

### **Agenda item: COVID-19 lessons learned: getting ready for the next pandemic**

The [European Respiratory Society](#) welcomes the report on lessons learned from COVID-19. In particular, we support the reference to the need to update and establish digital health platforms. COVID-19 has accelerated the digitalisation of the health care system. Respiratory practice will continue to be transformed faster than anyone thought possible.

#### **Lessons learned from digital health in the pandemic:**

- ▶ Digital solutions must not only evolve with patients, but they must also be adapted to different diseases and severities and be universally understandable.
- ▶ Patients are embracing digital health. However, we argue there is a need for more evidence to support telemonitoring and telehealth and the need for health systems to work with patients in all steps of digitalisation to build trust.
- ▶ There is furthermore a need for integrated and interoperable systems that work with current routines and health care. The WHO has a big role to play on this but also on promoting health data for research. For more see: <https://www.ersnet.org/events/ers-presidential-summit-2021/>

#### **Practical lessons learned in respiratory wards in the WHO EURO Region:**

- ▶ Many people with asthma and other chronic respiratory diseases have had concerns for their health during the COVID19 pandemic. We would draw the Regional Committee's attention to the snapshots WHO Europe produced on the response to COVID-19 and its impact on respiratory health services in the UK and Belgium. Read about them [here: https://bit.ly/3fVCORT](https://bit.ly/3fVCORT)
- ▶ In the UK, unprecedented changes during COVID19 had to be made quickly both in primary care and in hospitals. Patients with chronic respiratory diseases had to cope with fear of the virus, fear of hospitals, uncertainties, consulting by phone or online and more. Read about the experience of the UK [here: https://bit.ly/2VPetVZ](https://bit.ly/2VPetVZ)
- ▶ In 2020, Belgium experienced highs and lows as it grappled with COVID19. When COVID19 hit, all non-essential medical care immediately was shut down and much value was put on communication and online webinars. Read more [here: https://bit.ly/3yBOU9w](https://bit.ly/3yBOU9w)

#### **Climate change and lessons learned:**

- ▶ We also support the references to the importance of the linkages between the pandemic and climate change in the report. This recommendation could even be strengthened in light of the recent and very concerning findings of the IPCC sixth assessment report<sup>1</sup> and the upcoming COP26.

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<sup>1</sup> IPCC, 2021: Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Masson-Delmotte, V., P. Zhai, A. Pirani, S. L. Connors, C. Péan, S. Berger, N. Caud, Y. Chen, L. Goldfarb, M. I. Gomis, M. Huang, K. Leitzell, E. Lonnoy, J. B. R. Matthews, T. K. Maycock, T. Waterfield, O. Yelekçi, R. Yu and B. Zhou (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press. In Press. <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-working-group-i/>