

COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control Sameeksha

WHO Country Office for India | 5 January 2021 | Volume 9

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

Publications from scientific journals

Assessment of air contamination by SARS-CoV-2 in hospital settings

- This systematic review analysed current evidence on air contamination with SARS-CoV-2 in hospital settings and factors associated with contamination, including viral load and particle size.
- Air close to as well as distant from patients with COVID-19 was frequently contaminated with SARS-CoV-2 RNA, but only few of these samples had viable viruses.

JAMA Network | Original investigation | 23 December 2020 | [Online link](#)

Decontamination and reuse of surgical masks and respirators during COVID-19 pandemic

- Authors evaluated reuse of surgical masks and respirators by analysing their performance and safety before and after decontamination methods.
- Dry heat is a safe decontamination method of surgical masks and respirators for at least five cycles, which is feasible in most hospitals.

International Journal of Infectious Diseases | Article | 22 December 2020 | [Online link](#)

Infection and mortality of healthcare workers worldwide from COVID-19: a systematic review

- This systematic review estimates the number of COVID-19 infections and deaths among HCWs across 195 countries during the early phases of the pandemic (till 8 May 2020).
- A total of 152,888 infections and 1,413 deaths were reported. Infections were mainly in women (71.6%) and nurses (38.6%), but deaths were mainly in men (70.8%) and doctors (51.4%).

BMJ Global Health | Original Research | 4 December 2020 | [Online link](#)

Effect of early application of social distancing interventions on COVID-19 mortality over the first pandemic wave: An analysis of data from 37 countries

- Daily numbers of Covid-19 cases and deaths, and data on social distancing interventions were analysed for 37 member countries of OECD, between 1 January and 30 June 2020.
- Early application of ban on mass gatherings, and school closures in outbreak epicentres was associated with reduction in Covid-19 cumulative mortality during the first pandemic wave.

Journal of Infection | Article | 30 November 2020 | [Online link](#)

Assessment of preventive practices followed by general public during COVID-19 pandemic – a cross-sectional survey from India

- A web-based cross-sectional survey was carried out recruiting 964 participants from all over India.
- Most respondents reported taking precautions such as wearing masks (91.8%), covering both nose and mouth (79.1%) and avoiding hand shaking (83.4%), but practices like social distancing in public places (51.8%) and workplace (51%), frequent hand washing/sanitising (63.6%) and washing hands for at least 20 seconds (45.4%) were less commonly observed.

Cureus | Original Article | 31 October 2020 | [Online link](#)

WHO and other guidelines

Rational use of personal protective equipment for coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and considerations during severe shortages

- Fourth edition of *Rational use of personal protective equipment for COVID-19 and considerations during severe shortages* (WHO, interim guidance) updates strategies for optimizing PPE use by health workers; new options for gloves and respirators; updated advice regarding PPE reuse; updated PPE recommendations for health workers based on the transmission scenario, setting, and activity (Annex 1); and updated PPE decontamination/reprocessing considerations (Annex 2).
- Options NOT recommended by WHO include – PPE reuse without decontamination or reprocessing; inappropriate glove use (especially in the community for purposes other than healthcare delivery); wearing a medical mask over a respirator and non-medical masks as an alternative to medical masks or respirators.

WHO | Interim guidance | 23 December 2020 | [Online link](#)

Checklist to support schools re-opening and preparation for COVID-19 resurgences or similar public health crises

- The checklist is structured around protective measures related to i) hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette; ii) physical distancing; iii) use of masks in schools; iv) environmental cleaning and ventilation; and v) respecting procedures for isolation of all people with symptoms.
- Includes 38 essential actions for the safer reopening of schools and preparation for potential COVID-19 resurgences and highlights the importance of multi-level coordination and both participatory and co-designed approaches among various stakeholders.

WHO | Checklist/guidance | 11 December 2020 | [Online link](#)

COVID-19 in children and the role of school settings in transmission - first update

- Available evidence suggests that combination of physical distancing to prevent crowding (class room distancing, staggered arriving times, cancellation of certain indoor activities), especially in older age groups, together with hygiene and safety measures to minimise transmissions (hand washing, respiratory etiquette, cleaning, ventilation, face masks in certain circumstances) have a role in preventing transmission in educational facilities.

