

# Public Health Group

**15 June 2020**

**Chair:** Professor Jaime Montoya

# Key public health strategies

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- Quarantine and Isolation Strategies
- Minimum infection control interventions including non-pharma
- National advisory scientific committees/task forces to inform policy
- Boosting capacity of healthcare institutions and healthcare workforce
- Increasing testing capacity for diagnosis and surveillance
- Legislation
- Whole of government approach
- Ready mobilization of resources

# Key unanswered questions and research opportunities (1/2)

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## **Public Health**

- Better understanding of transmission dynamics
- Evaluation of effective PH strategies for both the short term and the long term
- Specific behavioural interventions

## **Clinical Management**

- Interactions with other infectious diseases
- COVID-19 protection and immunity

## **Social/economic impacts**

- Prioritization in resource-constrained settings
- Balancing PH and economic concerns and impact

# Key unanswered questions and research opportunities (2/2)

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## **Surveillance**

- Choice of diagnostic test in complex marketplace
- Early warning systems for resurgence of cases

## **COVID-19 vaccine**

- Effective deployment of COVID-19 vaccine and public acceptance
- Ensuring equitable global access

# Challenges and barriers to public health response

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- Limited capacity of health systems to respond
- Impact on other diseases
- Inequitable access to health services
- Access to reliable data
- Role of WHO to ensure global consistency in PH responses
- Public uncertainty and misconceptions

# Facilitators of public health response

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- Coordinated national and local policies and actions
- Legal frameworks
- Whole of government approach

# Factors affecting adoption of research findings into policy

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## Facilitators

- Effective modelling studies
- Advisory groups/task forces
- New information systems
- Political will, openness to evidence

## Challenges

- Rapid developments in science and information
- Funding in MICs for research
- Application of learnings on pandemic preparedness

# Strategies to promote research

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- Open science approach and open access to information
- Effective communication fostering trust
- Addressing key unanswered questions and research gaps
- Timely access to reliable data
- Responsive health research systems



# Strategies to promote the use of evidence

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- Country-led research with international collaboration
- Harmonisation of policies regionally and globally
- Advocacy by and communication among stakeholders
- Learning from other health programs such as HIV

# Acknowledgements

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