

*The Newfoundland & Labrador Centre for Applied Health Research (NLCAHR) sends this COVID-19 e-bulletin to our health system stakeholders on a bi-weekly basis. This e-bulletin includes results from recent searches of 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](#).*

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

## REOPENING AFTER LOCKDOWN

**Institut National de Santé Publique (Quebec): [Schools and teaching environments - COVID-19 Preventive Measures in the Workplace](#)** (September 08, 2020)

These guidelines offer a series of recommendations for employers and workers in a variety of educational settings to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 and to protect the health of workers. [LINK](#)

**The British Medical Journal: [COVID-19: Re-opening Universities is High Risk](#)** (September 01, 2020)

This editorial looks at lessons learned from major campus outbreaks in the USA and highlights the risk of re-opening universities where community spread has not been sufficiently contained. [LINK](#)

## ANTICIPATING A “SECOND WAVE”

**Cambridge University Press | Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness: [COVID-19: Second Wave or Multiple Peaks, Natural Herd Immunity or Vaccine—We Should be Prepared](#)** (September 10, 2020)

This article provides a series of recommendations that practicing physicians and public health agencies can share with individuals, especially those at risk of infection, encouraging the use of pre-emptive measures in anticipation of the potential next peak of the COVID-19 pandemic. [LINK](#)

## TREATMENT

**Journal of the American Medical Association: [Efficacy of Remdesivir in COVID-19](#)** (August 21, 2020)

Variation in the results of Randomized Control Trials (RCTs) of remdesivir may be the result of differences in study design. “Nonetheless, in aggregate, important questions remain regarding the efficacy of remdesivir. It seems prudent to urgently conduct further evaluations of remdesivir in large-scale RCTs designed to address the residual uncertainties and to inform optimal use.” [LINK](#)

## CLINICAL MANAGEMENT

**The New York Times:** [Does Wearing Glasses Protect You From Coronavirus?](#) (September 17, 2020)

“After researchers noticed fewer nearsighted patients in a hospital ward in China, they speculated that wearing glasses might offer some protection against COVID-19.” [LINK](#)

**Nature:** [Fast coronavirus tests are coming — here’s what they can and can’t do](#) (September 16, 2020)

“At the end of August, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted emergency-use approval to a new credit-card-sized testing device for the coronavirus that costs US\$5, gives results in 15 minutes, and doesn’t require a laboratory or a machine for processing. Tests for COVID-19 fall into two categories: diagnostic tests such as PCR and antigen assays, which detect parts of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, and antibody tests that sense molecules that people produce when they have been infected by the virus.” [LINK](#)

**New England Journal of Medicine:** [Genomewide Association Study of Severe COVID-19 with Respiratory Failure](#) (June 17, 2020)

“The authors conducted a genomewide association study involving 1,980 patients with COVID-19 and severe disease (defined as respiratory failure) at seven hospitals in the Italian and Spanish epicenters of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic in Europe. They identified a 3p21.31 gene cluster as a genetic susceptibility locus in patients with COVID-19 with respiratory failure and confirmed a potential involvement of the ABO blood-group system.” [LINK](#)

**Centres for Disease Control:** [Community and Close Contact Exposures Associated with COVID-19 among Symptomatic Adults ≥18 Years in 11 Outpatient Health Care Facilities — United States, July 2020](#) (September 11, 2020)

“Findings from a case-control investigation of symptomatic outpatients from 11 U.S. healthcare facilities found that close contact with persons with known COVID-19 or going to locations that offer on-site eating and drinking options were associated with COVID-19 positivity. Adults with positive SARS-CoV-2 test results were approximately twice as likely to have reported dining at a restaurant as were those with negative SARS-CoV-2 test results.” [LINK](#)

## INFECTION CONTROL

**Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews:** [Travel-related control measures to contain the COVID-19 pandemic: a rapid review](#) (updated September 16, 2020)

This systematic review assessed travel-related control measures that have been implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic to assess their effectiveness on infectious disease and screening-related outcomes. [LINK](#)

**Cambridge University Press | Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology:** [Assessing COVID-19 Transmission to Healthcare Personnel: the Global ACT-HCP Case-Control Study](#) (September 9, 2020)

