

IIMHL & IIDL Leadership Briefing VI

COVID-19: An international focus

Janet Peters - 4 May 2020

This briefing describes innovations that have global applicability.

CORONA VIRUS-INNOVATIONS ACROSS THE GLOBE

This website was set up by a Public Health expert and a systems design expert in the US.

“Learning quickly across the system to mitigate the impacts of Corona Virus (Covid19). We are inspired by the many ways people are adapting and creatively dealing with this great challenge.

Our goal is to scan emerging innovative trends across the globe”.

<https://www.coronavirus-innovation.com/>

FACTSHEET Global Mental Health & Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) needs for vulnerable families and their children in the COVID-19 pandemic

What can the international community do?

This document looks at:

- the impact of COVID-19
- challenges to service provision
- potential solutions

It suggests we improve access:

1. Improve access immediately, to all, and using different platforms (e.g.
 - virtual/digital therapy, locally relevant self-help activities to do at home), and
 - Provide access to in person MHPSS activities where possible and prepare for the increased volume of need
2. Continued funding and focus on essential non-COVID-19 responses
3. Resilience-building through cash remittances
4. The promotion of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Information Note on updating Humanitarian and Country response plans to include COVID-19 MHPSS activities

5. Consideration of MHPSS services at all levels - promotion, prevention, and treatment. This should also be available for health workers, frontlines, teachers and other staff
6. Integrated programming - use all opportunities to embed MHPSS messaging in awareness, public health, wash, cash, education, livelihoods.
7. programmes. And via these services, detect people who need additional MHPSS support.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rOBurBPNzwG4E7mGYjd1eOGgypp2eBa7/view>

What policy makers need to know about COVID-19 protective immunity

Altman et al

24/4/20

The Lancet

There are more than 100 candidate COVID-19 vaccines in development, with a handful in, or soon to be in, phase 1 trials to assess safety and immunogenicity.

Candidate vaccines encompass diverse platforms that differ in the potency with which immunity is stimulated, the specific arsenal of immune mediators mobilised, the number of required boosts, durability of protection, and tractability of production and supply chains.

Safety evaluation of candidate COVID-19 vaccines will need to be of the highest rigour. Some features of the immune response induced by infection, such as high concentrations of tumour necrosis factor and interleukin 6, which could be elicited by some candidate vaccines, have been identified as biomarkers of severe outcome.....

Researchers should be commended for decades of iterative efforts, bringing us to a point where there are many candidate vaccines in development against a novel virus first sequenced in January, 2020. Delivery of efficacious vaccines is not a competitive race to the finish, but a considered evaluation of a safe, potent, global response.

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Few would disagree that science should guide the clinical therapeutic approach to an infected person. Science must also guide policy decisions. Reliance on comprehensive seroprevalence data and a solid, research-based grasp of correlates of protection will allow policy to be guided by secure, evidence-based assumptions on herd immunity, rather than optimistic guesses.

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)30985-5/fulltext?utm_source=sfmc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2717898_Agenda_weekly-1May2020&utm_term=&emailType=Newsletter](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)30985-5/fulltext?utm_source=sfmc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2717898_Agenda_weekly-1May2020&utm_term=&emailType=Newsletter)