List of guidance from ECDC and recent publications on COVID-19

COVID-19 Digest
20 May 2021

ECDC Outputs

Recent publications

Overview of EU/EEA country recommendations on COVID-19 vaccination with Vaxzevria, and a scoping review of evidence to guide decision-making. Technical Report – 18 May Read more »


Threat Assessment Brief: Emergence of SARS-CoV-2 B.1.617 variants in India and situation in the EU/EEA. Risk Assessment – 11 May Read more »

Considerations on the use of rapid antigen detection (including self-) tests for SARS-CoV-2 in occupational settings. Technical Report – 6 May Read more »

Overview of the implementation of COVID-19 vaccination strategies and vaccine deployment plans in the EU/EEA. Technical Report – 6 May Read more »

Considerations for the use of saliva as sample material for COVID-19 testing. Technical Report – 3 May Read more »

Guidance for representative and targeted genomic SARS-CoV-2 monitoring. Technical Report – 3 May Read more »


All ECDC publications on scientific advice on coronavirus are published. Read more »

Translated guidance and infographics on COVID-19. Available in 26 languages. Read more »

Situation updates on COVID-19

Weekly COVID-19 situation update for the EU/EEA: Includes an update on the number of cases and deaths and geographical distribution of 14-day notification rates for the EU/EEA. Read more »

Weekly COVID-19 situation update worldwide: Includes an update on the number of cases and deaths and geographical distribution of 14-day notification rates worldwide. Read more »

Weekly COVID-19 country overview: Provides an overview of the evolving epidemiological situation for the EU/EEA (including case/death notification rates, testing rates, test positivity, hospital and ICU occupancy/capacity per country). Read more »

Weekly surveillance report on COVID-19: Includes information on severity and risk groups most affected for the EU/EEA, as well as information on The European Surveillance System (TESSy) data.
quality and descriptions about national surveillance systems. Read more »

**Situation dashboard:** Interactive map with the latest available data on COVID-19 (worldwide). Read more »

**Vaccine tracker:** Real time data on national vaccine doses distribution and vaccine update within EU/EEA countries. Read more »

**Vaccine roll-out overview report:** This report complements the Vaccine tracker and provides an overview of the progress in the roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines in adults (aged 18 years and above) across EU/EEA Member States, incl. vaccine doses distributed and administered. Read more »

**Maps in support of the Council Recommendation** on a coordinated approach to the restriction of free movement in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the EU/EEA. These maps are published every Thursday based on a number of different indicators. Read more »

**Response Measures Database** of ECDC and the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission is a regularly updated archive of non-pharmaceutical interventions introduced by 30 countries in the EU/EEA. Read more »

**Updates on SARS-CoV-2 variants**

**SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern:** Overview of the different variants that are currently being considered of concern and of interest as assessed by ECDC. Read more »

**Variants of concern.** The ECDC country overview includes an own section on variants of concern. It includes e.g. a map of sequencing volume, variant data table and weekly variant distribution by country. Read more »

**ECDC releases new dashboard on SARS-CoV-2 variants.** This dashboard provides an overview of the proportion of variants of concern and variants of interest in EU/EEA Member States together with sequencing volumes and complements the ECDC country overview report. Read more »

**Download data on COVID-19**

Much of ECDC’s data can be downloaded from its website. This for instance includes, but is not limited to, reported number of cases and deaths, 14-day case notification rates, ICU and hospital admissions/occupancy, testing rates/positivity, vaccination data and response measures implemented in EU/EEA countries. Link to downloadable data»

**Infographics, Videos, Webinars and more**

**Infographics and leaflets about COVID-19** – Infographics, leaflets and posters on COVID-19. Read more »

**Videos on COVID-19** – What do we know about the COVID-19. Read more »

**ECDC Virtual Academy (EVA)** – COVID-19 Micro learning for public health professionals. Read more »

**Online micro learning activities on non-pharmaceutical countermeasures in relation to COVID-19.** E-learning course. 20 Feb 2020 – 30 June 2021. Read more »

**Other ECDC Outputs**

**ECDC website on COVID-19** – Read more »
ECDC case definition for COVID-19. Read more »

Find the latest evidence on:

Several sections have recently been updated

- Coronaviruses
- Risk factors and risk groups
- Transmission of COVID-19
- COVID-19 infection
- Clinical characteristics of COVID-19
- Diagnostic testing and screening for SARS-CoV-2
- Immune responses and immunity to SARS-CoV-2
- Vaccines and treatment of COVID-19


