Since January 2020 Elsevier has created a COVID-19 resource centre with free information in English and Mandarin on the novel coronavirus COVID-19. The COVID-19 resource centre is hosted on Elsevier Connect, the company's public news and information website.

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pandemic. Our group analyzed infection rates by professional category, hospital service, as well as initial symptom onset and description in our hospital center.

Material and Methods: We conducted a descriptive study of our hospital center’s healthcare workers that were infected with COVID-19 from the 13th of March of 2020 until the 31st of March of 2021. The information was mostly based on the occupational health service’s database and confirmed by consulting TRACE-COVID, a platform that gathered information on every COVID-19 patient, nationwide.

Results: From March 2020 to March 2021, about 13.7% of our hospital’s staff was diagnosed with COVID-19, with the most affected being nurses and nurses’ aides, and healthcare professionals working in the emergency department, as well as infirmaries of internal medicine and general surgery.

Conclusions: In our center, known high risk scenarios in the workplace were not particularly met with high incidence rate of infection, probably because of a particular compliance in the use of personal protective equipment. Although the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic remains a challenging event for hospital centers worldwide, occupational health services should use this opportunity to better study infection rates in their work environment and optimize prevention measures to further protect our professional’s health and safety.

Recovery from pandemic: insights from those affected

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Introduction: In 2021 the WHO observes over 20 disease events worldwide with endemic or pandemic potential. The SARS-CoV-2 pandemic highlighted the vulnerability of the globally connected workplace. As part of pandemic planning, preparing for a return to normal operations is required. With the support of the German scientific societies for occupational medicine and safety engineering, companies in Germany were surveyed on the current status of recovery planning.

Methods: From March 2020 to August 2021 German companies completed an online checklist on operational and occupational health issues concerning the return to normal operations. This descriptive evaluation focused on occupational health aspects. Results: A total of 2606 people participated (answering at least one question). There were: 1117 data on occupational group (36% managers, 62% EHS staff); 992 data on pandemic planning (yes/partially/no: 48%/24%/28%); 911 data on recovery planning (yes/preparation/no/don’t know: 27%/46%/20%/7%); 986 data on relevance of recovery planning (important/not important/no statement possible: 92%/6%/2%); 352 data on involvement of occupational health professionals (yes/no/does not apply: 68%/17%/15%); 352 data on infection screening (yes/no/does not apply: 61%/15%/24%); 348 data on hygiene training (yes/no/does not apply: 78%/13%/9%).

Conclusions: The relevance of structured pandemic/recovery planning is confirmed. Occupational health aspects such as occupational health care or hygiene training are important components. The course of the pandemic shows that continuous review and adaptation of recovery planning are necessary.

Psychological work demand, pleasure and suffering of Brazilian health workers from urgency and emergency services in the Covid-19 pandemic

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Introduction: COVID-19 pandemic intensified objective and subjective factors influencing health and working conditions of health professionals. This study had the aim to investigate psychological work demand, pleasure and suffering of workers working in urgency and emergency services in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Material and Methods: descriptive, quantitative study, from April to June 2020, with 80 health workers working in urgency and emergency units, using Job Stress Scale (JSS) and Scale of Suffering and Pleasure at Work (EIPST). Descriptive statistical analysis, with investigation of association between variables (Chi-square test). Study approved by the Brazilian National Research Commission.

Results: Workers in the care of cases of COVID-19 were from an average age of 37.3 years, most from Brazil Southeast (78.75%), nurses (60%), working in public service (78.75 %) and in weekly shifts longer than 60 hours (40%). There was 21.6% of occurrence of high level of psychological word demand, 48.75% of critical/severe level of pleasure, and 37.5% of critical/severe level of suffering. No statistically significant associations were found between the phenomena and independent variables (p<0.05).

Conclusion: there is high psychological demand and low control at work, in addition to impairment of pleasure and the occurrence of suffering related to work activities among health care workers. Subjective conditions are essential for health promotion actions for these individuals. The non-association between the level of pleasure and suffering presupposes that the stressors are probably similar between the groups studied.

