

COVID-19

Health Evidence Summary No.88

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This weekly COVID-19 health evidence summary (HES) is based on 3.5 hours of desk-based research. The summary is not intended to be a comprehensive summary of available evidence on COVID-19 but aims to make original documents easily accessible to decision makers which, if relevant to them, they should go to before making decisions.

Clinical characteristics and management

Publication date	Title/URL	Journal/Article type	Summary	Keywords
10.08.2020	Effect of the COVID-19 pandemic response on intrapartum care, stillbirth, and neonatal mortality outcomes in Nepal: a prospective observational study	Lancet Global Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional childbirth reduced by more than half during lockdown, with increases in institutional stillbirth rate and neonatal mortality, and decreases in quality of care. • Some behaviours improved, notably hand hygiene and keeping the baby skin-to-skin with their mother. • An urgent need exists to protect access to high quality intrapartum care and prevent excess deaths for the most vulnerable health system users during this pandemic period. 	Childbirth

12.08.2020	Obesity and Mortality Among Patients Diagnosed With COVID-19: Results From an Integrated Health Care Organization	Annals of Internal Medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Among 6916 patients with COVID-19, there was a J-shaped association between BMI and risk for death, even after adjustment for obesity-related comorbidities. • Conclusions: Obesity plays a profound role in risk for death from COVID-19, particularly in male patients and younger populations. Our capitated system with more equalized health care access may explain the absence of effect of racial/ethnic and socioeconomic disparities on death. Our data highlight the leading role of severe obesity over correlated risk factors, providing a target for early intervention. 	Obesity
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Epidemiology and modelling

Publication date	Title/URL	Journal/Article type	Summary	Keywords
2020	The COVID-19 pandemic: diverse contexts; different epidemics—how and why?	BMJ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning from the variety of ways the COVID-19 epidemic is unfolding across the globe can potentially contribute to solving the COVID-19 puzzle. • Paper compares COVID-19 epidemics with other respiratory diseases, including other coronaviruses that circulate continuously; and highlights the critical unknowns and uncertainties that remain. 	

08.08.2020	Children and COVID-19: State-Level Data Report	American Academy of Paediatrics State level data report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From July 16 to July 30, the number of new COVID-19 cases in U.S. children rose 40%, from 240,000 to 340,000, according to a report from the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Children's Hospital Association. Over 70% of new child cases occurred in the South and the West. The overall case rate among children was 447 cases per 100,000 children in the population. Most cases continued to be mild, with 0.6%–8.9% requiring hospitalization and 0%–0.3% resulting in death. 	children
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Infection Prevention and Control

Publication date	Title/URL	Journal/Article type	Summary	Keywords
07.08.2020	Low-cost measurement of facemask efficacy for filtering expelled droplets during speech	Science Advances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have demonstrated a simple optical measurement method to evaluate the efficacy of masks to reduce the transmission of respiratory droplets during regular speech. In proof-of-principle studies, we compared a variety of commonly available mask types and observed that some mask types approach the performance of standard surgical masks, while some mask alternatives, such as neck fleece or bandanas, offer very little protection. Our measurement setup is inexpensive and can be built and operated by non-experts, allowing for rapid evaluation of mask performance during speech, sneezing, or coughing. 	facemasks

07.08.2020	Estimation of incubation period distribution of COVID-19 using disease onset forward time: a novel cross-sectional and forward follow-up study	Science Advances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A novel low-cost and accurate method to estimate the incubation distribution of COVID-19. We have conducted a cross-sectional and forward follow-up study by identifying those pre-symptomatic individuals at their time of departure from Wuhan and then following them until their symptoms developed. • The estimated probability that incubation period is longer than 14 days is between 5% to 10%. 	Incubation period
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Testing

Publication date	Title/URL	Journal/Article type	Summary	Keywords
04.08.2020	SalivaDirect: Simple and sensitive molecular diagnostic test for SARS-CoV-2 surveillance	medRxiv pre-print (not peer-reviewed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current bottlenecks for improving accessibility and scalability of SARS-CoV-2 testing include diagnostic assay costs, complexity, and supply chain shortages. • SalivaDirect. The critical component of our approach is to use saliva instead of respiratory swabs, which enables non-invasive frequent sampling and reduces the need for trained healthcare professionals during collection. 	

