



COVID-19

Health Evidence Summary No.15

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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 3 hours of work and is not intended to be a comprehensive summary of evidence.

Palliative care and the COVID-19 pandemic

The Lancet | 11 April 2020 | Editorial

[https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(20\)30822-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(20)30822-9)

The WHO has issued guidance on how to maintain essential services during the COVID-19 pandemic but there has been no mention yet of palliative care. Palliative care should be an explicit part of national and international response plans for COVID-19 especially in low and middle-income countries where shortages of both critical care and palliative care services are greatest. Where possible, practical steps can be taken to ensure access to drugs (such as opioids) and protective equipment, consider greater use of telemedicine and video, discuss advance care plans, provide better training and preparation across the health workforce, and embrace the role of lay carers and the wider community.

COVID-19 and risks to the supply and quality of tests, drugs, and vaccines

Newton et al. | The Lancet Global Health | 9 April 2020 | Comment

[https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X\(20\)30136-4](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(20)30136-4)

The COVID-19 pandemic threatens a global surge in substandard and falsified medical products, and not just for those directly related to COVID-19. Interventions are needed globally to ensure equitable access to safe, affordable, quality assured, and effective proven medical products to prevent, test or treat COVID-19. Supplies must not be hoarded or diverted from treatment of malaria, autoimmune diseases, or HIV/AIDS. 'Bad tests will be worse than no tests.' Robust policies and community-specific public engagement must guard against ineffective interventions, wasting resources and harm.

Trials of anti-tumour necrosis factor therapy for COVID-19 are urgently needed

Feldmann et al. | The Lancet | 9 April 2020 | Comment

[https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(20\)30858-8](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(20)30858-8)

'Anti-TNF therapy should be evaluated in patients with COVID-19 on hospital admission to prevent progression to needing intensive care support'. There is evidence of an inflammatory excess in patients with COVID-19 with TNF, important in the coordination and development of the inflammatory response, found in blood and disease tissues of COVID-19 confirmed patients. Although there are many potential drug candidates for reducing inflammation in COVID-19, only a few are potentially effective, widely available and have a well-established safety profile – this includes the anti-TNF antibodies infliximab or adalimumab.

Children's story book released to help children and young people cope with COVID-19

WHO | 9 April 2020 | News release of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee

<https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/09-04-2020-children-s-story-book-released-to-help-children-and-young-people-cope-with-covid-19>

The COVID-19 vaccine development landscape

Tung Thanh Le et al | Nature Reviews Drug Discovery | 9 April 2020 | From the analyst's couch

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41573-020-00073-5>

The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) is working with global health authorities and vaccine developers to support the development of vaccines against COVID-19. They maintain an overview of the global landscape of COVID-19 vaccine development activity including vaccine development programmes reported through [WHO's continually updated list](#), along with other projects identified from publicly available sources. As of 8 April 2020, there are 115 vaccines against COVID-19 in development. Seventy-eight are confirmed as active with a mix of 56 (72%) being developed by private/industry developers and 22 (28%) being led by academic, public sector and other non-profit organisations. Many of the lead developers are small and/or inexperienced in large-scale vaccine manufacture placing importance on coordination of vaccine manufacturing and supply capability and capacity to meet demand. There is currently no public information on vaccine development activity in Africa or Latin America and effective control of the pandemic will require greater coordination and involvement of the southern hemisphere in COVID-19 vaccine R&D.

A wide range of technology platforms are being assessed, including traditional and novel approaches which include DNA or mRNA and offer great flexibility in terms of antigen manipulation and potential for speed. Vaccines based on viral vectors offer a high level of protein expression and long-term stability and induce strong immune responses and already licensed vaccines based on recombinant proteins for other diseases could take advantage of existing large-scale production capacity. Adjuvants could enhance immunogenicity and make lower doses viable enabling vaccination of more people without compromising protection. Some vaccine developers have already committed to making licensed adjuvants available for use with novel COVID-19 vaccines developed by others.

Strong international coordination and cooperation will be needed to ensure promising late-stage vaccine candidates can be manufactured in sufficient quantities and equitably supplied to all affected areas, particularly low-resource regions.

Compliance with physical distancing measures for COVID-19 and implications for RCCE in Eastern and Southern Africa

Anthrologica | Social Science in Humanitarian Action | April 2020 | Brief

<https://www.socialscienceinaction.org/resources/compliance-physical-distancing-measures-covid-19-implications-rcce-eastern-southern-africa-april-2020/>

This brief reports on attitudes and practices relating to physical distancing measures in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak across the Eastern and Southern African context. Practical recommendations are given for response partners communication strategies and messaging on physical distancing related to COVID-19 taking into account implementation challenges and mitigation of harmful effects. Where relevant, learnings from the Ebola outbreaks in West Africa and the DRC are applied. It was written on the request of UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office.

