

Iran's Measures to Counter COVID-19 and Support the Right to Health

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

In the Introduction (paragraph 3, “Accordingly, the aim of this article is to analyze and evaluate...”), clarify the research gap. Explicitly contrast Iran’s legal framework with countries that have enacted pandemic-specific emergency laws to show originality.

In “Practical Measures, Legal Barriers, and Strategies” (opening section), “the right to health” is referenced frequently but without an explicit conceptual framework (e.g., AAAQ — availability, accessibility, acceptability, quality). Consider integrating such a framework for analytical precision.

In “Iran’s Strategies in Combating the COVID-19 Virus,” the categories (social distancing, home quarantine, citywide quarantine, access to information) are useful but overlap. Reframe or merge categories where redundant (e.g., “home quarantine” and “social distancing” could be nested).

In the “Access to Transparent Information” section, the analysis is rich but inward-looking. Add a brief comparative remark on how other countries institutionalized information transparency during COVID-19 (e.g., open data dashboards, independent fact-checking).

When discussing the Publication and Free Access to Information Act (p. 10, “Under this law, information that involves public rights...”), provide critical evaluation: Were there practical enforcement gaps? Were any court cases or citizen complaints filed under this law?

The Conclusion suggests “more comprehensive legislation” but is vague. Specify which legal gaps matter most — e.g., lack of statutory compensation for businesses, unclear liability during shutdowns, or insufficient binding obligations on data transparency.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The “Theoretical Foundations” section (p. 4, “Given the fundamental transformations in global trade...”) discusses solidarity rights but does not compare Iranian practices with global legal frameworks beyond citing WHO and UN instruments. Add comparative discussion with countries like Germany or South Korea to strengthen theoretical anchoring.

The Introduction mentions the rapid spread of COVID-19 but does not give a clear timeline of Iran’s key policy measures (e.g., first case reported, creation of the National Headquarters). A short chronological overview would contextualize the analysis.

The Discussion (final section, “Nevertheless, several weaknesses were evident...”) acknowledges shortcomings but is descriptive. Add deeper causal explanation — e.g., why reliance on a single broadcaster limited diversity, or how political structure impeded inter-agency coordination.

Strengthen the link between Iran’s experience and global health law evolution. For example, discuss whether Iran’s approach can inform drafting of an international pandemic treaty or domestic preparedness laws.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.