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.
Material and Methods: This is an observational comparative study using both online and offline medium. Seventy five Indian postal workers aged between 30-50 years from different post offices were assessed by using Chalder Fatigue Scale questionnaire and Work Ability Index. Same group of subjects were assessed in both I and II waves.

Results: Mean fatigue score of postal workers was significantly higher and mean work ability index score was lower during wave I of COVID19. Study revealed a significant correlation of fatigue score with work ability of subjects (p ≤ 0.001).

Conclusion: Higher fatigue level and lower work ability index during wave I may be due to huge numbers of uncertainties regarding the disease and also due to lack in supply of personal protective equipments. Whereas, during wave II many of the workers get vaccines and occupational health related guidance as a result fatigue levels declined.

Evaluation of profile and work capacity of the post Covid-19 patients at the outpatient clinic for occupational health-related diseases at an University hospital in Brazil: preliminary results

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Introduction: Infection by the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19 may lead to symptoms that persist after the disease is cured. Objective: to assess the epidemiological profile of the workers and their work capacity after convalescence from the symptomatic disease.

Methods: Descriptive, cross-sectional study of 28 workers who had COVID-19 and were treated at the ADT (Outpatient Clinic for Occupational Diseases) of HCPA between April and June 2021. A clinical evaluation was performed and a questionnaire was applied about factors associated with infection by SARS-CoV-2 and the sequelae of the disease.

Results: 63% of the workers were female and 81.5% were self-declared white. 61.5% of the cases had a formal job and 83.3% were away from work for more than 15 days. As to hospitalizations, 44% were in beds of the intensive care unit and 32% on the medical ward. The source of contagion was associated with the work environment in 20% of the cases and 73.9% of the patients had at least one chronic disease. At the time of diagnosis, the most prevalent symptoms were fever (54.2%), coughing (45.3%), dyspnea (45.8%), myalgia (33.3%) and headache (25%). At the first outpatient visit the most common persisting symptoms were: fatigue/tiredness (54.2%), myalgia (33%), anxiety (16.7%) and hair loss (20.8%). Conclusion: Incapacity for work was present in all cases studied. The complexity of care of patients who continue to have symptoms after convalescing from COVID-19 requires an interdisciplinary evaluation, which was achieved by creating an outpatient clinic involving more than 10 medical specialties to evaluate these cases.

The ICOH Survey on COVID-19: global view on policy responses at country level

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Introduction: The COVID-19 pandemic has created an extraordinary challenge to public health and the world of work. Based on its role in the occupational safety and health (OSH) field, the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) developed a survey aimed to collect information on public health policies, prevention measures, and other policies put in place by the governments of the countries in the world to contain the pandemic.

Materials and Methods: A cross-sectional study was conducted through an online questionnaire asking information on COVID-19 data, public health policies and prevention measures, support measures for economy, work, and education, Personal Protective Equipment, Intensive Care Units, contact tracing, return to work, ICOH against COVID-19. The questionnaire was administered to more than 110 ICOH National Secretaries and other senior OSH experts. Collected data refer to the period ranging from the beginning of the pandemic in each country to 30 June 2020.

Results: We received 73 valid questionnaires from 73 countries (response rate: 64.6%). Most of the respondents (71.2%) reported that the state of emergency was declared in their country, and 86.1% reported lockdown measures. Most of the respondents (66.7%) affirmed that the use of face masks was compulsory in their country. As for containment measures, 97.2% indicated that mass gatherings (meetings) were limited. Regarding workplace closing, the most affected sector was entertainment (90.1%).

Conclusions: The results of this survey are useful to gain a global view on COVID-19 policy responses at country level.

Employees’ worry about workplace measures against COVID-19 and the onset of major depressive episode: A 13-month prospective study of full-time employees

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Background: This 13-month prospective study aimed to investigate the impact of employees’ worry about workplace measures against
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 the company/organization may be a risk factor for the onset of MDE among full-time employees during the COVID-19 epidemic.

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, including the inability to choose a vaccine and fear of side effects. Contrarily, they 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.

300

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.

301

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