

*The Newfoundland & Labrador Centre for Applied Health Research (NLCAHR) will be sending this COVID-19 e-bulletin to our health system stakeholders once a week. This e-bulletin includes the results from recent searches of published health evidence and grey literature on the pandemic under specific subject headings, highlighting those findings considered to be of particular relevance to you.*

*We hope you will find this information to be helpful. We welcome your [feedback and suggestions](#).*

*Please look for NLCAHR e-bulletins and COVID-19 [Quick Response Reports](#) [online here](#).*

## REOPENING AFTER LOCKDOWN

**Alberta Health Services:** [Rapid Response Report- Patient risk stratification in the Emergency Department - who needs admission?](#) (Published June 5, 2020)

This practice guideline addresses the following question: “For patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 who are assessed in the emergency department, are there clinical features that reliably indicate need for admission or safety for discharge?” [LINK](#)

**Annals of Internal Medicine:** [COVID-19: Peer Support and Crisis Communication Strategies to Promote Institutional Resilience](#) (Published June 16, 2020)

In this commentary, the authors summarize lessons learned from experiences with previous national and global health and social crises to provide consensus on best practices for fostering an organizational culture of resilience among healthcare providers and organizations. [LINK](#)

**The Conversation:** [How to support kids’ and teens’ mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic](#) (Published June 9, 2020)

This article by a child and adolescent psychiatrist and associate professor of psychiatry at Western University highlights the vulnerability of children and youth with pre-existing mental health challenges – a vulnerability that has become more pronounced during the COVID-19 pandemic. The author outlines various measures that can be taken to support children's mental health during this period. [LINK](#)

## ANTICIPATING A “SECOND WAVE”

**International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health:** [Preparing for the next wave of COVID-19: resilience in the face of a spreading pandemic](#) (Published June 4, 2020)

The authors note that COVID-19 has shown how little resilience societies have to novel viruses. They outline the need for a more comprehensive understanding of the complexity of viral outbreaks and their impacts; the need to

develop intervention portfolios; and call for a global crisis and resilience policy to improve societal resilience. COVID-19 immunity is described as a key benchmark to help prepare for the next wave of the pandemic. [LINK](#)

**MedRxiv:** [Contextualizing COVID-19 spread: a county level analysis, urban versus rural, and implications for preparing for the next wave](#) (Published April 28, 2020)

In an attempt to better understand how the social determinants of health may be associated with outcomes during the COVID-19 pandemic, the authors conducted a deep-dive analysis using a public dataset on COVID-19 that connects infection spread over time to a rich collection of contextual determinants for all counties of the U.S and Washington, D.C. to better prepare for the next wave of the virus. [LINK](#)

## TREATMENT

**Nature:** [Coronavirus breakthrough: dexamethasone is first drug shown to save lives](#) (Published June 23, 2020)

As COVID-19 is associated with diffuse lung damage, corticosteroids may modulate immune-mediated lung injury and reduce rates of progression to respiratory failure and death. A Randomised Evaluation of COVID-19 therapy (RECOVERY) trial compared a range of possible treatments with usual care in patients hospitalized with COVID-19. The authors reported the preliminary results for the comparison of dexamethasone 6 mg given once daily for up to ten days vs. usual care alone. [LINK \(Original Report\)](#)

**The New York Times:** [Slowing the Coronavirus Is Speeding the Spread of Other Diseases](#) (Published June 14, 2020)

Many mass immunization efforts worldwide were halted this spring to prevent spread of the virus at crowded inoculation sites. The consequences have been alarming. [LINK](#)

**Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technology in Health (CADTH):** [Ongoing Trials of Plasma-Based Therapies for the Treatment of COVID-19](#) (Published June 15, 2020)

This report provides information on ongoing randomized controlled trials of intravenous immune globulin and hyper-immune globulin being investigated for the treatment of COVID-19. It will be updated every two weeks. Ongoing trials of convalescent plasma are addressed in separate CADTH reports. [LINK](#)

**Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technology in Health (CADTH):** [Ongoing Trials for Drugs in the Prevention and Treatment of COVID-19](#) (Published June 9, 2020)

This report provides information on randomized controlled trials of drugs being investigated for the prevention or treatment of COVID-19. As of May 28, 2020, a total of 92 ongoing drug trials related to COVID-19 are registered on the ClinicalTrials.gov website. Most of these trials are being conducted among hospitalized adult patients and six trials have Canadian study sites. [LINK](#)

## CLINICAL MANAGEMENT

**SwissInfo:** [The Swiss develop first see-through surgical mask](#) (Published June 9, 2020)

A fully transparent surgical mask that filters out germs but allows facial expressions to be seen has been developed by Swiss scientists. Caregivers should be able to wear them from the summer of 2021. [LINK](#)

