

COVID-19 and HIV: Weekly Digest

22 May 2020

The Children and AIDS Learning Collaborative’s COVID-19 and HIV digest compiles recent knowledge and updates related to the COVID-19 pandemic of interest to those working on HIV among children, adolescents, and pregnant women. The selections below represent views of the authors and do not reflect UNICEF positions.

COVID-19 AND IMPACT ON HIV

<p>UPDATE: The high possible cost of COVID-19 on new HIV infections among children 19 May 2020, <i>UNAIDS</i></p> <p>New modelling suggests that with disruptions to HIV services for six months, new child HIV infections will rise drastically, by as much as 83 per cent in Mozambique, 106 per cent in Zimbabwe, 139 per cent in Uganda and 162 per cent in Malawi.</p>	<p>No Increased Risk of Severe COVID-19 in People Living with HIV, But Vigilance over Bacterial Pneumonia Required 18 May 2020, <i>aidsmap</i></p> <p>Recent studies of COVID-19 cases suggest that people living with HIV are not at higher risk of COVID-19, but preliminary results of a case series from New York showed a higher frequency of bacterial pneumonia in people living with HIV hospitalized with COVID-19.</p>	<p>How COVID-19 Has Affected the Needs of Young People Living with HIV and Young Key Populations in Indonesia 20 May 2020, <i>UNAIDS</i></p> <p>UNAIDS highlighted key findings from a survey by the Interagency Task Team (IATT) on Young Key Populations (YKPs) in Asia and the Pacific: 61 per cent of respondents on ART reported availability and security to access ART as an urgent need and 44 per cent of those living with HIV reported having less than one-month supply.</p>	<p>Almost 11,000 HIV-positive patients in Gauteng have skipped ARV collection during lockdown 19 May 2020, <i>Sowetan Live</i></p> <p>In South Africa, the Gauteng health department said thousands of patients living with HIV and TB who have failed to collect their medication since the start of the lockdown in March. The average reduction in medicine collections is 19.6 per cent for HIV. <i>See also:</i> COVID-19: Lockdown takes heavy toll on SA’s TB response</p>
<p>Over 145 TB patients Die in Agra Without Treatment during Lockdown 16 May 2020, <i>India Today</i></p> <p>In the past 54 days in Agra, India, the death toll of those living with TB is more than six times the usual number. Relatives note the lack of health consultations and medicines.</p>	<p>HIV Services Take a Backseat to COVID-19 in Russia 19 May 2020, <i>Inter Press Service</i></p> <p>As COVID-19 cases increase in Russia, those working with people living with HIV say they are experiencing problems in delivering HIV services.</p>	<p>Kenya: COVID-19 Likely to Undo HIV/AIDS Gains 14 May 2020, <i>Daily Nation</i></p> <p>In Kenya, health care facilities are reporting fewer patients living with HIV reporting to pick up their medications.</p>	<p>Uganda Women Fear Food Shortages Will Make Coronavirus and HIV a Deadly Mix 21 May 2020, <i>Reuters</i></p> <p>In Uganda, about 1.4 million people are living with HIV. For women, who are disproportionately affected, food shortages are especially worrying.</p>

ADAPTING HIV SERVICE DELIVERY

<p>You Can Get Tested for COVID-19 and HIV at the Same Time 20 May 2020, <i>The Citizen</i></p> <p>In South Africa, the department of health and Right to Care have included voluntary HIV testing and counselling in the mass door-to-door drive for COVID-19 screening and testing. <i>See also:</i> Actions to eliminate COVID-19 could work for HIV (Newsroom New Zealand)</p>	<p>Telehealth Seen as Future for Managing Patients With HIV 20 May 2020, <i>IDSE</i></p> <p>A University of Florida Health telehealth system presents a model for how to remotely manage patients with HIV during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	<p>During COVID-19, HIV Medication in Ukraine Arrives by Post 19 May 2020, <i>The Global Fund</i></p> <p>In Ukraine, supported by the Global Fund, a local HIV community network 100% LIFE is organizing courier services that deliver ARVs and other medicines to homes. For people living with HIV in remote areas without postal services, their medication is delivered by car.</p>
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NOVEL CORONAVIRUS AND CHILDREN

WHO released its scientific brief, [‘Multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children and adolescents temporally related to COVID-19.’](#) Last week, the [ECDC](#) and [CDC](#) had released case definitions of the Kawasaki-like inflammatory disease seen in children related to SARS-CoV-2 infections. Discussions on the syndrome continued this week. *See:*

- [Kawasaki disease—how does the coronavirus affect children?](#) (Economist podcast)
- [COVID-19 Chameleon: Has Kawasaki syndrome been linked to a viral illness all this while?](#) (Science Speaks)

Children with the multisystem inflammatory syndrome may develop acute cardiac decompensation, according to a new [study](#) in *Circulation*. Data from 35 children from France and Switzerland were included.

