

# COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control Sameeksha

WHO Country Office for India | Volume 13 | 27 May 2021

A compilation of recent publications on COVID-19 relevant for IPC and containment of antimicrobial resistance in India

## Publications from scientific journals

### Intra-household and close-contact SARS-CoV-2 transmission among children – a systematic review

- Younger children seem to be less frequently infected with SARS-CoV-2 compared to adults based on several studies showing a lower seropositivity amongst children as compared to adults, although children are predominantly infected by their household contacts.
- Larger systematic studies are needed to better understand the age dependent patterns of SARS-CoV-2 transmission to design more effective non-pharmaceutical interventions to reduce disease transmission.

*Frontiers in Pediatrics* | Systematic Review | 9 April 2021 | [Online link](#)

### COVID-19 transmission: a rapid systematic review of current knowledge

- Existing knowledge systematically reviewed for potentially significant clinical and epidemiological impact.
- The main route of transmission is via droplets and aerosols, and symptomatic human-to-human transmission remains the main vehicle that drives the epidemic, but transmission can occur even from asymptomatic patients.

*Osong PHRP* | Original Article | 29 April 2021 | [Online link](#)

### Surveillance of the infection prevention and control practices of healthcare workers by an infection control surveillance-working group and a team of infection control coordinators during the COVID-19 pandemic

- Adherence to proper hand and respiratory hygiene was inadequate at a regional hospital in Korea, during the early stage of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Further training to manage medical waste, particularly its collection, and continuous upgrading of strategies for patient screening were identified as critical needs.

*Journal of Infection and Public Health* | Article | April 2021 | [Online link](#)

### Building a virtual global knowledge network during COVID-19: the infection prevention and control global webinar series

- The IPC Global Webinar Series shared critical information and promoted peer-to-peer learning during the COVID-19 pandemic response by reaching a broader audience than many in-person events.
- The continued and expanded use of adapted virtual communities of practice and other learning networks for the IPC community can serve as a valuable, cost-effective tool for addressing COVID-19 and other infectious disease threats

*Clinical Infectious Diseases* | Article | 6 May 2021 | [Online link](#)

## Same-day SARS-CoV-2 antigen test screening in an indoor mass-gathering live music event: a randomised controlled trial

- Provides preliminary evidence on the safety of indoor mass-gathering events during a COVID-19 outbreak under a comprehensive preventive intervention.
- Data could help restart cultural activities halted during COVID-19, which might have important sociocultural and economic implications.

*The Lancet Infectious Diseases* | Article | 27 May 2021 | [Online link](#)

## WHO and other guidelines

### Preventing and mitigating COVID-19 at work

- Summarizes the evidence for transmission of COVID-19 in general workplaces and provides an overview of WHO and ILO recommendations for prevention and mitigation of COVID-19 and for protecting health and safety at work in the context of the pandemic.
- Target audience includes public health and labour authorities, businesses, employers, workers and their representatives at national and local levels to facilitate implementation of public health and social measures for COVID-19 while maintaining full and productive employment and decent work during the pandemic.

*WHO & ILO* | Policy brief | 19 May 2021 | [Online link](#)

### Infection prevention and control guidance to action tools

- Includes three focused improvement tools, or “aide-memoires”, for i) respiratory and hand hygiene ii) personal protective equipment (PPE), and iii) environment cleaning, waste and linen management, which are all elements of standard, droplet/contact and airborne precautions.
- The document provides action checks to empower IPC focal points and other leaders to take a range of actions for sustained improvement in IPC practices.

*WHO EURO* | Technical Report | 14 May 2021 | [Online link](#)

### COVID-19 considerations for tuberculosis care

- Primarily intended for health care workers and policy makers involved in the treatment of people with TB and management of services during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Guides health authorities on taking all measures to ensure continuity of services, prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment and care, etc.

*WHO* | Information note | 5 May 2021 | [Online link](#)

### Considerations on the use of rapid antigen detection (including self-) tests for SARS-CoV-2 in occupational settings

- Shows that rapid antigen testing can help reduce the spread of the virus in high-risk indoor workplaces, although testing cannot replace other safety and health measures and should be used to complement them.
- Highlights the importance of careful planning and involving employers, workers, occupational safety and health authorities, public health authorities and occupational health services in the design of a testing strategy for the workplace before implementation.

*ECDC* | Technical Report | 6 May 2021 | [Online link](#)

## Interim guidance on the benefits of full vaccination against COVID-19 for transmission and implications for non-pharmaceutical interventions

- Based on available evidence, ECDC has developed scenarios to consider waiving or relaxing NPIs such as physical distancing and the wearing of face mask in meetings between two individuals, households or social bubbles, e.g. (i) when fully vaccinated individuals meet other fully vaccinated individuals; or (ii) when fully vaccinated young and middle-aged adults meet unvaccinated people, provided no one present has a risk factor for severe disease.

ECDC | Technical Report | 21 April 2021 | [Online link](#)

## MoHFW and other guidelines

### CSIR guidelines on ventilation of residential and office buildings for SARS-Cov-2 virus

- CSIR laboratories demonstrated that viral particles could be detected in air even after 2 hours of exit of infected persons from a room and at distances much greater than 2 meters as well.
- Calls for a paradigm shift in ventilation from space focused to occupant focused design; and recommends minimum recommended ventilation rates of 10 litres per second per person for the SARS-CoV-2 virus like situations; maintaining social distance of 1.5 m to 3.0 metres; and good ventilation in buildings and houses.

