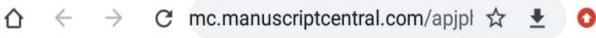
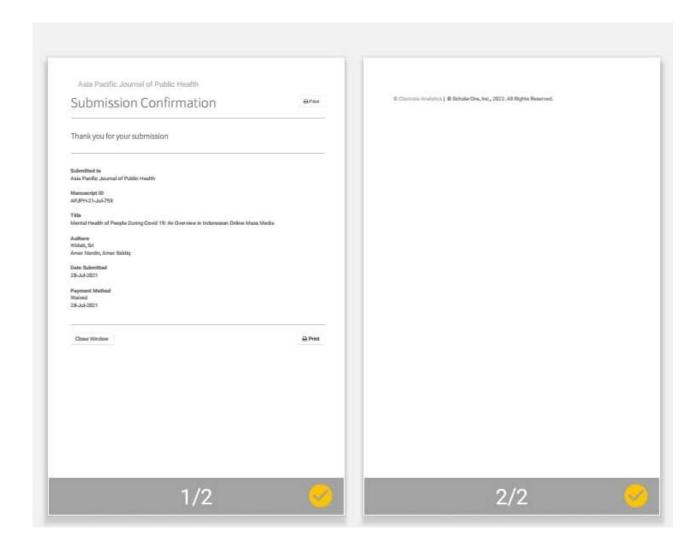
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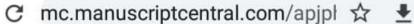
## Asia Pacific Journal of Public Health Preview From: lowwy@um.edu.my To: sri-widati@fkm.unair.ac.id, widatisantoso@gmail.com CC: aph@sagepub.com Asia Pacific Journal of Public Health - Decision on Manuscript ID APJPH-21-Jul-Subject: 759.R1 Body: 04-Nov-2021 Dear Dr. Widati, It is a pleasure to accept your Letter to Editor entitled "Mental Health During Covid 19: An Overview in Online Mass Media Indonesia" in its current form for publication in the Asia Pacific Journal of Public Health. Thank you for your fine contribution. On behalf of the Editors of the Asia Pacific Journal of Public Health, we look forward to your continued contributions to the Journal. Yours sincerely, Wah Yun Low, PhD Managing Editor, Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Health University of Malaya Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia Email: lowwy@um.edu.my Date Sent: 04-Nov-2021