Testing strategies for SARS-CoV-2 - Patients requiring diagnostic testing. Read more »

Preparedness for COVID-19 – Publications and guidance for preparedness planning. Read more »

Prevention and control of COVID-19 – how to protect yourself, risk groups, COVID-19 vaccination, patient and case management. Read more »

Laboratory support for COVID-19 in the EU/EEA – Testing for SARS-CoV-2 virus, shortages, types and storage of specimens, specimen shipping etc. Read more »

Q & A on COVID-19 – Questions and answers. Read more »

Recent peer-reviewed publications

Disclaimer: In view of the large number of COVID-19 related publications, this list is compiled based on a rapid review of titles and abstracts and subjective selection of peer-reviewed articles, and does not include a qualitative assessment or critical appraisal of the evidence.

1. National Swedish survey showed that child health services and routine immunisation programmes were resilient during the early COVID-19 pandemic Acta Paediatr Read more »
2. Characterisation of asymptomatic patients and efficacy of preventive measures for SARS-CoV-2 infection in a large population of Southern Italy: a cohort study BMJ Open Read more »
3. Effectiveness of the Pfizer-BioNTech and Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccines on covid-19 related symptoms, hospital admissions, and mortality in older adults in England: test negative case-control study BMJ Read more »
4. SARS-CoV-2 transmission in educational settings during an early summer epidemic wave in Luxembourg, 2020 BMC Infect Dis Read more »
5. Trends over time in the risk of adverse outcomes among patients with SARS-CoV-2 infection Clin Infect Dis Read more »
6. The effectiveness of the TWO-DOSE BNT162b2 vaccine: analysis of real-world data Clin Infect Dis Read more »
7. BNT162b2 mRNA vaccination did not prevent an outbreak of SARS COV-2 variant 501Y.V2 in an elderly nursing home but reduced transmission and disease severity Clin Infect Dis Read more »
8. Adverse pregnancy outcomes, maternal complications, and severe illness among U.S. delivery hospitalizations with and without a COVID-19 diagnosis Clin Infect Dis Read
9. Characteristics of patients discharged and readmitted after COVID-19 hospitalisation within a large integrated health system in the United States. Infect Dis (Lond) Read more »

10. Characterisation of asymptomatic patients and efficacy of preventive measures for SARS-CoV-2 infection in a large population of Southern Italy: a cohort study. Int J Infect Dis Read more »

11. Comparative Analysis of Antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 between Asymptomatic and Convalescent Patients. iScience Read more »

12. Association Between Vaccination With BNT162b2 and Incidence of Symptomatic and Asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 Infections Among Health Care Workers. JAMA Read more »

13. Asymptomatic and Symptomatic SARS-CoV-2 Infections After BNT162b2 Vaccination in a Routinely Screened Workforce. JAMA Read more »

14. Effectiveness of BNT162b2 vaccine against the B.1.1.7 variant of SARS-CoV-2 among healthcare workers in Brescia, Italy. J Infect Read more »


16. Post-acute effects of SARS-CoV-2 infection in individuals not requiring hospital admission: a Danish population-based cohort study. Lancet Infect Dis Read more »

17. Effects of different types of written vaccination information on COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy in the UK (OCEANS-III): a single-blind, parallel-group, randomised controlled trial. Lancet Public Health Read more »


19. Factors associated with deaths due to COVID-19 versus other causes: population-based cohort analysis of UK primary care data and linked national death registrations within the OpenSAFELY platform. Lancet Reg Health Eur Read more »

20. SARS-CoV-2 transmission risk from asymptomatic carriers: Results from a mass screening programme in Luxembourg. Lancet Reg Health Eur Read more »

21. Prevalence of antibody positivity to SARS-CoV-2 following the first peak of infection in England: Serial cross-sectional studies of 365,000 adults. Lancet Reg Health Eur Read more »


24. Predicting patients with false negative SARS-CoV-2 testing at hospital admission: A retrospective multi-center study. PLoS One Read more »

25. The incidence, characteristics and outcomes of pregnant women hospitalized with symptomatic and asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infection in the UK from March to September 2020: A national cohort study using the UK Obstetric Surveillance System (UKOSS). PLoS One Read more »


27. Incubation period of COVID-19: A systematic review and meta-analysis. Rev Clin Esp (Barc) Read more »

28. Emergence and Spread of SARS-CoV-2 Lineages B.1.1.7 and P.1 in Italy. Viruses Read more »
Additional Resources

Information from European Institutions, International Organisations and Centres for Disease Control and Prevention