ECDC | Technical report | 23 December 2020 | [Online link](#)

Health workforce policy and management in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic response

- Includes supporting and protecting health workers – IPC, including use of and access to PPE and working conditions including occupational health and safety.

WHO | Interim Guideline | 3 December 2020 | [Online link](#)

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19): Masks

- Q&A on ‘masks and COVID-19’ have been updated based on recent scientific evidence.

WHO | Advice for public | 1 December 2020 | [Online link](#)

MoHFW/Gol guidelines

COVID-19 vaccines operational guidelines

- COVID-19 vaccine shall be offered first to healthcare workers, frontline workers and population above 50 years of age, followed by those with comorbidities.
- Safety precautions, including IPC practices, safe injection practices and bio-medical waste (BMW) disposal, will be followed at the vaccination sites and during vaccination sessions.

MoHFW | Operational guidelines | 28 December 2020 | [Online link](#)

Guidelines on safe ophthalmology practices in COVID-19 scenario

- Preventive and response measures to prevent spread of COVID-19 in eye care facilities.

MoHFW | Guideline | 28 December 2020 | [Online link](#)

Trainings / IEC resources

FAQs surrounding COVID 19 vaccine introduction

- COVID-19 vaccine roll-out explained in three episodes.

MoHFW | YouTube video | 4 January 2021 | [Online link](#)

FAQs on COVID-19 vaccine for healthcare providers and frontline workers

- Includes FAQs for healthcare providers and frontline workers in English and Hindi.

MoHFW | FAQs | 17 December 2020 | [Online link](#) (English) and [Hindi](#)

FAQs on COVID-19 vaccine for general public

- Includes FAQs for general public in English and Hindi.

MoHFW | FAQs | 17 December 2020 | [Online link](#) (English) and [Hindi](#)

Webinar series on the management of children with COVID-19 infection

- Includes infection transmission, environmental disinfection and prevention of infection.

AIIMS COVID Portal | Webinar series | 16 December 2020 | [Online link](#)

Antimicrobial Resistance and COVID-19

The interrelationships between antimicrobial resistance, COVID-19, past, and future pandemics

- Mitigation strategy for AMR require strengthening investments in education and public awareness; focussing on actions at individual, community, state/national level as well as climate change, healthcare financing, and addressing production and proliferation of counterfeit drugs.

Journal of Infection & Public Health | Article | January 2021 | [Online link](#)

Antimicrobial resistance as a hidden menace lurking behind the COVID-19 outbreak: the global impacts of too much hygiene on AMR

- Inappropriate and too much use of antibiotics, biocides (household disinfectants, sanitizers, and cleaners) and disinfectants during this pandemic may have disastrous effects on antimicrobial stewardship programs and AMR control throughout the world.

Frontiers in Microbiology | Article | 15 December 2020 | [Online link](#)

The need for ongoing antimicrobial stewardship during the COVID-19 pandemic and actionable recommendations

- Highlight key challenges of infection management including continued occurrence of common infections, empiric use of antibiotics to treat COVID-19 patients, problematic access to effective antimicrobials and hospital-acquired infections.
- Urgent actions are required to continue antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) practices during the pandemic – specifically need for the reliance on existing principles of AMS across the hospital sector, primary care and community pharmacy; ensuring access to effective antimicrobials as well as upholding the principles of IPC; and advocacy for AMS must continue at all levels.

Antibiotics | Perspective | 14 December 2020 | [Online link](#)

Increase in hospital-acquired carbapenem-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii* infection and colonization in an acute care hospital during a surge in COVID-19 admissions – New Jersey, February – July 2020

- The outbreak of Carbapenem-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii* (CRAB) in a US hospital highlights health care–associated infections that are challenging to contain and often linked to infection prevention and control (IPC) breaches.
- Healthcare facilities need continued prioritizing of core IPC practices including hand hygiene, PPE usage and environmental cleaning, during surges in hospitalization.

MMWR-CDC | Report | 1 December 2020 | [Online link](#)