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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Introduction: This study aimed to determine if work engagement played a mediating role in the relationship between teleworking and intention to quit during the COVID-19 pandemic. It also aimed to evaluate if individual (i.e., emotional intelligence, self-esteem, locus of control) and organizational (i.e., decision authority, skills utilization, workload, recognition) characteristics played a moderating role.

Material and Methods: Path analyses were conducted with MPlus software on a sample of 254 workers from 18 organizations.

Results and Conclusions: Teleworking was directly associated with lower work engagement and indirectly associated with intention to quit. Individual and organizational characteristics did not play a moderating role between teleworking and work engagement after a Bonferroni correction was applied. That said, one dimension of emotional intelligence (i.e., use of emotion) was directly associated with higher work engagement and indirectly associated lower intention to quit. Moreover, skills utilization and recognition were directly associated with higher work engagement and indirectly associated with lower intention to quit. This study indicates that even if teleworking has many advantages (e.g., allows more flexibility to help employees to reconcile their personal and professional lives), it also has the disadvantage to potentially reduce work engagement. Even though this study found that individual and organizational characteristics did not attenuate or accentuate the effect of teleworking on work engagement, it provides insights into increasing work engagement and decreasing intention to quit.

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Development and validation of a multi-lingual online questionnaire for surveying the COVID-19 prevention and control measures used in global workplaces

Carolyn Ingram, Yanbing Chen, Vicky Downey, Mary Archibald, Natalia Bachwal, Mark Roe, Conor Buggy, Carla Perrotta

University College Dublin, School of Public Health, Physiotherapy, and Sports Science, Dublin, Ireland

Introduction: There is an ongoing need for targeted disease prevention and control efforts in high-risk occupational settings. This study aimed to develop, pilot, and validate an instrument for surveying occupational COVID-19 infection prevention and control (IPC) measures available to the global workforce.

Material and Methods: A 44-item QualtricsXM survey was developed, translated, and validated for face, content, and cross-cultural validity according to literature review, expert consultation, and pre-testing. The survey was piloted with 890 workers from diverse industries and countries. Exploratory factor analysis (EFA) was conducted, and internal consistency reliability verified with Cronbach's alpha. Hypothesis testing and Pearson correlation coefficients verified construct validity (i.e., known-groups technique, discriminant validity), and criterion validity.

Results: EFA revealed nine key IPC domains relating to: environmental adjustments, testing and surveillance, education, costs incurred, restricted movements, physical distancing, masking, isolation strategies, and areas for improvement. Each domain showed sufficient internal consistency reliability (Cronbach’s alpha ≥ 0.60). Hypothesis testing confirmed construct validity (p < 0.001), criterion validity (p ≤ 0.03), and discriminant validity (r = -0.45).

Conclusions: The occupational IPC measures survey showed strong validity and reliability. It can be used by decision makers in the distribution of IPC resources, and to guide occupational health and safety (OSH) recommendations for preventing COVID-19 and future infectious disease outbreaks.

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Remote work during the COVID-19 pandemic: How do digital technology use affects mental fatigue, psychological distress and well-being?

Véra-Line Montreuil 1, Julie Dextras-Gauthier 2, Marie-Hélène Gilbert 2, Justine Dima 2, Maude Boulet 1

1 University of Quebec in Outaouais, Industrial Relations, Gatineau, Canada, 2 Laval University, Management, Quebec, Canada, 3 National School of Public Administration, Management, Montreal, Canada

Introduction: In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, many organizations had made a major shift towards remote work, causing an increased use of digital technology. While remote working has several benefits, one of its downsides is to create information and communication technology (ICT) demands (e.g., feeling obligated to stay connected). While previous studies have revealed the harmful effects of ICT, very few have investigated the impact of ICT demands on three specific related psychosocial factors. In such a context, this study aims to shed light on the relationship between ICT demands, mental fatigue, psychological distress and well-being.

