



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 23

- Management of biomedical waste during the COVID-19 pandemic in India
- WHO policy brief on maintaining IPC measures for COVID-19 with changes in transmission
- Aide-memoires on standard and transmission based precautions for IPC
- Impact of COVID-19 on antimicrobial resistance in United States

Publications from scientific journals

Challenges and measures during management of mounting biomedical waste in COVID-19 pandemic: an Indian approach

- Rapid growth in biomedical waste during the pandemic is straining the current waste management systems.
- Current review of literature provides a comparison of status of waste generation, national waste management strategies and additional measures introduced during the pandemic.

Bulletin of the National Research Centre | Review article | 31 May 2022 | [Online link](#)

Supporting the delivery of infection prevention and control training to healthcare workers: insights from the sector

- Presents the current landscape of IPC in LMICs through the results of in-depth interviews of key stakeholders for IPC implementation in six countries.
- Highlights inadequate delivery of IPC trainings programs to HCWs.

Healthcare | Research article | 18 May 2022 | [Online link](#)

Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on adherence to infection prevention and control measures between 2019 and 2021 in Swiss sentinel private practices: repeated cross-sectional surveys

- The pandemic has brought a renewed focus on infection prevention and control.
- Reports the changes in adherence to IPC measures among private practitioners in Switzerland.

Swiss Medical Weekly | Research article | 31 May 2022 | [Online link](#)

Paradoxes of pandemic infection control: proximity, pace and care within and beyond SARS-CoV-2

- The pandemic brought attention to infection prevention and control in daily life, including a strong focus on hand hygiene.
- Proposes the notion of IPC as a multidimensional matter of care and illustrates the relationality of IPC.

SSM Qualitative Research in Health | Research article | 7 June 2022 | [Online link](#)

Compliance of healthcare workers with the infection prevention and control guidance in tertiary care hospitals: quantitative findings from an explanatory sequential mixed-methods study in Bangladesh

- Healthcare workers are at high risk of contracting infections, underscoring the importance of complying with IPC guidelines and appropriate use of personal protective equipment.
- Assesses compliance to the WHO's guidance on IPC measures, among physicians and nurses in tertiary public hospitals.

BMJ Open | Research article | 13 June 2022 | [Online link](#)

Infection prevention and control risk factors in health workers infected with SARS-CoV-2 in Jordan: a case control study

- The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted healthcare workers.
- This study used the WHO UNITY case-control protocol to assess risks factors of SARS-CoV-2 among healthcare workers and confirmed the role of hand hygiene as the most cost-effective measure to prevent the spread of viral infections.

Plos One | Research article | 8 July 2022 | [Online link](#)

Infection control practices of medical practitioners at a large urban public hospital in South Africa during the SARS-COV-2 pandemic

- The pandemic has highlighted the importance of infection prevention and control, especially in hospitals and among healthcare workers.
- This cross-sectional study describes the status of IPC training, preparedness, and IPC practices among South African doctors during the pandemic.

Wits Journal of Clinical Medicine | Research article | 4 July 2022 | [Online link](#)

Guidelines

Maintaining infection prevention and control measures for COVID-19 in health care facilities

- Guidance document to develop and implement policies to maintain and strengthen IPC in accordance with the current transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and risk of transmission of other pathogens.
- Target audience includes national, sub-national and facility-level IPC policy makers, administrators, health care facility managers, and implementing partners.

WHO | Policy brief | 7 June 2022 | [Online link](#)

Standard precautions for the prevention and control of infections

- Presents minimum standard of IPC practices that should be used by all health-care workers, during the care of all patients, at all times, in all settings.
- Also outlines implementation strategies for standard precautions for IPC.

WHO | Aide-memoire | 20 June 2022 | [Online link](#)

Transmission-based precautions for the prevention and control of infections

- Summarizes transmission-based precautions that need to be used in addition to standard precautions for patients with known or suspected infection.

