

October 7, 2020

Dear Editor,

Please find attached our manuscript entitled '*COVID-19 clusters outside healthcare institutions and households during the initial phase of the pandemic: A literature and media review.*' that we kindly request you to consider for publication as Review Article in Eurosurveillance.

This study provides a clear overview of clusters in the initial phase of the pandemic, when the number of reported clusters was still limited due to low test capacity and lockdown measures. Outbreaks of COVID-19 related to specific indoor activities during the initial phase of the pandemic can give insight into risk factors for SARS-CoV-2 transmission and possible aerogenic transmission.

Through a scientific literature search and media search into COVID-19 clusters related to specific indoor activities from January up to May 24, 2020, we observed that:

- Outside health care institutions and households, in the initial phase of the pandemic COVID-19 clusters have been described most frequently in choirs, suggesting participating in choir singing is a possible risk factor for increased SARS-CoV-2 transmission.
- Several outbreaks in choirs have reported a remarkably high attack rate of up to 87%. Although droplet or indirect transmission have occurred at these occasions, possible aerogenic transmission over longer distances than 1.5 meters may have contributed to the high attack rates.

In future outbreaks additional phylogenetic research is recommended to assist in clarifying transmission patterns.

All authors agree with this submission, and declare no conflicts of interest. This work has not been published or submitted for publication elsewhere.

Yours sincerely,

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