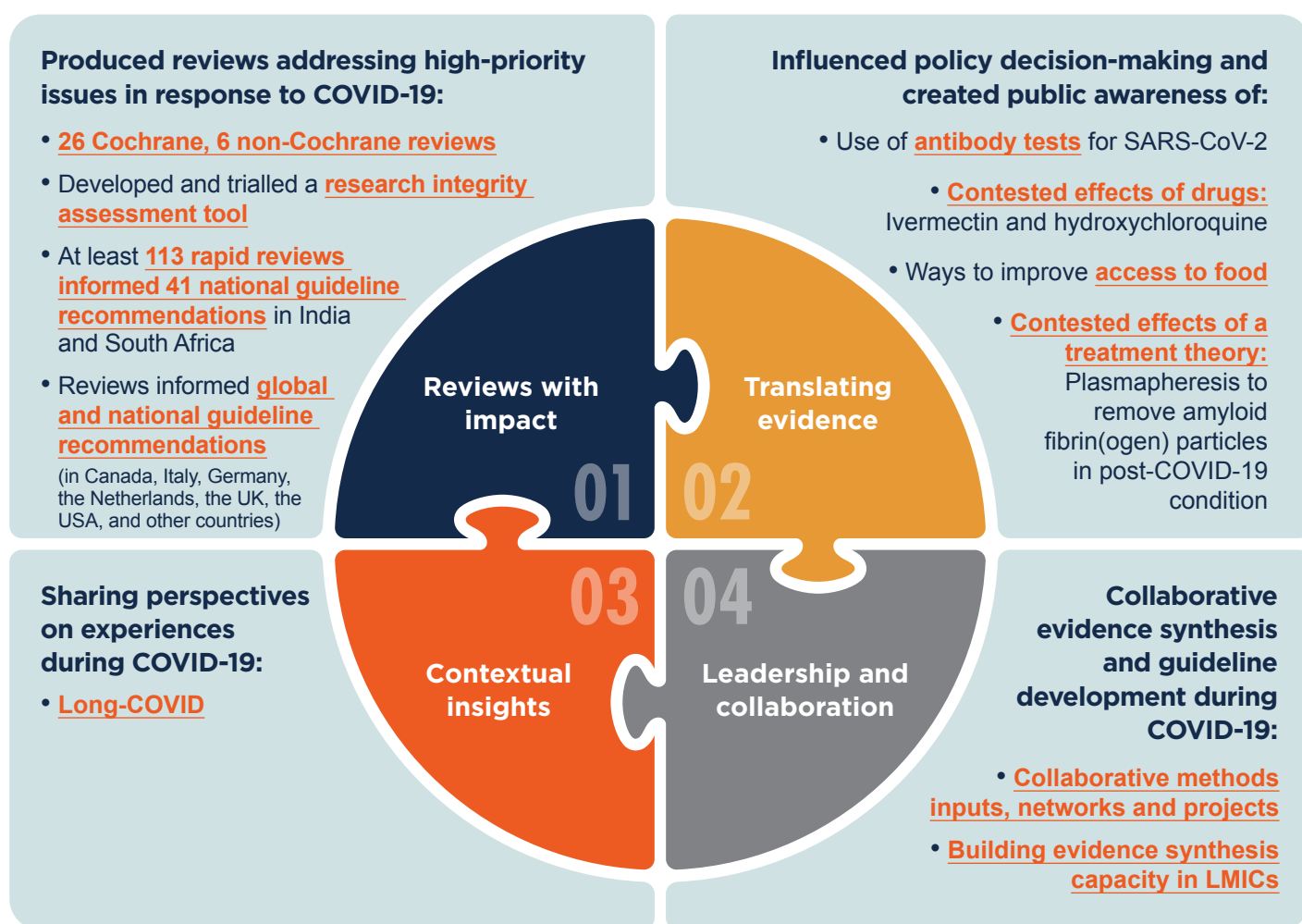


READ-It influenced timely evidence synthesis in response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Introduction: The Research, Evidence and Development Initiative (READ-It) provides core sustained financial support to institutions in South Africa, India, Norway and the UK, to do evidence synthesis and related activities aimed at improving health outcomes in the poor and vulnerable in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). The emergence of the **COVID-19 pandemic** posed many challenges that required collaborative decision-making by policy makers. We covered key policy areas, including **diagnostic testing**, and the **effectiveness of various interventions for preventing and managing COVID-19 disease**. In addition, we shared **perspectives of patients affected by long-term COVID-19 disease**.

Here, we describe COVID-19 outputs in **four areas**, enabled by READ-It over a 5-year period.



Conclusion: READ-It research facilitated the development of a collaborative evidence base that assisted both global and national policymakers, including those in LMICs, to make timely decisions in response to COVID-19.

Supporting information

1. Reviews with impact

Produced systematic reviews addressing high-priority issues in response to COVID-19:

- 26 Cochrane reviews (15 new, 11 updates), 6 non-Cochrane reviews (3 new, 3 updates)

COCHRANE REVIEWS

► 6 diagnosis reviews

- [Antibody tests for identification of current and past infection with SARS-CoV-2](#)
 - [2022 review update](#)
- [Signs and symptoms to determine if a patient presenting in primary care or hospital outpatient settings has COVID-19](#)
 - [2021 review update](#)
 - [2022 review update](#)
- [Rapid, point-of-care antigen and molecular-based tests for diagnosis of SARS-CoV-2 infection](#)
 - [2021 review update](#) (antigen tests)
 - [2022 review update](#) (antigen tests)
- [Thoracic imaging tests for the diagnosis of COVID-19](#)
