

COVID-19 CADTH REFERENCE LIST

Testing for COVID-19 in Correctional Facilities: Clinical Effectiveness and Guidelines

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Authors: Christopher Freige, Monika Mierzwinski-Urban, Robyn Butcher, Carolyn Spry

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Questions or requests for information about this report can be directed to requests@cadth.ca

Research Questions

1. What is the clinical effectiveness of testing all new admissions for coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in correctional facilities?
2. What is the clinical effectiveness of mass testing (i.e., testing everyone within the facility) for COVID-19 in correctional facilities?
3. What are the evidence-based guidelines regarding testing new admissions for COVID-19 in correctional facilities?
4. What are the evidence-based guidelines regarding the use of mass testing (i.e., testing everyone within the facility) for COVID-19 in correctional facilities?

Key Findings

No literature was identified regarding the clinical effectiveness of testing all new admissions or mass testing (i.e., testing everyone within the facility) for COVID-19 in correctional facilities. Additionally, no evidence-based guidelines were identified regarding testing new admissions or the use of mass testing (i.e., testing everyone within the facility) for COVID-19 in correctional facilities.

Methods

A limited literature search was conducted by an information specialist on key resources including Medline, the Cochrane Library, the websites of Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused internet search. The search strategy was comprised of both controlled vocabulary, such as the National Library of Medicine’s MeSH (Medical Subject Headings), and keywords. The main search concepts were correctional facilities and COVID-19. No filters were applied to limit the retrieval by study type. The search was also limited to English language documents published between January 1, 2018 and April 29, 2020.

Selection Criteria

One reviewer screened citations and selected studies based on the inclusion criteria presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Selection Criteria

Populations	Q1, Q3: Newly admitted individuals in correctional facilities Q2, Q4: All individuals in correctional facilities (including staff)
Intervention	Testing for coronavirus disease (COVID-19) using any method (e.g., lab-based tests, point of care tests)
Comparators	Q1, Q2: Not testing for COVID-19; standard care Q3, Q4: Not applicable
Outcomes	Q1, Q2: Clinical effectiveness (e.g., mortality, rates of transmission) Q3, Q4: Recommendations regarding best practices (e.g., guidance around who should be tested and which methods should be used for testing)
Study Designs	Health technology assessments, systematic reviews, randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, evidence-based guidelines

Results

Rapid Response reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports and systematic reviews are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, and evidence-based guidelines.

No literature was identified regarding the clinical effectiveness of testing all new admissions or mass testing (i.e., testing everyone within the facility) for COVID-19 in correctional facilities. Additionally, no evidence-based guidelines were identified regarding testing new admissions or the use of mass testing (i.e., testing everyone within the facility) for COVID-19 in correctional facilities.

References of potential interest are provided in the appendix.

Health Technology Assessments

No literature identified.

Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses

No literature identified.

Randomized Controlled Trials

No literature identified.

Non-Randomized Studies

No literature identified.

Guidelines and Recommendations

No literature identified.

Appendix — Further Information

Clinical Practice Guidelines — Unclear Methodology

1. US Centers for Disease and Prevention (CDC). Interim guidance on management of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in correctional and detention facilities. 2020; <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/correction-detention/guidance-correctional-detention.htm#verbal-screening>. Accessed 2020 Apr 30.
See “Management of Incarcerated/Detained Persons with COVID-19 Symptoms” Section
2. WA State Department of Corrections (DOC) COVID-19 screening, testing, and infection control guideline: version 16. Olympia (WA): Washington State Department of Corrections; 2020: <https://www.doc.wa.gov/news/2020/docs/wa-state-doc-covid-19-screening-testing-infection-control-guideline.pdf>. Accessed 2020 Apr 30.
See “Health Services Evaluation” Section
3. WHO Regional Office for Europe. Preparedness, prevention and control of COVID-19 in prisons and other places of detention: interim guidance. Copenhagen (DK): World Health Organization; 2020: http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/434026/Preparedness-prevention-and-control-of-COVID-19-in-prisons.pdf?ua=1. Accessed 2020 Apr 30.
See Section 13. ASSESSING SUSPECTED CASES OF COVID-19 IN PEOPLE IN PRISON/DETENTION

Additional References

4. Wurcel AG, Dauria E, Zaller N, et al. Spotlight on Jails: COVID-19 Mitigation Policies Needed Now. *Clin Infect Dis*. 2020.
[PubMed: PM32221515](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32221515/)