A new survey on the risks of school closures for girls

O'Donnell et al | Center for Global Development | 8 April 2020 | Survey

<https://www.cgdev.org/blog/new-survey-risks-school-closures-girls>

To better understand the challenges and perceptions of organisations delivering educational services to girls and boys in low-income countries, CGD have launched the [Out of School Girls Survey](#) to highlight some of the short and long-term gender-related concerns of those with first-hand knowledge of the crisis is affected the girls and boys they serve.

Risks and benefits of sustaining routine childhood immunisation programmes in Africa during the COVID-19 pandemic

Abbas et al | CMMID nCov working group | 7 April 2020 | Study (not yet peer reviewed)

<https://cmmid.github.io/topics/covid19/control-measures/EPI-suspension.html>

This study weighs the health benefits of continued routine infant immunisation delivery in Africa against the risk of acquiring coronavirus infections through visiting vaccination services. In sustaining routine childhood vaccination programmes for one excess COVID-19 death attributable to an infection acquired during a child vaccination visit, 128 (34-1247) future deaths in children from the time of vaccination to 5 years of age would be prevented. Limitations of the study are listed.

WHO lists two COVID-19 tests for emergency use

WHO | 7 April 2020 | Departmental news

<https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/07-04-2020-who-lists-two-covid-19-tests-for-emergency-use>

The WHO has listed the first two diagnostic tests for emergency use during the COVID-19 pandemic. This will help increase access to quality-assured tests for the disease and that the tests can now be supplied by the UN and other procurement agencies supporting the COVID-19

response. The in vitro diagnostic tests are *genesig Real-Time PCR Coronavirus (COVID-19)* (Primerdesign, UK) is an open system more suitable for laboratories with moderate sample testing capacity and *cobas® SARS-CoV-2 Qualitative assay for use on the cobas 6800/8800 Systems* (Roche, USA) is a closed system assay for larger laboratories.

Tracking COVID-19 cases

Global

WHO COVID-19 daily situation reports

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

Johns Hopkins University COVID-19 dashboard in real time

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

WEF: Visualisation tracking confirmed cases of COVID-19 as it spreads. Updated daily.

https://wef-prod.earthtime.org/m/stories/2019_nCOV_infection

Vaccine Centre, LSHTM

https://vac-lshtm.shinyapps.io/ncov_tracker/

This site complements the WHO and Johns Hopkins University COVID-19 dashboards by including the timeline functions, the ability to overlay past outbreaks, and an emphasis on normalised counts (per 100,000 individuals).

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

<http://globalhealth5050.org/covid19>

Africa

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/>

UK

PHE dashboard of UK COVID-19 Cases

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/f94c3c90da5b4e9f9a0b19484dd4bb14>

Tools

WhatsApp coronavirus information hub

<https://www.whatsapp.com/coronavirus>

CMMID Repository: Effectiveness of airport screening at detecting travellers infected with COVID-19

https://cmmid-lshtm.shinyapps.io/traveller_screening/

App to model effectiveness of airport screening.

Disability Inclusive Community Action – COVID-19 Matrix

CBM | 30 March 2020 | Tool

<https://www.cbm.org/news/news/news-2020/cbm-develops-disability-inclusive-community-action-covid-19-matrix/>

Online learning and events

Online event: Policy modelling for COVID-19: Better data for better decision-making in low and middle-income countries

Tuesday 14 April 2020 0900-1030 ET | Center for Global Development

<https://www.cgdev.org/event/policy-modelling-covid-19-better-data-better-decision-making-low-and-middle-income-countries>

Moderator: Kalipso Chalkidou (CDG). Features Dan Ollendorf (CGD), Yot Teerawattananon (Thai Ministry of Public Health) and Anna Vassall (LSHTM)

COVID-19 Diagnostics and Testing

FIND, LSHTM & ASLM | FutureLearn course | Starts 20 April 2020 | 3 weeks | 3 hours weekly study | Free

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/covid-19-diagnostics-and-testing>

This course is designed for professionals involved in the testing and diagnosis of COVID-19, with a focus on low- and middle-income settings. You will learn the latest recommendations on COVID-19 testing, get up to date information on the performance of tests and how best to deploy them.

COVID-19 Critical Care: Understanding and Application

University of Edinburgh & Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh | FutureLearn course | Starts 6 April 2020 | 5 weeks | 1 hour weekly study | Free

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/covid-19-critical-care-education-resource>

Designed for frontline clinical staff to learn the principles and practice of critical care to treat and care for critically ill patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. You will learn (1) how to apply the current and evolving principles of PPE in the care of COVID-19; (2) apply evidence-based principles of advanced organ support and monitoring to the COVID-19 critically ill patients; (3) apply evidence-based daily practices to care of the critically ill patient; and (4) develop a range of specialised self-caring practices.

