

Editorial Note

COVID-19's Direct and Indirect Impact

The COVID-19 outbreak has been declared a public health emergency of worldwide concern by the World Health Organization. The direct and indirect effects of COVID-19 on health and well-being are still being investigated. In addition to the direct impacts of COVID-19 disease, social distancing and lockdown measures have had a significant and unequal effect on individuals, households, and communities through restrictions imposed on our daily social and economic activities.

Long-term conditions are expected to have worsened for many people during the lockdown. There are particular concerns about delayed cancer diagnoses, and the subsequent effects as national health service services are resumed. There is growing evidence that patients with mild to moderate COVID-19 disease may have a prolonged illness with frequent relapses.

Previous pandemics and economic shocks have shown that mental illness will rise dramatically during the pandemic, although the scale is hard to predict. A variety of factors, including those directly related to COVID-19 (e.g., more broadly or as a result of the loss of family and friends to COVID-19) and those indirectly associated through the effects of the social distance and lockdown measures (e.g. through social isolation or because of financial insecurity), maybe drivers of poor mental health.

However, social isolation and loneliness have harmed many people's well-being. There are also considerable concerns about how increased stress and decreased access to resources for vulnerable children and families may raise the risk of family violence and abuse. To make matters worse, throughout the lockdown, safeguarding issues mainly were kept from view.

Finally, on behalf of the journal, I would like to thank and express my sincere gratitude to all of the editors, reviewers, authors, and readers who have worked with us over the years to make this journal a successful open access publication. I hope for their continued support in the following years as well.

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