K4D | Knowledge, evidence and learning for development

COVID-19
Health Evidence Summary No.12

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This daily COVID-19 Health Evidence Summary is to signpost DFID and other UK government departments to the latest relevant evidence and discourse on COVID-19 to inform and support their response. It is a result of 3 hours of work and is not intended to be a comprehensive summary of evidence.

#DisabilityC19 Twitter chat

Pregel, A. | Sightsavers | 7 April 2020 | Blog

https://www.sightsavers.org/blogs/2020/04/disabilityc19-twitter-chat/?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=referral&utm_content=disabilityc19&utm_campaign=policy

The #DisabilityC19 Twitter chat run by ARISE on 6 April included conversations about the greater risk people with disabilities face, how to make the global response more inclusive, stigma and discrimination, and the impact on daily life for people with disabilities and how to not leave them behind. This blog summarises the main points from the chat.

CBM develops 'Disability Inclusive Community Action – COVID-19 Matrix'

CBM | 30 March 2020 | Tool

https://www.cbm.org/news/news/news-2020/cbm-develops-disability-inclusive-community-action-covid-19-matrix/

This matrix aims to provide community programmes guidance on potential action points in community development and mobilisation to prepare and respond to COVID-19. It can be adapted to local context.

School closure and management practices during coronavirus outbreaks including COVID-19: a rapid systematic review

Viner et al. | The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health | 6 April 2020 | Review

https://doi.org/10.1016/S2352-4642(20)30095-X

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, 107 countries closed schools nationally by 18 March 2020. Data from the SARS outbreak in mainland China, Hong Kong and Singapore suggest that school closures did not contribute to the control of the epidemic. Recent modelling studies of COVID-19 predict that school closures alone would prevent only 2 to 4% of death, much less than other social distancing interventions. Studies are needed of countries that have not implemented school closures and as closed schools begin to reopen on the numbers of COVID-19 cases. Other school social distancing interventions that are less disruptive than full school closure should be looked into to maintain the control of this pandemic. Note that school closure can have impact alongside other lockdown measures.

Effectiveness of surgical and cotton masks in blocking SARS-CoV-2: a controlled comparison in 4 patients

Bae et al. | Annals of Internal Medicine | 6 April 2020 | Letter

https://doi.org/10.7326/M20-1342

Both surgical and 100% cotton masks seem to be ineffective in preventing the dissemination of SARS-CoV-2 from coughs of patients with COVID-19 to the environment and external mask surface. This experiment did not include N95 masks and further study is needed to recommend whether face masks decrease transmission of virus from asymptomatic individuals or those with suspected COVID-19 who are not coughing.

Facemasks and similar barriers to prevent respiratory illness such as COVID-19: a rapid systematic review

Brainard et al. | MedRxiv pre-print server | 6 April 2020 | Preprint

https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.04.01.20049528v1

This non-peer reviewed rapid, systematic review suggests that the evidence is not sufficiently strong enough to support widespread use of facemasks as a protective measure against COVID-19 but that there is enough evidence to support the use of facemasks for short periods of time by vulnerable individuals when in transient higher risk situations. Trials are needed to determine if wearing a facemask in the community is protective against COVID-19.

Sample pooling as a strategy to detect community transmission of SARS-CoV-2

Hogan et al. | JAMA | 6 April 2020 | Research Letter

https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.2020.5445

The strategy of sample pooling, used for community monitoring of other infectious diseases, was assessed to increase test throughput, limit use of reagents, and increase overall test efficiency for early comprehensive screening of SARS-CoV-2 in the United States. This study found that pooled screening may facilitate detection of early community transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and enable timely implementation of appropriate infection control measures to reduce spread.

Maintaining HIV care during the COVID-19 pandemic

Jiang et al. | The Lancet HIV | 6 April 2020 | Comment

https://doi.org/10.1016/S2352-3018(20)30105-3

This Comment addresses challenges to continuing HIV care during the COVID-19 pandemic including reduced access to routine HIV testing, timely linkage to HIV care and ART discontinuation. WHO, UNAIDS, and the Global Network of People Living with HIV are working together to ensure continued provision of HIV prevention, testing and treatment services. This includes access to antiviral drugs at local designated centres or by post; dispensing of antiviral drugs in 3 to 6 month doses to reduce facility visits and community outreach. Partnership between governments, community-based organisations and international partners should ensure timely access to, and to avoid disruption of, routine HIV services.