 - [November 2020 review update](#)
 - [2021 review update](#)
 - [2022 review update](#)
- [Routine laboratory testing to determine if a patient has COVID-19](#)
- [Accuracy of routine laboratory tests to predict mortality and deterioration to severe or critical COVID-19 in people with SARS-CoV-2](#)

► 8 intervention reviews

- [Chloroquine or hydroxychloroquine for prevention and treatment of COVID-19](#)
- [Ivermectin for preventing and treating COVID-19](#)
 - [2022 review update](#)
- [Nirmatrelvir combined with ritonavir for preventing and treating COVID-19](#)
 - [2023 review update](#)
- [Plasmapheresis to remove amyloid fibrin\(ogen\) particles for treating the post-COVID-19 condition](#)
- [Favipiravir for treating COVID-19](#)
- [Hand cleaning with ash for reducing the spread of viral and bacterial infections: a rapid review](#)
- [Quarantine alone or in combination with other public health measures to control COVID-19](#)
 - [2020 review update](#)
- [Community-levels interventions for improving access to food in low- and middle-income countries](#)

► 1 prognosis review

- [Obesity as an independent risk factor for COVID-19 severity and mortality](#)

NON-COCHRANE REVIEWS

- [Ventilation techniques and risk for transmission of coronavirus disease, including COVID-19: a living systematic review of multiple streams of evidence](#)
 - [Review update 1](#)
 - [Review update 2](#)
 - [Review update 3](#)
- [Transmission of respiratory viruses when using public ground transport: a rapid review to inform public health recommendations during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- [Safety of COVID-19 Pfizer-BioNtech \(BNT162b2\) mRNA vaccination in adolescents aged 12–17 years: a systematic review and meta-analysis](#)

- Developed and trialled [a research integrity assessment tool](#) for identifying and managing problematic trials

- At least 113 rapid reviews informed 41 national guideline recommendations in [India](#) and [South Africa](#)

