Ending the acute pandemic phase to sustained control of COVID-19

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Overview

• What factors continue to drive SARS-Co-V-2 Circulation and impact?

• What is ending the acute emergency of Covid-19 mean?

• How to achieve and Sustain COVID-19 Disease Control
Factors that continue to drive SARS-CoV-2 circulation and impact

Drivers of Transmission

- The virus continues to evolve resulting in more transmissible variants and variants with immune evasion
- Pockets of susceptible populations from lack of access to vaccines, vaccine hesitancy and/or waning immunity following infection or vaccination
- Inappropriate, inconsistent use of proven Public Health and Social Measures in the context of Increased social mobility and social mixing
- Misinformation, disinformation, politicization...false narratives

Drivers of Impact

- Vaccination coverage particularly in vulnerable populations
- Duration of protection against severe disease/death and infection following vaccination and/or infection
- Equity, access and use of life saving tools
- Early diagnosis, entry into clinical care pathway and availability of therapeutics
- Future emergence and circulation of VOCs and their characteristics
  - Transmissibility, virulence, properties of immune escape
- Management of Post COVID-19 Condition (Long COVID)
- Capacities and agility to adjust interventions as and where needed
Modelled estimates of seroprevalence by WHO region, Jan 20 - Aug 21, show considerable region-to-region variation

Modelled seroprevalence ranged from 4.1% in WPRO to 82.6% in PAHO HICs

Global pooled model estimate as of Aug 21 51.7%
Vaccination significantly reducing morbidity and mortality
Vaccination reduces onwards transmission but is currently insufficient to bring $R_t < 1$ in most countries.

Into 2022, future scenarios of COVID-19 should include: significant reductions in severe disease and death as population immunity increases around the world.

Example of higher vaccination coverage, high seroprevalence
Example of lower vaccination coverage; high seroprevalence from previous infection

- Vaccination significantly reducing morbidity and mortality
- Vaccination reduces onwards transmission but is currently insufficient to bring $R_t < 1$ in most countries.
Countries face different situations, challenges and scenarios for ending the emergency phase and for achieving sustained COVID-19 control.

Current and Previous Strategy

Current Epidemiology

Pop. demographics and risk factors for severity

Vaccination Levels & Pop. immunity

Access to life saving tools

Capacities to implement across all pillars

Agility to adjust actions as needed

Public trust and societal compliance
Ending the public health emergency of COVID-19 in 2022

Reduce and control incidence of SARS-CoV-2 infection

- Track the virus and its variants with expanded testing and sequencing
- Vaccination inc. (2nd/3rd generation)
- Calibrated PHSM measures at individual and population level inc. measures to protect high risk groups or settings
- Clear supported policies that are targeted, layered and comprehensive

Protect individuals (especially the vulnerable) from exposure and reduce risk of future variants

Optimizing National and International Strategies

Prevent, Diagnose and Treat Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

Reduce disease morbidity, mortality and long term consequences of infection to a minimum

- Protect those most vulnerable with full course of effective vaccine (70% by June 2022)
- Early diagnosis and effective clinical management of symptomatic disease (especially in most at-risk groups in all countries)
- Better understanding and therapeutic options for Post COVID-19 Condition
- Protect HCWs and restore resilient health systems

Health, Economy, Politics, Risk-tolerance, Human Rights, Acceptance
Priorities for Achieving and Sustaining COVID-19 Disease Control

To move from pandemic response to disease control requires us to.....

- **Reach all targeted populations** with a full series of effective vaccines focusing on at risk and vulnerable groups **everywhere**
- **Early diagnosis and effective clinical management** of symptomatic disease (especially in most at-risk groups in all countries)
- **Calibrated and scalable PHSM** at individual and population level including measures to protect high-risk groups or settings
- Expanded and strengthened national, regional and global: **surveillance, testing, sequencing and monitoring**
- Sustain and Scale up **research and innovation across all pillars** of the response including the production of and equitable distribution of vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostic
- Communicate with, **engage, and empower communities**, enriching the information/knowledge ecosystem and counter misinformation
- Restore and strengthen public health and health systems **resilience**, capacities and **workforce capability and protection**
Towards a Sustainable System for Integrated Epidemic Respiratory Disease Preparedness, Response and Control

**Preparedness & Readiness**
- Enhanced multi-disease surveillance systems
- Enabled and empowered Communities
- Supported & protected public health and medical work force
- Resilient Health systems
- Emergency medical supply systems
- Research and Innovation

**Detection**
- Reduce Exposure

**Reporting**
- Reduce/Prevent Infection

**Analyses**
- Early Diagnosis/ Treat Disease
- Better care and management by supported and protected workforce

**Prevention**
- Improved outcome and post care

**Multi-Disease Surveillance**
- Sentinel systems
- Multiplex Diagnostics
- Anima-Human surveillance
- Collaborative Intelligence
- Sequencing
- Predictive analytics

**Integrated Diagnostic & Care Pathways**
- Multiplex Diagnostic at point of care
- Integrated clinical care protocols
- Common procurement and supply chains
- Coordinated research and innovation

**Capacity for and Acceptance of Population Level Intervention**
- Mass vaccination
- Public Health and Social Measures
- Case Isolation/Contact tracing and quarantine /Physical distancing, restrictions in social mixing and movement

- Risk reduction measures at animal human interface
- Vaccination: common/aligned systems for development, composition, policy, production and roll-out
Thank you