As governments consider reopening schools, policy makers and experts discuss the evidence around viral transmission by children.

- [Children with COVID-19 may be less contagious than adults, two UK epidemiologists say](#) (Reuters, 19 May)
- [Explainer: Do children spread COVID-19? Risks as schools consider reopening](#) (Reuters, 20 May)

Researchers are continuing to examine how and why the virus behaves differently in children compared to adults. Theories include the still-developing immune system in children and the role of T cells.

- [Why the Coronavirus Hits Kids and Adults So Differently](#) (The Atlantic, 15 May)
- [T cells play a role in fighting coronavirus; COVID-19 affects children differently](#) (Reuters, 19 May)

The Institute for Advanced Clinical Trials (I-ACT) for Children [announced](#) the launch of its COVID-19 Emergency Access Program, which allows any company developing COVID-19 treatments and vaccines to use the organization's paediatric research network and trial-planning experts to conduct clinical trials.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Governments Strike a Deal on COVID-19 Review, Equal Treatment Access

20 May 2020, *Devex*

At the World Health Assembly, countries backed an EU-led resolution on equal access to treatment and conducting an independent review of the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The resolution called for promoting access to health technologies, including through “existing mechanisms for voluntary pooling and licensing of patents.”

See also: [Drugs and Vaccines Are Coming—But to Whom?](#) (Foreign Affairs)

A New Entry in the Race for a Coronavirus Vaccine: Hope

20 May 2020, *New York Times*

More than 100 research teams around the world are conducting studies on a coronavirus with different approaches. Policymakers are also discussing how a successful vaccine will be scaled-up and distributed.

Skilled Partners in the Conduct of HIV Prevention Trials Join COVID-19 Response

14 May 2020, Press Release

The NIH-funded HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN) and HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN) have initiated a clinical trial for a SARS-CoV-2 vaccine.

Moderna Coronavirus Vaccine Trial Shows Promising Early Results

18 May 2020, *New York Times*

On Monday, Moderna announced that in eight healthy volunteers, its experimental vaccine was safe and provoked developing neutralizing antibodies. The vaccine is on an accelerated timetable to begin larger human trials soon.

Vaccine experts say Moderna didn't produce data critical to assessing COVID-19 vaccine

19 May 2020, *STAT*

Experts noted that Moderna did not release enough information to make conclusions about its vaccine. Gaps include data from all trial participants and durability of the antibodies.

GLOBAL IMPACT OF COVID-19

Why COVID-19 Seems to Spread More Slowly in Africa

16 May 2020, *The Economist*

Undercounting, early lockdown measures and worse transport links are suggested as reasons for a slower pandemic in Africa.

Coronavirus in Africa: Contained or unrecorded?

20 May 2020, *BBC*

BBC reporters from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Nigeria, Ethiopia and Uganda present a snapshot of COVID-19 and response.

How the COVID-19 Pandemic Could End

1 June 2020, *Scientific American*

As part of a special report on COVID-19, this article discusses the future of the outbreak based on lessons from past pandemics.

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Leading SA health experts Warn that COVID-19 Response is Hurting Other Health Priorities

17 May 2020, *GroundUp*

Experts call for integrated resources and focus on infectious diseases and NCDs that may kill more South Africans than the COVID-19 pandemic.

Accelerating COVID-19 Therapeutic Interventions and Vaccines (ACTIV)

18 May 2020, *JAMA*

National Institutes of Health Director Francis S. Collins and Johnson & Johnson Chief Scientific Officer Paul Stoffels outline R&D efforts of public-private initiative, ACTIV.

Opinion: We cannot underestimate young people in the COVID-19 response

19 May 2020, *Devex*

Restless Development's Perry Maddox writes about the critical role young people play in mobilizing communities and changing behavior in a pandemic.

Contact Tracing and COVID-19: Lessons from HIV

15 May 2020, *ACLU*

This presents lessons from the HIV response that can guide the implementation of widespread contact tracing for COVID-19, including building trust and maintaining confidentiality.

What Years of HIV Vaccine Research Can Teach Us about the Search for a COVID-19 Vaccine

18 May 2020, *IAS*

As researchers race to find a COVID-19 vaccine, IAS suggests looking at the lessons from HIV vaccine research.