► Rapid reviews

INDIA

<https://indiacovidguidelines.org/>

- 20 reviews, 10 updates

REVIEWS

- **Antivirals**
 1. Remdesivir
 2. Azithromycin
 3. Hydroxychloroquine
 4. Ivermectin
 5. Favipiravir
 6. Molnupiravir
 7. Interferon
- **Anti-inflammatories**
 8. Systemic corticosteroids
 9. Inhaled corticosteroids
 10. Tocilizumab
 11. Sarilumab
 12. Itolizumab
 13. Baricitinib
 14. Colchicine
- **Anticoagulation**
 15. Therapeutic vs non-therapeutic dose of anticoagulation

- **Antibody**
 16. Casirivimab- Imdevimab
 17. Convalescent plasma
- **Respiratory therapies**
 18. NIV vs HFNO
 19. Oxygen saturation targets
- **Other supportive management**
 20. Prone positioning

UPDATES

1. Remdesivir - outpatients
2. Remdesivir - in-patients
3. Molnupiravir
4. Casirivimab- Imdevimab: mild
5. Casirivimab- Imdevimab: moderate to critical
6. Casirivimab- Imdevimab: asymptomatic
7. Ivermectin
8. Favipiravir
9. Tocilizumab
10. Therapeutic vs non-therapeutic dose of anticoagulation

- [India: The COVID Guidelines India project: A rapid living evidence synthesis during a pandemic in a LMIC setting. Published date: August 2024](#)

SOUTH AFRICA

1. The effect of nirmatrelvir-ritonavir in patient with COVID-19. Produced for the South African National Essential Medicine List. 20 July 2023
2. Dexmedetomidine compared to standard of care in mechanically ventilated patients. Report produced for the National Department of Health Tertiary Expert Review Committee. June 2023
3. What is the efficacy and safety of vitamin D for the treatment of confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection? Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 8 September 2022
4. PHC/Adult Hospital level Expert Review Committee (ERC). Olanzapine vs Haloperidol for the management of delirium. 18 July 2022 [South African National Therapeutic Guidelines Sub-Committee for COVID-19 Management Clinical Guidelines Committee](#)
5. Should the BNT162b2 COVID-19 vaccine be used for children aged 5-11 years old in South Africa. Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 18 July 2022
6. Antiplatelets as treatment for COVID-19. Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 4 July 2022
7. Extended thromboprophylaxis with rivaroxaban in patients with COVID-19 at high risk of thrombotic events. Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 6 June 2022
8. Inhaled corticosteroids in ambulatory and hospitalised patients with COVID-19, not requiring oxygen therapy. Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 6 June 2022 (update of the initial review of 8 July 2021)
9. Should fluvoxamine be used to treat COVID-19? Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 27 May 2022 (first update of the initial review of 5 November 2021)
10. Remdesivir for COVID-19: Evidence review of the clinical benefit and harm. Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 25 May 2022 (seventh update of the initial review of 16 April 2020)
11. Bacille Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccine for preventing SARS-CoV-2 infection or improving COVID-19 outcomes: Evidence review of clinical benefits and harms. Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 20 May 2022 (Update of the initial review of 27 May 2020)
12. Should baricitinib be used to treat COVID 19? Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 6 May 2022 (second update of initial review of 15 October 2021)
13. Should baricitinib be used to treat COVID-19? Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 19 November 2021. First update of original 15 August 2021 rapid review report
14. Colchicine for COVID-19: Rapid review of the evidence for clinical benefit and harm. Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 19 November 2021. Third update of original 6 August 2020 rapid review report
15. NSAIDs as treatment for COVID-19. Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 19 November 2021
16. Should fluvoxamine be used to treat COVID-19? Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 5 November 2021
17. Should doxycycline be used in the management of ambulant patients with COVID-19? Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 15 October 2021
18. Should rivaroxaban be used in the management of ambulant COVID-19 patients? Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 8 October 2021
19. Ivermectin for treatment of COVID-19: evidence review of the clinical benefit and harm. Should Ivermectin be used for the management of COVID-19 Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 30 July 2021 (third update of the initial rapid review of 25 January 2021)

