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- vi) Most workplaces had implemented enhanced cleaning regimes as a result of the pandemic.

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A mixed methods study of risk factors and lived experiences of health care workers tested for the novel coronavirus in Canada

*Arnold Ikedichi Okpani*¹, *Stephen Barker*¹, *Karen Lockhart*¹, *Jennifer Grant*², *Jorge Delgado-Ron*¹, *Jerry Spiegel*¹, *Muzimkhulu Zungu*³, *Spo Kgalamono*³, *Sipho Senabe*⁴, *David Jones*³, *Nisha Naicker*³, *Rodney Ehrlich*⁵, *Annalee Yassi*¹

¹ University of British Columbia, School of Population and Public Health, Vancouver, Canada, ² Vancouver Coastal Health, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Vancouver, Canada, ³ National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS), National Institute for Occupational Health (NIOH), Johannesburg, South Africa, ⁴ Gauteng Department of Health, Gauteng Department of Health, Johannesburg, South Africa, ⁵ School of Public Health and Family Medicine, University of Cape Town, Division of Occupational Medicine, Cape Town, South Africa

Introduction: Health care workers (HCWs) worldwide have borne a disproportionate burden of infection from SARS-CoV-2-19, but this varies markedly by jurisdiction: HCWs in the Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) region of British Columbia, Canada have infection rates paralleling those of the background population. We assessed the association of risk factors among HCWs in this region, and examined how HCWs frame their experience.

Methods: We conducted a matched case control study with an integrated qualitative component using questionnaire data from HCWs who sought testing at a VCH site between March 2020 and March 2021.

Results: Quantitative data from 1340 HCWs were included. Free text responses for qualitative analysis were received from 316 HCWs. Community exposure to a known COVID-19 patient was associated with COVID-19 infection (adjusted odds ratio (aOR) 2.45; 95% CI 1.67-3.59). Compared to medical staff, care aides and licensed practical nurses had a considerably higher infection risk (aOR 2.92; 95% CI 1.49-5.70). Direct care for COVID-19 patients, however, was not associated with infection (aOR 1.05; 95% CI 0.76–1.45). Framing of HCWs' experiences broadly reflected the phase of the pandemic during which they were tested. Communication challenges and being in situations perceived as unsafe in and out of work were cited as sources of dissatisfaction.

Conclusions: Community exposures were more important determinants of infection than workplace exposures in our study area. Availability of protective equipment, and clear communication are important for enhancing a sense of safety among HCWs during this unprecedented pandemic.

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Online occupational health consultations in the COVID-19 pandemic: experience, user satisfaction, and difficulties from a nationwide cross-sectional online survey of workers in Japan

*Sayaka Ogawa*¹, *Haruka Tomonaga*¹, *Natsu Sasaki*², *Reiko Kuroda*³, *Kanami Tsuno*⁴, *Kotaro Imamura*¹, *Norito Kawakami*¹

¹ The University of Tokyo, Mental Health, Tokyo, Japan, ² The University of Tokyo, Metal Health, Tokyo, Japan, ³ The University of

Tokyo, Environmental Safety, Tokyo, Japan, ⁴ Kanagawa University of Human Services, Health Innovation, Kanagawa, Japan

Objectives: COVID-19 has increased the use of online consultation in occupational health. To clarify the experience, satisfaction, and difficulties of the online consultations, we surveyed a sample of workers about their experiences with online consultations during COVID-19 pandemic.

Methods: An online survey was conducted in March 2021 among employees of the nationwide online panel survey in Japan (E-COCO-J). Respondents were asked to report whether they had online or face-to-face consultations with occupational health professionals in the past year, their level of satisfaction with these, and their difficulties and problems related to the online consultations when they had.

Results: Among 1,102 respondents, 4.5% experienced online consultations and 5.0% experienced face-to-face consultations with occupational health professionals in the past year. The proportions of respondents who reported satisfaction with online consultations was high for general health consultation, for the follow-up consultations of health-checkups and health guidance, and for other purposes. The proportions of satisfaction with online consultations of occupational physician for those who worked long hours and consultations for employees who took leave or returned to work were low. The difficulties of online consultations were the discrepancy with the workers' intentions, the quality of communication, and concerns about confidentiality.

Conclusion: Online occupational health consultations worked well in the COVID-19 pandemic. The difficulties may exist for some types of consultations and in client's preference, connection quality, and security.

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Exposure assessment to atmospheric pollutants in different working conditions: WFO (Working from Office) versus WFH (Working from Home)

Francesca Borghi, *Giacomo Fanti*, *Andrea Cattaneo*, *Angelica Albareda*, *Davide Campagnolo*, *Sabrina Rovelli*, *Marta Keller*, *Andrea Spinazzè*, *Domenico Maria Cavallo*

University of Insubria, Department of Science and High Technology, Como, Italy

Introduction: In the COVID-19 context, the opportunity to work from home (WFH) became of great importance: several studies investigated the WFH phenomenon but, to the best of our knowledge, no studies have yet been performed considering the differences between WFH and WFO (working from office) conditions, in terms of exposure assessment to different air pollutants. The principal aim of this study is therefore to evaluate the personal exposure to selected airborne pollutants during these working conditions.

Material and Methods: A long-term campaign involves the measurement of different PM (particulate matter) fractions, using portable direct-reading instrumentation. The measurements will be carried out in two different seasons for two consecutive weeks. The data relating to the exposure concentrations will be acquired at the same time by a subject in WFH conditions for 24 hours per day, and by a second subject in WFO conditions for 8 working hours. In a short-term campaign, at least 50 subjects are expected to be enrolled, who will carry out two consecutive monitoring days (respectively in WFO and WFH conditions).