The Fight against COVID-19 Should Not Mean Forgetting the 37 Million People Living with HIV

19 May 2020, *ILO*

During the pandemic, we should not forget those in vulnerable situations. HIV prevention, testing and treatment services should not slow down.

The Impact of COVID-19 on HIV Financing in Nigeria: a call for proactive measures

May 2020, *BMJ Global Health*

The authors call to protect HIV funding from the ongoing shocks to the Nigerian economy so that progress made in the last few decades is not lost.

Confronting Another Pandemic: Lessons from HIV can inform our COVID-19 response

12 May 2020, *AIDS and Behaviour*

The authors reflect lessons from the HIV epidemic on testing, service delivery, political response and impact on care providers.

AROUND THE UNITED NATIONS

- UNAIDS [urged](#) governments to ensure community-led organizations that provide essential services to marginalized and underserved populations are supported to continue their work.
- United Nations launched a [policy brief](#) on the impact of COVID-19 on Africa. At the launch, Secretary-General António Guterres [urged the world](#) to stand in solidarity to protect progress made in Africa.
- UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet and Chairperson of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights Solomon Dersso [issued](#) a joint call for urgent measures in Africa.
- ECOSOC's Operational Activities for Development Segment [discussed](#) how to coordinate, deepen efforts and rethink methods to continue progress toward the SDGs in the context of COVID-19.
- The World Bank Group [announced](#) that 100 developing countries will get support for COVID-19 emergency operations, including 39 countries in sub-Saharan Africa.
- UNICEF [highlighted](#) the dual threats of COVID-19 and Cyclone Amphan in India and Bangladesh, which is putting 19 million children at risk.

RECENT RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

<p>Social and Behavioral Health Responses to COVID-19: Lessons Learned from Four Decades of an HIV Pandemic June 2020, <i>Journal of Behavior Medicine</i></p> <p>Researchers discuss multiple levels of disease interventions for the HIV epidemic as well as social and behavioral approaches in outline lessons learned for COVID-19 from HIV prevention and research.</p>	<p>COVID-19 in Patients with HIV 14 May 2020, <i>The Lancet HIV</i></p> <p>This letter advises caution before drawing conclusions from the <i>Blanco et al.</i> report of people living with HIV hospitalized with COVID-19 in Barcelona including on the efficacy of boosted protease inhibitors and the incidence of severe COVID-19 among people living with HIV. See also: COVID-19 in patients with HIV – Authors' reply</p>
<p>HIV Care in Times of the COVID-19 Crisis - Where Are We Now in Central and Eastern Europe? 10 May 2020, <i>International Journal of Infectious Diseases</i></p> <p>Researchers examined the impact of current pandemic on HIV care and continuity of ART in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) countries. HIV clinics were operating normally in only six of 19 countries in the survey.</p>	<p>Clinical Features and Outcomes of HIV Patients with Coronavirus Disease 2019 14 May 2020, <i>Clinical Infectious Diseases</i></p> <p>This brief report describes 47 patients living with HIV hospitalized with proven or probable COVID-19 in Italy. The risk of severe disease in COVID-19 patients with HIV compared favorably with other COVID-19 patients.</p>

New resources for global, regional and country level practitioners working on HIV during the COVID-19 pandemic are presented below. To find additional documents and join the discussion, visit: www.childrenandaids.org/covid19

