Living rapid syntheses for key priority questions
 - Demand side co-ordination in Canada

 - Horizon scanning (global and Canada)
 - Maintain inventory of best evidence syntheses
 - Supply side co-ordination (global and Canada)

- COVID-END website - Resources specific to Canada

Forthcoming

- ***Supports for guidance developers***
- Tips for using the inventory
- New working and task groups (eg Prioritising, equity)
- New partners and resources (eg e-COVID)
- 2 weekly Global COVID evidence spotlight

Stay in touch!

- covid-end@mcmaster.ca
- covid-end.org
- [@COVID_E_N_D](https://twitter.com/COVID_E_N_D)