



Evidence Collaborative for COVID-19 network with WHO partners

Webex, 26 March 2020

WHO, HQ, Science Division

Purpose and Objectives

Purpose

Create a network to serve as a hub for knowledge sharing and platform for communication among partners enabling comprehensive evidence review and retrieval in response to the outbreak.

Objectives for today

1. Share the current and longer-term WHO priority questions for COVID19 retrieval and reviews
2. Share updates among partners on
 - a. Ongoing evidence retrieval, categorization efforts and search capabilities
 - b. Ongoing evidence review and guidance development efforts
3. Set next steps for communication and coordination

Today's Agenda

Welcome

Dr Soumya Swaminathan, Chief Scientist, Science Division,
WHO HQ

Purpose and Objectives

Dr John Grove, Director QNS, Science Division, WHO HQ

Latest on Evidence Retrieval and Gaps

Ian Roberts, Coordinator LDI, QNS, Science Division, WHO HQ
Tomas Allen, LDI, QNS, Science Division, WHO HQ

WHO Priority COVID19 Questions

Dr Sue Hill, Director Office of the Chief Scientist, Science
Division, WHO HQ

Dr Sylvie Briand, Director GIH, WHO HQ

Partner Updates / Current work and interests

Next Steps

WHO COVID-19 Database

WHO COVID-19 Database

Capture numerous resources for WHO's emergency response

Daily search of publisher websites and other bibliographic databases

Regardless of language – but peer reviewed or published in recognized journals

Help shorten the time-lag between articles appearing on publisher websites and indexing databases

Bibliographic data linking to full text (WHO Research4Life asking publisher to ensure access)

Colleagues in China are covering all literature in Chinese language (now available as a resource of its own)

Many initiatives – collaboration will provide a more comprehensive approach

Very manual approach – more efficiency with more technology and better terminology

Topic area

Epidemiology/ Modeling/ transmission

Key questions

1. The transmission parameters (R_0 , serial interval, generation time, doubling time, incubation period)
2. Severity parameters (CFR, IFR).
3. Length of infectiousness / correlation to viral load
4. Role of fomite transmission
5. Role of pre-symptomatic and asymptomatic transmission (specifically length of pre-symptomatic and/or asymptomatic infectious period).
6. Role of (asymptomatic?) children in transmission
7. % of truly asymptomatic cases
8. Effectiveness of NPI (e.g. hand hygiene, quarantining, social distancing, others?)

Topic area

Epidemiology/ Prevention

Key questions

1. Level of herd immunity to interrupt transmission (this is likely a modeling question and could be moved above?)
2. Effects of the interventions being conducted (large scale use of masks, travel ban, self-quarantine, mandatory quarantine (length of quarantining), closure of restaurants/stores, etc.)

Topic area

Clinical aspect/ Diagnosis/ Treatment

Key questions

1. Duration of viral PCR positivity by location (NP,OP, sputum, stool and urine)
2. Disease severity break down by age – i.e. not just mortality.
3. Independent and combined RFs for mortality
4. % hospitalized of all cases in different settings
5. ICU and mechanical ventilation mortality (stratified by age)
6. Oxygen utilization in hospitalized case – duration and volume
7. High flow oxygen use, non-invasive use—mortality
Safety of NSAIDs in COVID-19, other viral and bacterial illnesses
8. Overweight/obesity as a risk factor for adverse outcomes in COVID-19

Topic area

Infection Prevention and control

Part 1.

Key questions

1. Is a one meter distance from a known case of COVID sufficient to prevent droplet transmission? (*Secondary Question- With or without a medical mask on the patient and/or with or without a medical mask on the HCW?*)
2. Is 0.1% sodium hypochlorite (1000 ppm) sufficient to kill coronavirus in the absence of spills?
3. What is the safe management of dead bodies of suspect or confirmed COVID-19?
4. Can ash be used as an alternative to soap for cleaning hands?
5. Is taking an nasopharyngeal or oral pharyngeal swab an aerosol generating procedure?
6. What are the barriers and enablers to HCW compliance/ or "adherence" to the IPC recommendations for infectious disease outbreaks, with focus on coronavirus? — or on any respiratory infectious diseases?

Topic area

Infection Prevention and control

Part 2.

Key questions

1. What interventions have been used to promote adherence to IPC recommendations for infectious disease outbreaks in healthcare settings, with a focus on coronaviruses or respiratory infectious diseases? *(How effective were they? What was the theoretical framework that informed the development of these interventions?)*
2. What is the evidence of efficacy of ultra violet radiation to reduce coronavirus contamination in air exhausting systems?
3. What is the evidence on the negative pressure air ventilation to prevent the dissemination of coronavirus infection during airborne generating procedures?
4. Is high flow nasal cannulation (provides up to 20L oxygen LPM) an aerosol generating procedure?

Next Steps

1. WHO to collect information through a short template for completion and return
2. WHO to establish communication/sharing platform
3. Network call will be scheduled for mid/late April