Few clinical trials are done in Africa: COVID-19 shows why this urgently needs to change

Mabuka-Maroa, J. | African Academy of Sciences | The Conversation | 6 April

https://theconversation.com/few-clinical-trials-are-done-in-africa-covid-19-shows-why-this-urgently-needs-to-change-135117

A search of the US NIH online globally registered COVID-19 clinical trial platform found a low representation of African countries. Outcomes of the COVID-19 studies may not be relevant for people in African countries unless conducted locally. African governments need to harmonise their response across the continent; provide additional funding to clinical research institutions and clinical trial sites; adopt a 'hub-and-spoke' model where countries that don't have much capacity can ship samples easily across borders for analysis in a centralised well-equipped laboratory, when then feeds back data to the country of sample origin. Clinical trial centres, clinical research institutions and clinical traillists in Africa should increase their visibility in the global space and the AAS is currently building an online platform to increase this visibility and encourage greater collaboration.

COVID-19: How countries can use digital payments for better, quicker cash transfers

Gelb, A. & Mukherjee, A. | Center for Global Development | 6 April 2020 | Commentary & Analysis

https://www.cgdev.org/blog/covid-19-how-countries-can-use-digital-payments-better-quicker-cash-transfers

Countries are expanding and introducing social support programmes in response to mass unemployment and social disruption as economies shut down to limit COVID-19 transmission. Cash transfers are the most widely used social assistance intervention by governments, with 54 of 71 countries specifically introducing initiatives as a response to COVID-19. The immediate challenge is how to make government-to-people (G2P) transfers efficiently, equitably, and at scale and this Commentary discusses how technology can be used to do so.

Tracking COVID-19 cases

Global

WHO COVID-19 daily situation reports

https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports

Johns Hopkins University COVID-19 dashboard in real time

https://gisanddata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6

Vaccine Centre, LSHTM

https://vac-lshtm.shinyapps.io/ncov_tracker/

This site complements the WHO and Johns Hopkins University COVID-19 dashboards by including the timeline functions, the ability to overlay past outbreaks, and an emphasis on normalised counts (per 100,000 individuals).

Live data tracker: sex-disaggregated COVID-19 data from the 25 most-affected countries

http://globalhealth5050.org/covid19

Africa

Coronavirus in Africa Tracker: How many covid-19 cases & where?

https://africanarguments.org/2020/03/23/coronavirus-in-africa-tracker-how-many-cases-and-where-latest/

UK

COVID-19: PHE track coronavirus cases in the UK

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-track-coronavirus-cases

UK case tracing infographic

https://www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/f94c3c90da5b4e9f9a0b19484dd4bb14

Online learning

COVID-19 Diagnostics and Testing

FIND, LSHTM & ASLM | FutureLearn course | Starts 20 April 2020 | 3 weeks | 3 hours weekly study | Free

https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/covid-19-diagnostics-and-testing

This course is designed for professionals involved in the testing and diagnosis of COVID-19, with a focus on low- and middle-income settings. You will learn the latest recommendations on COVID-19 testing, get upt0date information on the performance of tests and how best to deploy them.

COVID-19 Critical Care: Understanding and Application

University of Edinburgh & Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh | FutureLearn course | Starts 6 April 2020 | 5 weeks | 1 hour weekly study | Free

https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/covid-19-critical-care-education-resource

Designed for frontline clinical staff to learn the principles and practice of critical care to treat and care for critically ill patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. You will learn (1) how to apply the current and evolving principles of PPE in the care of COVID-19; (2) apply evidence-based principles of advanced organ support and monitoring to the COVID-19 critically ill patients; (3) apply evidence-based daily practices to care of the critically ill patient; and (4) develop a range of specialised self-caring practices.

Note that this resource has been created in response to the COVID-19 emergency and does not correspond to the classic structure of a FutureLearn course. You do not have to follow the week by week approach and can select the materials most relevant to your work.

Emerging respiratory viruses, including COVID-19: methods for detection, prevention, response and control

WHO | Free | 3 hours duration

https://openwho.org/courses/introduction-to-ncov

A general introduction to enable you to describe the fundamental principles of emerging respiratory viruses, including novel coronaviruses, and how to effectively respond to an outbreak. Intended for public health professionals, incident managers and personnel working for the UN, international organisations and NGOs.

Responding to COVID-19: Real-time training for the coronavirus disease outbreak

WHO | Available now | multiple self-paced courses

https://openwho.org/channels/covid-19

Note that courses are available in English and other languages including French, Portuguese and Spanish.

COVID-19: Tackling the Novel Coronavirus

LSHTM | FutureLearn course | Starts 23 March 2020 | 3 weeks | 4 hours weekly study | Free

https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/covid19-novel-coronavirus

A reminder that this course is currently running. On this course you will learn what is known about the outbreak of COVID-19 (week 1); what the practical implications for responding to COVID-19 are (week 2); and what we need to find out about COVID-19 (week 3).