Indirect impact of COVID-19

Publication date	Title/URL	Journal/Article type	Summary	Keywords
06.08.2020	Potential effects of disruption to HIV programmes in sub-Saharan Africa caused by COVID-19: results from multiple mathematical models	Lancet HIV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This modelling study used five well described models of HIV epidemics (Goals, Optima HIV, HIV Synthesis, an Imperial College London model, and Epidemiological MODelling software [EMOD]) to estimate the effect of various potential disruptions to HIV prevention, testing, and treatment services on HIV-related deaths and new infections in sub-Saharan Africa lasting 6 months over 1 year from April 1, 2020. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the primary priority for governments, donors, suppliers, and communities should focus on maintaining uninterrupted supply of ART drugs for people with HIV to avoid additional HIV-related deaths. The provision of other HIV prevention measures is also important to prevent any increase in HIV incidence. 	HIV
08.08.2020	Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on gastrointestinal	Endoscopy international open	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Web-based survey. Thirty-one gastroenterologists from 14 countries in north, central, and 	gastrointestinal endoscopy

	endoscopy in Africa		<p>sub-Saharan Africa responded.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The majority of respondents reduced their endoscopy volume considerably. Personal protective equipment including FFP-2 masks were available in almost all participating centers. Pre-endoscopy screening was performed as well. Conclusion The COVID-19 pandemic has had a substantial impact on gastrointestinal endoscopy in most African countries; however, the impact may not have been as devastating as expected. 	
12.08.2020	Burden of Covid-19 on mental health of older adults in a fragile health care system: the case of Nigeria: Dealing with inequalities and inadequacies	International psychogeriatrics		

Leadership and governance

Publication date	Title/URL	Journal/Article type	Summary	Keywords
24.07.2020	University Lecturers and Students Could Help in Community Education About SARS-CoV-2 Infection in Uganda	Health Services Insights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim of this study was to determine the knowledge, attitudes, and preparedness/practices of lecturers and students in the fight against COVID-19. • Descriptive cross-sectional study of 103 lecturers and students both men and women of age group 18 to 69 years in western Uganda. • Study identifies lecturers and students as potential stakeholders in the fight against community transmission of COVID-19. 	

Health systems

Publication date	Title/URL	Journal/Article type	Summary	Keywords
05.08.2020	A checklist to improve health system resilience to infectious disease outbreaks and natural hazards	BMJ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using data gathered from a scoping literature review, interviews with key informants and from stakeholders who attended a workshop held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, we developed a Health System Resilience Checklist ('the checklist'). • The aim of the checklist is to measure the specific capacities, capabilities and processes that health systems need in order to ensure resilience in the face of both infectious disease outbreaks and natural hazards. • The checklist is intended to be adapted and used in a broad set of countries as a component of ongoing processes to ensure that health actors, institutions and 	Health systems

			populations can mount an effective response to infectious disease outbreaks and natural hazards while also maintaining core healthcare services.	
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Comments, Editorials, Opinions, Blogs, News

Publication date	Title/URL	Journal Article type
10.08.2020	Multisystem inflammatory syndrome associated with COVID-19 in children in Pakistan	Lancet Child and Adolescent Health Correspondence
10.08.2020	Applications of predictive modelling early in the COVID-19 epidemic	Lancet Digital Health Comment
07.08.2020	SARS-CoV-2 epidemic in African countries—are we losing perspective?	Lancet Infectious Diseases Correspondence
07.08.2020	Use of electronic tools for evidence-based preparedness and response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the WHO African region	The Lancet Digital Health Comment
29.07.2020	Developing a low-cost and accessible COVID-19 vaccine for global health	PLOS Viewpoints
10.08.2020	Coronial autopsies identify the indirect effects of COVID-19	Lancet Public Health Correspondence
10.08.2020	Communicating in a public health crisis	Lancet Digital Health Viewpoints
10.08.2020	Providing maternal health services during the COVID-19 pandemic in Nepal	Lancet Global Health Comment
11.08.2020	Forward planning for disaster-related mass gatherings amid COVID-19	Lancet Planetary Health Comment
11.08.2020	Inclusion of pregnant women in COVID-19 vaccine development	Lancet Infectious Diseases Comment

