Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the fourth Special Issue!

I would like to join in joy with all of you for my appointment as the new Editor-in-chief of Kesmas: Jurnal Kesehatan Masyarakat Nasional (National Public Health Journal). Our gratitude to the previous Editorial Board of Kesmas: Jurnal Kesehatan Masyarakat Nasional (National Public Health Journal), led by Prof. Dr. Dewi Susanna. As her name, Dewi, means “Goddess,” Prof. Dewi Susanna always brings her agility, positive thinking, as well as compassion and leads by example in developing the journal in brilliant ways all this time. Our special appreciation also to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tris Eryando, the former co-Editor-in-chief, showed his precious contribution, guidance, and trust not only to the development and success of this journal, but also to its regeneration. Both your excellent services will always be remembered. Thank you, Professors!

While World Health Organization (WHO) has declared that coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) was over as public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) by 5 May 2023, some countries, including Indonesia, had previously recognized that it is no longer a threat by stopping the pandemic measurement regulation. This situation may lead to a perception of the big question: what’s next? At least, there are two opinions, including how to recover with a stronger health system (reform) and how to anticipate the next environmental and public health threat in the future. This special issue provides peer-review articles in the form of original research, (systematic) review, and case reports articles that discuss these topics related to environmental and public health preparedness in the post-COVID-19 pandemic era.

In terms of post-COVID-19 pandemic reports, “recover stronger” became an eager point from previous COVID-19 evidence. However, how is it going on? Some reports are discovered in this special issue. Novarisa, et al., observed the case series of the five weeks following the WHO’s revocation of PHEIC status (6 May–10 June 2023), especially in the Indonesia chapter. Although it seems that Indonesia’s daily cases showed a decreasing trend, COVID-19 patients still require intensive care, and survivors often experience post-infection effects. This situation presents further challenges for the Indonesian Government as it prepares for the transition to COVID-19 becoming endemic. Nazir, et al., identified that both clinical and functional outcomes could appear to COVID-19 survivors in long-term ways. These clinical outcomes include the appearance or persistence of general symptoms, multi-organ symptoms, decreased lung function, and nutritional disorders. In contrast, the FO includes decreased muscle strength and physical performance, psychological or cognitive disorders, increased disability or dependency, as well as decreased vocational status and health-related quality of life. Thus, this study suggests good cooperation between medical personnel and survivors is needed to improve the health-related quality of life and prevent persistent anatomical and physiological damage to the body. Hanum, et al., concluded that oral hygiene is related to the emergence of oral manifestation in COVID-19-infected patients. In facing future challenges, it is considered that dental professionals give dental education on how to improve oral hygiene adequately. Halifu, et al., extracted the final 21 pieces of evidence of the COVID-19 pandemic on adolescents’ physical growth and personal hygiene. The pandemic has induced adolescents to consume unhealthy and high-sugar foods frequently. At the same time, these age groups tend to embrace new knowledge when it is presented engagingly and aligns with their preferences, including on these issues of personal hygiene. This review may reference strengthening health promotion and behavioral exposure toward quality of life improvement during emergencies can happen anytime. Kurniati, et al., presented that people may have a psychological impact though they have valid information due to the infodemic since they searched for information from relevant and credible sources (government and researchers). Therefore, developing health messages and choosing the proper channels to facilitate sustainable preventive behaviors should be taken into account in the community post-pandemic situation. Wijaya, et al., found that pulmonary rehabilitation programs for COVID-19 survivors with severe and critical cases have improved respiratory functions. This program includes breathing, strength, stretching, cardiopulmonary endurance exercises, respiratory physiotherapy, relaxation techniques, and education. Saki, et al., concluded that environmental conditions with high humidity and rainfall can reduce COVID-19 cases. Considering the study’s limitation on the ecological ap-
proach, nevertheless, society can take lessons from this study to always be vigilant and continue to implement health protocols amid the role of climate that can affect more diseases, including re- and/or new-emerging diseases such as COVID-19. Azizan, et al., produced a bibliometric analysis to examine post-pandemic health policy research, focusing on healthcare. These contributions – derived from several countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and Italy – highlight crucial aspects of the pandemic, including the role of trust in shaping effective policy responses and valuable lessons learned from comparative health policy experiences in different contexts. Armini, et al., promoted that access to health messages, particularly using social media on adherence to health protocols to prevent COVID-19 transmission, still needs to be carried on by the government. Although fewer people accepted the government policy for preventing COVID-19, they still conducted fair health protocols in their daily activities. Given our preference that COVID-19 is now becoming endemic yet to other environmental-based diseases.