European Union. Re-open EU: interactive tool with country information for travel and transportation [Read more »]

European Commission. Coronavirus response. [Read more »]

European Parliament. The EU's response to the coronavirus. [Read more »]

EU Healthy Gateways: Published guidance and reports for COVID-19

European Agency for Safety and Health (OSHA). COVID-19: Resources for the workplace: EU guidance, telework, resources from EU and international organisations. [Read more »]

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). Research Platform. [Read more »]

European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA). COVID-19 measures. [Read more »]

European Medicines Agency (EMA): Treatments and vaccines for COVID-19. Latest updates on COVID-19. [Read more »]

European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addition (EMCDDA). COVID-19 and drugs. [Read more »]

Health Systems Response Monitor: COVID-19 Health System Response Monitor designed in response to the COVID-19 outbreak to collect and organize up-to-date information on how countries are responding to the crisis

World Health Organization (WHO). Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. [Read more »]

Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO): Novel Coronavirus. [Read more »]

African Centres of Disease Control and Prevention. [Read more »]

Public Health Agency of Canada. [Read more »]

Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention. [Read more »]

Israel Center for Disease Control, Ministry of Health. [Read more »]

US Centers for Disease Control and Control. [Read more »]

COVID-19 information pages of EU/EEA Member States

Austria » Belgium » Bulgaria » Croatia » Cyprus »

Germany » Greece » Hungary » Iceland » Ireland »

Malta » Netherlands » Norway » Poland » Portugal »
Living Evidence Summaries

**COAP:** [COVID-19 Open Access Project](https://www.epi-cn.org/) from the Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM). This database is updated daily with published articles from Pubmed and EMBASE and with preprints from medRxiv and bioRxiv.

**EPPI Centre:** [COVID-19: a living systematic map of the evidence](https://epi-cn.org/): Up-to-date map of the current evidence that are partitioned into broad domains for easy exploration.


**PregCOV-19LSR** by the University of Birmingham. Series of living systematic reviews (LSR) involving pregnant and postnatal women at risk, suspected, and diagnosed to have COVID-19 according to recommended methods. [Read more »](https://epi-cn.org/)

**theBMJ:** [Drug treatments for covid-19: living systematic review and network meta-analysis](https://www.bmj.com)

Science Updates

**Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine CEBM:** [Oxford COVID-19 Evidence Service](https://www.cebmed.org.uk/covid-19). Rapid reviews of primary care questions relating to COVID-19.

**Cochrane:** [Cochrane Reviews](https://www.cochranelibrary.com) and related content from the Cochrane Library relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**COVID Reference International:** Every day the “Top 10 scientific COVID-19 papers of the day” are presented. Also provides multiple other useful links to literature. [Read more »](https://www.covideijing.com/)

**COVID-AMR:** [Peer-reviewed literature](https://www.covideijing.com/) on secondary infections, antibiotic chemotherapy and AMR in the context of COVID-19.

**Evidence Aid:** [Evidence Collection](https://www.evidenceaid.net) on Coronavirus (COVID-19). This evidence collection contains plain-language summaries of high-quality research which are available in English, and translated into French, Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic and Chinese (simplified and traditional).

**Health Information and Quality Authority:** [COVID-19 Publications](https://www.hiqua.org/covid19). Clinical evidence summaries and rapid reviews on various different topics.

**LitCovid:** [curated literature hub](https://www.litcovid.org) for tracking up-to-date scientific information about COVID-19. It is the most comprehensive resource on the subject, providing a central access a large number of relevant articles in PubMed. The articles are updated daily and are further categorized by different research topics and geographic locations for improved access.

**US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:** [COVID-19 Science Updates](https://www.cdc.gov) providing brief summaries of new COVID-19-related studies on many topics, including epidemiology, clinical treatment and management, laboratory science, and modeling. The summaries are released every Tuesday and Friday.
VA-ESP COVID-19 Reviews: U.S. Veterans’ Affairs (VA) Evidence Synthesis Program - Inventory of living systematic reviews and 'rapid reviews', with a flag for living reviews and for reviews meeting minimum quality standards

Wolters Kluwer: Clinical effectiveness COVID-19 Recourses Available to All. View a categorized collection of all UpToDate COVID-19 content including clinical topics, algorithms, patient education and society guideline links.