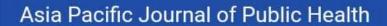












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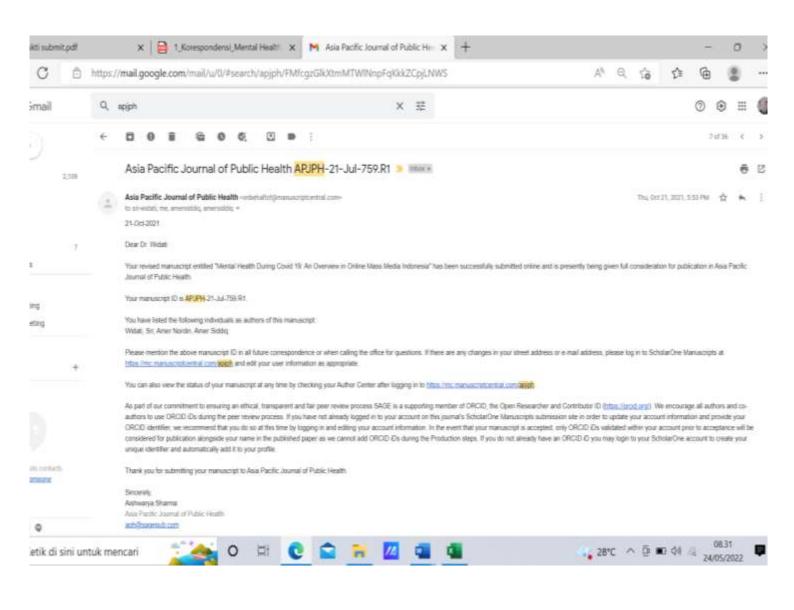
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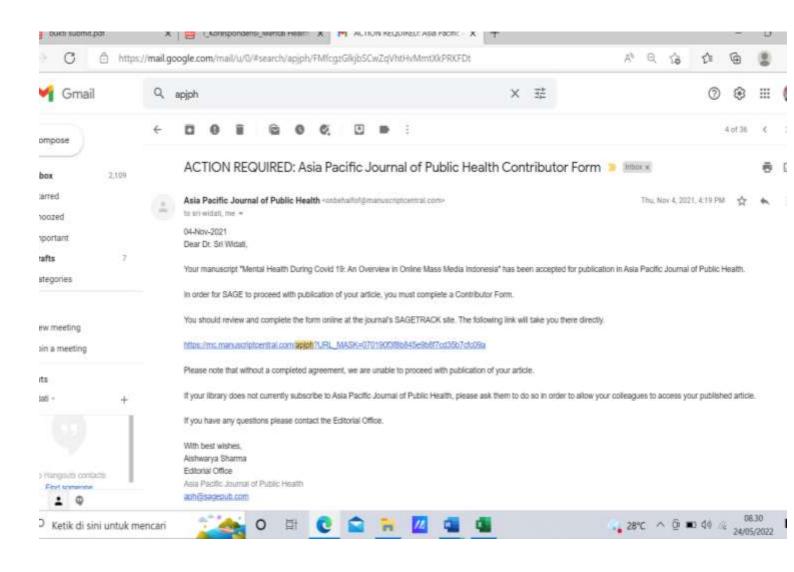
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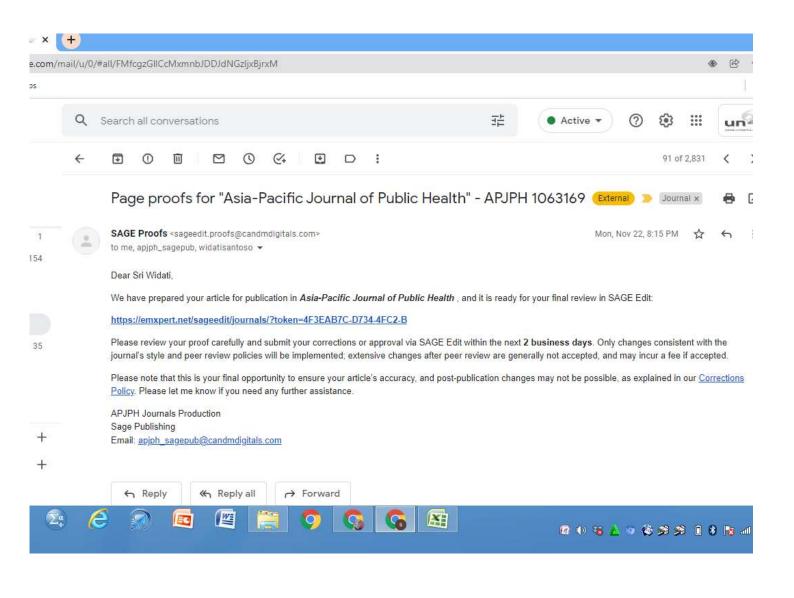
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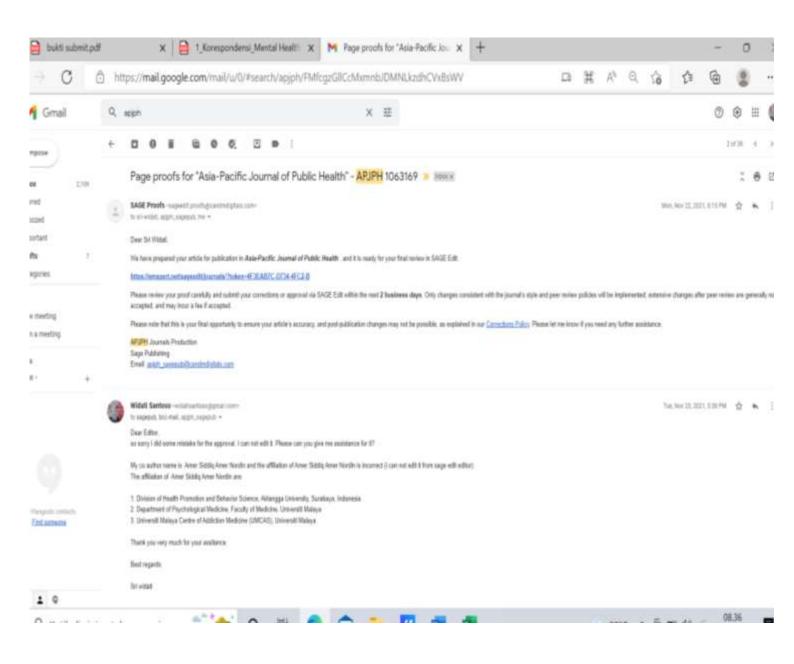
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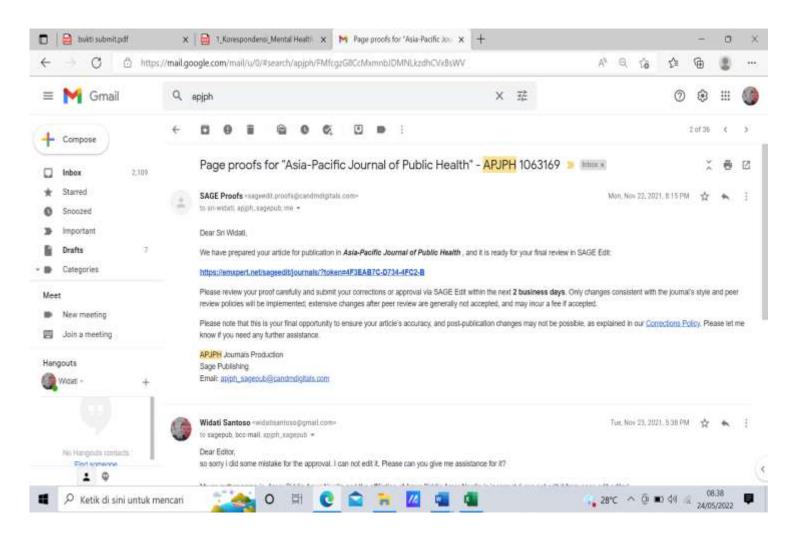
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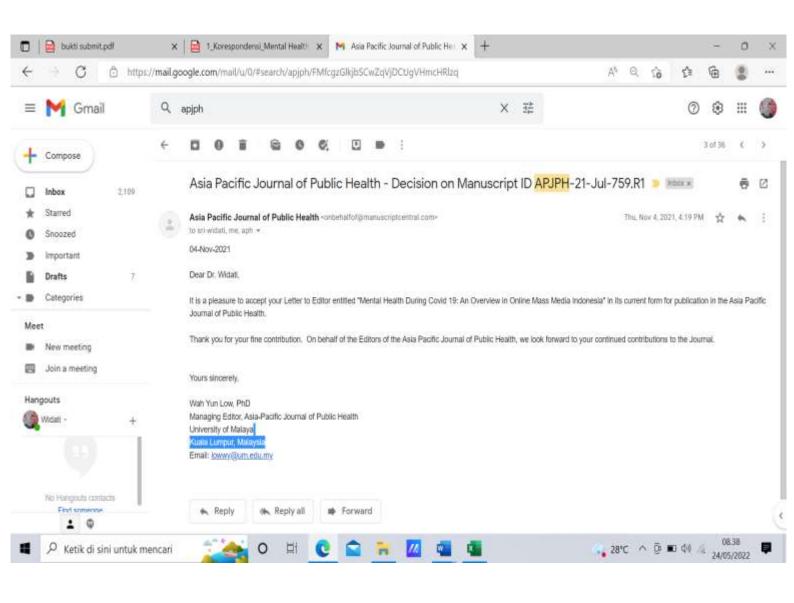














