



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

COVID-19 Digest
09 December 2021

ECDC Outputs

Recent publications

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 »](#)

Overview of the implementation of COVID-19 vaccination strategies and deployment plans in the EU/EEA Technical Report – 11 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. Estimated number of deaths directly averted in people 60 years and older as a result of COVID-19 vaccination in the WHO European Region, December 2020 to November 2021 *Eurosurveillance* [Read more »](#)
2. Estimating averted COVID-19 cases, hospitalisations, intensive care unit admissions and deaths by COVID-19 vaccination, Italy, January–September 2021 *Eurosurveillance* [Read more »](#)
3. COVID-19 Testing in Sweden During 2020-Split Responsibilities and Multi-Level Challenges *Front Public Health* [Read more »](#)
4. Nationwide effectiveness of five SARS-CoV-2 vaccines in Hungary - The HUN-VE study *Clin Microbiol Infect* [Read more »](#)
5. Elapsed time since BNT162b2 vaccine and risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection: test negative design study *BMJ* [Read more »](#)
6. Prevention of SARS-CoV-2 transmission during a large, live, indoor gathering (SPRING): a non-inferiority, randomised, controlled trial *Lancet Infect Dis* [Read more »](#)
7. Aggressive containment, suppression, and mitigation of covid-19: lessons learnt from eight countries *BMJ* [Read more »](#)
8. Vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics for covid-19: redesigning systems to improve pandemic response *BMJ* [Read more »](#)
9. Odds of Testing Positive for SARS-CoV-2 Following Receipt of 3 vs 2 Doses of the BNT162b2 mRNA Vaccine *JAMA Intern Med* [Read more »](#)
10. Surge in SARS-CoV-2 transmission in school-aged children and household contacts, England, August to October 2021 *Eurosurveillance* [Read more »](#)
11. Under-diagnosis of SARS-CoV-2 infections among children aged 0–15 years, a nationwide seroprevalence study, Israel, January 2020 to March 2021 *Eurosurveillance* [Read more »](#)
12. Impact of SARS-CoV-2 Delta variant on incubation, transmission settings and vaccine effectiveness: Results from a nationwide case-control study in France *Lancet Reg Health Eur* [Read more »](#)
13. To vaccinate or not to vaccinate!? Predictors of willingness to receive Covid-19 vaccination in Europe, the U.S., and China *PLoS One* [Read more »](#)
14. Structural basis for continued antibody evasion by the SARS-CoV-2 receptor binding domain *Science* [Read more »](#)
15. Safety and immunogenicity of seven COVID-19 vaccines as a third dose (booster) following two doses of ChAdOx1 nCov-19 or BNT162b2 in the UK (COV-BOOST): a blinded, multicentre, randomised, controlled, phase 2 trial *Lancet* [Read more »](#)
16. Duration of SARS-CoV-2 Natural Immunity and Protection against the Delta Variant: A Retrospective Cohort Study *Clin Infect Dis* [Read more »](#)
17. Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children-United States, February 2020-July 2021 *Clin Infect Dis* [Read more »](#)
18. Optimising health and economic impacts of COVID-19 vaccine prioritisation strategies in the WHO European Region: a mathematical modelling study *Lancet Reg Health Eur* [Read more »](#)
19. National health governance, science and the media: drivers of COVID-19 responses in Germany, Sweden and the UK in 2020 *BMJ Glob Health* [Read more »](#)
20. COVID-19 surveillance data quality issues: a national consecutive case series *BMJ Open* [Read more »](#)

Preprints and news Omicron (B.1.1.529 VOC)

Disclaimer: Exceptionally and for reasons of actuality, we are including Omicron preprints and other reports in this edition of the COVID-19 digest. Note that these are very preliminary findings. Preprints have not been peer-reviewed. All publications require critical assessment, but this applies even more to preprints.

21. Increased risk of SARS-CoV-2 reinfection associated with emergence of the Omicron variant in South Africa Preprint posted 02 Dec 2021 [Read more »](#)
22. Tshwane District Omicron Variant Patient Profile - Early Features Posted 02 Dec 2021 [Read more »](#)
23. Quantification of the neutralization resistance of the Omicron variant of concern Preprint posted 02 Dec 2021 [Read more »](#)
24. SARS-CoV-2 Omicron has extensive but incomplete escape of Pfizer BNT162b2 elicited neutralization and required ACE2 for infection Preprint posted 08 Dec 2021 [Read more »](#)
25. Reduced neutralization of SARS-CoV2 Omicron variant by vaccine sera and monoclonal antibodies Preprint posted 08 Dec 2021 [Read more »](#)
26. UK Health Security Agency Omicron VOC-21NOV-01 (B.1.1.529) update in cases, S gene target failure and risk assessment Posted 08 Dec 2021 [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). COVID-19. [Read more »](#)

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

European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (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 »](#)

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 »](#)



[Belgium »](#)



[Bulgaria »](#)



[Croatia »](#)



[Cyprus »](#)



[Czechia »](#)



[Denmark »](#)



[Estonia »](#)



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[Portugal »](#)



[Romania »](#)



[Slovakia »](#)



[Slovenia »](#)



[Spain »](#)



[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.

NMA initiative: [COVID-19 – living initiative](#). Living mapping and living systematic review of Covid-19 trials.

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 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.

World Health Organization: [COVID-19 Global literature on coronavirus disease](#). Literature database.