

Covid-19 Evidence Update

Summarized and appraised resources

15/11/2021

The following resources are available via electronically or in print. Please follow links to access full text online, or contact the library if you have any difficulties with the links.

The resources included in this update are summaries or critically appraised articles. If you would like a more specific search conducted please email kgh-tr.library.service@nhs.net

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Royal College/Society Guidance and Point of Care Tools

Latest information and guidance

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|---|--|
| <p>NICE</p> <p>COVID-19 rapid guideline: managing COVID-19 (NG191) Published 23/03/2021 Last updated 10/08/2021</p> <p>Rapid guidelines and evidence summaries</p> <p>Speciality guides (NHS England and NHS Improvement advice has moved here)</p> | <p>NHS England and NHS Improvement Secondary care (Includes Prevention, Infection control, Assessment, Management, Discharge, Isolation, Estates and facilities, Finance, Workforce, Cancer ...)</p> |
| <p>Royal College of Emergency Medicine Covid-19 resources</p> | <p>Association for Palliative Medicine Covid 19 and Palliative, End of Life and Bereavement Care</p> |
| <p>Royal College of General Practitioners COVID-19</p> | <p>Royal College of Obstetrics & Gynaecologists Coronavirus (COVID-19), pregnancy and women’s health</p> |
| <p>Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health Key topics COVID 19</p> | <p>Royal College of Pathologists COVID-19 Resources Hub</p> |
| <p>Royal College of Psychiatrists COVID-19: Community mental health settings</p> | <p>Royal College of Surgeons COVID 19 Information Hub</p> |
| <p>Royal Pharmaceutical Society COVID-19</p> | <p>British Society of Echocardiography COVID-19 clinical guidance</p> |
| <p>British Society of Gastroenterology COVID 19 updates</p> | <p>British Society for Haematology COVID-19 Updates</p> |

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|---|---|
| <p>British Society for Rheumatology COVID-19 updates for members</p> | <p>Combined Intensive Care Society, Association of Anaesthetists, Royal College of Anaesthetists, Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine guidance Clinical Guidance</p> |
| <p>BMJ Best Practice Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) Management of coexisting conditions in the context of COVID-19</p> | <p>DynaMed Covid 19 (Novel Coronavirus) Covid-19 and Pediatric Patients Covid 19 and Special Populations Covid-19 and Patients with Cancer Covid-19 and Cardiovascular Disease Patients Covid-19 and Patients with Chronic Kidney Disease and End-stage renal Disease Covid-19 and Pregnant Patients Covid-19-associated Coagulopathy</p> |
| <p>Don't forget the bubbles An evidence summary of paediatric Covid-19 literature Covid-19 – a seslection of evidence based summaries and articles.</p> | |

New Guidance and Reports

NICE

[COVID-19 rapid guideline: managing COVID-19.](#)

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE); 2021.

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng191>

On **3 November**, we added a new recommendation on inhaled budesonide and updated the recommendations on casirivimab and imdevimab, clarifying that these recommendations apply to people who are hospitalised because of COVID-19. *Freely available online*

[COVID-19 rapid guideline: managing the long-term effects of COVID-19.](#)

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE); 2021.

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng188>

[This guideline covers identifying, assessing and managing the long-term effects of COVID-19, often described as 'long COVID'. On 11 November, NICE made new recommendations and updated existing recommendations on identification; planning care; multidisciplinary rehabilitation; follow up, monitoring and discharge; and service organisation. NICE also updated the list of common symptoms, emphasising that these may be different for children.]

Freely available online

Other

[Effect of 12 mg vs 6 mg of Dexamethasone on the Number of Days Alive Without Life Support in Adults With COVID-19 and Severe Hypoxemia: The COVID STEROID 2 Randomized Trial](#)

The COVID STEROID 2 Trial Group

https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2785529?guestAccessKey=94b1be93-c4fc-4e67-8439-9a741357f051&utm_source=silverchair&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=article_alert-jama&utm_content=etoc&utm_term=110921

[Among patients with COVID-19 and severe hypoxemia, 12 mg/d of dexamethasone compared with 6 mg/d of dexamethasone did not result in statistically significantly more days alive without life support at 28 days. However, the trial may have been underpowered to identify a significant difference.]

