COVID-19 Critical Intelligence Unit

Daily evidence digest

4 February 2022

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

Antiviral therapies, bromhexine hydrochloride prophylaxis, pandemic preparedness in 177 countries, SARS-CoV-2 human challenge study

Peer reviewed journals featured:

- A systematic review of randomised controlled trials of antiviral therapies for COVID-19 here
- A randomised open-label study of bromhexine hydrochloride for COVID-19 prophylaxis in medical personnel <u>here</u>
- Observational studies on:
 - Pandemic preparedness and COVID-19 in 177 countries <u>here</u>
 - Obesity, ethnicity, and COVID-19 mortality among adults in England <u>here</u>
- Commentary on challenges in inferring intrinsic severity of the Omicron variant here

Letters and correspondence discussed:

- Third Comirnaty (Pfizer) vaccination neutralisation of Omicron infection here
- Effectiveness of Comirnaty (Pfizer) vaccine against Omicron variant in South Africa here

Pre-peer review articles featured:

- Safety, tolerability and viral kinetics during SARS-CoV-2 human challenge here
- The durability of Omicron-neutralising serum activity after mRNA booster in elderly individuals <u>here</u>
- Zero-COVID policies in Melbourne's hard lockdown experiment harmed mostly mothers <u>here</u>
- High rates of rapid antigen test positivity after 5 days of isolation for COVID-19 here
- Rapid antigen detection test targeting the SARS-CoV-2 nucleoprotein for diagnosis of COVID-19 due to the Omicron variant <u>here</u>
- Protection by fourth dose of Comirnaty (Pfizer) against Omicron in Israel here
- Detection of prevalent SARS-CoV-2 variant lineages in wastewater from cities in Quebec here

News and blogs

- What the Omicron wave is revealing about human immunity here
- Scientists deliberately gave people COVID-19 here's what they learnt here
- How well can Omicron evade immunity from COVID-19 vaccines? <u>here</u>
- NEJM audio interview on studying post-acute COVID-19 syndrome here