RESOURCES

<p>Guidance: PrEP during COVID-19 15 May 2020</p> <p>The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a new Dear Colleague letter that reaffirms PrEP as an essential health service and makes recommendations to ensure availability for new and continuing patients.</p>	<p>Multi-Sectoral Interventions to Ensure Uninterrupted Access to ART During COVID-19 Lockdowns WEBINAR 19 May 2020</p> <p>ICAP at Columbia University and DSD hosted a discussion on multi-sectoral interventions to maintain ART access featuring experiences from Kenya, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Eswatini.</p>	<p>COVID-19 & PEPFAR: Implications for the Future 20 May 2020</p> <p>As COVID-19 impacts PEPFAR's priority countries, the Kaiser Family Foundation examines potential implications for PEPFAR, how it is responding to the outbreak and issues at stake in this issue brief.</p>
<p>Five "P"s to Watch: Platforms, process, partnerships, payers and participatory practices that drive vaccine development May 2020</p> <p>AVAC outlines how HIV vaccine research is making COVID-19 vaccine development faster, smarter and more inclusive.</p>	<p>The Intersections of HIV and COVID-19 in Real-Time PODCAST 24 May 2020</p> <p>AVAC's <i>Px Pulse</i> podcast takes a comprehensive look at the intersection of HIV and COVID-19 with speakers from IAVI, Wits RHI, Uganda Virus Research Institute and Kenya Medical Research Institute.</p>	<p>Summaries of the COVID-19 Literature So Far VIDEO May 2020</p> <p>As published literature around COVID-19 increases exponentially each day, two HIV clinical fellows, Eric Meyerowitz and Aaron Richterman present biweekly deep dives into selected data. See: May 19 video</p>
<p>PEPFAR Technical Guidance in Context of COVID-19 Pandemic UPDATED 15 May 2020</p> <p>Updates can be found in the sections on preparing for clinic closure and incorporating HIV testing into COVID-19 contact tracing activities.</p>	<p>SARS-CoV-2 Serological Testing: What is it and what does it mean? WEBINAR 13 May 2020</p> <p>ICAP at Columbia University, Treatment Action Group and the COVID-19 Working Group (NY) hosted a discussion on serological testing.</p>	<p>Policy Brief: COVID-19 & Risks to Children's Health and Nutrition 14 May 2020</p> <p>World Vision outlines implications of the pandemic on children's immediate and long-term health and well-being.</p>

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **26 May 2020:** The ICAP and DSD series on differentiated service delivery and COVID-19 will continue with a discussion on supporting TB preventive therapy. *8am ET / 2pm SAST* >> [More](#)
- **28 May 2020:** The Children and AIDS Learning Collaborative will host a webinar on COVID-19, children and HIV with scientific updates, programmatic implications and frontline voices. *9am ET / 3pm SAST* >> [More](#)

To submit feedback or content for inclusion in our weekly digests, please email Rikke Le Kirkegaard at rlekirkegaard@unicef.org.

COVID-19 and HIV: Weekly Digest

29 May 2020

The Children and AIDS Learning Collaborative’s COVID-19 and HIV digest compiles recent knowledge and updates related to the COVID-19 pandemic of interest to those working on HIV among children, adolescents, and pregnant women. The selections below represent views of the authors and do not reflect UNICEF positions.

COVID-19: IMPACT ON HIV AND HIV SERVICE DELIVERY

<p>HIV: Impact on mental health & quality of life in time of COVID-19 29 May 2020, <i>UNICEF</i></p> <p>From the recent survey of young key populations and young people living with HIV in Asia and the Pacific, UNICEF spotlights findings on the pandemic’s impact on mental health and quality of life, including access to mental health services and peer support.</p>	<p>“We are in this together”: Uganda Young Positives respond to COVID-19 25 May 2020, <i>UNAIDS</i></p> <p>Uganda Young Positives (UYP) is supporting peers living with HIV to access HIV treatment and care during the COVID-19 lockdown.</p> <p><i>See also, in Senegal: “When people are asked to isolate themselves, we also need to make sure...” (UNAIDS)</i></p>	<p>New COVID-19 Lockdown Study Shows Drop in Child Health Visits but Resilience of HIV Care Systems in Rural KZN 25 May 2020, <i>Africa Health Research Institute</i></p> <p>A new study in rural KwaZulu-Natal found that the COVID-19 lockdown affected access to child health services more than adult-focused services, including for HIV care.</p>	
<p>When Uganda Shuts down for COVID, Expert Clients Step up 22 May 2020, <i>EGPAF</i></p> <p>The Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation features the work of a frontline worker in Uganda who is supporting ‘expert clients’ to help deliver drugs during the lockdown.</p>	<p>Rwanda Changes Tack on HIV Amidst COVID-19 Outbreak 26 May 2020, <i>New Times</i></p> <p>To ensure people living with HIV are not left behind during the pandemic, Rwanda is focusing on multi-month prescriptions, community outreach and ensuring HIV commodities.</p>	<p>COVID-19 War Risks Poor HIV Patients’ Health 28 May 2020, <i>Business Daily Africa</i></p> <p>This report from Kenya highlights how people living with HIV are often also affected by poverty, which is exacerbated by the pandemic and increases barriers to HIV treatment.</p>	
<p>Lockdown Hero: One young man, his bike and a big heart 28 May 2020, <i>Frontline AIDS</i></p> <p>In Uganda, a young peer educator discusses how he is delivering HIV medicines during the lockdown.</p>	<p>Maintaining HIV Patients on Drugs Taking Toll on Healthcare Providers 26 May 2020, <i>Independent</i></p> <p>Providers in Uganda note challenges of sustaining HIV services, including travel restrictions, resource constraints and stigma.</p>	<p>COVID-19 Disrupts South Sudan Health Services 21 May 2020, <i>VOA News</i></p> <p>Officials in South Sudan note that the COVID-19 pandemic is disrupting access to health services, including for women and girls and people with HIV.</p>	<p>Coping with HIV in a Pandemic 24 May 2020, <i>The Star</i></p> <p>In Malaysia, COVID-19 has added another layer of anxiety to people living with HIV who are already facing stigma and discrimination.</p>

