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.

Elsevier hereby grants permission to make all its COVID-19-related research that is available on the COVID-19 resource centre - including this research content - immediately available in PubMed Central and other publicly funded repositories, such as the WHO COVID database with rights for unrestricted research re-use and analyses in any form or by any means with acknowledgement of the original source. These permissions are granted for free by Elsevier for as long as the COVID-19 resource centre remains active.
COVID-19 on the onset of major depressive episode (MDE) during repeated COVID-19 outbreaks in Japan.

Methods: Data were collected by using online questionnaires from full-time employees at baseline (May 2020) and the 7th survey (June 2021). The onset of MDE during the follow-up was retrospectively measured at the 7th survey, with a self-report scale developed based on the Mini-International Neuropsychiatric Interview (M.I.N.I.): according to the DSM-IV/DSM-5 criteria. Participants were asked to report the number of workplace measures against COVID-19 in their companies/organizations and their worry about these measures. Multiple logistic regression was conducted of MDE on the number of workplace measures and worry about these, adjusting for demographic and work-related covariates and psychological distress at baseline.

Results: Among 968 respondents employed in May 2020, 827 completed the 7th survey in June 2021 (80%). We excluded 75 respondents who reported they had MDE in May 2020 or earlier. Worry about workplace measures was significantly associated with the onset of MDE after adjusting for the covariates (OR, 2.18; 95%CI, 1.12-4.25, p=0.022). No significant association was found between the number of the workplace measures and the onset of MDE.

Conclusions: Worrying about insufficient workplace measures taken by company/organization may be a risk factor for the onset of MDE among full-time employees during the COVID-19 epidemic.

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COVID-19 vaccination intention, confidence and hesitancy among working population in Slovenia: A Cross-Sectional Survey

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INTRODUCTION: Sufficiently high vaccination coverage is required to effectively curb the spread of COVID-19. Since the vaccination rate among the Slovenian working population is low (approximately 40% on June 2021), the aim was to determine the interest and motivators for vaccination, reasons that discourage workers from vaccination, the sources of information people trust most and to discover how to convince undecided workers. These results can help to adjust vaccination promotion strategies.

MATERIAL AND METHODS: In a cross-sectional study, we analyzed 910 surveys completed in July 2020 by employees with SPSS, using methods of descriptive statistics and chi-squared test.

RESULTS: 58% of the respondents had already been vaccinated at least once. A further 13.2% wanted to get vaccinated, while 17.5% were still hesitant and 11.3% refused to be vaccinated. The hesitant group is most often deterred by distrust of COVID-19 vaccines, were most motivated by concern for their own and their loved ones' health. They would most likely be convinced by having more trustworthy data and with a free choice of a vaccine. The most trustworthy sources of information are from medical experts and doctors.

CONCLUSIONS: According to the motivators and factors that could convince hesitant employees, is that the vaccination promotion strategy should emphasize research that reinforces health benefits of vaccination, reducing the fear of side effects and increase the confidence, of the wider public, in vaccines. At present, a free choice of vaccine is possible.

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Covid management strategies for Reliance Retail store-based employees

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Introduction: COVID 19 Pandemic has impacted all businesses across world. Customer facing businesses were impacted the most amongst them. Reliance has more than 8000 Retail stores spread across India with more than 2 lac employees. Involving business in Grocery stores, Apparel stores, Electronic stores, Home delivery by Jio-Mart stores, etc.

Interventions: To ensure safety of employee of Retail stores Reliance has implemented standard prevention methods of Sanitization, Mask & Social distancing (SMS) and few other steps of wearing face shield, thermal screening, symptom checker tool were introduced to strengthen screening of suspect cases. Stringent testing protocols and Strict adherence to contact tracing was implemented. For positive patients Home isolation assistance, Hotel isolation facilities and Covid care centers managed by Reliance. Home care cell to monitor home isolation patients using Telemedicine. Assessment of patients by Inhouse Reliance medical team and timely hospitalization assistance. Thrust on vaccination drive were few more interventions.

Methodology: Using qualitative techniques, consisting of observations using Pre-tested piloted checklist, Key informant interviews and reviews of Records as well as protocols.

Findings: All the strategies were found to be implemented in standardized manner helping the business activities to sustain and serve the customers with uninterrupted supplies of the essentials.

Conclusion: Standardized processes using innovative approaches help in efficient and effective implementation of Covid 19 management strategies towards reducing the mortality and morbidity.

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Immunization coverage is essential for teaching and learning on campus during the COVID-19 pandemic

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INTRODUCTION: Over the past three semesters, universities in many countries have had to organize learning and teaching off campus to protect health and safety of students and staff. In Germany, the political goal of returning well over 50% of all courses to face-to-face teaching can only be achieved if as many students as possible are fully vaccinated. We provide an analysis of students' attitudes and experiences towards pandemic-related health and safety measures and with existing immunization programs. The results will inform the development and adjustment of future immunization services.