Resource Hubs

International Disability and Development Consortium and CORE Group: Repository of resources on disability inclusion and COVID-19

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IVP1u6yHfLuN9qNyLEct5-vtC0aqLKtKr-o-faAjves/edit

US NIH online platform of all registered, ongoing clinical trials globally

https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/results?cond=COVID-19

COVID-19 Narratives by Dr David Nabarro

https://www.4sd.info/covid-19-narratives/

These narratives are being written by David Nabarro, Co-Director of the Imperial College Institute of Global Health Innovation at Imperial College London, Strategic Director for 4SD and one of six Special Envoys to the WHO DG Special Envoy on COVID-19, and peers to share with those who want more information about the situation and to help raise the awareness and readiness of all actors. Please visit WHO website for official guidance.

Reliefweb COVID-19

https://reliefweb.int/topics/covid-19

Coronavirus global health emergency

https://www.un.org/coronavirus

Norwegian Institute of Public Health: Live map of COVID-19 evidence

https://www.fhi.no/en/qk/systematic-reviews-hta/map/

Overview of scientific publications on COVID-19 categorised into subgroups to provide quick access to specific topic-relevant publications to help decision makers and research navigate the research and help identify research gaps.

Vaccine Centre at LSHTM: COVID-19 vaccine development pipeline tracker

https://vac-lshtm.shinyapps.io/ncov_vaccine_landscape/

COVID-19 Research Project Tracker by UKCDR & GloPID-R

https://www.ukcdr.org.uk/funding-landscape/covid-19-research-project-tracker/

A live database of funded research projects across the world related to COVID-19 mapped against the priorities identified in the WHO Coordination Global Research Roadmap: 2019 Novel Coronavirus.

WHO Q&A on COVID-19

https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-coronaviruses

Note that this resource includes Q&A on COVID-19; COVID-19, pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding; COVID-19, HIV and antiretrovirals; similarities and differences COVID-19 and influenza; mass gatherings and COVID-19; IPC for healthcare workers; COVID-19 and food and agriculture; smoking and COVID-19; malaria and COVID-19.

COVID-19: Resources and research on epidemics and pandemics

https://steps-centre.org/covid-19-coronavirus-resources-research-epidemics-pandemics/

Stop TB Partnership TB and COVID-19

http://www.stoptb.org/covid19.asp

EPI-WIN: WHO information network for epidemics: COVID-19 public health emergency

https://www.who.int/teams/risk-communication

COVID-19: Research ethics

https://ethicsresource.ringsgenderresearch.org/covid-19-resources/

LSTM: COVID-19

https://www.lstmed.ac.uk/covid-19

LSHTM: COVID-19

https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/research/research-action/covid-19

International Disability Alliance: COVID 19 and the disability movement

http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/content/covid-19-and-disability-movement

Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC)

https://africacdc.org/covid-19/

UNICEF: Latest news and updates on coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

https://www.unicef.org/coronavirus/covid-19

Coronavirus: the science explained

https://coronavirusexplained.ukri.org/en/

Social Science in Humanitarian Action: Updates on the novel COVID-19 outbreak

https://www.socialscienceinaction.org/update-novel-covid-19-outbreak/

Special Collection: Coronavirus (COVID-19): evidence relevant to critical care

https://www.cochrane.org/news/special-collection-coronavirus-covid-19-evidence-relevant-critical-care

NICE UK: Rapid guidelines and evidence reviews

https://www.nice.org.uk/covid-19

Imperial College London MRC Centre for Global Infectious Disease Analysis COVID-19 reports

https://www.imperial.ac.uk/mrc-global-infectious-disease-analysis/news--wuhan-coronavirus/

Global research on COVID-19

https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/global-research-on-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov

WHO R&D Blueprint

https://www.who.int/blueprint/priority-diseases/key-action/novel-coronavirus/en/

WHO: Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak resources

https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019

Latest information and advice from the UK Government

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public

CDC COVID-19 Resources

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.htmlThe Global Health Network Coronavirus outbreak knowledge hub

The Lancet COVID-19 Resource Centre

https://www.thelancet.com/coronavirus

Elsevier's Novel Coronavirus Information Center

https://www.elsevier.com/connect/coronavirus-information-center

Cell Press Coronavirus Resource Hub

https://www.cell.com/2019-nCOV

Cochrane Special Collections - COVID-19: infection control and prevention measures

https://www.cochranelibrary.com/collections/doi/SC000040/full

The BMJ Coronavirus (covid-19): Latest news and resources

https://www.bmj.com/coronavirus?int_source=wisepops&int_medium=wisepops&int_campaign=DAA_CoronaVirus_Jan24

Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Centre

https://coronavirus.jhu.edu

Global Partnership for Sustainable Development – COVID-19 resources

http://www.data4sdgs.org/resources/covid-19-resources

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About this report