

COVID-19

Health Evidence Summary No.94

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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
16.09.2020	Use of antimicrobial mouthwashes (gargling) and nasal sprays by healthcare workers to protect them when treating patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection	Cochrane Systematic Review Intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To assess the benefits and harms of antimicrobial mouthwashes and nasal sprays used by HCWs to protect themselves when treating patients with suspected or confirmed C19 infection No completed studies to include in this review were found. There are 3 ongoing studies (including 2 RCTs) which aim to enrol nearly 700 participants. Only one of the ongoing studies concerning specifically states that it will evaluate adverse events and it is not clear if this will include changes in the sense of smell or to the oral and nasal microbiota, and any consequences thereof. 	Antimicrobial mouthwashes and nasal sprays, HCWs

16.09.2020	Use of antimicrobial mouthwashes (gargling) and nasal sprays administered to patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection to improve patient outcomes and to protect healthcare workers treating them	Cochrane Systematic Review Intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To assess the benefits and harms of antimicrobial mouthwashes and nasal sprays administered to patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection to both the patients and the HCWs caring for them • No completed studies to include in this review were found. There are 16 ongoing studies (including 14 RCTs) which aim to enrol nearly 1250 participants. Concern remains that few of the ongoing studies specifically state that it will evaluate adverse events and it is not clear if this will include changes in the sense of small or to the oral and nasal microbiota, and any consequences thereof. 	Antimicrobial mouthwashes and nasal sprays, patients
16.09.2020	Antimicrobial mouthwashes (gargling) and nasal sprays to protect healthcare workers when undertaking aerosol-generating procedures (AGPs) on patients without suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection	Cochrane Systematic Review Intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To assess the benefits and harms of antimicrobial mouthwashes and nasal sprays administered to HCWs and/or patients when undertaking AGPs on patients without suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection • No completed studies to include in this review were found and there are no ongoing studies 	Antimicrobial mouthwashes and nasal sprays, HCWs, aerosol-generating procedures

Epidemiology and modelling

Publication date	Title/URL	Journal/Article type	Summary	Keywords
18.09.2020	Early estimates of COVID-19 infections in small, medium and large population clusters	BMJ Global Health Article	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A modelling approach to estimate the potential impacts of C19 in SSA under scenarios that cover different population sizes, urban status, effectiveness and coverage of social distancing, contact tracing and usage of cloth face mask • When implemented early, 50% coverage of contact tracing and face mask, with 33% effective social distancing policies can bring the epidemic to a manageable level for all population sizes and settings assessed • Relaxing of social distancing in urban settings from 33% to 25% could be matched by introduction and maintenance of face make use at 43% • In SSA countries with limited healthcare workforce, hospital resources and ICUs, a robust system of social distancing, contact tracing and face mask use could prevent several millions of infections and thousands of deaths 	Estimates C19 infection, SSA
15.09.2020	Report 31 – estimating under-ascertainment of COVID-19	ICL Report 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One hypothesis that countries in the Middle East and Africa have reported substantially lower mortality rates than in Europe and the Americas is that 	Under-ascertainment, Syria

	<p>mortality: an analysis of novel data sources to provide insight into COVID-19 dynamics in Damascus, Syria</p>		<p>deaths have been under-ascertained (deaths that have been unreported).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scale of under-ascertainment is difficult to assess with currently available data. Using a modelling approach, this report estimates the potential under-ascertainment of C19 mortality in Damascus, Syria • Exploring a range of different assumptions about under-ascertainment, authors estimate that only 1.25% of deaths (sensitivity range 1% to 3%) due to C19 are reported in Damascus, suggesting that Damascus is at a much later stage in its epidemic than suggested by surveillance reports, with an estimated 4,340 (95% CI 3250-5540) deaths due to C19 that may have been missed as of 2 Sept 2020 • Given that Damascus is likely to have the most robust surveillance in Syria, these findings suggest that other regions of the country could have experienced similar or worse mortality rates due to C19 	
15.09.2020	<p>Seasonality of respiratory viral infections: will COVID-19 follow suit?</p>	<p>Frontiers in Public Health Review article</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This review of current knowledge on the seasonality of respiratory viruses and the viral and host factors that govern their seasonal pattern, attempts to address the question if SARS- 	<p>seasonality</p>

			<p>CoV-2 will eventually become seasonal or will it continue to circulate year-round</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Also discusses the properties of SARS-CoV-2 and the potential impact of meteorological factors on its spread 	
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Testing

