

NCD Alliance hosts media briefing on COVID-19 and NCDs

Language English

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The NCD Alliance invited media representatives to an on-the-record briefing on *COVID-19 and NCDs: Lessons learned from around the world*.

The media telebriefing took place on **29th April 2020** and provided an opportunity to discuss best practices and lessons learned so far in selected countries. This included:

- Emerging evidence from the COVID-19 pandemic shows many intersections between COVID-19 and NCDs. People living with NCDs (PLWNCDS) are more vulnerable to COVID-19, with a substantially higher risk of becoming severely ill or dying from the virus;
- People with COVID-19 infection and cardiovascular disease, hypertension and diabetes are at least twice as likely to die;
- Smoking is especially deadly – the evidence base is clearly still in development, but [one study](#) [1] found that smokers have 14 times greater odds of developing COVID-associated pneumonia than non-smokers;
- People with compromised immune systems (ongoing cancer treatment, diabetes, COPD, people on steroid treatment, etc.) are at higher risk of developing complications from COVID-19;
- People living with three or more co-morbidities (hypertension, diabetes, COPD/asthma, TB, obesity, smokers) are at higher risk of developing complications from COVID-19.

Attendees included **Katie Dain** - CEO of NCD Alliance, **Bente Mikkelsen** - Director of NCD Department at World Health Organisation (WHO), **Ole Alexander Opdalshei** - Secretary General Assistant of Norwegian Cancer Society, **Vicky Pinkney-Atkinson** - a person living with various NCDs (psoriasis & immune compromised) and Director of South Africa NCD Alliance, **Johanna Ralston** - CEO of World Obesity Federation, **Monika Arora** - Executive Director of Healthy India Alliance and **Ibithal Fadhil** - President of Eastern Mediterranean NCD Alliance.

The media briefing recording is now available to listen [here](#) [2]

For any media related information please contact Michael Kessler at michael.kessler@inton-media.com [3].

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Links

[1] <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2002032>

[2] <https://ncdalliance.org/form/media-briefing-covid-19-and-ncds#recording>

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[4] <https://old.ncdalliance.org/taxonomy/term/972>