Editorial: [Glucocorticoid Dose in COVID-19: Lessons for Clinical Trials During a Pandemic](#); Steven A. Webb, MD, PhD; Alisa M. Higgins, PhD; Colin J. McArthur, MBChB

Video: [Effect of 12 mg vs 6 mg of Dexamethasone on the Number of Days Alive Without Life Support in Adults With COVID-19 and Severe Hypoxemia](#)

[Current Insights Into Respiratory Virus Transmission and Potential Implications for Infection Control Programs: A Narrative Review.](#)

Klompas M. *Annals of Internal Medicine* 2021;;doi.org/10.7326/M21-2780.

[This article reviews recent studies on aerosol transmission of respiratory viruses and considers their implications for infection control policies in health care settings.]

Contact the Library service for a copy.

[Efficacy and safety of IL-6 inhibitors in patients with COVID-19 pneumonia: a systematic review and meta-analysis of multicentre, randomized trials.](#)

Belletti A. *Annals of Intensive Care* 2021;11:152.

[Review (15 RCTs; n=9320) found IL-6 inhibitors linked to reduced all-cause mortality at longest follow-up (1315/5380 [24.4%] vs. 1080/3814 [28.3%] controls, RR 0.90; 95% CI 0.84-0.96; p = 0.003, with 13 studies included), with no increase in adverse events and secondary infections.]

Freely available online

[Efficacy and safety of tocilizumab versus standard care/placebo in patients with COVID-19; a systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized clinical trials.](#)

Vela D. *British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology* 2021;;doi.org/10.1111/bcp.15124.

[In COVID-19 patients with moderate to critical COVID-19, use of tocilizumab reduces all-cause mortality and progression to mechanical ventilation. This efficacy was not associated with higher number of serious adverse events.]

Freely available online

[IV Vitamin C in Critically Ill Patients: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis.](#)

Patel JJ. *Critical Care Medicine* 2021;;doi: 10.1097/CCM.0000000000005320.

[IV vitamin C administration appears safe and may be associated with a trend toward reduction in overall mortality. High-dose IV vitamin C monotherapy may be associated with improved overall mortality, and further randomized controlled trials are warranted.]

Contact the library for a copy of this article

[Zinc for the prevention or treatment of acute viral respiratory tract infections in adults: a rapid systematic review and meta-analysis of randomised controlled trials.](#)

Hunter J. *BMJ Open* 2021;11(11):e047474.

[Review (28 RCTs; n=5446; none specific to Covid-19) found some evidence suggesting zinc may prevent symptoms and shorten duration; comparative efficacy of different doses/formulations were unclear. The quality of evidence was limited; further research is warranted.]

Freely available online

[Covid-19 Evidence Alerts from McMaster Plus](#)

COVID-19 Evidence Alerts to current best evidence for clinical care of people with threatened, suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection. Reports are critically appraised for scientific merit, and those with acceptable scientific merit are appraised for relevance and importance by frontline clinicians. The studies listed below meet their criteria for quality. The site also lists other studies published which do not meet their criteria, or do not belong to a study category they appraise. ([More information available](#)).