This case-control study investigated associations between exposures within and outside the medical workplace with healthcare personnel SARS-CoV-2 infection, including the effect of various forms of respiratory protection. [LINK](#)

**Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews:** [Quarantine alone or in combination with other public health measures to control COVID-19: a rapid review](#) (updated September 14, 2020)

This systematic review provides updated evidence on the effect of quarantine on the transmission and control of COVID-19 infections. [LINK](#)

## COVID-19 & HEALTHCARE WORKERS

**Cambridge University Press | Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology: [Aerosolized COVID-19 Transmission Risk: Surgical or N95 Masks?](#)** (September 15, 2020)

This retrospective observational study describes the risk of COVID-19 transmission to healthcare workers wearing different forms of personal protective equipment (PPE) who had had close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 patient while performing medical procedures. [LINK](#)

**Nature: [Readiness for voice assistants to support healthcare delivery during a health crisis and pandemic](#)** (September 16, 2020)

This article provides commentary on the state and role of voice assistants (e.g., Google Assistant, Apple Siri, Amazon Alexa) as emerging tools for remote healthcare delivery service and the readiness of both health systems and technology providers to adapt voice assistants as an alternative modality for healthcare delivery during a health crisis and pandemic. [LINK](#)

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: [Ten Clinical Tips on COVID-19 for Healthcare Providers Involved in Patient Care](#)** (updated September 4, 2020).

This document provides a framework for Emergency Departments to optimize the health and safety of healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. [LINK](#)

## SENIORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

**Frontiers of Health Services Management: [Continuing Care for Older Adults through and Beyond a Pandemic](#)** (Fall 2020)

This paper discusses lessons learned at Trinity Health in Michigan, USA, in terms of successful approaches to the continuing care of older adults in the ongoing pandemic and beyond it. [LINK](#)

**Clinical & Experimental Allergy: [The association between COVID-19 and asthma: a systematic review and meta-analysis](#)** (September 15, 2020)

This preprint letter on an accepted systematic review and meta-analysis discusses the association between severe or fatal COVID-19 and asthma. [LINK](#)

**Journal of the American Medical Directors Association: [Care Aides Working Multiple Jobs: Considerations for Staffing Policies in Long-Term Care Homes during and after the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)** (September 4, 2020)

This paper comments on the implications of a single-site order issued to control the COVID-19 spread, using data from the Translating Research in Elder Care (TREC) program that surveyed 3,765 care aides from 94 randomly-selected and stratified Long-term Care sites in western Canada between September 2019 and February 2020. [LINK](#)

## MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS

**Oxford Academic | The Gerontologist:** [Older Adults' Experience of the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Mixed-Methods Analysis of Stresses and Joys](#) (September 4, 2020)

This article reports results of an online survey that asked 825 U.S. adults aged 60 and older to assess three psychological well-being indicators: perceived stress, negative affect, and positive affect during the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants also responded to qualitative questions about what was stressful and what brought joy or comfort at the time of the survey. [LINK](#)

**British Medical Journal Open:** [Mental health in the UK during the COVID-19 pandemic: cross-sectional analyses from a community cohort study](#) (September 15, 2020)

This study reports the mental health sequelae of the COVID-19 pandemic (i.e., conditions that are the consequence of trauma, previous disease, or injury) in a UK cohort. The authors examine the modifiable and non-modifiable explanatory factors associated with various mental health outcomes. [LINK](#)

**Public Library of Science ONE:** [Relationship quality and mental health during COVID-19 lockdown](#) (September 11, 2020)

This study evaluates the effect of relationship quality on mental health and well-being during the COVID-19 lockdown among a representative population sample in Austria. [LINK](#)

**Journal of Applied Gerontology:** [Social Isolation and Psychological Distress among Older Adults related to COVID-19: A Narrative Review of Remotely-Delivered Interventions and Recommendations](#)

(September 11, 2020)

This narrative review draws on a wide range of evidence to provide an overview of appropriate remotely-delivered interventions that target loneliness and psychological symptoms in older adults. [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 September of 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:

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