

**Primary Care Public Health
CME Program Series
*COVID-19 Pandemic Updates***

**CME Discussion Summary on Feb 2, 2023
Round Table Discussion with ID Doctors on Jan 2023**

CME Program: Discussion

(2/2/2023, Chairman: Dr. Basil Vasantachart; Presenter: Dr. Wen-Ta Chiu)

- **CEO Iris Lai and CNO Francis Largoza briefed the current status of Alhambra Hospital and regarding COVID and flu.**
- **Dr. Deepthi Jayasekara:**
 - **India and Singapore proved that Evusheld is not effective.**
 - **Assess patient risk. Higher risk should take Paxlovid earlier.**
 - **Bivalent boosters are the best prevention for severe infection for most.**
 - **Recommends Remdesivir for high risk patients or non-hospitalized.**
- **Dr. Joseph Kuei:**
 - **The positive case rate is underreported due to home testing.**
 - **Hospitalizations are 3-4% less than before. Deaths are less and the death rate is now close to flu.**
 - **Biden administration's decision to end the COVID public health emergency is scientifically sound.**

CME Program: Q&A

(2/2/2023)

Q1. Do we need to test for antibody titers before getting a booster shot?

Dr. Kuei and Dr. Jayasekara suggest that antibody testing is not necessary.

Q2. Does the FDA have a current timeframe for the new yearly vaccines?

Uncertain. Should follow CDC and FDA developments. (Aug-Sep?)

Q3. When new vaccines arrive, should I take them if I already received the current bivalent vaccine?

New guidelines per CDC and FDA will provide recommendations.

Q4. Is Paxlovid or Remdesivir a better treatment option for COVID?

Higher risk should take Paxlovid earlier, but Remdesivir is recommended as an alternative.

Q5. Why isn't Paxlovid readily available in hospitals?

Paxlovid is an outpatient treatment for preventing hospitalization.

Q&A: Roundtable Discussion with ID Doctors

(Dr. Thida Win, Dr. Jessica Mantilla, Dr. Mike Ly, Dr. Jamie Lin)

(January 2023)

Q6. It's been 4-5 months since the start of bivalent boosters being available. Do we need another bivalent booster shot soon?

Until more evidence becomes available regarding efficacy and durability, waiting is the best course of action.

Q7. Do we need to take Paxlovid if we test positive but are asymptomatic?

Most doctors regard patient age, but some doctors prescribe Paxlovid to every positive patient over 12 years old.

Q8. Do you have you any recommendations for medications or treatment of long COVID?

Currently, there is no specific medication for long COVID, just symptomatic treatment. Diagnostic and non-diagnostic testing must be done to rule out all other possible explanations.