

The daily evidence digest collates recently released reports and evidence – provision of these links does not imply endorsement nor recommendation.

Testing, oncology, health system responses, resuming elective surgery

Several publications focus on testing:

- The OECD released an updated brief that discusses testing and its role in plans to lift confinement restrictions [here](#),
- The Lancet features a letter signed by 27 experts who advocate the adoption of universal weekly testing as the UK's COVID-19 lockdown exit strategy [here](#)
- Eurosurveillance describes a COVID-19 testing regime in the Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, which resulted in 18% of staff testing positive [here](#)

Pre-peer review papers on testing include:

- Modelling exit strategies from COVID -19 lockdown with a focus on antibody tests [here](#)
- Antibody seroprevalence in Santa Clara County California [here](#)

Other articles featured in the peer reviewed literature focus on:

- COVID-19 and sepsis [here](#)
- Efforts to reorganise oncology care in European comprehensive cancer centres [here](#)
- A COVID-19 Acute and Intensive Care Resource Tool (CAIC-RT), described in a letter to the editor [here](#)

NICE published a rapid evidence summary on acute use of NSAIDs for people with, or at risk of COVID-19 [here](#) and an innovation briefing on a self-management tool for COPD patients [here](#)

From a policy perspective, the OECD published an overview of health system responses to COVID-19 addressing operational, financial, and R&D measures [here](#)

Published guidance includes:

- A Joint Statement: Roadmap for Resuming Elective Surgery after COVID-19 Pandemic from the US [here](#)
- A guide to practical steps to team wellbeing for anaesthetic and critical care teams [here](#)
- Advice from the OECD on protecting privacy and data while using apps and biometrics to track and trace COVID-19 cases [here](#)
- A COVID-19 Māori Response Action Plan to ensure the health and wellbeing of Māori population from the New Zealand Ministry of Health [here](#)
- Guidelines for open versus laparoscopic surgery. A rapid review from the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons [here](#)
- The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care position statements on COVID-19 medicines management [here](#)

- The World Health Organisation released technical specifications for invasive and non-invasive ventilators [here](#)
- The Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases published guidelines for the clinical management of COVID-19 in children and adolescents (ANZPID) [here](#)

Twitter

Twitter activity include features from the BMJ, a series of podcasts on COVID-19 stories from the frontline [here](#), and editorials exploring death and dying [here](#) and an ICU doctor’s perspective [here](#).

There is interest in the #Testingmethods2020 crowdsourcing challenge which aims to foster innovation in diagnostic testing (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Crowdsourcing challenge

As part of the national diagnostics effort for COVID-19, we’re looking for solutions to 4 challenges:

<p>Dry swabs for use in virus detection</p> <p>A key element of speeding up the end to end testing process is the availability of swabs that can be used easily and reliably to detect the virus in a range of different swabbing applications and age groups including for use in home testing and which can be used with multiple extraction platforms.</p>	<p>Transport media that inactivates the virus</p> <p>In order to increase laboratory throughput we are looking at ways to minimise processes including the need to handle test samples in Category 2+/3 facilities. We are looking for transport media solutions that inactivate the virus reliably or do not add significant steps to the laboratory process or impact on viral detection</p>	<p>Have you got solutions or offers that could help?</p>  <p>#TestingMethods2020</p>
<p>Desktop PCR equipment for point of care testing</p> <p>Taking samples and transporting them to testing labs takes time and may not always represent the best approach within clinical pathways. We are looking for the potential to add testing capacity through reliable and standards based testing at the point of care with desktop PCR machines that allow for fast, accurate and safe results for the operator.</p>	<p>RNA extraction: new methods</p> <p>RNA extraction capacities are currently challenged even with automated platforms. We seek new methods of extracting viral RNA or enabling viral detection without an extraction step would help remove this bottleneck, as long as they are “ready to go” and can be integrated into existing or optimised PCR testing chains</p>	

We’ve launched a **testing methods sourcing platform** to collect ideas on these four specific challenges

testingmethods.crowdicity.com

Please add your solutions, offers, ideas, comments and any other responses to these challenges.

This platform is a partnership between the UK Bioindustry Association, British In-vitro Diagnostics Association, the Royal College of Pathologists and the Department of Health and Social Care