| Diagnosis |
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| Diagnostic Performance of Self-Collected Saliva Versus Nasopharyngeal Swab for the Molecular Detection of SARS-CoV-2 in the Clinical Setting. <i>Uddin MKM, Shirin T, Hossain ME, et al. Microbiol Spectr</i> |
| Analytical performance of the point-of-care BIOSYNEX COVID-19 Ag BSS for the detection of SARS-CoV-2 nucleocapsid protein in nasopharyngeal swabs: a prospective field evaluation during the COVID-19 third wave in France. <i>Fitoussi F, Tonen-Wolyec S, Awaida N, et al. Infection</i> |
| Evaluation of a saliva molecular point of care for the detection of SARS-CoV-2 in ambulatory care. <i>LeGoff J, Kerneis S, Elie C, et al. Sci Rep</i> |
| Multisite Clinical Validation of Isothermal Amplification-Based SARS-CoV-2 Detection Assays Using Different Sampling Strategies. <i>Desai KT, Alfaro K, Mendoza L, et al. Microbiol Spectr</i> |
| Comparison of Allplex(TM) SARS-CoV-2 Assay, Easy SARS-CoV-2 WE and Lumipulse quantitative SARS-CoV-2 antigen test performance using automated systems for the diagnosis of COVID-19. <i>Sberna G, Basile F, Guarino ML, et al. Int J Infect Dis</i> |
| Elevated NGAL is Associated with the Severity of Kidney Injury and Poor Prognosis of Patients with COVID-19. <i>Xu K, Shang N, Levitman A, et al. Kidney Int Rep</i> |
| Rapid antigen test to identify COVID-19 infected patients with and without symptoms admitted to the Emergency Department. <i>Turcato G, Zaboli A, Pfeifer N, et al. Am J Emerg Med</i> |
| Feasibility and Effectiveness Assessment of SARS-CoV-2 Antigenic Tests in Mass Screening of a Pediatric Population and Correlation with the Kinetics of Viral Loads. <i>Lanari M, Biserni GB, Pavoni M, et al. Viruses</i> |
| Assessing a chip based rapid RTPCR test for SARS CoV-2 detection (TrueNat assay): A diagnostic accuracy study. <i>Ghoshal U, Garg A, Vasanth S, et al. PLoS One</i> |
| Factors that Influence the Reported Sensitivity of Rapid Antigen Testing for SARS-CoV-2. <i>Parvu V, Gary DS, Mann J, et al. Front Microbiol</i> |
| Clinical Prediction Guide |
| Early warning scores to assess the probability of critical illness in patients with COVID-19. <i>Veldhuis L, Ridderikhof ML, Schinkel M, et al. Emerg Med J</i> |
| Etiology |
| Two-dose COVID-19 vaccination and possible arthritis flare among patients with rheumatoid arthritis in Hong Kong. <i>Li X, Tong X, Yeung WWY, et al. Ann Rheum Dis</i> |
| Real-world safety data for the Pfizer BNT162b2 SARS-CoV-2 vaccine, historical cohort study. <i>Shasha D, Bareket R, Sikron FH, et al. Clin Microbiol Infect</i> |
| Does prior exposure to immune checkpoint inhibitors treatment affect incidence and mortality of COVID-19 among the cancer patients: The systematic review and meta-analysis. <i>Liu Y, Liu S, Qin Y, et al. Int Immunopharmacol</i> |
| Primary Prevention |

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| <p>Immunogenicity Rates After SARS-CoV-2 Vaccination in People With End-stage Kidney Disease: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis. Chen JJ, Lee TH, Tian YC, et al. JAMA Netw Open</p> |
| <p>Safety, Immunogenicity, and Efficacy of COVID-19 Vaccines in Children and Adolescents: A Systematic Review. Lv M, Luo X, Shen Q, et al. Vaccines (Basel)</p> |
| <p>COVID-19 transmission during swimming-related activities: a rapid systematic review. Yaacoub S, Khabsa J, El-Khoury R, et al. BMC Infect Dis</p> |
| <p>Prognosis</p> |
| <p>Illness severity indicators in newborns by COVID-19 status in the United States, March-December 2020. Wallace B, Chang D, Woodworth K, et al. J Perinatol</p> |
| <p>Prediabetes and COVID-19 severity, an underestimated risk factor: A systematic review and meta-analysis. Heidarpour M, Abhari AP, Sadeghpour N, et al. Diabetes Metab Syndr</p> |
| <p>Lack of Evidence of COVID-19 Being a Risk Factor of Alopecia Areata: Results of a National Cohort Study in South Korea. Kim J, Hong K, Gomez Gomez RE, et al. Front Med (Lausanne)</p> |
| <p>Sex and Organ-Specific Risk of Major Adverse Renal or Cardiac Events in Solid Organ Transplant Recipients with COVID-19. Vinson AJ, Dai R, Agarwal G, et al. Am J Transplant</p> |
| <p>Severity of SARS-CoV-2 alpha variant (B.1.1.7) in England. Grint DJ, Wing K, Houlihan C, et al. Clin Infect Dis</p> |
| <p>Treatment</p> |
| <p>Corticosteroid use in ARDS and its Application to Evolving Therapeutics for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): A Systematic Review. Landolf KM, Lemieux SM, Rose C, et al. Pharmacotherapy</p> |
| <p>Awake Prone Positioning in the Management of COVID-19 Pneumonia: A Systematic Review. Chilkoti GT, Mohta M, Saxena AK, et al. Indian J Crit Care Med</p> |
| <p>Effect of qigong exercise and acupressure rehabilitation program on pulmonary function and respiratory symptoms in patients hospitalized with severe COVID-19: a randomized controlled trial. Liu ST, Zhan C, Ma YJ, et al. Integr Med Res</p> |
| <p>Decreased mortality and increased side effects in COVID-19 patients treated with IL-6 receptor antagonists: systematic review and meta-analysis. Malgie J, Schoones JW, Zeegers MP, et al. Sci Rep</p> |
| <p>Efficacy and Safety of Sarilumab in COVID-19: A Systematic Review. Chamlagain R, Shah S, Sharma Paudel B, et al. Interdiscip Perspect Infect Dis</p> |
| <p>Early Treatment for Covid-19 with SARS-CoV-2 Neutralizing Antibody Sotrovimab. Gupta A, Gonzalez-Rojas Y, Juarez E, et al. N Engl J Med</p> |
| <p>American Society of Hematology living guidelines on the use of anticoagulation for thromboprophylaxis in patients with COVID-19: May 2021 update on the use of intermediate intensity anticoagulation in critically ill patients. Cuker A, Tseng EK, Nieuwlaat R, et al. Blood Adv</p> |
| <p>Inhaled and intranasal ciclesonide for the treatment of covid-19 in adult outpatients: CONTAIN phase II randomised controlled trial. Ezer N, Belga S, Daneman N, et al. BMJ</p> |
| <p>Comparison of the Effect of Unfractionated Heparin and Enoxaparin Sodium at Different Doses on the Course of COVID-19-Associated Coagulopathy. Oliynyk O, Barg W, Slifirczyk A, et al. Life (Basel)</p> |
| <p>Efficacy of Jinhua Qinggan Granules Combined With Western Medicine in the Treatment of Confirmed and Suspected COVID-19: A Randomized Controlled Trial. An X, Xu X, Xiao M, et al. Front Med (Lausanne)</p> |
| <p>Efficacy of Interferon-beta in Moderate-to-Severe Hospitalised Cases of COVID-19: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis. Kumar S, Saurabh MK, Narasimha VL, et al. Clin Drug Investig</p> |

