

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 six 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](#).

You can find NLCAHR e-bulletins and COVID-19 *Quick Response Reports* [online here](#).

TREATING COVID-19

Nature: [Convalescent serum lines up as first-choice treatment for coronavirus](#) (Published May 1, 2020)

Antibodies from blood donated by people who recovered from the illness, as well as hyper-immunoglobulins, are becoming treatments of choice for COVID-19, with recombinant polyclonal antibody approaches to follow. [LINK](#)

Health Canada: [Vaccines and treatments for COVID-19](#) (Published April 24, 2020)

Currently there are no therapies available for either the prevention or treatment of COVID-19. While certain products may alleviate COVID-19 symptoms, such as fever and cough, there are no proven treatments to prevent or cure the disease. Health Canada is closely tracking all potential therapeutic treatments and vaccines in development in Canada and abroad, including products that are being used off-label. [LINK](#)

STAT+ Biotech: [Critical study of Gilead's Covid-19 drug shows patients are responding to treatment, NIH says](#) (News article published April 29, 2020)

Information about a recent study of remdesivir to treat COVID-19. [LINK](#)

The Lancet: [Remdesivir in adults with severe COVID-19: a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, multicentre trial](#) (Published April 29, 2020)

The first randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trial assessing the effect of intravenous remdesivir in adults admitted to hospital with severe COVID-19. The study was terminated before attaining the pre-specified sample size. [LINK](#)

CLINICAL MANAGEMENT

CADTH: [Resumption of elective health services amid COVID-19](#) (Published May 5, 2020)

CADTH has prepared a briefing note that describes the challenges health systems face in making decisions about resuming elective procedures during the COVID-19 pandemic, summarizes some recent guidance on service resumption, and discusses potential implications and long-term considerations for these choices. [LINK](#)

New England Journal of Medicine: [Cardiovascular Disease, Drug Therapy, and Mortality in Covid-19](#)

(Published May 1, 2020)

An observational study from 169 hospitals in Asia, Europe, and North America that evaluated the relationship of cardiovascular disease and drug therapy with in-hospital deaths among hospitalized patients with Covid-19. [LINK](#)

Nature: [A human monoclonal antibody blocking SARS-CoV-2 infection](#) (Published May 4, 2020)

This article reports on a human monoclonal antibody that neutralizes SARS-CoV-2 (and SARS-CoV) in cell culture. This cross-neutralizing antibody targets a communal epitope on these viruses and may offer potential for prevention and treatment of COVID-19. [LINK](#)

Autoimmunity Reviews: [Should we stimulate or suppress immune responses in COVID-19? Cytokine and anti-cytokine interventions](#) (Published May 4, 2020)

This review provides an overview of current knowledge on COVID-19 immunopathology. [LINK](#)

MEDRxiv: [Humoral immune response and prolonged PCR positivity in a cohort of 1343 SARS-CoV 2 patients in the New York City region](#) (Published May 4, 2020)

This study investigated both seroconversion and PCR-positivity in a large cohort of convalescent serum donors in New York City. [LINK](#)

INFECTION CONTROL

Alberta Health Services: [Guidelines for COVID-19 Outbreak Prevention, Control and Management in Congregate Living Sites](#) (Published May 2, 2020)

Best-practice/evidence-based guidelines from the Alberta Health Services for COVID-19 outbreak control and management in congregate settings. 'Congregate settings' are defined as settings where residents/clients receive care and/or services in a communal environment with other residents/clients. [LINK](#)

CADTH: [Testing for COVID-19 in Correctional Facilities: Clinical Effectiveness and Guidelines](#) (Published May 4, 2020)

CADTH conducted a *Rapid Response* report to search for evidence on the clinical effectiveness of COVID-19 testing for all new admissions to correctional facilities, as well as the clinical effectiveness of mass testing (i.e., testing everyone within the correctional facility for COVID-19). CADTH also searched for any evidence-based guidelines on these topics. However, no relevant literature and no evidence-based guidelines were identified. [LINK](#)

Alberta Health Services: [What are the optimal strategies for controlling outbreaks of COVID-19?](#)

(Published May 1, 2020)

