# COVID-19 Critical Intelligence Unit

## **Daily evidence digest**

17 April 2020

The daily evidence digest collates recently released reports and evidence – provision of these links does not imply endorsement nor recommendation.

### PPE, updates from WHO, health messaging for Aboriginal communities

MedRxiv features a number of pre-peer review papers:

- Two studies on the effect of various decontamination procedures on disposable N95 masks integrity and infectivity – report different results <u>here</u> and <u>here</u>
- An investigation of a COVID-19 outbreak at a large homeless shelter in US, making a case for broader testing regimes <a href="here">here</a>
- A systematic review on pregnancy outcomes, newborn complications, and maternal-foetal transmission in women with COVID-19 <a href="here">here</a>
- A description of a design process to prototype, test and introduce reusable face shields here
- An account of a rapid scale-up of telehealth in a US cancer centre <u>here</u>

#### Other new papers include:

- A systematic review of upper airway symptoms and clinical presentation of COVID-19 patients here
- A Canadian commentary targeted at paramedics about COVID-19 clinical presentation, prevention and care (Figure 1) <a href="here">here</a>

There have been two new releases from WHO:

- An update to the COVID-19 information dashboard <a href="here">here</a> and <a href="here">here</a> and <a href="here">here</a>
- Strategic preparedness and response plan <u>here</u>

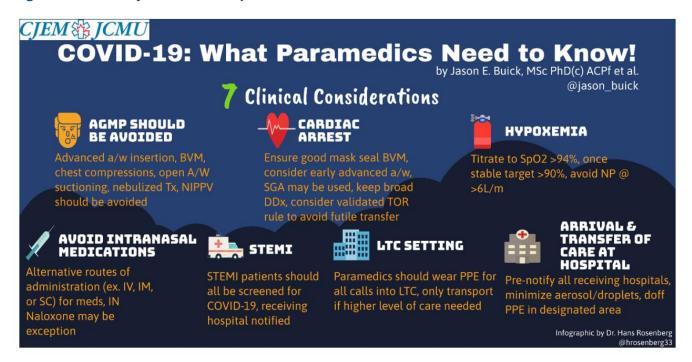
The Cochrane library features a new review of PPE for preventing highly infectious diseases due to exposure to contaminated body fluids here

#### New guidance includes:

- An update on assessment and collection of specimens from patients with suspected COVID-19 from the RACGP including infection control, PPE, isolation and criteria for hospital admission <a href="here">here</a>
- A statement on managing senior medical workforce in intensive care from a consortium of intensive care, anaesthetics and ED specialists. Hub and spoke models are recommended, particularly for rural hospitals and lower level metro ICUs here
- The Task Force for Mass Critical Care and the American College of Chest Physicians released a consensus guide on triage of scarce critical care resources for regional allocation <a href="here">here</a>
- NACCHO has developed graphics to promote healthy messaging to stop the spread of the COVID-19 in Aboriginal communities. Includes posters, social media tiles and banners <u>here</u>



Figure 1. Summary of advice for paramedics



#### **Twitter**

Emerging topics from key influencers and organisations over the last 24 hours include COVID-19 implications on healthcare workers and pandemic exit strategies:

- Hospitalisations, ICU admissions and deaths among healthcare workers in the USA <u>here</u> and China here
- Timing of shedding with a report of 2 cohorts of patients <u>here</u>
- @WHO criteria that countries must adhere to before considering lifting coronavirus restrictions here
- Discussion from countries on exit strategies from South Africa, Hong Kong, and Iceland



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