12.08.2020	Precision Public Health as a Key Tool in the COVID-19 Response	JAMA viewpoint
12.08.2020	COVID-19 and Severe Obesity: A Big Problem?	Annals of Internal Medicine Editorial
11.08.2020	Covid-19 misinformation sparks threats and violence against doctors in Latin America	BMJ Feature
11.08.2020	Antibody therapies could be a bridge to a coronavirus vaccine — but will the world benefit?	Nature News
12.08.2020	How to stop COVID-19 fuelling a resurgence of AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis	Nature Editorial

Dashboards & Trackers

Cases & deaths: Global	Cases & deaths: Regional	Cases & deaths: Country	Living evidence & policy maps	Current research including trials	Diagnostics	Treatments	Vaccines
WHO sitreps	WHO Africa	Ghana	COVID-NMA	WHO	FIND SARS-CoV-2 Test Tracker	Global COVID-19 Clinical Trial Tracker	CEPI
WHO dashboard	African Arguments	Indonesia	EPPI Centre	WHO International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (ICTRP)	FIND SARS-CoV-2 Diagnostics: performance data	US NIH registered clinical trials	Vaccine Centre LSHTM
Johns Hopkins University	European CDC	Nigeria CDC	Norwegian Institute of Public Health	Cytel	Serology-based tests for COVID-19	Solidarity trial	COVID-19 Oxford Vaccine Trial
WEF		Sierra Leone	Oxford C19 Government Response Tracker (OxCGRT)	US NIH	Our World in Data: C19 Testing	COVID-19 Therapeutics Accelerator	COVID-19 Vaccine Tracker

Our World in Data		Singapore	Our World in Data: C19 Policy responses	COVID-evidence			
Global 5050		UK	IFPRI COVID-19 Policy Response Portal	Cochrane			
CEBM, University of Oxford		US	COVID-19 Primer	Clinicaltrials.gov			
Humanitarian Data Exchange			NIH LitCovid	UKCDR			
Information is Beautiful			WHO COVID-19 Database				
LSHTM							
HealthMap (cases)							
The Commons Project							
SeroTracker							

C19 Resource Hubs

Global	Regional & Country	Academic journals & Publishers	Institutes/Centres /Funders/Other	Health Topics	Social Sciences
WHO COVID-19 pandemic	Africa CDC	Annals of Internal Medicine	LSTM	Stop TB Partnership	SSHAP
WHO risk communication	African Union	BMJ	LSHTM		IDA
WHO Q&A	Nigeria CDC	Bulletin of the WHO	ICL MRC Centre for Global Infectious Disease Analysis	Global Menstrual Collective	Disability and inclusion
WHO Global research	GeoPoll: SSA	Cambridge University Press	ODI	SLH: Handwashing in low resource settings	Coregroup IDDC
COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund	Global Health Network Africa	Cell Press	Johns Hopkins University	RBM Partnership	Ethics, health systems & COVID-19
UN	African Academy of Sciences	Cochrane	Center for Global Development	Epidemic Preparedness Innovations	Social Development Direct C19 blog series
UN Women	Africa Evidence Network	Elsevier	CMMID Repository		
UNOCHA	OCHA Southern and Eastern Africa	Health Policy and Planning	Norwegian Institute of Public Health		

