

# COVID-19

## Health Evidence Summary No.102

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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.*

### Epidemiology and modelling

Publication date	Title/URL	Journal/Article type	Summary	Keywords
13.11.2020	<a href="#">Seroprevalence of SARS-CoV-2 in slums versus non-slums in Mumbai, India</a>	The Lancet Global Health   Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estimating seroprevalence is crucial for controlling the transmission of SARS-CoV-2</li> <li>• This study estimated prevalence in six slums and non-slum communities across 3 wards of Mumbai, India – socioeconomic disparities and population density might drive disease dynamics in megacities</li> <li>• Estimates suggest a higher prevalence in slums which could be driven by population density, lower adherence to</li> </ul>	Seroprevalence, India, slums

			<p>distancing measures and poorer hygiene</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mapping estimates to locations showed sharp differences over distances as little as 100 m</li> </ul>	
11.11.2020	<p>Seroprevalence of anti-SARS-CoV-2 IgG antibodies in Kenyan blood donors</p>	<p>Science   Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A national and regional estimate of population exposure to SARS-CoV-2 in an African country</li> <li>• This study determined the prevalence of anti-SARS-CoV-2 IgG antibodies among blood donors in Kenya in April-June 2020</li> <li>• Crude seroprevalence was 5.6%</li> <li>• Population-weighted, test-performance-adjusted national seroprevalence was 4.3% and highest in urban counties Mombasa (8.0%), Nairobi (7.3%) and Kisumu (5.5%)</li> <li>• SARS-CoV-2 exposure is more extensive than suggested by case-based surveillance</li> </ul>	<p>Seroprevalence, Kenya</p>
11.11.2020	<p>Cost-effectiveness of public-health strategies for COVID-19 epidemic control</p>	<p>The Lancet Global Health   Article</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of a dynamic microsimulation model to assess clinical and economic outcomes and</li> </ul>	<p>Cost effectiveness, public health strategies, South Africa</p>

	in South African: a microsimulation modelling study		<p>cost-effectiveness of epidemic control strategies in KwaZulu-Natal province, South Africa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difference combinations of five public health interventions were compared</li> <li>• In South Africa, strategies combining household contact tracing, isolation of individuals with COVID-19, mass symptom screening, and quarantining household contacts of COVID-19 cases would substantially reduce COVID-19 mortality and would be cost-effective</li> <li>• Optimal combination of interventions depends on epidemic growth characteristics and practical implementation considerations</li> </ul>	
11.11.2020	Persistence and Evolution of SARS-CoV-2 in an immunocompromised host	NEJM   Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Although most immunocompromised persons effectively clear SARS-CoV-2 infection, this case highlights the potential for persistence and accelerated SARS-CoV-2 evolution associated with an</li> </ul>	SARS-CoV-2, immunocompromised host

			<p>immunocompromised host</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggests that combination antiviral therapy is likely needed</li> </ul>	
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## Infection Prevention and Control

Publication date	Title/URL	Journal/Article type	Summary	Keywords
13.11.2020	<p>Combatting the COVID-19 pandemic in a resource-constrained setting: insights from initial response in India</p>	<p>BMJ Global Health   Practice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis of India's response to the pandemic (17 Jan to 20 April 2020)</li> <li>• India leveraged existing legal frameworks, institutional mechanisms and administrative provisions to respond to the pandemic but the cross-sectoral impact of the initial combat was intense and is potentially long-lasting authors warn</li> <li>• Authors suggest that the country could have further benefitted from evidence-based policy and planning in-line with local needs and vulnerabilities</li> <li>• The pandemic response in India is complex given variegated epidemiological, socio-political and systemic vulnerabilities</li> <li>• Authors suggest that learning from India's initial response will help in response preparedness and planning for future pandemics, especially in the LMIC context, and in the need to have contextualised pandemic response plans</li> </ul>	<p>India, pandemic response, context</p>

## Testing

Publication date	Title/URL	Journal/Article type	Summary	Keywords
11.11.2020	Accuracy of UK rapid test consortium (UK-RTC) "AbC-19 Rapid Test" for detection of previous SARS-CoV-2 infection in key workers: test accuracy study	BMJ   Article	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UK test accuracy study of the AbC-19 Rapid Test lateral flow immunoassay for the detection of previous SARS-CoV-2 infection in 2847 key workers</li> <li>Test sensitivity was lower among unselected populations than among PCR confirmed cases of SARS-CoV-2</li> </ul>	Test accuracy

## Therapeutics

Publication date	Title/URL	Journal/Article type	Summary	Keywords
12.11.2020	Safety and efficacy of inhaled nebulised interferon beta-1a (SNG001) for treatment of SARS-CoV-2 infection: a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, phase 2 trial	Lancet Respiratory Medicine   Article	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Randomised, double-blind, placebo controlled, phase 2 pilot trial at 9 UK sites to assess the efficacy and safety of inhaled nebulised interferon beta-1a (SNG001) for the treatment of adults aged 18 years or older admitted to hospital with COVID-19</li> <li>Patients who received SNG001 had greater odds of improvement and recovered more rapidly from SARS-CoV-2 infection than patients who received placebo</li> </ul>	Interferon beta-1a, SNG001

