



COVID-19

Health Evidence Summary No.5

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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 2-2.5 hours of work and is not intended to be a comprehensive summary of evidence.

1. Health Evidence Summary

COVID-19: learning from experience

The Lancet | 28 March 2020 | Editorial

[https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(20\)30686-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(20)30686-3)

The next wave of infections will hit Africa and Latin America. The Africa CDC has reported cases in 41 countries. Fragile health systems will soon be overwhelmed if infection spreads widely, have only tens or hundreds of ventilators, and many health facilities do not even have oxygen. Many people living in poor, overcrowded, urban areas do not have basic sanitation, could not self-isolate and have no paid sick leave or social security. The [WHO COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund](#) has raised more than US\$70 million and some regional organisations have taken strong proactive action, sharing information and receiving donations of testing kits and medical supplies. Whilst many governments have responded quickly following WHO's consistent, clear and evidence-based recommendations, not all have e.g. ignoring WHO's recommendation on avoiding mass gatherings and must learn from Europe and the USA to not put off preparation.

No time for dilemma: mass gatherings must be suspended

The Lancet | 27 March 2020 | Correspondence

[https://www.thelancet.com/lancet/article/S0140-6736\(20\)30754-6](https://www.thelancet.com/lancet/article/S0140-6736(20)30754-6)

This correspondence calls for all mass gatherings to be cancelled given the challenges of social distancing and continued disinfection of hard surfaces and to provide clear messaging to the public. The authors cite [evidence](#) supporting the cancellation of mass gathering where Saudi Arabia's suspension of the Umrah pilgrimage was protective, whereas Iran's decision to permit mass gatherings in Mashhad and Qom was detrimental.

Key considerations: COVID-19 in informal urban settlements

Wilkinson et al. | Social Science in Humanitarian Action | March 2020 | Brief

https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/bitstream/handle/20.500.12413/15185/SSHAP_COVID-19_Key_Considerations_Informal_Settlements_final.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y

This brief offers seven summary considerations to develop locally appropriate and feasible approaches to protect the 1 billion people living in informal settlements from the worst impacts of COVID-19.

Test Test Test for TB! Test for COVID-19!

Stop TB Partnership | 27 March 2020 | News Article
http://www.stoptb.org/news/stories/2020/ns20_012.html

The Xpert Express SARS-CoV-2 cartridges are now available from the Stop TB Partnership's Global Drug Facility at US\$19.80 per cartridge from the manufacturer Cepheid. Results are available in 45 minutes. The Xpert Express SARS-CoV-2 cartridge received Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on 21 March 2020. The cartridge can be used on any of the currently available GeneXpert systems (GeneXpert Systems running software version 4.7 or higher).

LSTM begins the validation process for Mologic COVID-19 point-of-need diagnostic test

LSTM | 27 March 2020 | News article
<https://www.lstmed.ac.uk/news-events/news/lstm-begins-the-validation-process-for-the-mologic-covid-19-point-of-need>

Independent assessment and validation of COVID-19 point of care diagnostic tests have been initiated this week with Mologic, LSTM and St Georges University London. Prototypes will be sent to world-leading labs in UK, Senegal, Spain, China, Malaysia and Brazil for priority validation. COVID-19 tests will be jointly manufactured in the UK at Mologic and in Senegal at Institut Pasteur de Dakar for the first time. The test will allow users to test for exposure to the virus at home, in the community, or in the clinic providing a result within 10 minutes without the need for special training, electricity or a laboratory. Mologic will sell the diagnostic test at cost to low-income settings. The accelerated development of the test has been made possible by funding from UK Aid, as part of the £46 million the UK government has announced so far for COVID-19 prevention and research.

Stop TB Partnership tools for TB programmes and TB communities on TB and COVID-19

Stop TB Partnership | 26 March 2020 | Tools
<http://www.stoptb.org/covid19.asp>

A portfolio of tools, content and resources to help support people with TB and TB programmes during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. (1) Alternative options such as virtual care, digital health and community-monitoring solutions. **Rapid information note** on how TB programmes can change to virtual mode. **Re-imagining TB Care** (developed in partnership with the McGill International TB Centre and the Arcady Group) provides initial **mapping** and **database** of available digital health, virtual care, and community-monitoring solutions across the TB care models and **country profiles** on how some countries have rolled-out some of these technologies. **OneImpact** solution (developed in partnership with community partners and Dure Technologies) is a digital community-based monitoring alert system that is used by people and communities affected by TB to track and troubleshoot, in real-time, issues related to the availability and accessibility of quality

TB services due to COVID-19. (2) [TB and COVID-19](#) webpage includes suggested actions, international and national guidelines, dashboards and data.

The world's largest refugee camp prepares for COVID-19

Vince, G. | BMJ | 26 March 2020 | Feature
<https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.m1205>

This report highlights preparations being made in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, home to over 855,000 Rohingya refugees from Myanmar. These include increasing hand washing facilities, communicating WHO public health information in the three languages spoken in the camp, discouraging gatherings where possible, working in partnership with government, including refugees in national decisions and measures and setting up isolation zones and units. Currently there are no refugee testing facilities, but there is currently scaling up of testing capacities across the country.

COVID-19: Operational guidance for maintaining essential health services during an outbreak

WHO | 25 March 2020 | Guidance
<https://www.who.int/publications-detail/covid-19-operational-guidance-for-maintaining-essential-health-services-during-an-outbreak>

WHO guidance on targeted immediate actions that countries should consider at national, regional and local level to reorganise and maintain access to high-quality essential health services. This document expands on the [Operational planning guidelines to support country preparedness and response](#).

2. Tracking COVID-19 cases

Global

WHO COVID-19 daily situation reports

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

An interactive web-based dashboard to track COVID-19 in real time

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

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

<http://globalhealth5050.org/covid19>

Africa

Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC)

<http://www.africacdc.org/covid-19-and-resources>

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/>

South African Government COVID-19

<https://www.gov.za/Coronavirus>

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>

3. Online course

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).

4. Resource Hubs

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.html>The 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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