20. A review of the optimal dose of either unfractionated heparin or low molecular weight heparin in the prevention of venous thromboembolism in patients with severe COVID-19: evidence review of the clinical benefit and harm. Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 30 July 2021 (second update of the initial rapid review of 19 June 2020)
21. Addendum to the rapid review report of Ivermectin for COVID-19 update, of 18 June 2021. Appraisal of the systematic review by Byrant et al. on use of Ivermectin for treatment and prevention of COVID-19. Published 2 July 2021
22. Inhaled corticosteroids in ambulatory and hospitalised patients with COVID-19, not requiring oxygen therapy. Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 9 July 2021
23. Ivermectin for the treatment of COVID-19: Evidence review of the clinical benefit and harm. Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 18 June 2021. Update of the initial review of 25 January 2021
24. Vitamin C for SARS-CoV-2. Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 28 May 2021
25. Tocilizumab for the treatment of COVID-19: Evidence review of the clinical benefit and harm. Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 26 May 2021. Third update of the initial review of 15 April 2020
26. Convalescent plasma for COVID-19: Evidence review of the clinical benefit and harm. Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 9 April 2021. Update of initial review of 11 June 2020
27. Azithromycin for COVID-19: Evidence review of the clinical benefit and harm. Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 9 April 2021. Update of initial review of 11 May 2020
28. Interferon for COVID-19: Evidence review of the clinical benefit and harm. Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 9 April 2021. Third update of initial review dated 29 March 2020
29. Intravenous immunoglobulin for COVID-19: Evidence review of potential benefit and harm. Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 6 May 2022 (update of initial review of 8 April 2020)
30. Tocilizumab for the treatment of COVID-19: Evidence review of the clinical benefit and harm. Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 6 April 2022 (fourth update of initial review of 15 April 2020)
31. Should Nirmatrelvir+RTV be used to treat confirmed COVID-19. Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 14 March 2022
32. Remdesivir for COVID-19: Evidence review of the clinical benefit and harm. Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 15 February 2022 (6th update of the initial 16 April 2020 rapid review report)
33. Chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine for the treatment of COVID-19: Evidence review of clinical benefits and harms. Produced for the National Department of Health. Published on 5 March 2021. Update of the initial review dated 9 April 2020
34. Tocilizumab for the treatment of COVID-19: Evidence review of the clinical benefit and harm. Produced for the National Department of Health. Published on 5 March 2021. Second update of the initial review dated 15 April 2020
35. Colchicine for COVID-19: Evidence review of the clinical benefit and harm. Produced for the National Department of Health. Published on 12 February 2021. Update of first version dated 6 August 2020
36. Ivermectin for Prophylaxis of COVID-19. Published 25 January 2021
37. Ivermectin for treatment of COVID-19: Evidence review of clinical benefits and harms. Published 25 January 2021
38. Lopinavir-Ritonavir (LPV/r) for treatment of Covid-19: Evidence review of the clinical benefits and harm. Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 21 December 2020. Second update of the initial 22 April 2020 rapid report
39. Lopinavir-Ritonavir (LPV/r) for treatment of Covid-19: Evidence review of the clinical benefits and harm. Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 24 November 2020
40. Remdesivir for Covid-19: Evidence review of the clinical benefits and harm. Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 17 November 2020. Fourth update of the initial version dated 16 April 2020 report
41. Tocilizumab for the treatment of Covid-19: Evidence review of the clinical benefit and harm. Produced for the National Department of Health. Published on 26 November 2020. Update of first version dated 15 April 2020
42. Should mucolytics be used for managing hospitalised Covid-19 patients compared to no intervention or an alternative intervention? Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 23 November 2020
43. Interferon for Covid-19: Evidence review of the clinical benefits and harm. Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 24 November 2020. Update of the version dated 31 July 2020
44. Corticosteroids for Covid-19: Evidence review of the clinical benefit and harm. Produced for the National Department of Health. Published on 20 October. Second update of the initial version dated 23 June 2020
45. Colchicine for Covid-19: Evidence review of the clinical benefit and harm. Produced for the National Department of Health. Published on 20 October 2020. Update of the version dated 6 August 2020
46. A review of the optimal dose of either unfractionated heparin or low molecular weight heparin in the prevention of venous thromboembolism in patients with severe Covid-19: Evidence review of the clinical benefit and harm. Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 3 September 2020. Update of first version dated 19 June 2020
47. Corticosteroids for Covid-19: Evidence review of the clinical benefit and harm. Produced for the National Department of Health. Published on 6 August 2020. Update of the version dated 23 June 2020
48. Colchicine for Covid-19: Evidence review of the clinical benefit and harm. Produced for the National Department of Health. Published on 6 August 2020
49. Interferon for Covid-19: Evidence review of the clinical benefits and harm. Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 31 July 2020
50. Remdesivir for COVID-19: Evidence review of the clinical benefit and harm. Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 24 June 2020. Update of first version dated 16 April 2020
51. Corticosteroids for COVID-19: Evidence review of the clinical benefit and harm. Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 23 June 2020
52. Favipiravir for the prevention and management of COVID-19: Evidence review of the clinical benefit and harm. Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 25 June 2020
53. Chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine for prevention of COVID-19: Evidence review of clinical benefits and harms. Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 18 June 2020
54. Bacille Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccine for preventing SARS-CoV-2 infection or improving COVID-19 outcomes: Evidence review of clinical benefits and harms. Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 27 May 2020
55. Azithromycin for COVID-19: Evidence review of the clinical benefit and harm. Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 11 May 2020

