CoronaSys Innovation sheet 36

Prioritization Roadmap

Background
Over the past few weeks, much attention has been paid to COVID-19 vaccines and the start of vaccination campaigns in some countries[1234]. Since the vaccine will initially only be available in limited quantities, it has also become clear that countries are taking different approaches in distributing the vaccine and deciding who gets the first doses[5]. A WHO document assists in the development of the prioritisation policy.

Features
Based on the WHO "SAGE Values Framework for the Allocation and Prioritization of COVID-19 Vaccination"[6] the "Roadmap for prioritizing uses of Covid-19 vaccines" (Prioritization Roadmap) was developed to assist countries in the development of public health strategies regarding vaccination planning and identifying and targeting priority groups for different levels of vaccine availability and epidemiological requirements.

The Prioritization Roadmap offers three examples for rationales for prioritisation a) Health workers at high to very high risk of becoming infected and transmitting SARS-CoV-2 in the community b) Sociodemographic groups at significantly higher risk of severe disease or death, e.g. elderly people c) Social/employment groups at elevated risk of acquiring and transmitting infection because they are unable to effectively physically distance[7].

State of information: 21/12/2020

Publication: 13/11/2020

Country: International

Focus area: Policy

Developer: WHO

Beneficiaries:

- Policy makers
- Health officials

Potentials
The document also offers epidemiological setting and vaccine supply scenarios as well as recommendations for prioritization in the context of limited supply[8].

Points to consider
As of now, the roadmap does not include special recommendations for specific vaccines. The roadmap will be updated regularly and followed-up by recommendations for specific vaccines, as soon as there is enough scientific evidence to derive such recommendations. Due to the dynamic nature of the pandemic, it is likely that refinements of the Roadmap will be needed.[9]

Conclusion
The Roadmap can assist policymakers and health officials in identifying and targeting priority groups for COVID-19 vaccination while taking into account epidemiological developments and availability issues.

[1] Niedzwiadek, Nick. "Covid Vaccinations Begin in the United States as Deaths Surpass 300,000 - POLITICO." POLITICO, December 14, 2020. https://www.politico.com/news/2020/12/14/covid-vaccinations-begin-in-the-united-states-445003.

[2] Kottasová, Ivana, and Emma Reynolds. "Covid-19 Vaccine: First UK Citizens Receive Shot, a Landmark Moment in the Pandemic - CNN," December 8, 2020. https://edition.cnn.com/2020/12/08/europe/uk-pfizer-biontech-covid-vaccination-intl/index.html.

[3] Goldenberg, Tia. "Israel Launches Vaccination Drive as Coronavirus Cases Surge - Independent.Ie," December 20, 2020. https://www.independent.ie/world-news/israel-launches-vaccination-drive-as-coronavirus-cases-surge-39882600.html.

[4] Asbarez.com. "Armenia Expects First COVID-19 Vaccines In February." Asbarez.Com (blog), December 5, 2020. http://asbarez.com/198983/armenia-expects-first-covid-19-vaccines-in-february/.

[5] CDC. "COVID-19 and Your Health." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, December 16, 2020. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations.html.

[6] WHO. "WHO SAGE Values Framework for the Allocation and Prioritization of COVID-19 Vaccination," September 14, 2020. https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/334299/WHO-2019-nCoV-SAGE_Framework-Allocation_and_prioritization-2020.1-eng.pdf?ua=1.

[7] WHO. "WHO SAGE Roadmap For Prioritizing Uses Of COVID-19 Vaccines In The Context Of Limited Supply," November 13, 2020. https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/who-sage-roadmap-for-prioritizing-uses-of-covid-19-vaccines-in-the-context-of-limited-supply.

[8] WHO. "WHO SAGE Roadmap For Prioritizing Uses Of COVID-19 Vaccines In The Context Of Limited Supply," November 13, 2020. https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/who-sage-roadmap-for-prioritizing-uses-of-covid-19-vaccines-in-the-context-of-limited-supply.

[9] WHO. "WHO SAGE Roadmap For Prioritizing Uses Of COVID-19 Vaccines In The Context Of Limited Supply," November 13, 2020. https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/who-sage-roadmap-for-prioritizing-uses-of-covid-19-vaccines-in-the-context-of-limited-supply. P13.

Background on Innovation Sheet Series

As part of a real-time evaluation of the SARS CoV 2 pandemic (with focus on epidemiological, medical, economical, societal, technical, and cultural developments in Germany and Armenia) the CoronaSys research team, under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Martin Voss, is conducting a continuous monitoring of developments and medical, technical, and social innovations concerning Covid-19.

Multiple national and international media outlets, research platforms, and scientific and organizational guidelines, briefs, and updates are screened to feed into this outlet. The rationale behind this is to support the projects' network partners in Armenia and Germany with short summaries of key developments and promising innovations that are shaping the global, German, and Armenian outbreak response and recovery.

The aim of these short briefs is to give condensed and structured information on selected innovations emerging out of the conducted horizon scanning. This could be mainstream big-ticket items or fringe subjects that are easily overlooked in the global flood of information. Some innovations will be followed through their evolution in time while others may only appear once. While subjectively selected, the briefs are descriptive in nature and leave analysis and critical interpretation to the reader. Network partners in both countries are invited to provide feedback on their interest areas and suggest particularly relevant topics for the CoronaSys Workshop series.

The CoronaSys Innovation Sheet Series is published by the Academy of the Disaster Research Unit, which is, as a non-profit limited liability company, a spin-off of the Disaster Research Unit at the Free University of Berlin. The series is part of the research project "CoronaSys: Addressing the corona pandemic in Armenia through systemic risk management", sponsored by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or if you wish to be taken on (or off) the project mailing list for CoronaSys updates, innovation sheets, and workshop invitations, please send a message to Janina Schäfer (schaefer@a-kfs.de). For general project inquiries, you may contact the team lead Sara Merkes (merkes@a-kfs.de) or the project lead Martin Voss (voss@a-kfs.de).

Previous CoronaSys Innovation Sheets

All previous CoronaSys Innovation Sheets are available online:
http://coronasys.a-kfs.de/category/innovation-stream/

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