



Weekly update

Through our research, community outreach and expert commentary, the University of Birmingham is taking an active role in the fightback against COVID-19. You can read our latest statements and follow our research updates at www.birmingham.ac.uk/coronavirus.

Through Birmingham Health Partners, a strategic alliance between the University and two NHS Foundation Trusts, we are working to support frontline healthcare professionals. For the latest updates visit their [website](#).

Research

DECOVID: using AI to provide better care for ICU patients

A project led by University Hospitals Birmingham and the University of Birmingham, and linked to PIONEER – the Health Data Research Hub for Acute Care, has been launched to support intensive care doctors to care for their acutely unwell coronavirus patients.

The DECOVID project will apply cutting-edge data science and artificial intelligence, to understand COVID-19 in detail across the UK, and create new ways to support doctors caring for the most unwell COVID-19 patients in intensive care units. They will develop data-driven ways to help doctors answer the most important clinical decisions involved in COVID-19, such as ‘can this patient be safely discharged?’ and ‘how likely is that this patient will develop acute respiratory distress syndrome?’ ([More information](#))



Anti-cancer treatments don't affect COVID-19 mortality, finds Birmingham & Oxford

A new study led by the University of Birmingham and the University of Oxford has found the mortality rate in cancer patients who are assessed or treated in hospital with COVID-19 is not significantly affected by chemotherapy or other anti-cancer treatments.

Published in The Lancet, the study was devised by steering committee of the UK Coronavirus Cancer Monitoring Project (UKCCMP) which launched in March, and collects information on UK cancer patients who are diagnosed with COVID-19. The UKCCMP forms the largest prospective database and analysis of COVID-19 in this group of patients. ([More information](#))

COVID-19 briefing – a guide to testing

Researchers from across Birmingham Health Partners are collaborating to analyse and summarise the latest COVID-19 literature to help inform clinical colleagues, and today's update explains the differences between the two main types of coronavirus test, including accuracy rates, next steps, and what the tests don't tell us. ([More information](#))

COVID-19 patients who undergo surgery are at increased risk of postoperative death – global study
Patients undergoing surgery after contracting coronavirus are at greatly increased risk of postoperative death, a new global study published in The Lancet reveals.

Researchers found that amongst SARS-CoV-2 infected patients who underwent surgery, mortality rates approach those of the sickest patients admitted to intensive care after contracting the virus in the community.

Researchers examined data for 1,128 patients from 235 hospitals. A total of 24 countries participated, predominantly in Europe, although hospitals in Africa, Asia, and North America also contributed. ([More information](#))

The impact of COVID-19 on physical activity in adults with a neurologically-related mobility disability

Researchers at the School of School of Sport, Exercise and Rehabilitation Sciences are conducting a survey investigating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on physical activity and health-related quality of life in adults with a neurologically-related mobility disability.

The survey aims to capture changes over time as the government changes their procedures to manage this pandemic. The information gathered will help better support individuals with physical disabilities, not only

during future events involving periods of isolation, but during their everyday lives to engage in health promoting behaviours. ([More information](#))

New research project to examine impact of Covid-19 on child protection services

A new ESRC-funded research project will explore the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on child protection practice and children and families, with the aim of improving the capacity of social workers to keep children safe in a period of institutionalised social distancing. ([More information](#))

Community

High-level virtual convening on United Nations counter-terrorism and human rights (11 June)

In the nearly two decades since 9/11, the international community has implemented counter-terrorism laws and policies intended to make the world safer. Unfortunately, these measures have at times violated human rights, hampered peacebuilding, and obstructed delivery of humanitarian and development assistance. Two decades on, and with the Covid-19 crisis now reshaping the world, it is critical that we take stock of how we can improve counter-terrorism measures while protecting rights, facilitating delivery of aid, and building peaceful societies.

Co-hosted by the University of Birmingham, this High-Level Convening on UN Counter-Terrorism and Human Rights on 11 June 2020 will bring together representatives of UN Member States, UN offices, and civil society to assess the impact of counter-terrorism measures on human rights, peacebuilding, and humanitarian and development assistance. Participants will also examine the effectiveness and inclusivity of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and UN counter-terrorism bodies, reflect on the implications of UN counter-terrorism policies shaping Covid-19 responses, and identify priority areas for reforming the UN counter-terrorism architecture. ([More information](#))

Workplace inequalities: Evidence and prospects for occupations and labour markets (11 June)

How are the effects of Covid-19 distributed across the working population? Early analysis suggests impact is very uneven. This second seminar focuses on how and why this is the case.

It is relevant to researchers and managers trying to understand labour market dynamics during the pandemic, and the differential effects of the social, economic, and public health effects Covid-19.

Speakers include:

- Dr Christopher Rauh, University Lecturer, Faculty of Economics, University of Cambridge
- Dr Clare Wenham, Assistant Professor in Global Health Policy, London School of Economics & Political Science

([More information](#))

Easing the lockdown: event summary

The Institute for Global Innovation held a webinar on easing the lockdown, with presentations from Professor John Bryson on social distancing, Professor Willem van Schaik on lessons learned from other countries and Professor Heather Widdows on ethical and privacy implications of the NHSX app. ([More information](#)).

Comment

Business as usual? Race, white privilege and COVID-19

Professor Kalwant Bhopal, Director of the Centre for Research on Race and Education, writes about how the pandemic is accentuating inequalities that are already present in society. We need to look at improving the lives of BME communities; addressing deeply entrenched structural and institutional racism in order that we can work towards a society which values equity and social justice for all. ([More information](#))

Under pressure: Children and Young People's Mental Health, the hidden impacts of COVID-19

Dr Gemma McKenna highlights the pandemic's damaging effect on our children and young people's mental health - and the need for their voices to be heard in the research which addresses it. ([More information](#))

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