56. Interleukin-6 inhibitor, tocilizumab for COVID-19: Evidence review of the clinical benefit and harm. Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 15 April 2020
57. Remdesivir for COVID-19: Evidence review of the clinical benefit and harm. Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 16 April 2020
58. Chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine for treatment of COVID-19: Evidence review of clinical benefits and harms. Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 9 April 2020
59. Lopinavir-Ritonavir (LPV/r) for treatment of COVID-19. Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 22 April 2020
60. Intravenous immunoglobulin for COVID-19: Evidence review of potential benefit and harm. Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 8 April 2020
61. Vaccine Ministerial Advisory Committee for the National Department of Health. Additional booster dose (fourth dose) of Pfizer Comirnaty vaccine or COVID-19 Vaccine Janssen (Ad26.COV2.S) for adults older than 50 years
62. Johnson & Johnson vaccine (Ad26.COV2.S) homologous boosting as a component of a national COVID-19 prevention strategy : a rapid systematic review report for the Ministerial Advisory Committee on COVID-19 Vaccines workstream 1. 14 December 2021.
63. Rapid Policy Brief Number: 008-01 - COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy in Africa; 2021. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO. Prepared by the Information Management Cell of the WHO Regional Office IMST and the Cochrane Africa Network. Published 13 December 2021
64. Pfizer/BioNtech homologous vaccine booster: a rapid systematic review report for the Ministerial Advisory Committee on COVID-19 Vaccines. 9 December 2021
65. Inter-Ministerial Advisory Committee (MAC) Technical Working Group on Vaccine Hesitancy. Covid-19 vaccine hesitancy in South Africa: Summary of existing studies. Published 4 April 2021. <https://sacoronavirus.co.za/2021/04/12/covid-19-vaccine-hesitancy-in-south-africa-summary-of-existing-studies/>

