

COVID-19

Health Evidence Summary No.92

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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
04.09.20	Azithromycin in addition to standard of care versus standard of care alone in the treatment of patients admitted to the hospital with severe COVID-19 in Brazil (COALITION II): a randomised clinical trial	The Lancet Article	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In patients with severe COVID-19, adding azithromycin to standard of care treatment (which included hydroxychloroquine) did not improve clinical outcomes. Our findings do not support the routine use of azithromycin in combination with hydroxychloroquine in patients with severe COVID-19. 	azithromycin
02.09.20	A neutrophil activation signature predicts critical	medRxiv pre-print (not peer-reviewed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immune cells called neutrophils are more likely to be primed for action in people who will eventually develop severe COVID-19 than in those who are will go on 	neutrophils

	illness and mortality in COVID-19		to become only mildly ill, according to a machine-learning analysis of data from 3,300 people. If the results can be reproduced, they could aid early identification of the people most likely to become critically ill.	
01.09.20	Humoral Immune Response to SARS-CoV-2 in Iceland	NEJM Article	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Results indicate that antiviral antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 did not decline within 4 months after diagnosis. We estimate that the risk of death from infection was 0.3% and that 44% of persons infected with SARS-CoV-2 in Iceland were not diagnosed by qPCR. 	
03.09.20	The Immunology of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children with COVID-19	Cell Journal pre proof	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Researchers found that compared with children with Kawasaki's disease, those with MIS-C have lower levels of an immune chemical called IL-17A, which has been implicated in inflammation and autoimmune disorders. Unlike all the other children studied, children with MIS-C had no antibodies to two coronaviruses that cause the common cold. This deficit might be implicated in the origins of their condition, the authors say. 	Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome

Therapeutics

Publication date	Title/URL	Journal/Article type	Summary	Keywords
02.09.20	Association Between Administration of Systemic Corticosteroids and Mortality Among Critically Ill Patients With COVID-19	JAMA Article	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In this prospective meta-analysis of 7 randomized trials that included 1703 patients of whom 647 died, 28-day all-cause mortality was lower among patients who received corticosteroids compared with those who received usual care or placebo 	Corticosteroids

Indirect impact of COVID-19

Publication date	Title/URL	Journal/Article type	Summary	Keywords
09.09.20	Early indirect impact of COVID-19 pandemic on utilization and outcomes of reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health services in Kenya	medRxiv pre-print (not peer-reviewed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data for the first four months (March-June) of the pandemic and the equivalent period in 2019 were extracted from Kenya Health Information System. Conclusion: COVID-19 may have contributed to increased adolescent pregnancy, adolescent maternal death and stillbirth rates in Kenya. If this trend persists, recent gains achieved in maternal and perinatal health in Kenya will be lost. With uncertainty around the duration of the pandemic, strategies to mitigate against catastrophic indirect maternal health 	COVID-19, maternal, reproductive, stillbirths, family planning, adolescent, mortality, Kenya

			outcomes are urgently needed. Key words: COVID-19, maternal, reproductive, stillbirths, family planning, adolescent, mortality, Kenya.	
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Health systems

Publication date	Title/URL	Journal/Article type	Summary	Keywords
09.09.20	Projected health-care resource needs for an effective response to COVID-19 in 73 low-income and middle-income countries: a modelling study	Lancet Global Health Article	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This study aimed to identify what the additional health-care costs of a strategic preparedness and response plan (SPRP) would be if current transmission levels are maintained in a status quo scenario, or under scenarios where transmission is increased or decreased by 50%. The number of COVID-19 cases was projected for 73 low-income and middle-income countries for each of the three scenarios for both 4-week and 12-week timeframes, starting from June 26, 2020. Conclusion: The sizeable costs of a COVID-19 response in the health sector will escalate, particularly if transmission increases. Instituting early and comprehensive measures to limit the further spread of the virus will conserve resources and sustain the response. 	health

Comments, Editorials, Opinions, Blogs, News

Publication date	Title/URL	Journal Article type
08.09.20	Covid-19: Key Considerations for a Public Health Response	Institute of Development Studies
07.09.20	Covid-19: UK studies find gastrointestinal symptoms are common in children	BMJ News
09.09.20	Severe COVID-19 riskier than heart attack for young adults; antibiotic shows no benefit	Reuters research round up
05.09.20	Is India missing COVID-19 deaths?	Lancet World Report
01.09.20	A locally sustainable approach to COVID-19 testing in Africa	The Lancet Correspondence
07.09.20	Legal agreements: barriers and enablers to global equitable COVID-19 vaccine access	The Lancet Comment
04.09.20	COVID-19 vaccine trials in Africa	The Lancet News
03.09.20	India will supply coronavirus vaccines to the world — will its people benefit?	Nature News
05.09.20	COVID-19 exacerbates violence against health workers	The Lancet World Report
01.09.20	Will the COVID-19 crisis trigger a One Health coming-of-age?	The Lancet Planetary Health Comment
09.09.20	COVID-19 could reverse decades of progress toward eliminating preventable child deaths, agencies warn	WHO news

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	Health Policy and Planning	Norwegian Institute of Public Health		

	COVID-19 Digest				
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
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 (Geneva time)	COVID-19 Open online brief with Dr David Nabarro	Event	1h	4SD
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	FutureLearn LSHTM/UK PHIRST

			weekly study	
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

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