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# A global respiratory perspective on the COVID-19 pandemic: commentary and action proposals

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This paper offers practical and feasible actions to be implemented at patient, healthcare provider and community level to combat COVID-19 while attending, maintaining and strengthening ongoing health management in people with lung diseases <https://bit.ly/30yNyhP>

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The novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) [1, 2]. The World Health Organization (WHO) declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic on 11 March, 2020, demanding effective national and global mitigation measures, strong public health response and coordination. To date, the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic has affected over 5 million individuals worldwide with an overall 7.02% (median 3.41%, ranges 0.06% to 31.25%) case fatality ratio (European Center for Disease Prevention and Control dashboard: [www.ecdc.europa.eu](http://www.ecdc.europa.eu), as of 22 May, 2020) [3]. This ratio may be overstated since it is based primarily on hospitalised or notified cases.