WHO REGIONAL OFFICE FOR AFRICA AND THE COCHRANE AFRICA NETWORK

66. [COVID-19 related mortality and morbidity among healthcare providers. WHO Regional Office for Africa COVID-19 Rapid Policy Brief. 14 February 2021](#)
67. [Effects of COPD on COVID-19. WHO Regional Office for Africa COVID-19 Rapid Policy Brief. 31 January 2021](#)
68. [COVID-19 response capacity with the health systems – health information systems. WHO Regional Office for Africa COVID-19 Rapid Policy Brief. 15 January 2021](#)
69. [Health system governance and management for COVID-19 response. WHO Regional Office for Africa COVID-19 Rapid Policy Brief. 12 January 2021](#)
70. [Health workforce recruitment and retention for COVID-19 emergency management. WHO Regional Office for Africa COVID-19 Rapid Policy Brief. 31 December 2020](#)
71. [Service delivery organization for COVID-19 response. WHO Regional Office for Africa COVID-19 Rapid Policy Brief. 25 December 2020](#)
72. [Effects of COVID-19 on people with current or previous tuberculosis. WHO Regional Office for Africa COVID-19 Rapid Policy Brief. 9 December 2020](#)
73. [Effects of COVID-19 on tuberculosis healthcare service delivery. WHO Regional Office for Africa COVID-19 Rapid Policy Brief. 9 December 2020](#)
74. [Effectiveness of different hygiene practices in interrupting nosocomial transmission of COVID-19. WHO Regional Office for Africa COVID-19 Rapid Policy Brief. 1 December 2020](#)
75. [Effectiveness of different distancing measures in interrupting COVID-19 transmission. WHO Regional Office for Africa COVID-19 Rapid Policy Brief. 18 December 2020](#)
76. [Effects of BCG on COVID-19. WHO Regional Office for Africa COVID-19 Rapid Policy Brief. 25 December 2020](#)
77. [Effects of COVID-19 on HIV services. WHO Regional Office for Africa COVID-19 Rapid Policy Brief Series 8: COVID-19 and HIV. 12 November 2020](#)
78. [The effects of COVID-19 in people living with obesity. WHO Regional Office for Africa COVID-19 Rapid Policy Brief Series 8: COVID-19 and Obesity. 8 November 2020](#)
79. [Effects of coronavirus 2019 disease in people living with HIV. WHO Regional Office for Africa COVID-19 Rapid Policy Brief Series 8: COVID-19 and HIV. 31 October 2020](#)
80. [Effectiveness of different hygiene practices in interrupting household and community transmission of COVID-19. WHO Regional Office for Africa COVID-19 Rapid Policy Brief Series 8: COVID-19 Prevention. 31 October 2020](#)
81. [The effects of COVID-19 on people living with diabetes. WHO Regional Office for Africa COVID-19 Rapid Policy Brief Series 8: COVID-19 and Diabetes. 31 October 2020](#)
82. CPHM Evidence-based COVID-19 Task team, South African Medical Research Council. Is dilute sodium hypochlorite (bleach) solution for hand-washing safe and effective for reducing transmission of SARS-CoV-2 compared to alcohol hand sanitizer or soap and water handwashing? Published 27 July 2020
83. College of Public Health Medicine Evidence-based COVID-19 Task Team, Cochrane South Africa, SAMRC Health Systems Research Unit. Should medical masks be used by the general public for preventing transmission of SARS-CoV-2? Published 11 April 2020

- **Reviews informed global and national guideline recommendations (in Canada, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, the UK, the USA, and other countries)**

GLOBAL GUIDANCE

- [WHO Quarantine interim guidance](#)
- [WHO diagnostic testing interim guidance](#)
- [WHO rapid immunoassays interim guidance](#)
- [WHO diagnostic testing for international travel](#)
- [WHO essential in vitro diagnostics](#)

- [WHO sanitation, hygiene and waste management interim guidance](#)
- [WHO Refugees and migrants in times of COVID-19: mapping trends of public health and migration policies and practices \(June 2021\)](#)
- [WHO Technical Report Series. The Selection and use of essential in vitro diagnostics: Report of the third meeting of the WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on In Vitro Diagnostics, 2020 \(including the third WHO model list of essential in vitro diagnostics\) \(2021\)](#)