GLOBAL IMPACT OF COVID-19

<p>Africa Hit by Sustained Community Spread of Coronavirus 28 May 2020, <i>Reuters</i></p> <p>The head of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention said that community transmission of SARS-CoV-2 is growing in Africa, particularly in Ethiopia.</p>	<p>Sudan to Establish Police Force to Protect Health Workers 23 May 2020, <i>Associated Press</i></p> <p>In the context of increased attacks against health workers during the pandemic, Sudan will be creating a police force to protect health facilities and providers.</p>	<p>Study Tells ‘Remarkable Story’ about COVID-19’s Deadly Rampage through a South African Hospital 25 May 2020, <i>Science</i></p> <p>In KwaZulu-Natal, an analysis of the COVID-19 outbreak at a single hospital provides insights on how the virus spreads in a healthcare setting.</p>
<p>How Brazil’s COVID-19 response has fallen to community leaders 27 May 2020, <i>The New Humanitarian</i></p> <p>As cases rise in Brazil, community groups are training first responders, setting up quarantine centres and using telemedicine. <i>See also: WHO says the Americas are new COVID-19 epicenter...</i></p>	<p>Many Girls Won’t Go Back To School When Lockdown Is Over 27 May 2020, <i>Devex</i></p> <p>Past experiences have shown that many girls will not be reenrolled in schools after disruptions like those caused by the pandemic. Early marriages and gender-based violence are likely to increase.</p>	<p>Scientific Networks Are Helping African Countries to Access Coronavirus Lab Supplies 26 May 2020, <i>Nature</i></p> <p>This story on the role of research teams in acquiring supplies such as testing kits includes a discussion of how HIV research programmes contributed to the rollout of ART.</p>
<p>‘It’s Very, Very Different’: COVID-19 forces new era of development cooperation 26 May 2020, <i>Devex</i></p>	<p>As India’s Lockdown Ends, Exodus from Cities Risks Spreading COVID-19 Far And Wide 27 May 2020, <i>Science</i></p>	<p>‘No Masks, no Gloves’: Kenyan government under fire over quarantine centres 27 May 2020, <i>Reuters</i></p>

NGOs say COVID-19 provided an opportunity to increase international cooperation and streamline programmes, in order to respond to the urgent needs of the pandemic.	India's COVID-19 cases have been concentrated in a few states and cities but as people travel home, cases are likely to rise in rural areas.	People who were quarantined in government-run facilities in Kenya are reporting poor conditions and lack of protective gear.
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NOVEL CORONAVIRUS AND CHILDREN

New reports on the multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children related to SARS-CoV-2 infection include:

- [The Hunt to Understand COVID-19's Connection to Kawasaki Disease](#) (*Time*)
- [South Korea Examines First Suspected Cases of Syndrome in Kids Linked to COVID-19](#) (*Reuters*)

Doctors in the U.S. reported cases of the syndrome in young adults, including a 20-year-old in San Diego and several patients in their 20s in New York. A doctor told the [Washington Post](#) that the young adults had more “overwhelming symptoms” that involved the heart and multiple organs.

Last week, a study [suggested](#) that children with the multisystem inflammatory syndrome may develop acute cardiac decompensation. A new study published in [The Lancet Rheumatology](#) reports a case of COVID-19 in a child who rapidly developed acute respiratory distress without prior respiratory symptoms. For a study explanation, see:

- [Children with COVID-19 Presenting with Sudden Severe Lung Disease](#) (*News Medical*)

The CDC held a [webinar](#) on Tuesday where providers discussed treating multisystem inflammatory syndrome. Empirical treatment with immunomodulators worked quickly for some severe cases. For a summary of presentations, see:

- [Targeting Immune Responses in Kids' COVID-19 Inflammatory Disorder](#) (*MedPage Today*)

From Russia to South Africa to the Canadian town of Iqaluit, Associated Press reporters asked children about their experience with the COVID-19 pandemic; [Through Kid's Eyes: Virus outbreak brings sadness, fear, joy](#) (*AP*).