	COVID-19 Digest				
UNHCR	South African Government	JAMA Network	Oxford Centre for Evidence-based Medicine		
UNICEF		The Lancet	HEART		
UNESCO		medRxiv and bioRxiv (Preprints)	UKRI		
UN WFP		NEJM	Evidence Aid		
GOARN		Oxford University Press	NIH		
EPI-WIN		PLoS	IFPRI Resources and Analyses of C19 Impact		
World Bank		SAGE journals	Prevent Epidemics		
Our World in Data		Science			
COVID-19 Narratives by David Nabarro		Springer Nature			
Reliefweb		SSRN (Preprints)			
Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team		Wiley			

Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data					
WorldPop					
Flowminder					
COVID-END					
Premise COVID-19 Global Impact Study					
GISAID					

Online learning & events

Date	Title/URL	Online learning/event	Duration	Lead
June 2020	OpenWHO, the free, open-access learning platform for health emergencies, now offers 10 online courses related to COVID19.	Online courses	Varies	WHO
Available now	Standard precautions: Environmental cleaning and disinfection	Online course	1 hour	WHO
Available now	COVID-19: Effective Nursing in Times of Crisis	Online course	2 weeks – 2 hours per week	Johns Hopkins School of Nursing

Available now	WHO Academy and WHO Info mobile applications	Mobile app		WHO
Available now	COVID-19: Pandemics, Modelling and Policy	Online learning	2 weeks 2 hours weekly study	FutureLearn UNESCO UNITWIN Complex Systems Digital Campus/Open University
11.5.2020	COVID-19 Contact Tracing course	Online learning	5 hours	Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Health
7-28 May 2020	Virtual Evidence Weeks	5 sessions	1h 30	International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)
Tuesdays at 1700 CEST (Geneva time) & Thursdays 0830 CEST (Geneva time)	COVID-19 Open online brief with Dr David Nabarro	Event	1h	4SD
Available now	Emerging respiratory viruses, including COVID-19: methods for detection, prevention, response and control	Online learning	3 hours	WHO
Available now	Responding to COVID-19: Real-time training for the coronavirus disease outbreak	Online learning	Multiple self-paced course	WHO
25 May 2020	COVID-19: Tackling the Novel Coronavirus	Online learning	3 weeks 4 hours	FutureLearn LSHTM/UK PHRST

			weekly study	
Available online now without mentors. Updated version will commence early June 2020	COVID-19 Diagnostics and Testing	Online learning	3 weeks 3 hours weekly study	FutureLearn FIND/LSHTM/ASLM
6 April 2020	COVID-19 Critical Care: Understanding and Application	Online learning	5 weeks 1 hour weekly study	FutureLearn University of Edinburgh & Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh
Available now	COVID-19 supporting online courses	Online learning	Multiple self-paced course	BMJ Learning

Suggested citation

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Rapid review methodology

The rapid weekly search for peer-reviewed literature is carried out through a PubMed search with the following keywords (“COVID-19” OR “severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2” OR “2019-nCoV” OR “SARS-CoV-2” OR “2019nCoV” OR “coronavirus”) AND (“Africa” OR “South Asia” OR “Developing” OR “low-income” OR “low income” OR “lower-middle income” OR “low and middle income” OR “LMIC” OR “LIC” OR “global south”) OR (“poverty”) OR (“equity” OR “equities”), restricted to articles published in the previous 2 to 3 days, in English. This is complemented by a search of the homepage of the following high-impact global health journals: The Lancet journals, New England Journal of Medicine, Nature, JAMA, Annals of Internal Medicine, Cochrane Reviews, BMJ Global Health, the PLoS journals and a Twitter search of their Twitter pages. A search also of preprints from bioRxiv and medRxiv. Please note that papers that have **not been peer-reviewed** are highlighted in red. All primary research papers that relate to the primary and secondary impacts of the COVID-19 response in LMICs, and disease control and health system responses are included. Articles related to tackling the secondary impacts on other sectors are not included. Additional commentaries, opinions, and commissioned pieces are selected based on relevance.

The search for dashboards, guidelines, tools, editorials, comments, blogs, opinions and news is through the academic journals listed above, C19 resource hubs and following lead academics and professionals on Twitter.

About this report

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