GUIDELINES AND RESEARCH UPDATES

TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS:

D1. Considerations for COVID-19 surveillance for vulnerable populations (WHO, 17 September) **[**LINK**]**

- This document outlines considerations for implementation of COVID-19 surveillance for vulnerable populations and recommends that countries adapt surveillance considerations outlined in this document based on their identified vulnerable populations and the local context.

D2. Gujarat's Interim Review of Noteworthy Actions in Response to COVID-19 (WHO, 25 September) **[**LINK**]**

- The publication outlines the collective approach of the Government of Gujarat while responding to COVID-19 including measures on preparedness, prevention, mitigation, control and recovery. Gujarat, in particular, has developed its own operational response plan and implemented several strategic measures to combat the spread of COVID-19 and secure the welfare of its people.

D3. COVID-19 disease in children and adolescents: Scientific brief (WHO, 29 September) **[**LINK**]**

- This scientific brief summarizes the current knowledge around SARS-CoV-2 infection acquisition and transmission and COVID-19 disease symptoms in children and adolescents. It aims to inform decisions, based on local contexts, on how to best keep schools, kindergarten and day-care facilities open and what advice to apply to intergenerational mixing.

D4. Neurology and COVID-19: Scientific brief (WHO, 29 September) **[**LINK**]**

- This scientific brief provides an overview of the relationship between neurology and COVID-19 and covers what is currently known about the acute neurological manifestations of COVID-19, the neurological sequelae associated with post-COVID-19 condition, the risk of infection, severe illness and mortality from COVID-19 for people with pre-existing neurological conditions, the extent of disruptions to neurological services caused by the pandemic and mitigation strategies to address

these disruptions, and emerging evidence for neurological complications following COVID-19 vaccination.

D5. Interim Guidelines for COVID-19 Antibody Testing (CDC, 21 September) **[**LINK**]**

- This publication is an interim guideline for COVID-19 antibody testing in clinical and public health settings. The guidance is intended for healthcare providers considering antibody testing of persons with a history of possible coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) or public health officials and other researchers conducting investigations involving antibody tests.

D6. Overview of the implementation of COVID-19 vaccination strategies and deployment plans(ECDC, 23 September) **[**LINK**]**

- This report provides an updated overview of the progress of national COVID-19 vaccination strategies in European countries, including updates on: vaccine uptake overall and by target group; current vaccination phases and priority groups, as well as any adjustments made to priority groups during the rollout; vaccination strategies and policies in place; and the use of vaccination certificates and challenges countries face with the rollout and good practices to mitigate these challenges.

D7. Neglected tropical diseases: impact of COVID-19 and WHO's response (WHO, 24 September) **[**LINK**]**

- This document outlines the mechanisms through which the COVID-19 pandemic has affected NTD health services and mitigation measures by WHO to tackle the impact of COVID-19 on NTD services.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

J1. Product-specific COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness against secondary infection in close contacts, Navarre, Spain (Eurosurveillance, 30 September) **[**LINK**]**

- The study assessed the product-specific COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness (VE) in preventing infection and hospitalization in a prospective dynamic cohort of adults (≥ 18 years old) who were close contacts of COVID-19 cases in Spain. The findings suggest that regardless of the product, two vaccine doses were highly effective against hospitalization, and mRNA or heterologous vaccination provided high protection within 90 days against SARS-CoV-2 infection in those younger than 60 years of age. However, protection against infection was suboptimal for vector-based vaccines in adults and for all products among people ≥ 60 years old.

J2. Subcutaneous REGEN-COV Antibody Combination to Prevent Covid-19 (NEJM, 23 September) [LINK]

- The study assessed if subcutaneous REGEN-COV, a combination of the monoclonal antibodies casirivimab and imdevimab, prevents severe acute respiratory syndrome

coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) infection. The findings suggest that subcutaneous REGEN-COV prevents symptomatic Covid-19 and asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infection in previously uninfected household contacts of infected persons. Among the participants who became infected, REGEN-COV reduced the duration of symptomatic disease and the duration of a high viral load.

J3. The role of viral genomics in understanding COVID-19 outbreaks in long-term care facilities (The Lancet, 29 September) **[**LINK**]**

- This study reviewed genomic epidemiology studies on COVID-19 in long-term care facilities (LTCFs). The observations found that staff and residents were usually infected with identical, or near identical, SARS-CoV-2 genomes. Outbreaks usually involved one predominant cluster, and the same lineages persisted in LTCFs despite infection control measures. Further, outbreaks were most commonly due to single or few introductions followed by a spread rather than a series of seeding events from the community into LTCFs.

J4. Nosocomial outbreak caused by the SARS-CoV-2 Delta variant in a highly vaccinated population, Israel (Eurosurveillance, 30 September) **[**LINK**]**

- This study is an investigation of a coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak that started from one unidentified COVID-19 patient, with extensive, rapid nosocomial spread among vaccinated, including individuals wearing surgical masks. The authors suggest that nosocomial outbreak exemplifies the high transmissibility of the SARS-CoV-2 Delta variant among twice vaccinated and masked individuals. This suggests some waning of immunity, albeit still providing protection for individuals without comorbidities.

J5. Cerebral venous thrombosis after vaccination against COVID-19 in the UK: a multicentre cohort study(The Lancet, 25 September) [LINK]

- The study describes the features of post-vaccination cerebral venous thrombosis with and without vaccine-induced immune thrombotic thrombocytopenia (VITT) and assesses whether VITT is associated with poorer outcomes. The authors observe that cerebral venous thrombosis is more severe in the context of VITT. Non-heparin anticoagulants and immunoglobulin treatment might improve outcomes of VITT-associated cerebral venous thrombosis.

J6. A systematic review and meta-analysis on the prevalence of stigma in infectious diseases, including COVID-19: a call to action (Nature, 27 September) **[**LINK**]**

- This meta-analysis estimated the pooled prevalence of stigma in infectious disease epidemics. The findings indicate that stigma is a significant public health concern, and effective and comprehensive interventions are needed to counteract the damaging effects of the infodemics during infectious disease epidemics, including COVID-19.

J7. Symptoms and Health Outcomes Among Survivors of COVID-19 Infection 1 Year After Discharge From Hospitals in Wuhan, China (JAMA, 29 September) [LINK]

- The study intended to answer the question- what are the long-term health outcomes associated with COVID-19 infection 1 year after hospital discharge?. The findings suggest that patients with COVID-19 with severe disease during hospitalization had more post infection symptoms and higher CAT scores.