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

COVID-19 Digest
23 December 2021

.atomicECDC Outputs

Recent publications

Methods for the detection and characterisation of SARS-CoV-2 variants – first update Technical report – 20 Dec Read more »

Rapid assessment of antigenic characterisation capability and capacity for SARS-CoV-2 viruses in EU/EEA laboratories Technical report – 20 Dec Read more »

Rapid Risk Assessment: Assessment of the further emergence of the SARS-CoV-2 Omicron VOC in the context of the ongoing Delta transmission in the EU/EEA, 18th update Risk Assessment – 15 Dec Read more »

Threat Assessment Brief: Implications of the further emergence and spread of the SARS-CoV-2 B.1.1.529 variant of concern (Omicron) for the EU/EEA – first update Risk Assessment – 02 Dec Read more »

Interim public health considerations for COVID-19 vaccination of children aged 5-11 years Technical report – 01 Dec Read more »

Surveillance of COVID-19 in long-term care facilities in the EU/EEA Technical report – 29 Nov Read more »

Threat Assessment Brief: Implications of the emergence and spread of the SARS-CoV-2 B.1.1.529 variant of concern (Omicron) for the EU/EEA Risk Assessment – 26 Nov Read more »

Rapid Risk Assessment: Assessment of the current SARS-CoV-2 epidemiological situation in the EU/EEA, projections for the end-of-year festive season and strategies for response, 17th update Risk Assessment – 24 Nov Read more »

All ECDC scientific advice on coronavirus Read more »

Situation updates on COVID-19

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 »

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 »

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 »
**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 »](#)

**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. [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:

- 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
- Treatment and pharmaceutical prophylaxis
- COVID-19 vaccines

**Surveillance definitions for COVID-19.** High risk exposure/close contact, transmission status, death due to COVID-19. Read more »

**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 »

**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 an additional qualitative assessment or critical appraisal of the evidence by ECDC.

1. Neutralisation of the SARS-CoV-2 Delta variant sub-lineages AY.4.2 and B.1.617.2 with the mutation E484K by Comirnaty (BNT162b2 mRNA) vaccine-elicited sera, Denmark, 1 to 26 November 2021 Eurosurveillance Read more »
2. Increasing risk of breakthrough COVID-19 in outbreaks with high attack rates in European long-term care facilities, July to October 2021 Eurosurveillance Read more »
3. Ratio of asymptomatic COVID-19 cases among ascertained SARS-CoV-2 infections in different regions and population groups in 2020: a systematic review and meta-analysis including 130 123 infections from 241 studies BMJ Open Read more »
4. Global Percentage of Asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 Infections Among the Tested Population and Individuals with Confirmed COVID-19 Diagnosis: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis JAMA Netw Open Read more »
7. COVID-19 trends and severity among symptomatic children aged 0–17 years in 10 European Union countries, 3 August 2020 to 3 October 2021 Eurosurveillance Read more »
8. Epidemiological characterisation of the first 785 SARS-CoV-2 Omicron variant cases in Denmark, December 2021 Eurosurveillance Read more »
10. Outbreak caused by the SARS-CoV-2 Omicron variant in Norway, November to December 2021. Eurosurveillance Read more »

11. Vaccine effectiveness against SARS-CoV-2 infection, hospitalization, and death when combining a first dose ChAdOx1 vaccine with a subsequent mRNA vaccine in Denmark: A nationwide population-based cohort study. PLoS Med Read more »

12. Lockdown and non-COVID-19 deaths: cause-specific mortality during the first wave of the 2020 pandemic in Norway; a population-based register study. BMJ Open Read more »

13. Monitoring populations at increased risk for SARS-CoV-2 infection in the community using population-level demographic and behavioural surveillance. Lancet Reg Health Eur Read more »

14. Risk of venous thrombotic events and thrombocytopenia in sequential time periods after ChAdOx1 and BNT162b2 COVID-19 vaccines: A national cohort study in England. Lancet Reg Health Eur Read more »

15. Impact of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic on routine immunisation services: evidence of disruption and recovery from 170 countries and territories. Lancet Glob Health Read more »

16. A clinical case definition of post-COVID-19 condition by a Delphi consensus. Lancet Infect Dis 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 Read more »

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). 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 Read more »

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 »
Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency. Read more »
Ministry of Health of Mexico. Read more »
UK Health Security Agency. Read more »
US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Read more »

COVID-19 information pages of EU/EEA Member States

Austria » Germany » Malta »
Belgium » Greece » Netherlands »
Bulgaria » Hungary » Norway »
Croatia » Iceland » Poland »
Cyprus » Ireland » Portugal »
Czechia » Italy » Romania »
Denmark » Latvia » Slovakia »
Estonia » Liechtenstein » Slovenia »
Finland » Lithuania » Spain »
France »Luxembourg » Sweden »

Living Evidence Summaries

**COAP:** COVID-19 Open Access Project 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.

**COVID-END McMaster Health Forum:** living evidence syntheses on a variety of topics including efficacy and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines in the presence of variants of concern (VOCs).

**EPPI Centre:** COVID-19: a living systematic map of the evidence. 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 »

**theBMJ:** Drug treatments for COVID-19: living systematic review and network meta-analysis

**WHO:** Living WHO guideline on drugs for COVID-19 (published by theBMJ)

Science Updates

**Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine CEBM:** Oxford COVID-19 Evidence Service. Rapid reviews of primary care questions relating to COVID-19.

**Cochrane:** Cochrane Reviews 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 »](#)

**Evidence Aid:** Evidence Collection 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 Ireland:** COVID-19 Publications: Clinical evidence summaries and rapid reviews on various topics.

**LitCovid:** curated literature hub for tracking up-to-date scientific information about COVID-19. It is the most comprehensive resource on the subject, providing a central access to a large number of relevant articles in PubMed.

**US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:** COVID-19 Science Updates 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 Resources Available to All. View a categorized collection of all UpToDate COVID-19 content including clinical topics, algorithms, patient education and society guideline links.