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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moment isn’t enough to protect against this type of diseases and that more research should be done towards better PPE. We should stop relying on a few countries to provide the whole healthcare system with PPE, after all, that was the main cause of PPE shortage during the first wave.

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Specific Occupational Health Interventions and the new normal at our Workplace (Hero MotoCorp Ltd- World’s largest 2-wheeler manufacturer) to control SARS-CoV2 pandemic

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Introduction: As we are surfing repeatedly over SARS-CoV2 pandemic waves in an unprecedented new normal phase in our lives, our belief in hope, optimism & resilience conjoined with our precautionary, preventive & control measures have enabled us to confront it, stay alive & even return to work. Objective of study was to evaluate & justify the interventions at our workplace aimed at control of the pandemic, resumption of operations, ensure business continuity & wellbeing of all employees.

Materials and Methods: A restart manual was designed with 10 control domains, over a month (April 2020) after analyzing the high risk points in the workplace, with approval of higher management & implementation started top-down. Later revisions were made as per demand of the situation. Defined metrics and assessment tools were used to evaluate effectiveness like total cumulative COVID cases in each wave, total primary contacts, comparison data with cases in adjoining district and nationwide in the same timeline.

Results and Conclusion: At our workplace at Dharuhera, the total number of COVID cases dropped from 176 to 103 from 1st to 2nd wave respectively & total primary contacts dropped by 50%; also unlike the surge in cases in the adjoining district & national figures which were much higher in 2nd wave (97894 new cases in single day on 10.9.2020 in 1st wave & 414188 on 6.5.2021 in 2nd wave). Thus to conclude, all the 10 intervention domains were very effective & justified since we could achieve a control on the pandemic.

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QRISK3® stratification during the Coronavirus pandemic and the evolution of a health promotion opportunity in NHS hospital employees

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Introduction: Healthcare workers (HCWs) from black and minority ethnic origin (BAME) worldwide paid a higher price in terms of mortality and morbidity during the pandemic. An association between cardiovascular (CVD) risk and COVID-19 complications was suspected as a cause for this disparity. A large NHS Trust developed its own COVID-19 risk stratification incorporating CVD risk of staff assessed by QRISK3® algorithm alongside other risk factors such as asthma/COPD, low immunity and cancer, long before UK wide guidance was published. High and increased-risk staff were offered additional COVID-19 protection.

Material and Methods: All staff aged ≥45 years (8047 among total 18025 employees) were eligible to participate. Clinical information alongside blood pressure, BMI, renal and lipid profile and HbA1c was entered into the QRISK3 calculator. Staff with “increased” (Score >10; 10% risk of a CVD event over 10 years) and “high” (>20) CVD risk were restricted at work.

Results: A total of 1075 employees participated (75% white, 25% BAME). 5% and 7% were identified as increased and high-risk requiring restriction. Advice was provided to participants who were obese (36%); overweight (36%); hypertensive (25%); diabetic/ prediabetic (11%) and with unexpected results (BP >140 systolic 17%, CKD 2%, HbA1c >48 1%). Hypertension was commoner among whites and Diabetes among BAME staff.

Conclusions: The trust’s initiative of risk stratification by using QRISK3® may have provided an additional protection to staff with high CVD risk from COVID-19 complications. Its potentiality as a wellbeing tool for health promotion needs to be explored.

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Association between workplace bullying and mental health in the COVID-19 pandemic

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Introduction: The pandemic of the new coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has created a challenging environment for workers. This study aimed to clarify the prevalence of workplace bullying during the pandemic and its relationship with socioeconomic status (SES) or mental health.

Methods: We conducted an online cross-sectional survey of 28,000 general residents from August to September 2020. One item of the Brief Job Stress Questionnaire was used to determine whether the respondents had experienced bullying at work, and those who answered “Yes” were defined as the exposure group. Severe psychological distress (SPD) was measured by K6 (> =13) and suicidal ideation was measured by one item. Gender, age, education, marital status, household income, employment status, industry, office size, job characteristics, and hours worked per week in the past month were measured as individual and occupational characteristics, including SES.

Results: The prevalence of workplace bullying (14.9%) was high among males, those without a spouse, those with the lowest annual household income, and corporate executives/regular employees. The risk of SPD was 3.7 times higher and the risk of suicidal ideation was 2.5 times higher in the group exposed to workplace bullying than the non-exposed group (logistic regression analysis, after adjusting all of the individual and occupational characteristics).