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

In the Battle against COVID-19, a Risk of 'Vaccine Nationalism'

27 May 2020, *NPR*

There is global competition for vaccine access even as development of a safe and effective candidate is only underway.

See also: Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, chair of the Board of Gavi, discusses the importance of ensuring equitable access to a viable COVID-19 vaccine ([Bloomberg radio](#)). AVAC CEO Mitchell Warren outlines the importance of looking at lessons from HIV vaccine development ([Devex](#)).

For updates on vaccine development, see:

- [\\$1.2 Billion from U.S. to AstraZeneca...](#) (*New York Times*)
- [COVID-19 Vax Safe... in Chinese Adults](#) (*MedPage Today*)
- [Merck Leaps into COVID-19 Vaccine Race...](#) (*STAT*)

Remdesivir Data from NIAID Trial Published

23 May 2020, *MedPage Today*

Peer-reviewed findings were [published in NEJM](#) late Friday from a key trial of remdesivir for COVID-19, adding to the press release from April. Hospitalized patients with COVID-19 who received remdesivir had a median recovery time of 11 days versus 15 days with placebo.

World Health Organization Pauses Study of Hydroxychloroquine in Global Trial

25 May 2020, *POLITICO*

Amid a review of safety data, the WHO paused the use of hydroxychloroquine in a global trial of COVID-19 treatments. The decision follows a [large observational study](#) that reported increased risk of heart problems and death. See also: [MedPage Today](#)

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

COVID-19 Threatens to Derail Fight Against HIV, TB and Malaria

27 May 2020, Global Fund

These abridged remarks from Global Fund's Peter Sands call for maintaining the focus on HIV, TB and malaria and ensuring global health security protects everyone, not just rich countries.

Winning the War Against Maternal and Child Deaths

21 May 2020, Project Syndicate

The WHO Director-General, UNICEF Executive Director, UNFPA Executive Director and Save the Children UK CEO highlight how the pandemic jeopardizes gains in maternal and child mortality.

See also: [A call to action from the Partnership of Maternal, Newborn and Child Health \(PMNCH\)](#)

Children are Being Sidelined by COVID-19

27 May 2020, *BMJ*

The authors stress that children's rights require special attention during COVID-19; children are especially vulnerable to determinants of health and to the systemic shocks to these determinants that the pandemic will bring.

A Virus-Hunter Falls Prey to a Virus He Underestimated

26 May 2020, *New York Times*

HIV researcher and Director of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine Peter Piot discusses his experience as a COVID-19 patient and links to his work on the HIV response. See also: [LSHTM Podcast](#)

How UNICEF Australia Is Providing Life-Saving Support to Children on the Front Lines of COVID-19

27 May 2020, Global Citizen

Global Citizen interviewed UNICEF Australia's Director of International Programs Felicity Wever about UNICEF's work during

Lockdown Fears for Key Populations

21 May 2020, *The Lancet HIV*

This editorial notes that access to HIV services during the pandemic and lockdowns is a significant issue for people living with HIV, especially key populations who are

Millions at Risk of Gender-Based Violence if COVID-19 Pandemic is Prolonged

26 May 2020, *Council on Foreign Relations*

UNFPA's Natalia Kanem stresses the risks women and girls face during the pandemic and in its aftermath, including more

A Reminder during COVID-19—Africa is Not a Monolith

27 May 2020, *Devex*

A single narrative is not helpful in understanding the course of COVID-19 in Africa. Countries have varying health systems, constraints and strengths

COVID-19 and its role in the global response.	disproportionately penalized by restrictions.	domestic violence and sexual exploitation.	as well as experience with past epidemics.
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AROUND THE UNITED NATIONS

- UNICEF and Save the Children launched a [technical note](#) on COVID-19 impacts on children in poor households.
- The WHO Foundation [was launched](#) on Wednesday; the new foundation will broaden the WHO's donor base.
- UNESCO, UNICEF, World Bank and the World Food Programme released a [framework for reopening schools](#).
- The ILO [noted](#) that disruptions to the job market disproportionately affect young people, especially women.
- UN Secretary-General António Guterres [outlined](#) a unified global action needed in financing for development.