NATIONAL GUIDANCE

- [Non-pharmaceutical interventions \(NPI\) are public health measures that aim to prevent and/or control SARS-CoV-2 transmission in the community. These ECDC guidelines detail available options for NPI in various epidemiologic scenarios, assess the evidence for their effectiveness and address implementation issues, including potential barriers and facilitators.](#)
- [Measures to prevent and control SARS-CoV-2 transmission in schools - Living Guideline](#)
- [Social participation and quality of life in inpatient care for the elderly under the conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- [Rapid advice guidelines for management of children with COVID-19](#)
- [COVID-19: Guidance for Sampling and Laboratory Investigations](#)
- [Advice from the Outbreak Management Team on the use of antigenic \(rapid\) testing](#)
- [WHO guidance for public health surveillance of coronavirus disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Home care, social participation and quality of life for people in need of outpatient care during the COVID-19 pandemic - Living Guideline](#)
- [S1-Guideline: Home care, social participation and quality of life for people in need of outpatient care during the COVID-19 pandemic - Living Guideline \(2021\)](#)
- [IFCC Taskforce on COVID-19. IFCC interim guidelines on rapid point-of-care antigen testing for SARS-CoV-2 detection in asymptomatic and symptomatic individuals \(Publication date: April 2021\)](#)
- [Canadian society of clinical chemists \(CSCC\) consensus guidance for testing, selection and quality management of SARS-CoV-2 point-of-care tests \(Publication date: May 2021\)](#)
- [Working Group on COVID-19 in Pediatrics of the Emilia-Romagna Region \(RE-CO-Ped\). COVID-19 Management in the Pediatric Age: Consensus Document of the COVID-19 Working Group in Paediatrics of the Emilia-Romagna Region \(RE-CO-Ped\), Italy \(Publication date: April 2021\)](#)
- [American College of Rheumatology Guidance for the Management of Pediatric Rheumatic Disease During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Version 2 \(Publication date: August 2021\)](#)
- [American Gastroenterological Association \(AGA\) Rapid Review and Guideline for SARS-CoV2 Testing and Endoscopy Post-Vaccination: 2021 Update \(May 2021\)](#)
- [Guideline on COVID-19 \(version 1.4 - Guideline M111\) \(October 2022\)](#)
- [S2k-Guideline: Home care, social participation and quality of life for people in need of outpatient care during the COVID-19 pandemic \(October 2022\)](#)
- [Rehabilitation - Living Guideline. \[S2k-Guideline: SARS-CoV-2, COVID-19 and \(early\) rehabilitation - Living Guideline \(November 2022\)](#)
- [ESCMID COVID-19 guidelines: diagnostic testing for SARS-CoV-2 \(June 2022\)](#)
- [Utility and Applicability of Rapid Diagnostic Testing in Antimicrobial Stewardship in the Asia-Pacific Region: A Delphi Consensus \(June 2022\)](#)

2. Translating evidence

Influenced policy decision-making and created public awareness of:

• Use of antibody tests for SARS-CoV-2

- <https://committees.parliament.uk/event/1158/formal-meeting-oral-evidence-session/>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/aug/27/covid-19-antibody-test-coronavirus-corners-being-cut>
- [Cochrane reviews directly informed a report by the Royal Statistical Society Diagnostic Tests Working Group, which sets out the statistical evidence needed to assure the performance of new in-vitro diagnostics, for patients, decision-makers, and regulators. Recommendations in the \[report\]\(#\) on regulation were discussed and formally accepted by the MHRA IVD Expert Advisory Group](#)

