COVID-19 – latest updates

Date Monday 27th April 2020
Sources: several – see below

ESCMID COVID-19 Webinar
On Monday 27, 2020 at 18.00 (CET) there will be the first part of the ESCMID Webinar on Infection Prevention & Control in the time of COVID-19. This webinar is open access and can be reached at: https://eacademy.escmid.org/escmid/2020/covid-19/293255/j.rodriguez.bano.e.tacconelli.m.vos.a.baller.d.dusek.n.mutters.a.w.friedrich.n.html?f=menu%3D8%2Abrowseby%3D8%2Asortby%3D2%2Alabel%3D19858

Moderators and Speakers will be: Jesús Rodríguez-Baño, Evelina Tacconelli, Davorka Dusek, Margreet Vos, April Baller, Nico Mutters, Alex Friedrich, Nicola Petrosillo and Eskild Petersen.

The second part will be on April 30, 2020 with Jesús Rodríguez-Baño, Nicola Petrosillo, Jean Paul Stahl, Maurizio Sanguinetti, Önder Ergönül, Hilpi Rautelin, Constantinos Tsioutis, Pierluigi Viale, Maurizio Sanguinetti

WHO
The WHO situation report no. 96 from the 25th April reports 2,804,796 confirmed cases with 193,722 deaths (1). On the 24th April the WHO has published guidelines on so called "Immunity passports" in the context of COVID-19 (2).

ECDC
On the 25th April the EU has published “Joint European Roadmap towards lifting COVID-19 containment measures” providing guidelines for lifting containment measures throughout the EU (3). On the 23rd April the ECDC published the “Rapid Risk Assessment: Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the EU/EEA and the UK– ninth update” (4).

ESCMID Webinar on Infection Prevention & Control in the Time of COVID-19: see ESCMID Website

Comment from EITaF
The pandemic is fortunately post its peak in most European countries and the discussion is now focusing on how to open society again.

There has been much discussion on the number of cases and case fatality rates in different countries, and it is clear that reporting has not been standardised, not least because cases
and case fatality rates depend on the number of tests performed, which vary widely between European countries.

We would like to highlight the European Mortality Monitoring project, or EuroMOMO, which report all deaths in European countries regardless of diagnosis (5). The data produced in almost real time (last update ends week 15, the 10th of April). It is seen that certain countries report a population excess mortality during the COVID-19 outbreak and others do not. The excess mortality is expressed as the z-score that are the number of standard deviations by which the value of a raw score is above (or below) the mean value of what is being observed or measured. These data gives the best, unbiased numbers of the excess number of deaths caused by the COVID-19 at present.

Nicola Petrosillo, Flavia Cunha, Eskild Petersen
ESCMID EITaF

Sources


Selected recent papers

Spread of SARS-CoV-2 in the Icelandic Population. Gudbjartsson DF et al. NEJM April 14, NEJM.org. DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa2006100


In Pursuit of PPE. Artenstein AW. NEJM April 17, 2020, NEJM.org. DOI: 10.1056/NEJMc2010025