[Low vitamin D levels do not aggravate COVID-19 risk or death, and vitamin D supplementation does not improve outcomes in hospitalized patients with COVID-19: a meta-analysis and GRADE assessment of cohort studies and RCTs.](#)

Chen J, Mei K, Xie L, et al. **Nutr J**

[Efficacy and safety of IL-6 inhibitors in patients with COVID-19 pneumonia: a systematic review and meta-analysis of multicentre, randomized trials.](#)

Belletti A, Campochiaro C, Marmiere M, et al. **Ann Intensive Care**

[2021 update of the EULAR points to consider on the use of immunomodulatory therapies in COVID-19.](#)

Alunno A, Najm A, Machado PM, et al. **Ann Rheum Dis**

[Therapeutic Effects of Traditional Chinese Medicine \(Maxingshigan-Weijing Decoction\) on COVID-19: an open-label randomized controlled trial.](#)

Zeng C, Yuan Z, Zhu J, et al. **Integr Med Res**

Cochrane Systematic Reviews

[Cochrane Evidence on COVID-19: a roundup](#)

No new reviews since the last bulletin.

Evidence Aid

<https://evidenceaid.org/evidence/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).

The collection includes summaries of systematic reviews that might be relevant to the direct impact of COVID-19 (including reviews of emerging research, as well as existing reviews of relevant interventions) on health and other outcomes, the impact of the COVID-19 response on other conditions, and issues to consider for the recovery period after COVID-19.

[Mental health and psychosocial support strategies in highly contagious emerging disease outbreaks](#)

Added November 14, 2021

Citation: Kunzler AM, Stoffers-Winterling J, Stoll M, et al. *Mental health and psychosocial support strategies in highly contagious emerging disease outbreaks of substantial public concern: A systematic scoping review.* PLoS ONE. 2021;16(2):e0244748.

Language: Abstract and full text only available in EN.

Free to view: Yes.

Funding sources: German Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF) as part of the Network for University Medicine.

What is this? Disease outbreaks can impact on the mental health of healthcare workers and the general population.

In this systematic review, the authors searched for studies of psychological interventions before, during and after emerging infectious disease outbreaks (SARS, MERS, Ebola and COVID-19) for healthcare workers, community members and individuals at risk. They did not restrict their searches by date, language or status of publication and did the search on 7 May 2020. They included 19 studies (including two randomised trials), which were from Canada (2 studies), China (1), Hong Kong (2), Liberia (2), Sierra Leone (4), Sierra Leona and Liberia (2), South Korea (1), Taiwan (1), USA (3) and West Africa (1). They also identified an additional 7 unpublished studies.