Material and Method. The study was conducted during the first wave of COVID-19 in 2020 in Canada. The data was collected from 320 workers who provided online consent and completed the survey on a voluntary basis. Ethical approval from the research ethics committee of Laval University was obtained. Hayes Process add-on for SPSS was used to test parallel mediation analyses. The study used validated measures to assess ICT demands, mental fatigue, psychological distress, and well-being.

Results and Conclusions. The results reveal that mental fatigue and psychological distress significantly mediate the negative relationship between ICT demands and well-being. In a context where many organizations are now considering adopting telecommuting on a permanent or hybrid basis, these findings suggest that special attention must be paid to sufficiently supported workers in their remote work to mitigate the adverse effects on psychological health.

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PPP model for COVID 19 mitigation for construction sector in Pune , India

Govinda Narke 1, Sidram Raut 2

1 Pimpri Chinchwad Muncipal Corporation, Medical, Pune, India, 2 Noble Hospital, Corporate, Pune, India

Introduction: COVID 19 pandemic has affected all sectors including constructions and workforce is severely affected due to loss of wages and cost of treatment and testing of COVID 19. In Pune one of the construction industry partnered with testing centre and isolation facilities of local self Govt in Pune.

Material Methods: 56 families( 213 members) were staying at construction sites during lock down and interval testing of COVID 19 i.e. Rapid antigen test or RTPCR was costly for the workers and even treatment at private centres was costlyso the author suggested to take help of local municipal corporation and COVID 19 centres. The support was also extended for COVID 19 vaccination at workplace Cost saving.

Results: 198 were tested for RAT and 6 were found positive, all were asymptomatic and then were sent to isolation at COVID 19 centres to prevent the further spread in the labour camp. Repeat testing was conducted at monthly interval and for consecutive six months avg 89% percent of the population tested regularly and positivity rate was
less than 2% where in general population it was 5 to 10 %. NO death was reported from the site for COVID 19. Covid appropriate behaviour by the workers was also found 90 percent during random surveys done as it was always emphasized during testing. COVID 19 vaccination of all workers at workplace was also done in this PPP model.

Conclusion: Public private partnership during COVID 19 plays important role during COVID 19 times for the workers and cost for testing ,admission and vaccination was nil. Work continuation and cost saving is also important.

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Worker adaptation behaviours and mental health impacts in Irish workplaces arising from COVID-19 – observations of OSH professionals

Yanbing Chen1, Conor Buggy2, Mark Roe1, Penpatra Sripaiboonkij2, Anne Drummond2, Carla Perrotta1

1 University College Dublin, School of Public Health, Physiotherapy & Sports Science, Dublin, Ireland, 2 University College Dublin, UCD Centre for Safety and Health at Work; School of Public Health, Physiotherapy & Sports Science, Dublin, Ireland

Introduction: Workers quickly adapted during the COVID-19 pandemic to comply with updated work arrangements, control measures and policies. Understanding adaptation difficulties/fatigue and mental health issues among workers is crucial for OSH professionals to plan for future emergencies.

Materials and Methods: As part of a larger COVID-19 workplace study, 16 two-hour focus groups (4-6 participants each) were conducted with OSH professionals (n=60) in Ireland, covering four predetermined themes (organisational preparedness; organisational impacts; worker adaptation behaviour; and the future of OSH post-pandemic). Thematic analysis was conducted using Nvivo.

Results: OSH professionals observed many workers rapidly adapted and became involved in organisational COVID-19 outbreak prevention and long-term adaptation, in contrast to some workers that exhibited mental health problems as they struggled to adapt. Adaptation fatigue was observed when staff were sent home to work due to a range of factors: 1) isolation at home 2) no boundary between work and life; and 3) inability to disconnect from negative media coverage. The situation can be alleviated by 1) increasing informal communication to cope with isolation; 2) Employee Assistance Programmes; and 3) additional consultation regarding their COVID-19 concerns.