At the same time, multiple pieces of evidence in this issue also anticipate the environmental dan public health system for future preparedness. Triratnawati, et al., established the preventive behavior for breast cancer. Since Yogyakarta has the highest incidence rate of breast cancer in Indonesia, this study was conducted in this setting resulting their preventive measures included medical (early examination, breast self-examination, laboratory check, or consultation with the doctor) and non-medical (changes in eating and drinking behavior, reducing stress, exercising, and wearing masks). Besides, they also made religious efforts by praying to God to be given a healthy life and for the patients to be healed and their offspring to be free from this disease. Rahmiwati, et al., indicated that anemia in female adolescents is associated with nutritional status. This meta-analysis showed that nutrition education affected the risk of anemia in female adolescents divided into two groups of 10-19 and 15-49 years. The study suggests that the government should pay close attention to the importance of nutrition education for young women to raise nutrition knowledge and avoid anemia. Wahyuni, et al., proposed the therapeutic exercise educational videos can be an option for delivering a rehabilitation program for post-COVID-19 hospitalized patients. These videos at home exercises may enrich the telerehabilitation method with its cost-effectiveness and efficiency compared to the conventional method. However, tailored work should be carried on to measure the long-term effect of this innovative program. Nurcandra, et al., investigated poor individual, family, and community resilience to be a risk for poor quality of life in a productive-age population. Being grateful, sincere, patient, mutually reinforcing, accepting circumstances, implementing health protocols, emotional-cognition regulation, adaptability, and optimism were determined as the role of individual resilience that affected the quality of life in this sub-group of age in this study. Reshaping the education and health system that may be needed to control these study findings’ indicators in achieving a better quality of life in the future. Yulinda, et al., enclosed that experiential learning by having both creative and economically valued activities, such as making oil-based soap, can improve adolescent mental health during the pandemic situation. This innovative experiential learning facilitated metacognition, shaped cognitive processes, improved performance and problem-solving, and made learning more meaningful and authentic. Timanta, et al., resulted age, work duration, and the use of ear protection devices (personal protective equipment/PPE) correlated with hearing loss in workers in the power service area of the airport, which is evidence that may lead to anticipate hearing loss in a future activity of workers in airport, particularly in welcoming the new normal. Rusli, et al., determined the levels of depression, anxiety, and stress among academicians as well as their work-related stressors and coping strategies between a selected public university in Malaysia and a private university in Indonesia. At the same work-related stressor, this study found these mental conditions were higher among Malaysian rather than Indonesian academicians. It suggests that coping strategies toward mental resilience should be enforced at every level of management since both countries had been regulated in a similar manner. Herawati, et al., proposed an initial pilot study in utilizing Rapid Molecular Tests (RMT/RIF) in tuberculosis drug-sensitive/resistant discovery in Indonesia. Although there was an increase in the use of MTB/RIF in the detection of suspected TB cases in health facilities, there was a decrease in finding cases of resistance to rifampicin. This study attests that these results may be affected by many suspected TB cases that were examined by RMT but not recorded, including the possibility of changing or moving officers, which may affect the health facilities in several study sample areas, impressed to further research in supporting the case detection/notification rate for this disease. Haddadi, et al., explored the demographic, serological, and histological characteristics of celiac disease in Northern Morocco. This autoimmune disease which caused by gluten shows in multiple manifestations, so its diagnosis can be challenging. Given this epidemiological report, celiac disease predominantly affects adult females, and (TGA) antibodies are commonly used for screening, although histology remains the definitive diagnostic method. Therefore, expanding more evidence is essential, particularly its importance for early detection for mitigation programs and strategies in the future. Wahyuningrum, et al., proposed the Kangaroo Mother
Care procedure to improve the temperature thermoregulation status of premature babies, especially during COVID-19. Such an innovative method by the mother that can also be conducted by other families, including the father, in controlling the babies’ body temperature so that those babies could be safe from their vulnerable and immature immune systems during the neonatal life phase.

Overall, the studies presented in the 2023 Special Issue offer valuable insights into the environmental and public health preparedness for the next threat. Given the vagueness of future challenges and its association with other public health issues, more attention should be taken into account to address the correlation of the community-health-environment system. Amid the uncertainty, future challenges of the global climate of business process will always be implicated to health outcomes. Therefore, the inclusiveness of the health system should be supported by the law product and enforcement, especially in achieving public health degree improvement.

Al Asyary,
Editor-in-chief

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