What was found: Providing individuals with information related to infectious disease outbreaks and teaching them psychological coping strategies improved psychological outcomes.

The use of a train the trainer models and provision of interventions by trained peers can be beneficial.

Healthcare workers, patients and the general population experienced higher psychological stress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting from factors such as quarantine measures.

Implications: The authors of the review stated that psychological interventions must adapt to the cultural context of the respective group or community. They stated that further research is needed to inform policy and practice on mental health and psychological support before, during and after infectious disease outbreaks.

Other considerations: The authors of the review discussed their findings in the context of occupation, age, education and culture.

[**Mental health among healthcare workers and other vulnerable groups during the COVID-19 pandemic: overview of reviews \(search up to August 2020\)**](#)

Added November 12, 2021

Citation: Uphoff EP, Lombardo C, Johnston G, et al. *Mental health among healthcare workers and other vulnerable groups during the COVID-19 pandemic and other coronavirus outbreaks: A rapid systematic review*. PLoS ONE. 2021;16(8):e0254821.

Language: Abstract and full text only available in EN.

Free to view: Yes.

Funding sources: Mental Health Foundation and National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) through Cochrane Infrastructure funding to the Common Mental Disorders Cochrane Review Group.

What is this? Healthcare workers and vulnerable populations are particularly at risk of mental distress during infectious disease outbreaks.

In this rapid overview, the authors searched for systematic reviews of studies on adults and children considered to be at risk of experiencing mental health inequities in the COVID-19 pandemic. They restricted their searches to articles published in English and did the search up to August 2020. They included 25 reviews.

What was found: Various mental health symptoms such as depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, sleep issues and burnout were common among healthcare workers, COVID-19 patients with physical comorbidities, children and adolescents.

Implications: The authors of the review concluded that practical and emotional support in the workplace might improve the mental health status of healthcare workers. They stated that there was a lack of evidence on mental health interventions and mental health impacts on vulnerable groups in the population in the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Other considerations: The authors of the review discussed their findings in the context of place of residence, occupation and age.

[Masks and respirators to protect healthcare workers against respiratory viruses \(research up to 10 November 2020\)](#)

Added November 11, 2021

Citation: Li J, Qiu Y, Zhang Y, et al. *Protective efficient comparisons among all kinds of respirators and masks for health-care workers against respiratory viruses: A PRISMA-compliant network meta-analysis*. *Medicine*. 2021;100(34):e27026.

Language: Abstract and full text only available in EN.

Free to view: Yes.

Funding sources: National Key R&D Program of China (2018YFC1002301).

What is this? Masks and respirators are worn by healthcare to reduce the transmission of respiratory viruses.

For this systematic review and network meta-analysis, the authors searched for studies of the effects of masks or respirators for protecting healthcare workers against respiratory infectious diseases in healthcare facilities. They restricted their searches to articles published in English and Chinese up to 10 November 2020. They included 32 studies: six randomized trials and 26 observational studies.

What was found: At the time of this review, there was no significant evidence of a difference between N95 respirators and medical masks for protecting healthcare workers from respiratory viruses, but low-quality evidence suggested that N95 respirators have a stronger protective effectiveness against coronavirus infections than medical masks.

Implications: The authors of the review recommend that healthcare workers wear N95 respirators in high-risk areas for coronaviruses (e.g., clinical SARS-CoV-2 settings) and medical masks in low-risk areas.

Other considerations: The authors of the review did not discuss their findings in the context of issues relating to health equity.

Dynamed - [COVID-19 \(Novel Coronavirus\)](#)

Latest updates

Evidence Updated 12 Nov 2021

among adolescents aged 12-18 years in the United States, effectiveness of 2 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine (BNT162b2) may be 93% against COVID-19 hospitalization (MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2021 Oct 22)

[View in topic](#)

Evidence Updated 12 Nov 2021

Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA vaccine (BNT162b2) may have 90.7% efficacy against COVID-19 in children aged 5-11 years (N Engl J Med 2021 Nov 9 early online)

[View in topic](#)

Evidence Updated 12 Nov 2021

prior SARS-CoV-2 infection associated with reduced incidence of breakthrough infection after 2 doses of mRNA vaccines (JAMA 2021 Nov 1 early online)

[View in topic](#)

