

IIMHL & IIDL Briefing IV

Leadership Innovations within a health crisis: COVID-19

Collated by Janet Peters 16 April 2020
Edited by Steve Appleton

This briefing describes innovations by our member countries to assist them, and other countries and organisations during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Three key innovations are described with links for further information. Although countries may have differing policies these reports give food for thought.

University of Oxford: Government Response Tracker

Governments are taking a wide range of measures in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. The Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker (OxCGRT) aims to track and compare government responses to the coronavirus outbreak worldwide rigorously and consistently.

Systematic information on which governments have taken which measures, and when, can help decision-makers and citizens understand the robustness of governmental responses in a consistent way, aiding efforts to fight the pandemic. The OxCGRT systematically collects information on several different common policy responses governments have taken, scores the stringency of such measures, and aggregates these scores into a common Stringency Index.

DATA OxCGRT collects publicly available information on 13 indicators of government response (S1-S13). Nine of the indicators (S1-S7, S12 and S13) take policies such as school closures, travel bans, etc. are recorded on an ordinal scale; the remainder (S8-S11) are financial indicators such as fiscal or monetary measures. For a full description of the data and how it is collected, [see this working paper](#).

<https://www.bsg.ox.ac.uk/research/research-projects/oxford-covid-19-government-response-tracker>

From the press release:

WORLD'S FIRST COVID-19 GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TRACKER LAUNCHED TODAY

The coronavirus outbreak has forced governments to put in place policies to contain the spread of the disease among their population. The Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker collects publicly available information on 11 indicators of government response including school closures, public events cancellations and public information campaigns as well as fiscal and monetary measures and emergency investment in healthcare. Thomas Hale, Associate

Professor of Global Public Policy at the Blavatnik School of Government and lead for this project, said: “Our index cannot, of course, tell the full story, but we believe the data we have collected can help decision makers and public health professionals examine the robustness of government responses and provide a first step into understanding exactly what measures have been effective in certain contexts, and why.”

<https://www.bsg.ox.ac.uk/news/worlds-first-covid-19-government-response-tracker-launched-today>

Centre for Mental Health, England **Supporting mental health in communities during the coronavirus crisis**

This briefing looks at how statutory service commissioners and providers are working with their voluntary and community sector partners to respond to the crisis and gives practical advice on how to build effective partnerships locally. Key elements of effective partnership working include:

- Enabling Voluntary Care Sector (VCS) staff and volunteers to work safely alongside National Health Service, social care and public health colleagues, including with access to protective equipment and training in how to use it
 - Supporting smaller organisations that work with groups with higher risks to mental health or who find mainstream support less helpful
- There are a number of practical steps that NHS and local authority commissioners can take to work with their voluntary and community sector partners to help them to maximise their contribution now without jeopardising their longer term sustainability, including:
- Working together to plan crisis responses, identify key areas of need and activity and draw on the intelligence of VCS partners about where attention is needed
 - Providing additional funding to expand services that need to grow to meet extra need (e.g. helplines) or to shift resources from face-to-face to digital media
 - Relaxing contractual restrictions and processes and ensuring that VCS organisations will continue to be paid if they take on work outside their existing contract
 - Maintaining safeguarding to protect people at risk of abuse or exploitation

https://www.centreformentalhealth.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-04/Supporting%20mental%20health%20in%20communities%20during%20coronavirus%20crisis_.pdf

HealthCentral, US

This website provides details on depression causes, symptoms, treatments, and a jillion other tips that can make life with depression a little bit easier—and hopefully, eventually, happier.

<https://www.healthcentral.com/condition/depression>