**The New York Times:** [Flushing the Toilet May Fling Coronavirus Aerosols All Over](#) (Published June 9, 2020)

A new study shows how turbulence from a toilet bowl can create a large plume that is potentially infectious to a bathroom's next visitor. [LINK](#)

**MedRxiv:** [COVID-19 outcomes, risk factors and associations by race: a comprehensive analysis using electronic health records data in Michigan Medicine](#) (Published June 16, 2020)

This study sought to determine patient characteristics associated with racial/ethnic disparities in COVID-19 outcomes, given that African-Americans are overrepresented in the number of COVID-19 infections, hospitalizations, and deaths in the USA. [LINK](#)

**Centres for Disease Control (CDC):** [Guidance for Dental Settings](#) (Published June 17, 2020)

This guidance document provides interim infection prevention and control guidance from the CDC for dental care settings during the COVID-19 response. [LINK](#)

## INFECTION CONTROL

**MedRxiv Pre-Prints:** [COVID-19 and the Social Distancing Paradox: dangers and solutions](#) (Published May 26, 2020)

This study collected the world's first dataset on social distancing during the COVID-19 outbreak to evaluate, in real time, how people actually implement social distancing. The authors identify dangers of the current situation, and find solutions to better protect the public against this and future pandemics. [LINK](#)

## COVID-19 & HEALTHCARE WORKERS

**The Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine (CEBM):** [The role and response of primary care and community nursing in the delivery of palliative care in epidemics and pandemics: a rapid review to inform practice and service delivery during the COVID-19 pandemic](#) (Published June 4, 2020)

This rapid review examined available evidence on the role and response of primary care and community nursing services in the delivery of palliative care to support informed service delivery during the current pandemic. [LINK](#)

## SENIORS & OTHER VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

**Eurosurveillance:** [High impact of COVID-19 in long-term care facilities, suggestion for monitoring in the EU/EEA, May 2020](#) (Published June 4, 2020)

This paper discusses the severe impact of COVID-19 in long-term care homes. The authors provide an overview of the importance of the surveillance/infection prevention and control measures that are outlined in the guidance documents from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). [LINK](#)

**Journal of the American Geriatrics Society:** [COVID-19 deaths in long term care facilities – a critical piece of the pandemic puzzle](#) (Published June 5, 2020)

This article discusses how the majority of COVID-19 deaths have occurred in long-term care facilities; why people in long-term care are vulnerable; exceptions to this trend; the psychosocial toll of long-term care outbreaks; and the need for decision makers to match regulations with the science. [LINK](#)

**Critical Reviews in Food Science and Nutrition:** [Obesity as a risk factor for COVID-19: an overview](#)

(Published June 15, 2020)

In this paper, the authors summarize factors associated with obesity, such as changes in the immune response, nutritional factors, psychological factors, and the gut-lung axis, that may have an impact on viral response and COVID-19 prognosis. [LINK](#)

**Diabetes Research and Clinical Practice:** [Assessment of risk, severity, mortality, glycemic control and antidiabetic agents in patients with diabetes and COVID-19: a narrative review](#) (Published June 10, 2020)

Although diabetes is associated with increased severity and mortality with COVID-19 (even in the absence of other comorbidities) and uncontrolled hyperglycemia is also a significant risk factor, data is scarce as to whether any anti-diabetic agents demonstrate either favorable or unfavorable effects in patients with both diabetes and COVID-19. [LINK](#)

## MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS

**Quarterly Journal of Medicine:** [The impact of COVID-19 pandemic on suicide rates](#) (Published June 15, 2020)

This article looks at how the COVID-19 crisis may increase suicide rates both during and after the pandemic and how it is imperative to decrease stress, anxiety, fears and loneliness in the general population. [LINK](#)

**Health Affairs Blog:** [The Double Pandemic of Social Isolation and COVID-19: Cross-Sector Policy Must Address Both](#) (Published June 22, 2020)

A psychologist at Brigham Young University writes about the struggle to balance literal survival with the need to remain socially-connected, asserting that meaningful social connection is also critical for human health and survival. [LINK](#)

This **COVID-19 e-bulletin** was prepared by researchers at the Newfoundland & Labrador Centre for Applied Health Research (Kazeem Adefemi, Waseem Abu Ashour, Wendy Lasisi, and Pablo Navarro) to summarize research evidence and grey literature produced by a variety of sources that were accessed online in June, 2020.

Given the rapidly changing nature of the coronavirus pandemic, some of the references included in this e-bulletin may quickly become out-of-date. We further caution readers that researchers at the Newfoundland & Labrador Centre for Applied Health Research are not experts on infectious diseases and are relaying work produced by others. This report has been produced quickly and it is not exhaustive, nor have the included studies been critically appraised.

**QUESTIONS/ SUGGESTIONS?  
CONTACT**

**The Newfoundland & Labrador Centre for Applied Health Research**