



# COVID-19

## research update

May 11, 2020

### **Potential treatment for mild and moderate cases of COVID-19**

A [study of a potential treatment of COVID-19](#) (The Lancet, May 8) found that a combination of three drugs showed promising results for reducing the duration of the virus. The study's authors found that early treatment with the triple combination of antiviral therapy with interferon beta-1b, lopinavir-ritonavir and ribavirin is safe and highly effective in shortening the duration of virus shedding, decreasing cytokine responses, alleviating symptoms and facilitating the discharge of patients with mild to moderate COVID-19. Furthermore, the triple antiviral therapy rapidly rendered viral load negative in all specimens, thereby reducing infectiousness of the patient.

### **Pandemic response in correctional and detention facilities**

A [study of COVID-19 in the Louisiana prison system](#) (MMWR, May 8) found that physical, logistical and security constraints inherent to correctional facilities make it difficult to fully implement public health recommendations related to the pandemic. The reported inability of some facilities to individually quarantine close contacts of incarcerated or detained persons with COVID-19 could result in spread among persons within the quarantine units. A COVID-19 Management Assessment and Response (CMAR) tool could be used to assess COVID-19 management practices and guide strategies to address gaps. Response to COVID-19 in correctional and detention facilities should account for the inherent limitations these facilities face in acting upon public health guidance.

### **A World Health Organization document providing guidance to assist correctional and detention facilities in developing a response to the COVID-19**

(WHO, March 15) outbreak highlights that people in prisons and other places of detention are likely to be more vulnerable to the COVID-19 outbreak than the general population because of the confined conditions in which they live together for prolonged periods of time. Moreover, experience shows that prisons, jails and similar settings where people are gathered in close proximity may act as a source of infection, amplification and spread of infectious diseases within and beyond prisons. Controlling the spread of COVID-19 infection in prisons and other places of detention is essential to protecting the health of all those who live and work in them and those who visit them and protecting the outside community. The WHO also created a companion [checklist](#) for use by policymakers and prison administrators to evaluate their level of preparedness to prevent and control COVID-19 in prisons and other places of detention.