• Contested effects of drugs

- Ivermectin
 - [BBC News: Ivermectin: How false science created a Covid 'miracle' drug](#)
 - [Joe Rogan: four claims from his Spotify podcast fact-checked](#)
 - [Cochrane: Ivermectin: Cochrane's most talked about review so far, ever. Why?](#)
- Hydroxychloroquine
 - [Contested effects and chaotic policies: the 2020 story of \(hydroxy\) chloroquine for treating COVID- 19](#)
 - [2021 Harding Prize for Trustworthy Communication: jointly awarded to the ONS Covid Infection Survey and the Cochrane Review of Hydroxychloroquine for COVID-19](#)

• Ways to improve access to food

- <https://bhekisisa.org/article/2020-10-05-COVID-19-has-increased-hunger-in-sa-so-what-works-best-to-improve-access-to-food/>

- **Contested effects of a treatment theory**

- Use of plasmapheresis to remove amyloid fibrin(ogen) particles in people with post-COVID-19 condition
 - Cochrane review: [Plasmapheresis to remove amyloid fibrin\(ogen\) particles for treating the post-COVID-19 condition](#)
 - Informed New Scientist article: [Long covid: What we now know about its causes and possible treatments](#)
 - Pilot risk of bias tool guidance: [Systematic reviews of clinical laboratory studies: Pilot risk of bias tool developed by consensus](#)
 - Article: [Challenging the current hypothesis that thrombosis is responsible for the post-COVID-19 condition](#)
 - Letter to the Editor: [Reported particles are not blood clots, so anticoagulant drugs are not a plausible treatment](#)

3. Contextual insights

Sharing perspectives on experiences during COVID-19:

- **Long-Covid**

- BMJ opinion articles
 - [5 May 2020](#)
 - [19 May 2020](#)
 - [23 June 2020](#)
 - [4 September 2020](#)
 - [29 September 2020](#)
 - [25 January 2021](#)
- Marshall M, in New Scientist (2024). [Long covid: What we now know about its causes and possible treatments.](#)
- Walton J, in The Post (2023). [Professor Paul Garner was delighted to recover from long Covid. Then the death threats began.](#)
- BBC (2022) [Covid: Brain fog more common two years on, study suggests.](#)
- Garner P, in Medpage Today (2021) [Researcher Turned COVID Long-Hauler.](#)
- [Selection of interviews and articles](#) (2020-2) related to Paul Garner's COVID-19 experience

4. Leadership and collaboration

Collaborative evidence synthesis and guideline development during COVID-19

- **Collaborative methods inputs, networks and projects**

- ▶ **Cochrane:** we were involved with the Cochrane response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We liaised with the Cochrane Editor-in-Chief (EiC) and Cochrane Central (UK); became part of the central planning team; and were involved in the Cochrane Central meetings to discuss and agree Cochrane's COVID-19 response
 - [The Central Editorial Service: a collaborative editorial process for publishing high-priority Cochrane Reviews. In: Collaborating in response to COVID-19: editorial and methods initiatives across Cochrane](#)
 - CIDG piloted "living guidelines" approach in 1998, contributed to [updating policies](#), and helped develop and implement "living guidelines" in COVID-19 reviews
- ▶ [COVID-19 Evidence Network \(COVID-END\)](#)
 - [Resources supporting trustworthy, rapid and equitable evidence synthesis and guideline development: results from the COVID-19 evidence network to support decision-making \(COVID-END\)](#)
- ▶ [COVID-19 Guidelines India project](#)
 - [The COVID guidelines India project: a rapid living evidence synthesis during a pandemic in a LMIC setting](#)
 - Pai M, in Forbes (2022) [Best practices from the Delta wave can help India fight Omicron](#)
 - Exemplars in Global Health (2021) [Systematic, Scientific, and Streamlined – The COVID Guidelines India Project](#)

- **Building evidence synthesis capacity in LMICs**

- ▶ In India, READ-It has contributed to national COVID-19 guideline development by facilitating the evidence-to-decision-making process. In India, CMC Vellore joined as a READ-It Partner and launched the Centre for Guideline Development on 27 July 2023.

