



## Communicable Disease and Covid-19: Lesson Learned

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### Introduction

The Covid-19 pandemic has choked the world and so have the containment measures. LMICs are going through an epidemiological transition with the burden of the disease shifting from the communicable disease to non-communicable disease. This pandemic, however, has proved that the focus on the former cannot be neglected. Covid-19 pandemic has given us an opportunity to combat communicable disease with a new and effective approach. In the year 2016, the diseases globally contributing to the total Years of Life Lost were namely diarrhea, lower respiratory infections, and tuberculosis [1]. Washing hands, however, with soap and water alone have been cost-effective measures in reducing the incidence of Acute Gastroenteritis [2] and so have the social distancing measures and wearing of masks have been successful in reducing/ preventing the incidence of Tuberculosis and other respiratory tract infections [3]. Considering this pandemic as a launchpad, it is the perfect time to communicate a strong wave of using the same measures to prevent communicable diseases in addition to COVID-19.

According to the Health Belief Model, if there is a perceived susceptibility as well as perceived severity towards life-threatening diseases, there is an increased likelihood that individuals will wear facemasks [4]. LMICs should maintain this wind and promote these activities even when pandemic is over. India is already a member of WHO's Framework Convention of Tobacco Control and it took India 73 years to impose fine over spitting in public places. This regulatory approach can pave way to a successful control of infections not only for this pandemic but for other infectious diseases as

well. Similarly, in order to deliver better health care services, recent trends have been witnessed towards the increase use of telemedicine technologies as they have the potential to culminate the barriers of distance barriers, thus improving access to care especially to the poor and the underserved [5].

The government regulations regarding inspection of ports and ships may be extrapolated to any vehicle or individual for that matter. It is the time to strengthen epidemic act, make strategies with clear steps, in future spending more budget in health, doing more research to prevent this type of epidemic. Although prevention and control of infection are playing an important role in the management of COVID-19, it provides an opportunity to strengthen the pre-existing infection prevention and control practices.

### References

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