Conclusion: Most Irish workplaces focused more on employees’ physical safety rather than their mental wellbeing. The experiences shared by OSH professionals in this study illustrate their agility and ability to apply their risk management and control skills to any unanticipated public/occupational health crisis that arises.

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Demographic Characteristics Of Workers Vaccinated During Workplace Covid-19 Vaccination Program In Croatia

Marina Milakovic, Karmen Bradvica-Kelava, Helena Koren, Marija Bubas

Croatian Institute of Public Health, Division for Occupational Health, Zagreb, Croatia

INTRODUCTION: Vaccine hesitancy is one of the main causes of poor vaccine coverage during ongoing COIVD-19 pandemic, which imposes significant occupational and public health threat. Vaccine acceptance is highly influenced by perception of vaccine efficacy and safety where gender and age-based differences seem to play a role. In order to assess possible gender and age-related differences in responsiveness to occupational COVID-19 vaccination, present study was conducted.

MATERIALS AND METHODS: Data of vaccines administered by Mobile Occupational Vaccination Team during April 14, 2021 – July 12, 2021, were examined in order to describe demographic characteristics of fully vaccinated workers in major Croatian companies.

RESULTS and CONCLUSIONS: During 3-month period 12360 workers were fully vaccinated among which 55.5% men (4.9% at age 15-24y, 69.2% at age 25-49y and 28.9% at age 50-65y) and 44.5% women (3.9% at age 15-24y, 68.2% at age 25-49y and 27.9% at age 50-65y). When compared with current Croatian labor force participation rates for men (53.6%) and women (46.4%) in regards to age stratification, we found larger proportion of men receiving full immunization with the vast majority of them being between 24 and 65 years old. Acknowledging and understanding gender and age-based differences in perception of vaccine safety and efficacy may be beneficial in constructing effective vaccination campaigns targeted towards vulnerable occupational groups potentially resulting in greater vaccine acceptance and optimal workplace vaccine coverage.

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Which jobs are lucky against the “biologic” and “economic” risks caused by the covid-19 pandemic?

Merve Demirci Atik1, Duygu Lüleci1, Aylin Gängör1, Gökçen Arkan Demiral2, Yücel Demiral3

1 Dokuz Eylul University, Department of Occupational Medicine, Izmir, Turkey, 2 Katip Celebi University Atatürk Education and Research Hospital, Department of Occupational Medicine, Izmir, Turkey, 3 Dokuz Eylul University, Department of Public Health, Izmir, Turkey

Introduction: Coronavirus disease 2019(Covid19) is more common in some occupations and also many workers have been influenced in term of socioeconomic conditions in this period. The aim of this study is to investigate the occupational distribution of the patients diagnosed with Covid19, in two dimensions that work-related covid19 transmission(WRCT) and pandemic-related economic worsening(PREW).

Method: The study population of this cross-sectional study was 271 workers, out of 1505 who were diagnosed with Covid19 at Hospital between 19.03.2020-04.09.2021.A structured questionnaire were applied by telephone interview. The outcomes of the study were WRCT and PREW. International Standard Classification of Occupations and Erikson-Goldthorpe social class chart was used for occupational and socioeconomic classifications. Descriptive statistics is presented. Chi square test is used in comparison of proportions.

Results: Of 233 workers who accepted to participate in the study, 51.5% were male(n=120). The mean age was 37.7(±9.2). WRCT was found 3.6 times higher in healthcare workers (CI95% 1.9-6.9). PREW was observed in 53 workers(2.77). Twenty workers had quit from their jobs(8.5%). PREW was higher in private sector(OR=6.69 CI95% 3.1-14.5). PREW was found significantly high in self-employed and small business owners compared to other social classes(ρ=0.001). Conclusions: Healthcare workers are expose higher biological risk factors while small business owners might be vulnerable against economical risk factor. The white collar workers who could work from home were the luckiest, the virus risk has been reduced while ensuring business continuity.