

COVID-19

Health Evidence Summary No.54

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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 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
01.06.2020	COVID-19 mortality is associated with pre-existing disease burden: a cross-country analysis	Bulletin WHO Article	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-sectional study of 45 HICs and 42 non-HICs using global burden of disease data • Whilst in HICs C19 mortality was associated with pre-existing disease burden, no association was found between disease burdens and C19 mortality rate for non-HICs 	Mortality, co-morbidity

Epidemiology and modelling

Publication date	Title/URL	Journal/Article type	Summary	Keywords
03.06.2020	Prevalence of asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infection: a	Annals of Internal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is likely that 40 to 45% of those infected with SARS-CoV-2 will remain asymptomatic – the virus 	Asymptomatic, transmission, testing

	narrative review	Medicine Review	<p>may silently spread more than previously estimated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asymptomatic persons can transmit SARS-CoV-2 and perhaps longer than 14 days • Absence of symptoms in infected persons might not imply absence of harm. More research is needed to determine the significance of subclinical lung changes • Testing programmes must broaden to include those without symptoms • Limitation – most data under review was from cohort studies • It remains difficult to distinguish between asymptomatic and presymptomatic persons 	
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Infection Prevention and Control

Publication date	Title/URL	Journal/Article type	Summary	Keywords
04.06.2020	Social network-based distancing strategies to flatten the COVID-19 curve in a post-lockdown world	Nature Human Behaviour Article	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social, psychological and economic consequences of complete or near-complete lockdown demand more moderate contact-reduction policies • The effectiveness of 3 distancing strategies designed to keep the curve flat and aid compliance post-lockdown are evaluated in this study • Strategic social network-based reduction of contact strongly enhances the effectiveness of social distancing measures while keeping risks lower 	Social distancing, behaviour, infection control

03.06.2020	Seroprevalence of SARS-CoV-2 in Hong Kong and in residents evacuated from Hubei province China: a multicohort study	The Lancet Microbe Article	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Control measures implemented in Hong Kong and Hubei province successfully restricted the spread of SARS-CoV-2 as of May 2020 Relatively low seroprevalence suggests lack of herd immunity and susceptibility to a resurgence of the SARS-CoV-2 epidemic if public health measures are relaxed Although a small study size, provides a baseline for public health authorities when evaluating the effect of current and future interventions 	Seroprevalence, transmission, herd immunity
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Therapeutics

Publication date	Title/URL	Journal/Article type	Summary	Keywords
03.06.2020	A randomised trial of hydroxychloroquine as postexposure prophylaxis for Covid-19	NEJM Article	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial across the US and parts of Canada testing hydroxychloroquine as postexposure prophylaxis Hydroxychloroquine did not prevent illness compatible with C19 or confirmed infection when used within 4 days after high-risk or moderate-risk exposure to C19 	RCT, hydroxychloroquine, prophylaxis

03.06.2020	Effect of convalescent plasma therapy on time to clinical improvement in patients with severe and life-threatening COVID-19: a randomised clinical trial	JAMA Article	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In this randomised clinical trial of 103 patients in China that was terminated early (underpowering the study), among patients with severe or life-threatening C19, convalescent plasma therapy added to standard treatment did not significantly improve the time to clinical improvement within 28 days 	RCT, convalescent plasma
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Comments, Editorials, Opinions, Blogs, News

Publication date	Title/URL	Journal Article type	Author(s)
03.06.2020	Hydroxychloroquine for the prevention of COVID-19 – searching for evidence	NEJM Editorial	Marc DuBois Julian Sheather Catherine R. McGowan Louisa Baxter Rachael Cummings
03.06.2020	Africa's COVID-19 resilience must not lead to complacency	Chatham House Comment	Dr Knox Chitiyo Prof Martin Rupiya Pamela Wadi
03.06.2020	A randomised trial of convalescent plasma for COVID-19 – potentially hopeful signals	JAMA Editorial	

03.06.2020	Population serology for SARS-CoV-2 is essential to regional and global preparedness	The Lancet Microbe Comment	Huaiyu Tian Ottar N Bjornstad
02.06.2020	Global outbreak research: harmony not hegemony	The Lancet Infectious Diseases Comment	ISARIC clinical characterisation group
02.06.2020	COVID-19 and essential pregnant worker policies	The Lancet Infectious Diseases Correspondence	Elizabeth S McDonald
02.06.2020	Of viruses, vaccines, and variability: qualitative meaning matters	Trends in Cognitive Sciences	Valerie F. Reyna
28.05.2020	Covid-19 in humanitarian settings: addressing ethics to reduce moral distress	BMJ Opinion	

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	
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		Clinicaltrials.gov			
Humanitarian Data Exchange				UKCDR			
Information is Beautiful							
LSHTM							
HealthMap (cases)							
The Commons Project							

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		Social Development Direct C19 blog series
UN Women	Africa Evidence Network	Elsevier	CMMID Repository		
UNOCHA	OCHA Southern and	JAMA Network	Norwegian Institute of Public Health		

	Eastern Africa COVID-19 Digest				
UNHCR	South African Government	The Lancet	Oxford Centre for Evidence-based Medicine		
UNICEF		medRxiv and bioRxiv (Preprints)	HEART		
UNESCO		NEJM	UKRI		
UN WFP		Oxford University Press	Evidence Aid		
GOARN		PLoS	NIH		
EPI-WIN		SAGE journals	IFPRI Resources and Analyses of C19 Impact		
World Bank		Science	Prevent Epidemics		
Our World in Data		Springer Nature			
COVID-19 Narratives by David Nabarro		SSRN (Preprints)			
Reliefweb		Wiley			
Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team					

Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data					
WorldPop					
Flowminder					
COVID-END					
Premise COVID-19 Global Impact Study					

Online learning & events

Date	Title/URL	Online learning/event	Duration	Lead
Available now	Standard precautions: Environmental cleaning and disinfection	Online course	1 hour	WHO
16.06.2020	Africa beyond COVID-19	Virtual event	1h 30 hours	ODI
15.06.2020	Poverty monitoring in the context of Covid-19	Virtual event	1h 15	ODI
Available now	COVID-19: Effective Nursing in Times of Crisis	Online course	2 weeks – 2 hours per week	Johns Hopkins School of Nursing

04.06.2020 12pm ET	CGD Conversations on COVID-19 and Development: John Nkengasong	Event		CGD
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
30.04.2020	Professor Chris Whitty's Gresham lecture on COVID-19	Event	1h 20	Gresham College
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 daily 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 (“equity” OR “equities”) OR (“poverty”), 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 daily COVID-19 health evidence summary (HES) is based on 3 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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