RECENT RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

<p>Description of COVID-19 in HIV-infected Individuals: A single-centre, prospective cohort 28 May 2020, <i>The Lancet HIV</i></p> <p>The authors compared characteristics of 51 individuals living with HIV diagnosed with COVID-19 with a sample of people living with HIV before the pandemic in Madrid. Age and CD4 counts in both groups were similar; but most people with COVID-19 had at least one comorbidity.</p>	<p>Hospitalized Patients With COVID-19 and HIV: A case series 27 May 2020, <i>Clinical Infectious Diseases</i></p> <p>This correspondence reports characteristics of 18 people living with HIV hospitalized with COVID-19 in London. Compared to the general HIV outpatient cohort, those hospitalized with COVID-19 were more likely to be of black ethnicity and have lower median CD4 cell counts.</p>
<p>HIV and SARS-CoV-2 co-infection: A case report from Uganda 21 May 2020, <i>Journal of Medical Virology</i></p> <p>This letter presents characteristics of a COVID-19 patient living with HIV in Uganda. The author noted atypical clinical presentation, undetectable HIV viral load and the use of hydroxychloroquine and antibiotics.</p>	<p>Adapting to the COVID-19 Pandemic: Continuing HIV Prevention Services for Adolescents Through Telemonitoring, Brazil 21 May 2020, <i>AIDS and Behavior</i></p> <p>The authors describe telemonitoring strategies and other adaptations for the pandemic for a PrEP demonstration programme among adolescent key populations in Brazil.</p>
<p>"Everything Is a Mess": How COVID-19 is impacting engagement with HIV testing services in rural southwestern Uganda 25 May 2020, <i>AIDS and Behavior</i></p> <p>This authors conducted in-depth interviews about COVID-19's impact on HIV testing uptake. Travel restrictions prevented participants from accessing HIV testing and COVID-related stigma discouraged going to facilities.</p>	<p>Reimagining the Future of HIV Service Implementation in the Philippines Based on Lessons From COVID-19 25 May 2020, <i>AIDS and Behavior</i></p> <p>This note presents innovative approaches employed during COVID-19 that should be considered for future HIV services, including: online HIV services; interventions to improve supply and delivery of ART; and policy changes to facilitate ART uptake from multiple treatment hubs.</p>

New resources for global, regional and country level practitioners working on HIV during the COVID-19 pandemic are presented below. To find additional documents and join the discussion, visit: www.childrenandaids.org/covid19

RESOURCES

<p>COVID-19 and Paediatric HIV Programme Delivery WEBINAR 28 May 2020</p> <p>UNICEF's Children and AIDS Learning Collaborative presented scientific updates on SARS-CoV-2 and HIV, children and pregnant women, programmatic implications for HIV services and frontline voices. <i>See: Voices from the Frontline (PATA)</i></p>	<p>COVID-19 and HIV: Adapting community-based HIV services during a pandemic WEBINAR 28 May 2020</p> <p>This webinar from the International AIDS Society focused on pandemic-related adaptations of HIV services, including for key populations, young people and women.</p>	<p>Contact Tracing and Inflammatory Syndrome: COVID-19 update no. 27 22 May 2020</p> <p>This update from WHO's EPI-WIN focuses on contact tracing guidance and provides a global update on the multisystem inflammatory syndrome seen in children related to COVID-19.</p>
<p>COVID-19 & HIV: Continuing services with and for marginalised people WEBINAR 20 May 2020</p> <p>Frontline AIDS partners from Uganda, Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa and Zimbabwe discussed changing needs of marginalised people and adapting HIV interventions during COVID-19.</p>	<p>BHIVA, DAIG, EACS, GESIDA & Polish Scientific AIDS Society Statement on Risk of COVID-19 for People Living with HIV (PLWH) 25 May 2020</p> <p>BHIVA and partners shared current evidence and guidance on COVID-19 and its impact on people with HIV.</p>	<p>WHO Q&A on HIV and Viral Hepatitis and COVID-19 UPDATED 22 May 2020</p> <p>This Q&A is for national programmes and health workers to provide guidance to people affected by HIV and viral hepatitis and maintain continuity of services.</p>
<p>PEPFAR Technical Guidance in Context of COVID-19 Pandemic UPDATED 22 May 2020</p> <p>Updates can be found in sections on resuming activities after lockdowns, HIV drug delivery and clinical care, and supply chain for ARVs.</p>	<p>Supporting TB Preventive Therapy for Clients Accessing DSD WEBINAR 26 May 2020</p> <p>ICAP at Columbia University and DSD hosted a discussion on supporting TB preventive therapy to continue during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	<p>Films about Coronavirus (COVID-19) VIDEOS</p> <p>Picturing Health along with research organisations, UNICEF and NGOs produced films and messages on COVID-19 in Africa and South Asia.</p>

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 2 Jun 2020:** The ICAP and DSD series on differentiated service delivery and COVID-19 will continue with a webinar on policy and practice adaptations in Mozambique and DRC. *8am ET / 2pm SAST* >> [More](#)

To submit feedback or content for inclusion in our weekly digests, please email Rikke Le Kirkegaard at rlekirkegaard@unicef.org.