MATERIAL AND METHODS: We developed a mixed-methods approach including an online survey and an accompanying document analysis of relevant health and safety material providing...
Additional background for the interpretation of the results. The survey included questions on attitudes towards pandemic-related health and safety measures, vaccination status, and experiences with the accessibility of vaccination services.

RESULTS AND CONCLUSION: The student survey (n = 4036; response rate = 15%) was conducted at the University of Tübingen between July and August 2021. Of all students, 74% had already been fully vaccinated, indicating a high level of acceptance regarding the COVID-19 vaccination among students. Students considered both behavioral and structural preventive measures as important. After three semesters of online classes, this is likely to play a significant role in preventing coronavirus infections when campus life resumes in October 2021. We are currently recruiting new participants to compare results between universities.

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Work-from-home physical ergonomics and trajectories of perceived work capacity among higher education employees due to the COVID-19 pandemic

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Introduction: The aim of this study was to investigate the developmental pathways of work capacity among higher education employees during the enforced remote work caused by COVID-19, and how physical ergonomics at home, and organizational factors predicts different pathways.

Material and methods: A longitudinal web-survey was conducted with four measurement points (April 2020, to February 2021). Employees who responded to all surveys were included (n = 678). Of the respondents 71% were women, 45% teachers or research staff, 44% supporting staff and 11% hired students. Perceived work capacity was measured similarly in all four times. Work stress, musculoskeletal pain, functionality of the home for work, and satisfaction with activities and support of the employer were measured at baseline. Latent class growth curve analysis was used to identify individuals into distinct trajectories. Multinomial logistic regression was used to determine the associations between individual, ergonomic, and organizational factors (predictors) at baseline and profile membership (outcome).

Results and discussion: The work capacity for 75% of the employees was stable during remote working, 17% had a favorable trend (very good-stable or increasing) of the work capacity and 8% had non-favorable (poor-stable or decreasing). Non-favorable work capacity was associated with poor physical workstation at home, dissatisfaction with the support from the organization, high work stress and musculoskeletal pain.

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Practical application of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Guidelines for COVID-19 autopsies: an Italian experience

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Introduction: SARS-CoV-2, responsible for severe human infection with high mortality rate, has been classified as HG3 pathogen. Despite the need to perform autopsy to clarify the pathogenesis of COVID, such procedures are at high risk of contagion due to the direct contact with aerosols and body fluids. To ensure the safety of the personnel against contagion, it is mandatory to follow the SOP for the management of autopsy environment and infected body.

Several studies have shown that SARS-CoV-2 persists on inanimate surfaces for a long time and is also ubiquitously detected in many human tissues, even after long time after death.

Material and Methods: Many international scientific societies have drowned up various guidelines on biosafety and exposure precautions, but none of these is uniquely adopted. So, in the daily practice our greatest difficulty was to identify SOP adherent to the guidelines but applicable to our reality. In our experience, COVID autopsies were performed accordingly to the following SOP:

- COVID mortuary refrigerators
- BSL3 autopsy facility
- Autopsy saw with aspiration system
- PPE: surgical scrub, rubber medical shoes, coverall, shoe leggins, FFP3 mask, waterproof gown or apron, eyes protection, two pairs of medical gloves and one of cut-resistant gloves
- Sanitization of surgical tools in autoclave
- Sanitization of the environments with VHP
- Periodic nasopharyngeal swabs from personnel

Results and Conclusions: Our work aims to share our experience and to demonstrate that adopting these measures is effective in reducing risk of infection. In fact, the periodic COVID swabs were negative in 100% of cases.

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COVID-19 Vaccination of Healthcare Workers: Experience of Singapore’s Largest Healthcare Cluster

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Introduction: Singapore Health Services (SingHealth), Singapore’s largest public healthcare cluster, rolled out a voluntary COVID-19 vaccination programme for the staff population in January 2021. The abstract highlights the strategies undertaken to encourage uptake of the COVID-19 vaccine, in order to achieve a high vaccination rate of its healthcare workforce.

Material and Methods: Beyond the conventional approach centred around logistics, cold-chain and access optimisation, the Sing-Health’s COVID-19 vaccination programme adapted the principles of the World Health Organization (WHO) Tailoring Immunisation Programme (TIP). The SingHealth’s COVID-19 vaccination programme drew on health behavioural change theories that emphasised on social and behavioural insights behind vaccination hesitancy and acceptance, which were essential to shape interventions to achieve a high vaccination-take up.

Results: Vaccination behaviours identified were categorised into three key determinants of Capability, Opportunity and Motivation. Interventions and vaccination efforts were shaped around the three key determinants over a 7-month period from January 2021 to July.