Publication date	Title/URL	Journal/Article type	Summary	Keywords
17.09.2020	Assessing a novel lab-free, point-of-care test for SARS-CoV-2 (CovidNudge): a diagnostic accuracy study	The Lancet Microbe Article	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A novel, rapid POC real time RT-PCR CovidNudge test, which requires no laboratory handling or sample pre-processing • Accuracy was compared with standard laboratory RT-PCR in 386 paired nasopharyngeal swab samples collected from self-referred HCWs, patients in the emergency department and hospital inpatient admissions from 3 hospitals in UK • CovidNudge was a sensitive, specific and rapid POC test for the presence of SARS-CoV-2 without laboratory handling or sample pre-processing • Results support a role for CovidNudge POC test as part of the strategies to improve access to rapid diagnostics to SARS-CoV-2 	POC test

Therapeutics

Publication date	Title/URL	Journal/Article type	Summary	Keywords
18.09.2020	Artificial intelligence in COVID-19 drug repurposing	The Lancet Digital Health Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In this review, authors introduce guidelines on how to use AI for accelerating drug repurposing or repositioning. Authors argue that AI approaches are not just formidable but are also necessary Authors discuss how to use AI models in precision medicine and how AI models can accelerate C19 drug repurposing 	Drug repurposing, AI

Social Science

Publication date	Title/URL	Journal/Article type	Summary	Keywords
Sept 2020	Emerging evidence on shielding groups during COVID-19	SSHAP Brief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following on from a previous brief on general principles of shielding, this brief focuses on emerging evidence relevant to shielding, including research regarding social acceptability and implementation of shielding Evidence is primarily drawn from LMICs 	Shielding, social acceptability,

Leadership and governance

Publication date	Title/URL	Journal/Article type	Summary	Keywords
16.09.2020	Health and human rights are inextricably linked in	BMJ Global Health Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governments throughout the world have introduced emergency measures that constrain individuals freedoms, social and economic rights and global 	Human rights

	the COVID-19 response		<p>solidarity to mitigate the spread of C19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The norms and principles of human rights should guide government responses to C19 with these rights strengthening the public health response to C19 	
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Health systems

Publication date	Title/URL	Journal/Article type	Summary	Keywords
Sept 2020	Broader health impacts of vertical responses to COVID-19 in low and middle-income countries (LMICs)	SSHAP Brief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A review of the effects of vertical responses to COVID-19 on health systems, services and people's access to and use of them in LMICs, where historic and ongoing under-investments heighten vulnerability to a multiplicity of health threats 	Vertical responses

Comments, Editorials, Opinions, Blogs, News

Publication date	Title/URL	Journal Article type
21.09.2020	Supporting people who experience violence during the COVID-19 pandemic	ARISE Blog
18.09.2020	What questions we should be asking about COVID-19 in humanitarian settings: perspectives from the social Sciences Analysis Cell in the Democratic Republic of the Congo	BMJ Global Health Commentary
18.09.2020	Safety and efficacy of the Russian COVID-19 vaccine: more information needed	The Lancet Correspondence

18.09.2020	Safety and efficacy of the Russian COVID-19 vaccine: more information needed- authors' reply	The Lancet Correspondence
18.09.2020	Severe COVID-19 infection – knowledge gained and remaining questions	JAMA Internal Medicine Editorial
17.09.2020	Who gets a COVID vaccine first? Access plans are taking shape	Nature News
16.09.2020	The evolving picture of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 in children: critical knowledge gaps	BMJ Global Health Commentary
04.09.2020	What do we know about women and COVID-19 in low- and middle-income countries from the peer-reviewed literature?	Gender & COVID-19 Research

Guidelines, Statements & Tools

Publication Date	Title/URL	Source	Summary
15.09.2020	An expanded tool to estimate the net health impact of COVID-19 policies	CGD Tool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new version of a tool to estimate the net health impacts of COVID-19 policies in support of decision-makers in estimating the impact of different strategies to tackle C19 using a whole-of-health approach
Sept 2020	2020 Goalkeepers Report: COVID-19 A Global Perspective	BMGF Annual report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18 indicators included in the SDGs are tracked where progress has been seen in recent years, this year most have regressed Two goals of the report are to (i) analyse the damage the pandemic has done and is still doing to health, economies etc and (ii) argue for a collaborative response

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 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
02.10.2020	Understanding and Improving COVID-19 Vaccine Portfolio	Online event	1h30	CGD
21.09.2020	Mitigating the Economic and Health	Online event	1h30	CGD, GF, AU

	Impact of COVID-19 across Africa			
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	COVID-19 Open online brief with Dr David Nabarro	Event	1h	4SD

(Geneva time)				
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

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. The HES are not intended to replace medical or professional advice and the researcher or the K4D consortium cannot be held responsible for any decisions made about COVID-19 on the basis of the HES alone. K4D services are provided by a consortium of leading organisations working in international development, led by the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), with Education Development Trust, Itad, University of Leeds Nuffield Centre for International Health and Development, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM), University of Birmingham International Development Department (IDD) and the University of Manchester Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute (HCRI).

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