This systematic review investigates if, apart from self-isolation and use of voluntary centralized isolation centers, there may be other evidence-based strategies to effectively and successfully control COVID-19 outbreaks. [LINK](#)

Alberta Health Services: [Handling, Cleaning and Disinfecting Mobile Devices such as Ultrasound Scanners, X-Ray and Electrocardiogram \(ECG\) Equipment Used for Patients on Contact and Droplet Precautions including COVID-19 Patients](#) (Published April 28, 2020)

Infection prevention and control (IPC) recommendations from Alberta Health Services for handling, cleaning and disinfecting non-critical mobile devices that come into contact with the intact skin of COVID-19 patients. [LINK](#)

Nature: [As lockdowns lift, new hazards lurk in the water](#) (Published April 28, 2020)

This article highlights the risks of bacterial growth and heavy metal build-up in the plumbing of unused buildings resulting from stagnant water, and the need for public health guidance on water safety before easing COVID-19-imposed restrictions. [LINK](#)

BMC Public Health: [Effectiveness of workplace social distancing measures in reducing influenza transmission: A systematic review](#) (Published 2018)

This systematic review assess available evidence on whether social distancing in non-healthcare workplaces reduces or slows influenza transmission. [LINK](#)

COVID-19 & HEALTHCARE WORKERS

Cochrane Library: [Barriers and facilitators to healthcare workers' adherence with infection prevention and control \(IPC\) guidelines for respiratory infectious diseases: a rapid qualitative evidence synthesis](#)

(Published April 21, 2020)

Rapid synthesis of qualitative research evidence on the facilitators and barriers to health workers' compliance with infection prevention and control guidelines. [LINK](#)

Alberta Health Services: [Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) for Facility Screening Tasks](#) (Published April 17, 2020)

Alberta Health Services' recommendations for PPE that is appropriate and safe for use when screening patients, staff, and visitors in healthcare settings. [LINK](#)

The Hastings Center: [Ethical framework for healthcare institutions responding to novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 \(COVID-19\) & Guidelines for institutional ethics services responding to COVID-19](#)

(Published March 16, 2020)

This framework document argues for a balance between the ethics of clinical duties (i.e., patient-centred care) and the ethics of public health (i.e., considerations of equity and the just distribution of benefits and harms) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. [LINK](#)

SENIORS & OTHER VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Journal of Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing: [COVID-19 lockdown: a perfect storm for older people's mental health](#) (Published April 30, 2020)

The management of lockdown protocols presents a perfect storm for mental distress among older people by enforcing isolation and heightening perceptions of risk of death and illness. [LINK](#)

Journal of Infection: [Clinical features of COVID-19 in elderly patients: a comparison with young and middle-aged patients](#) (Published March 27, 2020)

This article analyzes the distinctive clinical characteristic of elderly patients with COVID-19. [LINK](#)

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS

British Journal of Psychiatry: [Maternal mental health in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic](#) (Published May 5, 2020)

This article discusses the psychological repercussions of the outbreak on maternal mental health and provides advice on potential approaches to avert poor mental health outcomes. [LINK](#)

Nature: [Mobilization of telepsychiatry in response to COVID-19 – moving towards 21st century access to care](#) (Published April 24, 2020)

This article provides insights on the provision of mental health services and how current steps being taken to bridge sudden service gaps may set the stage for a lasting shift towards improved access to care. [LINK](#)

Asian Journal of Psychiatry: [Mental health problems faced by healthcare workers due to the COVID-19 pandemic – a review](#) (Published April 22, 2020)

A systematic appraisal of studies conducted on the mental health problems faced by healthcare workers as the result of the COVID-19 pandemic. [LINK](#)

Psychiatric Praxis: [COVID-19 pandemic: stress experience of healthcare workers](#). (Published April 27, 2020)

A brief review of studies on the psychological stress of healthcare workers caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. [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 early May, 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

95 Bonaventure Avenue, Suite 300

St. John's, NL A1B 2X5

nlcahr@mun.ca

www.nlcahr.mun.ca

Newfoundland & Labrador Centre for
**APPLIED
HEALTH
RESEARCH**
www.nlcahr.mun.ca