of virus spread and initiation of an outbreak due to

zoonotic spillover (1).

Personal protective equipment (PPE), like face

masks, will help to prevent the spread of respiratory

infections like COVID-19. Face masks not only

protect from infectious aerosols but also prevent the

transmission of disease to other susceptible

individuals while traveling through public transport

systems (313). Another critical practice that can

reduce the transmission of respiratory diseases is the

maintenance of hand hygiene. However, the efficacy

of this practice in reducing the transmission of

respiratory viruses like SARS-CoV-2 is much

dependent upon the size of droplets produced. Hand

hygiene will reduce disease transmission only if the

virus is transmitted through the formation of large

droplets (314). Hence, it is better not to

overemphasize that hand hygiene will prevent the

transmission of SARS-CoV-2, since it may produce a

false sense of safety among the general public that

further contributes to the spread of COVID-19. Even

though airborne spread has not been reported in

SARS-CoV-2 infection, transmission can occur

through droplets and fomites, especially when there

is close, unprotected contact between infected and

susceptible individuals. Hence, hand hygiene is