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# Mental Health During COVID-19: An Overview in Online Mass Media Indonesia

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Sri Widati ond Amer Siddiq Nordin 1,2 [AQ: 1][AQ: 2][GQ: 1]

A silent, hidden pandemic lurks as the world grapples with the impact of COVID-19—the mental health pandemic of COVID-19. The latter is resultant of the impact of COVID-19 where lives lost, economies shattered, and people living in chronic and perpetual stress. The management of stress by individuals vary depending on their background and the community they live in, however, is not helped by the misinformation, uncertainty, fear, household problems, and divorce shappening during this period.<sup>2</sup>

We report a study exploring the mental health situation of the Indonesian people during this pandemic using news articles in the online mass media. News related to mental health was collected between April 2020 to May 2021 for a period of 1 year. A list of terminology was listed and articles were separated accordingly. Content analysis was employed. For the 1 year studied, we found 63 articles reporting on mental health, where 52 (82.5%) of these were on advice on maintenance of positive mental health. One article described the state of the Indonesian mental health during the pandemic of 5661 respondents from 31 provinces across Indonesia of a survey by the Association of Indonesian Mental MedicineSpecialists (PDSKJI). Thirty-two percentreported psychological problems, where 67.4% and 67.3% had symptoms of anxiety and depression, respectively. Those who reported feeling depressed, 48% had thought of suicide or wanting to harm themselves. Notably, most participants were under 30 years of age and 74.2% of participants reported symptoms of psychological trauma.<sup>3</sup>

COVID-19 news particularly affected those who already have a history of mental illness such as anxietyor obsessive compulsive disorders (OCDs).<sup>4</sup> Moreover, people with symptoms of depression during the COVID-19 pandemic was reported at 35% which is 5 to 6 times higher than the incidence of depression in the general population (Indonesia Basic Health Research in 2018) and 2 to 3 times higher than the incidence of depression in other nonpandemic disasters.<sup>5</sup> Many people were also affected by posttraumatic conditions as a result of both untimely deaths (relatives, friends, or both parents dying at the same time), or because there was no one to accompany them due to the COVID-19 isolation.

