

COVID-19

Health Evidence Summary No.93

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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
14.09.2020	Seasonal coronavirus protective immunity is short-lasting	Nature Medicine Brief Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duration of acquired immunity to SARS-CoV-2 remains unknown • Duration of protection to reinfection known from 4 seasonal coronaviruses may reveal common characteristics applicable to all human coronaviruses • From study of healthy individuals for more than 35 years, reinfection with the same seasonal coronavirus occurred frequently at 12 months after initial infection, coupled with changes in levels of virus-specific antibodies 	Protective immunity

Epidemiology and modelling

Publication date	Title/URL	Journal/Article type	Summary	Keywords
09.09.2020	Predicted COVID-19 fatality rates based on age, sex, comorbidities and health system capacity	BMJ Global Health Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-random testing and incomplete vital registration systems render it impossible to directly estimate the infection fatality rate (IFR) in many low- and middle-income countries • This analysis estimates the adjustments required to extrapolate estimates of the IFR from high-income to lower-income regions • Results yield substantial differences in the predicted IFR across 21 world regions, however, these predictions are grounded IFRs from countries with advanced health systems • When adjusting for health system capacity, difference greatly diminish but do not entirely erase the demography-based advantage predicted in the lowest income settings, with regional estimates of the predicted C19 IFR ranging from 0.37% in Western Sub-Saharan Africa to 1.45% for Eastern Europe 	Infection fatality rate, age, sex, comorbidity, health system capacity

Infection Prevention and Control

Publication date	Title/URL	Journal/Article type	Summary	Keywords
14.09.2020	Quarantine alone or in combination with other public health measures to control COVID-19: a rapid review	Cochrane Systematic Review Rapid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current evidence is limited because most studies on C19 are mathematical modelling studies that make different assumptions on important model parameters • Finding consistently indicate that quarantine is important in reducing incidence and mortality during the C19 pandemic, although there is uncertainty over the magnitude of the effect • Early implementation of quarantine and combining quarantine with other public health measures is important to ensure effectiveness • Decision makers must constantly monitor the outbreak and impact of measures implemented 	Quarantine, public health measures

Indirect impact of COVID-19

Publication date	Title/URL	Journal/Article type	Summary	Keywords
Sept 2020	Results Report 2020	Global Fund Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes a section on 'Fighting HIV, TB and Malaria in the Shadow of COVID-19' • From GF biweekly surveys in 106 countries to monitor the impact of C19 on GF supported programmes, results show that widespread disruptions to HIV, TB and malaria work as a result of both the C19 pandemic itself, and the associated public health measures. Approx. three-quarters of HIV, TB and malaria programmes have 	TB, HIV, malaria

			<p>been moderately or significantly impacted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the early stages of lockdown, restrictions on gatherings of people and transport stoppages have been the main reasons programme activities have been suspended or delayed. • As restrictions have eased and the pandemic has gained momentum, disruptions have change and are now a result of the impact on health workers and the health system, and unavoidable fears among the general public to go to facilities for services. • Disruptions to TB, HIV and malaria programmes include: the reassignment of existing medical and laboratory staff from these programmes to the fight against C19; health workers, and especially laboratory staff, falling ill with C19; C19 related stigma and reluctance of health workers to attend to people suspected of having TB or malaria, which have many of the same initial symptoms as C19; and people unwilling to seek health services due to fear of getting infected with C19 	
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Social Science

Publication date	Title/URL	Journal/Article type	Summary	Keywords
14.09.2020	The impact of Covid-19 on people with disabilities – emerging findings	Key findings Narrative interviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key findings from the first round of narrative interviews (July and August 2020) with a diverse group of 40 jobseekers with disabilities in Bangladesh, Kenya, Nigeria and Uganda involved with the Inclusion Works programme 	disability

Comments, Editorials, Opinions, Blogs, News

Publication date	Title/URL	Journal Article type
14.09.2020	The lasting misery of coronavirus long-haulers	Nature News
14.09.2020	Regeneron's antibody drug added to UK Recovery trial of COVID treatments	Reuters News
12.09.2020	Global collaboration for health: rhetoric versus reality	The Lancet Editorial
11.09.2020	5 Principles to Guide Adaptive Leadership	Harvard Business Review
10.09.2020	It is time to get serious about vaccine confidence	The Lancet Comment
10.09.2020	Curing COVID-19	The Lancet Infectious Diseases Editorial
10.09.2020	Heidi Larson: shifting the conversation about vaccine confidence	The Lancet Perspectives

Guidelines, Statements & Tools

Publication Date	Title/URL	Source	Summary
14.09.2020	A World in Disorder	GPMB Annual Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A warning from the GPMB in its second report that 'the world cannot afford to be unprepared again when the next pandemic hits' • Five urgent actions are called for: responsible leadership; engaged citizenship; strong and agile systems for health security; sustained investment; and robust global governance of preparedness

11.09.2020	Diagnostic testing for SARS-CoV-2	WHO Interim guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated guidance interim on to laboratories and other stakeholders involved in diagnostics for SARS-CoV-2 • Includes considerations for specimen collection, NAAT testing, antigen, antibody detection and quality assurance
11.09.2020	Antigen-detection in the diagnosis of SARS-CoV-2 infection using rapid immunoassays	WHO Interim guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new technology has become available for detecting SARS-CoV-2 that is simpler and faster than NAAT testing e.g. PCR • It relies on direct detection of SARS-CoV-2 viral proteins in nasal swabs and other respiratory sections using a lateral flow immunoassay (also called RDT) that gives results in less than 30 minutes • But is substantially less sensitive than NAAT. They do offer though the possibility of rapid, inexpensive and early detection of the most infectious C19 cases in appropriate settings • Acknowledging the inadequacy in performance and operational utility, this interim guidance seeks to provide guidance to countries on considerations for integration into C19 outbreak management programmes

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 COVID-19 Digest	Health Policy and Planning	Norwegian Institute of Public Health		
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 OpenStreetM ap 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
02.10.2020	Understanding and Improving COVID-19 Vaccine Portfolio	Online event	1h30	CGD
21.09.2020	Mitigating the Economic and Health Impact of COVID-19 across Africa	Online event	1h30	CGD, GF, AU

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 weekly study	FutureLearn LSHTM/UK PHRST
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

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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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