number of confirmed COVID-19 cases around the

world is on the rise. The success of preventive

measures put forward by every country is mainly

dependent upon their ability to anticipate the

approaching waves of patients. This will help to

properly prepare the health care workers and

increase the intensive care unit (ICU) capacity (321).

Instead of entirely relying on lockdown protocols,

countries should focus mainly on \_ alternative

intervention strategies, such as large-scale testing,

contract tracing, and localized quarantine of

suspected cases for limiting the spread of this

pandemic virus. Such intervention strategies will be

useful either at the beginning of the pandemic or

after lockdown relaxation (322). Lockdown should

be imposed only to slow down disease progression

among the population so that the health care system

is not overloaded.

The reproduction number (Rg) of COVID-19

infection was earlier estimated to be in the range of

1.4 to 2.5 (70); recently, it was estimated to be 2.24

to 3.58 (76). Compared to its coronavirus

predecessors, COVID-19 has an Rg value that is

greater than that of MERS (Ro < 1) (108) but less

than that of SARS (Ro value of 2 to 5) (93). Still, to

prevent further spread of disease at mass gatherings,