Evidence Updated 10 Nov 2021

in adults with COVID-19 receiving treatment for immune-mediated inflammatory disease, TNF inhibitor monotherapy associated with lower likelihood of COVID-19-specific hospitalization or death than most other monotherapy or combination immunomodulatory treatments (JAMA Netw Open 2021 Oct 1)

[View in topic](#)

Evidence Updated 9 Nov 2021

anaphylaxis incidence reported to be 7.91 cases per million vaccinations in adults who received SARS-CoV-2 vaccine (J Allergy Clin Immunol Pract 2021 Oct)

[View in topic](#)

Evidence Updated 9 Nov 2021

randomized trial comparing safety and immunogenicity of CpG 1018 and aluminum hydroxide-adjuvanted SARS-CoV-2 S-2P protein vaccine MVC-COV1901 vs. placebo in 3,854 healthy adults \geq 20 years old in Taiwan (Lancet Respir Med 2021 Oct 13 early online)

[View in topic](#)

Evidence Updated 9 Nov 2021

confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection rate during July 11-31, 2021 in Israel may be 1.6-2.2 times higher in all age groups (16-39 years, 40-59 years, and \geq 60 years) who became fully vaccinated with BNT162b2 during first vaccination period when their age group became eligible than in persons in same age group who became fully vaccinated 2 months later (N Engl J Med 2021 Oct 27 early online)

[View in topic](#)

Evidence Updated 5 Nov 2021

serologic response reported after 2 doses of BNT162b2 (Pfizer-BioNTech) or mRNA-1273 (Moderna) vaccine reported in 94% of adults with inflammatory bowel disease and in 80% of adults with rheumatic disease (Gastroenterology 2021 Sep 29 early online)

[View in topic](#)

Guideline Summary Updated 1 Nov 2021

NIH recommendations on bamlanivimab and etesevimab for postexposure prophylaxis (NIH 2021 Oct 19)

[View in topic](#)

Guideline Summary Updated 1 Nov 2021

National Institutes of Health (NIH) recommendations on casirivimab and imdevimab for postexposure prophylaxis (NIH 2021 Oct 19)

[View in topic](#)

BMJ Best Practice

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

11 Nov 2021

What's new at this update

First oral antiviral approved in the UK

- The UK's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has approved molnupiravir for the treatment of mild to moderate disease in adults with a positive SARS-CoV-2 diagnostic test and who have at least one risk factor for developing severe disease. It is the first oral antiviral medication to be approved for COVID-19. Molnupiravir should be started within 5 days of symptom onset, and is administered as a 5-day course.
- See the Emerging section for more information.

FDA authorises Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine in children 5 to 11 years of age

- The US Food and Drug Administration has authorised the use of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine in children aged 5 to 11 years. Authorisation was based on an ongoing randomised, placebo-controlled clinical trial of approximately 4700 children that reports 90.7% efficacy rate. A specific paediatric formulation of the vaccine is available for this age group due to the lower dose required.
- See the Prevention section for more information.

WHO recommends additional vaccine dose in immunocompromised people

- The World Health Organization recommends that the primary vaccination series for all COVID-19 vaccines should be extended to include an additional dose in moderately to severely immunocompromised people. Heterologous vaccine schedules may be considered in certain circumstances.
- See the Prevention section for more information.

WHO recommends administering COVID-19 and influenza vaccines together

- The World Health Organization recommends that coadministration of any dose of a COVID-19 vaccine with an inactivated seasonal influenza vaccine is acceptable, and may be considered during the same visit. WHO recommends using the contralateral limb for injection, when the two vaccines are administered during the same visit, to minimise any perceived risk.
- See the Prevention section for more information.

29 Oct 2021

[Guidelines recommend measures to manage acute and chronic conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic: updated](#)

Further guidelines have been published to inform the management of patients with coexisting conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

New this update:

- Considerations for perinatal care (updated)
- Routine immunisation (updated)
- Considerations for the mental health of adults (updated)
- Potential impact of COVID-19 on diagnosis and management of other conditions (updated)
- Chronic pain (updated)
- Crohn's disease (updated)
- Diabetes (type 2) (updated)
- HIV infection (updated)
- Learning disability (updated)
- Multiple sclerosis (updated)
- Obesity in adults (updated)
- Rheumatoid arthritis (updated)
- Smoking cessation (updated)
- Ulcerative colitis (updated)

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