

# HST Bulletin



## CATEGORIES

[Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles](#)

[Recent Public Health News](#)

[Training and Resources](#)

[Publications and Reports](#)

[Conferences and Events](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

## ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

### **Obstacles to intergenerational communication in caregivers' narratives regarding young people's sexual and reproductive health and lifestyle in rural South Africa**

*BMC Public Health* | Published: 27 May 2020.

*Bo Nilsson, Kerstin Edin, John Kinsman, Kathleen Kahn, Shane A Norris*

Statistics from South Africa show the world's highest HIV prevalence with an estimated seven million people living with the virus. Several studies have pointed to communication about sexuality between parents/caregivers and children as a protective factor. However, communication between generations has been described as problematic, especially due to discomfort in discussing sexual matters. The aim of this study was to explore how caregivers in a poor, rural part of South Africa talked about young people in general, their sexuality, and their lifestyle practices. A particular interest was directed towards central discourses in the caregivers' narratives and how these discourses were of importance for the caregivers to function as conversation partners for young people.

### **Effects of enhanced STI partner notification counselling and provider-assisted partner services on partner referral and the incidence of STI diagnosis in Cape Town, South Africa: randomised controlled trial**

*BMJ Sexually Transmitted Infections* | Published: 1 June 2020.

*Mathews, Carl Lombard, Moira Kalichman, Sarah Dewing, Ellen Banas, Sekelwa Dumile, et al*

[The authors] investigated the effects of an enhanced partner notification (PN) counselling intervention with the offer of provider-assisted referral among people diagnosed with STI in a Cape Town public clinic. Participants were adults diagnosed with STI at a community clinic. After the standard STI consultation, participants were randomly allocated in a 1:1:1 ratio to (1) 'HE': 20 min health education; (2) 'RR': 45 min risk reduction skills counselling; or (3) 'ePN': 45 min enhanced partner notification communication skills counselling and the offer of provider-assisted referral. The primary outcome was the incidence of repeat STI diagnoses during the 12 months after recruitment, and the secondary outcome was participants' reports 2 weeks after diagnosis of notifying recent partners.

### **Social and Structural Determinants of Household Support for ART Adherence in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: A Systematic Review**

*International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* | Published: 27 May 2020.

Linda Campbell, Caroline Masquillier, Estrelle Thunnissen, Esther Ariyo, Hanani Tabana, Neo Sematlane, et al

Adherence to HIV antiretroviral therapy (ART) is a crucial factor in health outcomes for people living with HIV (PLWH). Interventions to support ART adherence are increasingly focused on the household as a source of social support. This review aims to examine the social and structural determinants of support for ART adherence within households and families in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). The review methodology followed the recommendations of the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis (PRISMA) guidelines.

### **Responding to SARS-CoV-2 in South Africa: What can we learn from drug-resistant tuberculosis?**

*European Respiratory Journal* | Published: 29 May 2020.

Norbert Ndjeka, Francesca Conradie, Graeme Meintjes, Anja Reuter, Jennifer Hughes, Xavier Padanilam, et al

Rapid adoption of new diagnostic tools, parallel process of research and implementation, decentralization of services, the use of personal protective equipment as well as strong partnership and collaboration could strengthen the fight against COVID-19.

### **Physical distancing, face masks, and eye protection to prevent person-to-person transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19: a systematic review and meta-analysis**

*The Lancet* | Published: 1 June 2020.

Derek K Chu, Elie A Akl, Stephanie Duda, Karla Solo, Sally Yaacoub, Holger J Schünemann, et al

Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) causes COVID-19 and is spread person-to-person through close contact. [The authors] aimed to investigate the effects of physical distance, face masks, and eye protection on virus transmission in health-care and non-health-care (eg, community) settings.

### **The impact of ethnicity on clinical outcomes in COVID-19: A systematic review**

*The Lancet* | Published: 3 June 2020.

Daniel Pan, Shirley Sze, Jatinder S Minhas, Mansoor N Bangash, Nilesh Pareek, Pip Divall, et al

The relationship between ethnicity and COVID-19 is uncertain. [The authors] performed a systematic review to assess whether ethnicity has been reported in patients with COVID-19 and its relation to clinical outcomes. [They] searched EMBASE, MEDLINE, Cochrane Library and PROSPERO for English-language citations on ethnicity and COVID-19 (1st December 2019-15th May 2020). [The authors] also reviewed: COVID-19 articles in NEJM, Lancet, BMJ, JAMA, clinical trial protocols, grey literature, surveillance data and preprint articles on COVID-19 in MedRxiv to evaluate if the association between ethnicity and clinical outcomes were reported and what they showed.

### **Positive Public Health Ethics: Toward Flourishing and Resilient Communities and Individuals**

*The American Journal of Bioethics* | Published: 2 June 2020.