CSIR | Guidelines | May 2021 | [Online link](#)

### Stop the transmission, crush the pandemic

- Encourages support and cooperation of individuals, communities, local bodies and authorities for use of masks, distance, ventilation, and sanitation to prevent the spread of SARS-CoV-2 virus, and highlights the important role well-ventilated spaces play in diluting the viral load of infected air in poorly ventilated houses, offices, etc.

Office of the PSA to GoI | Guidance | May 2021 | [Online link](#)

### Guideline for management of Mucormycosis in Covid-19 patients

- Provides guidance to clinicians (physicians/respiratory physicians/intensivists/ENT surgeons, etc.) to detect mucormycosis at an early stage in patients with Covid-19 and treat such patients optimally.
- Outlines the reasons for increase in mucormycosis in COVID-19 patients, presentation, diagnosis, management, as well as dos and don'ts for doctors and patients.

MoHFW | Guideline | 17 May 2021 | [Online link](#)

### Evidence based advisory in the time of COVID-19 (screening, diagnosis & management of mucormycosis)

- Provides guidance on predisposing factors, prevention, dos and don'ts, and management of mucormycosis.
- Links to journal articles with detailed management guidelines and information.

ICMR | Advisory | 9 May 2021 | [Hindi](#) [English](#)

### Home isolation of mild / asymptomatic COVID-19 cases

- Revised guidelines on patients for home isolation, clinically assigned to be mild /asymptomatic – provide instructions for patients, caregivers on mask, hand hygiene, and bio-medical waste disposal, etc.

MoHFW | Guideline | 28 April 2021 | [Online link](#)

## COVID-19 containment & management in peri-urban, rural & tribal areas

- Details various IPC practices, as well as infrastructure and training, while planning for COVID Care Centre (CCC), Dedicated COVID Health Centre (DCHC) and Dedicated COVID Hospital (DCH).

*MoHFW* | SoP | 16 May 2021 | [Online link](#)

## Training / IEC resources

### Safe management of bio-medical waste in COVID-19

- Shows safe management practices for bio-medical waste including management of waste-water, as well as donning and doffing of PPE, and their safe disposal.

*NHSRC* | Video | 13 May 2021 | [Online link](#)

### Linen management during COVID-19 pandemic

- Safe management practices while collecting, transporting, washing, drying, storage & distribution of linen, and safe management of disposable linen
- Includes linen management in hospitals as well as homecare; explains the laundry cycle, stresses the use of PPE and hand hygiene.

*NHSRC* | Video | 11 May 2021 | [Online link](#)

### How to wear mask

- Explains the steps on how to wear, take off, safely store and dispose masks.

*AIIMS* | Video | 7 May 2021 | [Online link](#)

### Revised guidelines for home isolation of mild/asymptomatic COVID-19 cases

- Illustrated guidelines that highlight hand hygiene and bio-medical waste disposal, for preventing COVID-19.
- Supersede the guidelines issued on 2 July 2020; and patients who are clinically assigned to be mild/asymptomatic are recommended for home isolation.

*MoHFW* | IEC | 5 May 2021 | [Hindi](#) [English](#)

### Video on hand hygiene – the invisible challenge: in healthcare settings

- Highlights hand hygiene as an important measure to prevent transmission of pathogens in healthcare settings.

*ECDC* | Video | 5 May 2021 | [Online link](#)

### Video on hand hygiene – the invisible challenge: at the office and when shopping

- Highlights importance of hand hygiene to prevent transmission of pathogens in office spaces and supermarkets.

*ECDC* | Video | 5 May 2021 | [Online link](#)

### Antimicrobial stewardship: A competency-based approach

- Develops core competencies of antimicrobial stewardship and its application to common clinical scenarios.

*WHO* | OpenWHO training course | [Online link](#)

## Antimicrobial Resistance and COVID-19

### Should the increased awareness of the One Health approach brought by the COVID-19 pandemic be used to further tackle the challenge of antimicrobial resistance?

- The pandemic has generated a powerful incentive and momentum to address the AMR crisis by accelerating collaborations and interdisciplinary communication between various stakeholders.

*Antibiotics* | Perspective | 10 April 2021 | [Online link](#)

### COVID-19: measles and antibiotic resistance are a matter of concern

- Discusses role of antibiotic-resistant bacteria (ARB) in the evolution and outcome of COVID-19 patients.

*Pathogens* | Editorial | April 2021 | [Online link](#)

### Bacterial co-infection is unusual in noncritical COVID-19 cases, so we must reduce our antibiotic prescribing

- Recommends reducing antibiotic use in COVID-19 patients, as there is little evidence of bacterial coinfections or their benefit.

*The Pharmaceutical Journal* | Opinion | 28 April 2021 | [Online link](#)

### Antimicrobial resistance: another long-term consequence of COVID-19?

- Cautions about the use of antimicrobials in COVID-19 cases and urges us to prepare for the “next” pandemic.

*World Bank* | Blog | 29 April 2021 | [Online link](#)