COVID-19 as Occupation Disease in Russian Federation

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Implementation of the WHO Global Plan of Action for Workers’ Health is the main focus of efforts to strengthen the management function of national health systems in the Russian Federation. The number of cases of occupational diseases (OP) in Russia for the period 2011-2020 decreased from 7836 to 3409, which amounted to 0.78 per 10,000 employees, a decrease of almost 2.5 times (compared to 1.92 per 10,000 employees in 2011). In 2020, the level
of chronic OD was higher compared to the acute course of OD, and the proportion of acute OD was 21.7% (729 cases). The number of deaths from acute OD in 2020 was 606 cases (versus 9 cases in 2019), mainly due to deaths related to COVID-19 among medical personnel. In connection with the situation related to the pandemic of a new coronavirus infection, for the first time in 10 years in the structure of occupational diseases associated with an unfavorable effect on an employee of a biological factor were in second place. The report analyzes the results of postmortem examination of 290 cases of acute OD in medical workers conducted at the IRIOH clinic.

268

Impact on Occupational Health by Teleworking during the Coronavirus disease (Covid 19) Pandemic

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Introduction: To counteract the spread of COVID, many companies opted for teleworking and thus reduce the number of people exposed. Knowing and regulating its implications is necessary for the health of the working population.

Material and Method: a prospective descriptive study was conducted from May to August 2021, through an online questionnaire, which was answered regardless of the line of work, by 202 workers in several companies in Guatemala, who were doing at least one day of teleworking. The questionnaire with 21 questions evaluated work, personal and family aspects, implications for physical and mental health; as well as economic

Results: hours of workers were extended in 80%. 27% up to 3 to 4 hours outside the usual, even 83% reported work activity during weekends, 88% having message / call activities outside the regular hours. Around 40% did not have a suitable table and chair for teleworking, which led to 96% reporting at least some physical symptoms, such as neck pain, eye fatigue and back pain.

Conclusions: half of the respondents indicated that they were prepared to telecommute, but the same number reported personal life problems with noise, lighting, and temperature, which led to eating and sleeping disorders, and physical conditions. Workers had increases electricity and internet expenses, making 50% of the participants an investment of $50. Although, 81% indicated that teleworking be implemented, 96% consider that it should be regulated.

269

Changes in fears and worries related to COVID-19 during the pandemic among current employees in Japan: a 5-month longitudinal study

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Introduction: This study investigates and describes the time course of fears and worries about COVID-19 among currently employed population during this outbreak.

Methods: This study was a longitudinal study using the dataset from the Employee Cohort Study in Japan (E-COCO-J). The study comprised 4120 individuals from February 2019. A baseline survey in March 2020, a 2-month follow-up survey in May 2020, and a 5-month follow-up survey in August 2020 were conducted. Questions surveyed respondents’ global fear and worry and six items related to COVID-19. A mixed model for repeated measures of an analysis of variance was used.

Results: A total of 1,421 respondents completed the baseline survey. At 2- and 5-month follow-ups, 1,032 and 1,181 respondents completed surveys, respectively. Of those, 64 and 33 individuals who were temporarily laid off or on leave were recorded as missing values. Global fear and worry about COVID-19 significantly increased from March to August 2020. Fears of personal or family infection, limiting one’s activities and national and local government policies also significantly increased with time. In contrast, fears of lack of knowledge and difficulty of obtaining hygiene products significantly decreased.

Conclusions: Global fear and worry about COVID-19 were increased even though people have stayed together longer with this infectious disease. To conduct efficient risk communication during a pandemic, knowing the concerns of the populace, providing correct information and a sufficient supply of products, and setting clear guidelines are essential.

270

The implementation of environmental risk controls at worksites experiencing COVID-19 outbreaks - UK COVID-19 National Core Studies Consortium

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Introduction: SARS-CoV-2 is a highly transmissible virus that caused the COVID-19 pandemic, with workplaces frequently being implicated in transmission of the virus. The COVID-OUT study is established to investigate SARS-CoV-2 transmission routes and risk factors, and their role in COVID-19 outbreaks associated with workplaces. The study is part of the PROTECT COVID-19 National Core Study (NCS) on Transmission and the Environment in the UK.

Materials and Methods: A series of field investigations of outbreaks has been carried out which include detailed assessments of the physical work environment and the COVID risk controls. The findings of these can be combined with epidemiological and laboratory data to generate hypotheses of the causes of an outbreak and can also be used to support modelling to characterize the relative contribution of transmission routes.

Results and Conclusions: Preliminary findings indicate:

i) Many workplaces experiencing outbreaks believe that transmission within their workforce predominantly occurs outside the workplace.

ii) Social distancing frequently breaks down in manufacturing environments.

iii) The role of ventilation in preventing virus transmission was poorly understood and many employers had very little information on the adequacy of ventilation in their premises.

iv) Carbon dioxide measurement can be an effective method of assessing ventilation, but expertise is required to use this effectively.

v) In non-healthcare workplace settings, viral RNA contamination on surfaces is typically low or absent.