WHO | Aide-memoire | 20 June 2022 | [Online link](#)

Critical preparedness, readiness and response actions for COVID-19

- Outlines critical preparedness, readiness and response actions that are necessary, depending on the SARS-CoV-2 transmission scenario.
- Highlights the importance of risk-reducing behaviour and IPC.

WHO | Guideline | 27 May 2022 | [Online link](#)

Clinical management and infection prevention and control for monkeypox: interim rapid response guidance

- This interim rapid response guidance document outlines clinical management and IPC guidelines for monkeypox.
- Target audience includes clinicians, health facility managers, health workers and IPC practitioners.

WHO | Guideline | 10 June 2022 | [Online link](#)

Landscape of observational studies on the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccination

- Provides an overview of observational studies conducted to assess the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccination.
- The studies span different vaccines (mRNA, viral vector, inactivated virus) and SARS-CoV-2 variants (Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta, Omicron, and other VoC).

WHO | Guideline | 30 June 2022 | [Online link](#)

Training / IEC resources

Q&A on #COVID19 vaccines

- Addresses questions on COVID-19 vaccination with latest information and research.

WHO | Video | 5 July 2022 | [Online link](#)

ECDC launches e-learning course on how to address online vaccination misinformation

- Brings learnings from latest research in psychology, social behavioural science, and communication, to understand and address online vaccination misinformation.

ECDC | E-learning course | 29 June 2022 | [Online link](#)

COVID-19 and Antimicrobial Resistance

COVID-19: U.S. Impact on Antimicrobial Resistance, Special Report 2022

- The pandemic has undone much of the progress in AMR, especially in healthcare facilities and community settings, resulting in more resistant infections, increased antibiotic use, and less data and prevention action.
- Highlights the pandemic's impact on 5 core areas to combat AMR in USA – tracking and data; preventing infections; antibiotic/antifungal use; environment and sanitation; and vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics.

CDC | Report | 14 June 2022 | [Online link](#)

Long-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on in-hospital antibiotic consumption and antibiotic resistance: a time series analysis (2015–2021)

- The pandemic compromised the application of antimicrobial stewardship and IPC programs.
- Suggests that increased AMR and antimicrobial consumption in the first wave of COVID-19 may have been later controlled to pre-epidemic levels by restoring IPC and antimicrobial stewardship programs.

Antibiotics | Research article | 20 June 2022 | [Online link](#)

Over the counter drugs and self-medication: a worldwide paranoia and a troublesome situation in India during the COVID-19 pandemic

- All COVID-19-affected nations encountered higher demand, and a scarcity, of drugs due to self-medication.
- Highlights the urgent need to regulate self-medication and OTC availability to prevent patient harm.

Annals of Medicine and Surgery | Short communication | 26 May 2022 | [Online link](#)

Antimicrobial resistance research collaborations in Asia: challenges and opportunities to equitable partnerships

- Qualitative study aimed to identify challenges and opportunities for Asia-centric, collaborative AMR research.
- Identifies factors influencing research collaborations and presents policy recommendations to facilitate them.

Antibiotics | Research article | 1 June 2022 | [Online link](#)

Antimicrobial resistance in the COVID-19 landscape: is there an opportunity for anti-infective antibodies and antimicrobial peptides?

- The pandemic has had a dual impact on AMR, preventive measures such as masking and hand hygiene may have diminished AMR, while inappropriate use of antimicrobials may have contributed to increasing AMR.
- Suggests that nature-derived anti-infective agents are very promising in the fight against infectious diseases.

Frontiers in Immunology | Research article | 2 June 2022 | [Online link](#)

Impact of COVID-19 on antimicrobial resistance in paediatric population: a narrative review

- Irrational antimicrobial prescriptions have been observed during the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, even in the paediatric population.
- This review outlines the impact of the pandemic on AMR among paediatrics and the possible control strategies.

Clinical Pharmacology Reports | Review article | 28 June 2022 | [Online link](#)