Conclusions: The prevalence of workplace bullying was higher than previously reported (6.1%). Although workers with low SES are more likely to experience bullying in general, even workers with high SES also experienced bullying during the pandemic.

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The impact of COVID-19 pandemic on scientific knowledge: the future perspective of virtual Conferences

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Introduction: The impact of COVID-19 pandemic on scientific knowledge: the future perspective of virtual Conferences

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Introduction: The measures taken to combat the pandemic, such as travel restrictions, closed borders and gathering bans, led to cancellations of many conferences, meetings and workshops, forcing the scientific community to identify new ways of disseminating scientific knowledge. This resulted in the transition from traditional face-to-face meetings, where practitioners and academics meet to exchange knowledge, network and develop collaborations, to the development of new events in digital formats. This study aimed at investigating the impact of the spreading of virtual conferences on the field of research.

Materials and Methods: We made a SWOT analysis to evaluate strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of this new way of organizing scientific conferences, as compared to face-to-face conferences in terms of effectiveness of result dissemination, networking opportunities, and policy development.

Results: Among the biggest opportunities of virtual conferences, revealed by the SWOT analysis, there are larger accessibility, equity (in terms of sex, ethnicity, geographical setting, physical ability, health, and career stage) reduced expenses, environmental sustainability and a better work-life balance. On the contrary, reduction in network building and in research capacity/cooperation, lower interest of local stakeholders and “digital exclusion” represent the most important threats.

Conclusions: Organizing a virtual conference does not mean concentrating only on the offline or the online side of the event, but rather to integrate the two sides in order to offer the participants the opportunity to choose how to partake.

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Occupational skin dermatoses as a result of Covid-19 prevention practices

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Introduction: Occupational skin diseases (OSD) account for a significant proportion of occupational disease. High risk occupations for OSD include workers in the healthcare, food service, metal-working, hairdressing and construction industries. The prevention of the COVID-19 virus has increased the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), handwashing and cleaning practices globally.

Methods: We will cover the first hand experiences gained during the pandemic, by reviewing the presentations of OSD at a dermatology clinic as result of COVID-19 practices.

Results: During the pandemic, the use of PPE created occlusive and humid environments particularly exacerbating underlying skin conditions. This phenomenon was not exclusive to high risk OSD occupations. Atopic individuals at risk of OSD had an increased susceptibility to irritant contact dermatitis (ICD) as a consequence of using hand sanitizers and additional hand washing. Furthermore more exacting cleaning practices provided exposures to additional irritants and allergens, such as laundry rinses containing benzalkonium chloride (BAK) and fragrances in personal care products. Patch testing proved useful in diagnosing and treating patients, which allowed workers to return to work.

Conclusions: Personal protective practices adopted during the pandemic adversely affected workers, especially those with underlying skin conditions. This included the use of PPE, increased hand washing and sanitizing practices as well as increased cleaning practices. Treatment of underlying skin disorders as well as education on skin protection has been pertinent during this time.

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A longitudinal study of frontline health care workers during the pandemic

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Introduction: Occupational stressors have continuously varied throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Only a prospective study can fully describe the phenomenon.

Material and Methods: A one-year longitudinal study was performed in correspondence with the first three pandemic waves from April 2020 to June 2021 in the intensivists of a COVID-19 hub hospital. Changes in work activity due to the pandemic were measured together with the perception of organizational justice, occupational stress, sleep quality, anxiety, depression, burnout, job satisfaction, happiness, and intention to quit. The participation rate was over 60% in each of the three surveys. The Catholic University Ethics Committee had approved the study (ID 3292).

Results: The various pandemic waves have placed different stressors and generated corresponding reactions in the workers. After the 3rd wave, 59.2% reported at least one unprotected exposure to COVID-19 patients and 19.2% had contracted the infection. Confidence in safety measures was low and occupational stressors (excessive workload, isolation, compassion fatigue, lack of time for meditation and physical activity) were present. Consequently, distress (73%), sleep problems (28%), anxiety (25%), and depression rate (64%) remained unacceptably high.

Conclusions: Clearly, the situation illustrated in our study calls for preventive and supportive action. Preventive interventions are needed. Involvement in safety procedures, increased intangible rewards, increased attention to meditation and sleep are recommended.

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One year of SARS-CoV-2 pandemic: a characterization of infected healthcare workers in a peripheral hospital of Lisbon, Portugal

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Introduction: After more than one year of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, there are still scarce studies on healthcare workers and particular risk factors for infection, with most published papers focusing on the psychological impact of the