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SNG001 was well tolerated compared with placebo</li> <li>• This proof of concept trial provides strong rationale for further larger trials</li> </ul>	
12.11.2020	Fluvoxamine vs placebo and clinical deterioration in outpatients with symptomatic COVID-19: a randomized clinical trial	JAMA   Preliminary Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult outpatients with symptomatic COVID-19 treated with fluvoxamine, compared with placebo, had a lower likelihood of clinical deterioration over 15 days</li> <li>• This is a preliminary study, larger randomised trials with more definitive outcome measures would be required to determine clinical efficacy</li> </ul>	Fluvoxamine

## Vaccines

Publication date	Title/URL	Journal/Article type	Summary	Keywords
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Refer to Comments, Editorials, Opinions, Blogs, News Section below for press release on Moderna vaccine</i></li> </ul>	

## Comments, Editorials, Opinions, Blogs, News

Publication date	Title/URL	Journal   Article type
16.11.2020	Moderna announces longer shelf life for its COVID-19 vaccine candidate at refrigerated temperatures	Moderna   Press release
16.11.2020	Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine candidate meets its primary efficacy endpoint in the first interim analysis of the phase 4 COVE study	Moderna   Press release

16.11.2020	Teenage pregnancies rise in parts of Kenya as lockdown shuts schools	Reuters   News
13.11.2020	Hydroxychloroquine and COVID-19: a tale of populism and obscurantism	The Lancet Infectious Diseases
13.11.2020	Provision of holistic care after severe COVID-19 pneumonia: anticipating clinical need and managing resources	Lancet Respiratory Medicine   Spotlight
13.11.2020	COVID mink analysis shows mutations are not dangerous - yet	Nature   News
12.11.2020	Nebulised interferon beta-1a for patients with COVID-19	Lancet Respiratory Medicine   Comment
12.11.2020	Beyond the rhetoric of equity: will the frontline healthcare workers who serve the poor be prioritized for the COVID vaccine?	CGD   Blog
12.11.2020	Strong health care systems are key to deliver COVID-19 vaccines	World Bank   Blog
11.11.2020	Are asylum seekers, refugees and foreign migrants considered in the COVID-19 vaccine discourse?	BMJ Global Health   Commentary
11.11.2020	Leveraging the COVID-19 response to end preventable child deaths from pneumonia	The Lancet   Comment
10.11.2020	Turning the tide: the fight to reclaim gains and accelerate progress for women and children	World Bank   Blog
10.11.2020	Don't cheer yet – there is too much at stake on COVID-19 vaccines	CGD   Blog

10.11.2020	The great coronavirus pandemic of 2020-7 critical lessons	JAMA   Forum
09.11.2020	Monday morning vaccine breakthrough: terrific news for the west, but in LMICs terms and conditions apply	CGD   Blog
09.11.2020	Misguided use of hydroxychloroquine for COVID-19	JAMA   Editorial
09.11.2020	'I've never worked harder': the race to develop a COVID-19 vaccine	Nature   Where I work

## Guidelines, Statements & Tools

Publication Date	Title/URL	Source	Summary
13.11.2020	Statement on COVID-19 and the training of healthcare professionals in Africa	Africa CDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Africa CDC recommendations for the training of healthcare professionals in higher institutions in Africa</li> </ul>



## 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	<a href="#">COVID-19 Oxford Vaccine Trial</a>
WEF		Sierra Leone	Oxford C19 Government Response Tracker (OxCGRT)	US NIH	Our World in Data: C19 Testing	COVID-19 Therapeutics Accelerator	<a href="#">COVID-19 Vaccine Tracker</a>

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
19.11.2020	Looking at the pandemic with a gender lens	Live Twitter conversation		SSHAP
16.11.2020	HIFA and WHO collaborate to promote sharing of experience and	4-week discussion starting 16 Nov		HIFA

	expertise around the maintenance of essential health services during (and after) the pandemic			
10.11.2020	COVID-19 vaccine predictions part 2: estimating the time before we approve efficacious COVID-19 vaccines	Online event	1h30	CGD
16.10.2020	Financing a Global Public Health Response	Online event	1h30	CGD
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	<a href="#">WHO Academy and WHO Info mobile applications</a>	Mobile app		WHO
Available now	<a href="#">COVID-19: Pandemics, Modelling and Policy</a>	Online learning	2 weeks   2 hours weekly study	FutureLearn UNESCO UNITWIN Complex Systems Digital Campus/Open University
11.5.2020	<a href="#">COVID-19 Contact Tracing course</a>	Online learning	5 hours	Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Health
7-28 May 2020	<a href="#">Virtual Evidence Weeks</a>	5 sessions	1h 30	International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)
Tuesdays at 1700 CEST (Geneva time) & Thursdays 0830 CEST (Geneva time)	<a href="#">COVID-19 Open online brief with Dr David Nabarro</a>	Event	1h	4SD
Available now	<a href="#">Emerging respiratory viruses, including COVID-19: methods for detection, prevention, response and control</a>	Online learning	3 hours	WHO
Available now	<a href="#">Responding to COVID-19: Real-time training for the coronavirus disease outbreak</a>	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



## 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

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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