The majority of Indonesian online media had attempted to mitigate this negative situation by providing information and content to improve overall mental well-being. The media studied had attempted to educate the public about psychotic and nonpsychotic psychiatric disorders, provided tips on dealing with stress and mental health and, providing advice on how to talk to friends and family during this period. It was reported that through communication, in addition to the possibility of sharing our concerns with a trusted significant other, a closer relationship will ensue with that person.<sup>6</sup> However, people still needed to filter what information they received to ensure that it is accurate, true, and balanced.

Our study reports on the mental health situation in Indonesia based on online news. The findings are concerning, and the government and professionals in Indonesia need to do more to assist in improving the situation better.

### Acknowledgments

The authors wish to acknowledge to APACPH, APACPH 52th Committee, and Airlangga University which supported this manuscript through APACPH Conference and gave them the opportunity to write the article and presented it orally in APACPH 52th in Shangrilla Surabaya.

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#### Letter to The Editor

### Mental Health During Covid 19: An Overview in Online Mass Media Indonesia

A silent, hidden pandemic lurks as the world grapples with the impact of COVID-19 - the mental health pandemic of Covid19. The latter, is resultant of the impact of COVID-19 where lives lost, economies shattered and people living in chronic and perpetual stress. The management of stress by individuals vary depending on their background and the community they live in (1), however, is not helped by the

Mental health is an important component when the Covid19 pandemic occurs. People do behavior, and emotional response to an outbreak vary greatly according to their own backgrounds and the community that they live in (1). In that situation many variables could have relationship with stress or mental health. During a pandemic, there are people whose contracts with their employers are terminated, there are also people whose income has decreased due to the pandemic. Beside that many misinformation, uncertainty, fear—of contagion, household problems and divorces happening during this periodmay could increase stress and anxiety (2).

We report a study exploring the mental health situation of the Indonesian people during this pandemic using news articles in the online mass media. News related to mental health was collected between April 2020 to May 2021 for a period of one year. A list of terminology was listed and articles were separated accordingly. Content analysis was employed. For the one year studied, we found 63 articles reporting on mental health where 52 (82.5%) of these were on advice on maintenance of positive mental health. One article described the state of the Indonesian mental health during the pandemic of 5661 respondents from 31 provinces across Indonesia of a survey by News articles in the online mass media could describe of the mental health conditions of the Indonesian people during the Covid 19 pandemic. These various conditions can be seen and known through the large amount of coverage in the mass media relating to mental health cases. For 1 year, from April 2020 to May 2021, there were 63 articles in online media reporting cases of increasing public mental health problems. A total of 52 articles on advice on maintaining mental health. In some articles reported that in October 2020, the number of people who filled out the website of the Association of Indonesian Mental

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Medicine Specialists (PDSKJI) totaled 5661 units. Participants came from 31 provinces. As many as 32% Thirty-two percent had reported psychological problems whereand 67.4% and 67.3% had symptoms of anxiety and depression respectively. Those who reported feeling depressed, 48% had thought of suicide or wanting to harm themselves. Notably, Most-most participants weare under 30 years of age\_-. As many as 67.3% experienced depression during the pandemic. The total depressed people 48% thought of committing suicide, or wanted to harm themselves and others in any way. As many as and 74.2% of participants reported the community experienced symptoms of psychological trauma.

Covid-19 news particularly affectedmake people worrying and will get mental health problem, especially for those who already have a history of congenital mental problem-illness such as anxiety disorder or obsessive compulsive disorders (OCD) (3). Moreover, The proportion of people with symptoms of depression during the COVID-19 pandemic was reached reported at 35% which is. This is 5-6 times higher than the incidence of depression in the general population (Indonesia Basic Health Research in 2018) and 2-3 times higher than the incidence of depression in other non-pandemic disasters (4). Many people were also affected by posttraumatic conditions as a result of get traumatic condition. Some are traumatized because their parents both untimely deaths (relatives, friends or both parents dyingied at the same time), or because and there wais no one to accompany them due to the COVID-19 isolation.

The majority of Indonesian There are 52 (82,5%) online media had attempted to mitigate this negative situation by providing information and content to improve overall mental wellbeing that contain education about how to maintain mental health. The media studied had attempted to Among them the media educate the public about psychotic and non-psychotic psychiatric disorders. The media also gives provided tips on how to dealdealing with stress and mental health and, providing. The articles advice on how to talking to friends and family during this period. It was reported that through communication, in addition to the possibility of sharing our concerns with a trusted significant other, a By communicating, in addition to being able to pour out our hearts to the problems at hand and bring closer relationships will ensue with that person (5). However Beside that, people still needed to filter what information they should received to ensure that it is accurate, true and balanced.

Our study reports on the mental health situation in Indonesia based on online news. The findings are concerning and the government and professionals in Indonesia need to do more to

assist in improving the situation better. (500 words) Mental disorders must be treated so as not to get worse. The government and professionals must educate the public to check themselves for mental health, then need assistance, and get easy and safe access to health services.

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