

## Sameeksha\* – Infection Prevention and Control for COVID-19

\* *Sameeksha* is a Hindi word, meaning review. This compilation of recent key IPC resources on COVID-19 includes brief summary of relevant publications from scientific journals; guidelines from WHO, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and others; training and IEC resources; and links between COVID-19 and AMR. The intended target audience for this includes clinical and public health professionals interested in IPC at both public and private sector in India. Kindly note: inclusion of publications/resources in this review/compilation does not imply an endorsement by WHO.

**Key highlights** of volume 28

- Training resources for environmental cleaning and IPC in health care facilities
- Evaluation of virtual trainings on IPC in Africa
- Current public health and social measures in the context of COVID-19
- Clinical culture yields and resistance rates before and during the COVID-19 pandemic

### Publications from scientific journals

#### Training a continent: a process evaluation of virtual training on infection prevention and control in Africa during COVID-19

- Virtual IPC trainings done in Africa were evaluated to improve ongoing and future trainings.
- The large-scale training reached more than 3,000 participants and was found to be efficient, practical and relevant for the African context, and highlighted the need for proactive monitoring and ongoing adaptations.

*Global Health: Science and Practice* | Field report | 23 March 2023 | [Online link](#)

#### Covid-19 surveillance testing and resident outcomes in nursing homes

- Retrospective cohort study of testing for SARS-CoV-2 among nursing facility staff members assessed weekly cumulative cases and related deaths among residents.
- Results showed that greater surveillance testing of staff was associated with meaningful reduction in COVID-19 cases and deaths among residents, especially before the availability of vaccines.

*The New England Journal of Medicine* | Original article | 23 March 2023 | [Online link](#)

#### Inferences from COVID-19 post-exposure risk assessment of health care workers in the pre-vaccination era at a major COVID sentinel center, Sri Lanka

- Adequacy of COVID-19 post exposure risk assessment of health care workers was done using five questions, which helped in identifying breaches in infection control.
- The authors propose including infectivity of index case to make the risk assessment more comprehensive.

*PLOS Global Public Health* | Research article | 15 February 2023 | [Online link](#)

## **Assessment of COVID-19 preparedness response plan on higher education students simulation of WHO intra-action review in Egypt**

- Used the WHO COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan, adopting a one-group post-test design.
- This approach helped synchronise the 10 pillars in preventing COVID-19 transmission during mass gatherings and may be useful for devising operational planning guidelines during outbreaks.

*Nature* | Scientific report | 13 January 2023 | [Online link](#)

## **Guidelines**

### **Clinical guidance for management of adult COVID-19 patients**

- Revised edition of the clinical guidelines for management of adult COVID-19 patients from MoHFW's COVID-19 National Task Force and Joint Monitoring Group.

*MoHFW* | Guidelines | 5 January 2023 | [Online link](#)

### **Considerations for implementing and adjusting public health and social measures in the context of COVID-19**

- Public health and social measures (PHSM) are targeted at reducing SARS-CoV-2 transmission, morbidity, mortality, and health system impact.
- Provides updated guidance for assessment of COVID-19 situation and implementation of PHSMs.

*WHO* | Interim guidance | 30 March 2023 | [Online link](#)

## **Training / IEC resources**

### **Environmental cleaning and infection prevention and control in health care facilities in low- and middle-income countries**

- Guidance for trainers of workers who clean health care facilities with a focus on maternity wards.
- Part of the two-part training package, the trainer's guide includes – on how to prepare, deliver and sustain trainings in environmental hygiene and IPC that will yield long term competence of people who clean.
- Contains annexes on existing IPC/WASH resources; guidance, tools and best practices; summary of existing tools and multimodal factors to support sustainability of improvements.

*WHO* | Trainer's guide | 7 March 2023 | [Online link](#)

### **Environmental cleaning and infection prevention and control in health care facilities in low- and middle-income countries**

- Companion to the trainer's guide, and provide instructions, definitions, photos, posters and illustrations of recommended best practices.
- Contains seven modules on IPC, hygiene, PPE, environmental cleaning, waste management and linen management.
- Supplementary module for supervisors of people who clean health care facilities.

*WHO* | Modules and resources | 7 March 2023 | [Online link](#)

## COVID-19 and Antimicrobial Resistance

### Microbiology clinical culture diagnostic yields and antimicrobial resistance proportions before and during the COVID-19 pandemic in an Indian community hospital and two US community hospitals

- Retrospective study, comparing proportion of cultures positive for selected multi-drug-resistant organisms using blood, respiratory and urine microbiology data before and during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Significant increase in the proportion of carbapenem resistant isolates of *K. pneumoniae* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* in respiratory samples and *E. coli* in urine cultures were seen in the Indian hospital.
- Highlights the need for antimicrobial stewardship and better infection prevention measures.

*Antibiotics* | Research article | 8 March 2023 | [Online link](#)

### Knowledge, attitude and practices of self-medication including antibiotics among health care professionals during the COVID-19 pandemic in Pakistan: findings and implications

- Cross-sectional KAP survey of 1173 health care workers found that 60% were self-medicating with antibiotics during the pandemic, especially from the “Watch” category (AWaRe – Access, Watch and Reserve classification of antimicrobials).
- Highlights the need to include AMR in medical curricula and expanding roles of community pharmacists to educate the general population on purchasing antibiotics without prescription.

*Antibiotics* | Research article | 28 February 2023 | [Online link](#)

### Community purchases of antimicrobials during the COVID-19 pandemic in Uganda: an increased risk for antimicrobial resistance

- Assessed the extent of self-medication of drugs to treat COVID-19 symptoms by analysing data from electronic health records of community pharmacists to compare drug purchases before and during COVID-19.
- Significant increase sales of Azithromycin and other antimicrobials was observed, particularly during the second wave similar to trends reported in India.
- Analysis of representative pharmacy sales data could benefit understanding the pandemic’s impact on self-medication.

*PLOS Global Public Health* | Research article | 23 February 2023 | [Online link](#)

### Antibiotic resistance profile of common uropathogens during COVID-19 pandemic: hospital based epidemiologic study

- Retrospective study of 2,581 urine samples from inpatient and outpatients in Egypt showed 30% positivity in microbiology culture.
- Isolates were predominantly *E. coli* (44%), with high levels of resistance to common antibiotics.
- Highlights the significance of surveillance, infection control and antimicrobial stewardship for containment of AMR.

*BMC Microbiology* | Research article | 25 January 2023 | [Online link](#)