Note that this resource has been created in response to the COVID-19 emergency and does not correspond to the classic structure of a FutureLearn course. You do not have to follow the week by week approach and can select the materials most relevant to your work.

Emerging respiratory viruses, including COVID-19: methods for detection, prevention, response and control

WHO | Free | 3 hours duration

<https://openwho.org/courses/introduction-to-ncov>

A general introduction to enable you to describe the fundamental principles of emerging respiratory viruses, including novel coronaviruses, and how to effectively respond to an outbreak. Intended for public health professionals, incident managers and personnel working for the UN, international organisations and NGOs.

Responding to COVID-19: Real-time training for the coronavirus disease outbreak

WHO | Available now | multiple self-paced courses

<https://openwho.org/channels/covid-19>

Note that courses are available in English and other languages including French, Portuguese and Spanish.

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).

Resource Hubs

WHO: Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic

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

Resources on coronavirus and disability

<https://asksource.info/covid-resources/search>

ODI Coronavirus: latest research and analysis on the implications of the coronavirus pandemic worldwide

<https://www.odi.org/our-work/coronavirus>

International Disability and Development Consortium and CORE Group: Repository of resources on disability inclusion and COVID-19

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IVP1u6yHfLuN9qNyLEct5-vtC0aqLKtKr-o-faAjves/edit>

US NIH online platform of all registered, ongoing clinical trials globally

<https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/results?cond=COVID-19>

COVID-19 Narratives by Dr David Nabarro

<https://www.4sd.info/covid-19-narratives/>

These narratives are being written by David Nabarro, Co-Director of the Imperial College Institute of Global Health Innovation at Imperial College London, Strategic Director for 4SD and one of six Special Envoys to the WHO DG Special Envoy on COVID-19, and peers to share with those who want more information about the situation and to help raise the awareness and readiness of all actors. Please visit [WHO website](#) for official guidance.

Reliefweb COVID-19

<https://reliefweb.int/topics/covid-19>

Coronavirus global health emergency

<https://www.un.org/coronavirus>

Norwegian Institute of Public Health: Live map of COVID-19 evidence

<https://www.fhi.no/en/qk/systematic-reviews-hta/map/>

Overview of scientific publications on COVID-19 categorised into subgroups to provide quick access to specific topic-relevant publications to help decision makers and research navigate the research and help identify research gaps.

Vaccine Centre at LSHTM: COVID-19 vaccine development pipeline tracker

https://vac-lshtm.shinyapps.io/ncov_vaccine_landscape/

COVID-19 Research Project Tracker by UKCDR & GloPID-R

<https://www.ukcdr.org.uk/funding-landscape/covid-19-research-project-tracker/>

A live database of funded research projects across the world related to COVID-19 mapped against the priorities identified in the [WHO Coordination Global Research Roadmap: 2019 Novel Coronavirus](#).

WHO Q&A on COVID-19

<https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-coronaviruses>

Note that this resource includes Q&A on COVID-19; COVID-19, pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding; COVID-19, HIV and antiretrovirals; similarities and differences COVID-19 and influenza; mass gatherings and COVID-19; IPC for healthcare workers; COVID-19 and food and agriculture; smoking and COVID-19; malaria and COVID-19.

COVID-19: Resources and research on epidemics and pandemics

<https://steps-centre.org/covid-19-coronavirus-resources-research-epidemics-pandemics/>

Stop TB Partnership TB and COVID-19

<http://www.stoptb.org/covid19.asp>

EPI-WIN: WHO information network for epidemics: COVID-19 public health emergency

<https://www.who.int/teams/risk-communication>

COVID-19: Research ethics

<https://ethicsresource.ringsgenderresearch.org/covid-19-resources/>

LSTM: COVID-19

<https://www.lstmed.ac.uk/covid-19>

LSHTM: COVID-19

<https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/research/research-action/covid-19>

International Disability Alliance: COVID 19 and the disability movement

<http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/content/covid-19-and-disability-movement>

Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC)

<https://africacdc.org/covid-19/>

UNICEF: Latest news and updates on coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

<https://www.unicef.org/coronavirus/covid-19>

Coronavirus: the science explained

<https://coronavirusexplained.ukri.org/en/>

Social Science in Humanitarian Action: Updates on the novel COVID-19 outbreak

<https://www.socialscienceinaction.org/update-novel-covid-19-outbreak/>

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/>

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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