Jennifer Prah Ruger

The COVID-19 pandemic is a global contagion of unprecedented proportions and health, economic, and social consequences. As with many health problems, its impact is uneven. This article argues the COVID-19 pandemic is a global health injustice due to moral failures of national governments and international organizations to prepare for, prevent and control it. Global and national health communities had a moral obligation to act in accordance with the current state of knowledge of pandemic preparedness. This obligation — a positive duty to develop and implement systems to reduce threats to and safeguard individuals' and, communities' abilities to flourish — stems from theories of global health justice and governance.

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

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## **RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS**

**A convenient untruth: The TB Proof healthcare worker**

*Spotlight | 3 June 2020.*

“For your first patient, please examine this man with pulmonary tuberculosis (TB). He has excellent lung signs.” I was a second year medical student and this was our group’s first “real life” clinical examination. We were learning about the respiratory system and everybody knew that few diseases could rival TB in terms of the cavitating (i.e. causing gaping holes) pathology it wreaked.

### **New Health Chief, Dr Sandile Buthelezi, takes command in a perfect storm**

*Maverick Citizen | 31 May 2020.*

This morning, Sandile Buthelezi, will complete a 26-year journey through offices and corridors of hospitals and health facilities, scattered across South Africa and the region, when he takes up his new position as the Director-General (DG) of the National Department of Health.

### **Will the pandemic permanently alter scientific publishing?**

*Nature | 3 June 2020.*

The push for rapid and open publishing could take off — although financial pressures lie ahead: part 4 in a series on science after the pandemic.

### **The South African Response to the Pandemic**

*New England Journal of Medicine (correspondence) | 29 May 2020.*

To rapidly communicate short reports of innovative responses to Covid-19 around the world, along with a range of current thinking on policy and strategy relevant to the pandemic, the Journal has initiated the Covid-19 Notes series. This one is written by Dr Salim Abdool Karim.

### **Best practices for governments reporting COVID-19 testing data**

*Our World in Data | 3 June 2020.*

The collection, dissemination and use of good data on testing is a key part of the global response to the pandemic. To track this vital data, Our World in Data has built and maintained the COVID-19 Testing Dataset. This collates official data on the number of tests performed, as published by different countries through a variety of official channels, including health ministry websites, press releases, and official social media accounts.

### **Mapping the South African Health Facility Landscape in Response to COVID-19**

*Data Science for Social Impact | 25 May 2020.*

As we now move to the next phase of our country’s experience of COVID-19 and its responses, we continue to look back at what the covid19za project has been busy with over the last 2 months. The focus for this write up is on understanding our health system capacity.

### **COVID-19 Has ‘Severely’ Disrupted Chronic Disease Care, WHO Warns**

*Health Policy Watch | 1 June 2020.*

A new survey by WHO has found that the COVID-19 pandemic has ‘severely’ disrupted the delivery of services to prevent and treat non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in almost 80% of countries surveyed – or 122 out of 150 countries.

### **Record number of countries contribute data revealing disturbing rates of antimicrobial resistance**

*World Health Organisation | 1 June 2020.*

A record number of countries are now monitoring and reporting on antibiotic resistance - marking a major step forward in the global fight against drug resistance. But the data they provide reveals that a worrying number of bacterial infections are increasingly resistant to the medicines at hand to treat them.

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

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## **TRAINING AND RESOURCES**

### **COVID-19 technology access pool**

*World Health Organisation | 29 May 2020.*

Thirty countries and multiple international partners and institutions have signed up to support the COVID-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP) an initiative aimed at making vaccines, tests, treatments and other

health technologies to fight COVID-19 accessible to all. C-TAP will compile, in one place, pledges of commitment made under the Solidarity Call to Action to voluntarily share COVID-19 health technology related knowledge, intellectual property and data. The Pool will draw on relevant data from existing mechanisms, such as the Medicines Patent Pool and the UN Technology Bank-hosted Technology Access Partnership.

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

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## PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

### COVID-19 Alert Level 3 Regulations

*Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs | 28 May 2020.*

The Government notice and gazetted regulations for South Africa's COVID-19 alert level 3, as released by Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, and designated under section 3 of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No. 57 of 2002).

### Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System (GLASS) Report: Early implementation 2020

*World Health Organisation | May 2020.*

WHO launched the Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System (GLASS) in 2015 to continue filling knowledge gaps and to inform strategies at all levels. GLASS has been conceived to progressively incorporate data from surveillance of AMR in humans, such as monitoring of resistance, use of antimicrobial medicines, AMR in the food chain and in the environment.

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

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## CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Due to the disruption COVID-19 has caused the conferencing industry many events have been cancelled or postponed. As a result of this uncertainty we have decided not to list any conferences and events in the Bulletin for the time being.

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

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## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

### Health Systems Trust: Communications Officer

Closing Date: 12 June 2020

### Health Systems Trust: Copy and Content Editor (CCE)

Closing Date: 12 June 2020

### Health Systems Trust: Clinical eIMCI Nurse Mentor

Closing Date: 15 June 2020

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

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