COVID-19 and HIV: Weekly Digest

5 June 2020

The Children and AIDS Learning Collaborative’s COVID-19 and HIV digest compiles recent knowledge and updates related to the COVID-19 pandemic of interest to those working on HIV among children, adolescents, and pregnant women. The selections below represent views of the authors and do not reflect UNICEF positions.

COVID-19: IMPACT ON HIV AND HIV SERVICE DELIVERY

<p>Lessons learned from HIV for COVID-19 in Senegal 3 June 2020, <i>UNAIDS</i></p> <p>Abdoulaye Ka, who leads on human rights issues at the Senegal National AIDS Control Council discusses Senegal’s work to address stigma and other lessons from the HIV response for the fight against COVID-19.</p>	<p>Impact of COVID-19 on HIV Testing and Assisted Partner Notification Services, Western Kenya 2 June 2020, <i>AIDS and Behavior</i></p> <p>Barriers for patients and staff due to COVID-19 contributed to a decline in HIV testing, number of women enrolled in assisted partner notification services and HIV clinic volume in this field report from western Kenya.</p>	<p>Which People Living with HIV Are at Higher Risk for COVID-19? 3 June 2020, <i>aidsmap</i></p> <p>Two recent studies examined risk factors for COVID-19 within cohorts of people living with HIV; results include race and other co-morbidities.</p>	<p>Youth Counselors Help Their Peers with Medicine and Encouragement During Quarantine 2 June 2020, <i>Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation</i></p> <p>In southwest Uganda, youth peer counselors discuss their work delivering medication according to coronavirus safety regulations.</p>
<p>HIV+ Volunteers Home Deliver ART Drugs in Ganjam 31 May 2020, <i>The Hindu</i></p> <p>In a district in India’s Odisha, the state’s AIDS Control Society and NGOs have distributed ART drugs at home to about 2,000 people living with HIV.</p>	<p>New Law Made It Illegal for Couples from Different Households to Meet Indoors for Romantic Encounters 1 June 2020, <i>The Telegraph</i></p> <p>A new law in the UK adds strict curbs to individuals gathering indoors and staying overnight outside the primary home.</p>	<p>Sex—and PrEP—During the Pandemic 2 June 2020, <i>POZ</i></p> <p>Experts offer guidelines on stopping and restarting PrEP effectively as social distancing guidelines change.</p>	<p>Rate of Sexually Transmitted Infections Falls amid COVID-19 Pandemic 2 June 2020, <i>Irish Times</i></p> <p>Data from Ireland suggest that rates of many sexually transmitted infections declined compared to last year; however, there have been more cases of HIV.</p>

GLOBAL IMPACT OF COVID-19

<p>New WHO Model Forecasts a Different Coronavirus Spread Pattern in Africa 2 June 2020, <i>NPR</i></p> <p>A modelling study predicted the coronavirus will spread differently in Africa than it has elsewhere and claim lives of 190,000 people, which is much lower than earlier predictions.</p>	<p>Manhunts after Hundreds Flee Quarantine in Zimbabwe, Malawi 28 May 2020, <i>Associated Press</i></p> <p>Reports suggest that hundreds of individuals fled from quarantine facilities in Malawi and Zimbabwe. While both countries have reported low incidence of COVID-19, they are seeing most new cases among quarantined individuals.</p>	<p>Mexico’s Hospitals Strain to Treat Coronavirus as Officials Say Cases Are Peaking 3 June 2020, <i>The Washington Post</i></p> <p>Mexico City hits what officials say is the peak of its outbreak. The government originally projected 6,000 to 15,000 deaths but by Monday this week, authorities already confirmed 10,167 deaths.</p>
<p>Misinformation Leads to Increasing COVID-19 Stigma in Sub-Saharan Africa 1 June 2020, <i>Save the Children</i></p> <p>Rapid assessments in sub-Saharan Africa suggest that misinformation on how COVID-19 spreads is contributing to prejudice and stigma, and is a barrier to reducing cases.</p>	<p>We Should Have Done More, Admits Architect of Sweden’s COVID-19 Strategy 3 June 2020, <i>The Guardian</i></p> <p>Sweden’s COVID-19 deaths per capita was the highest in the world in a rolling seven-day average to 2 June. More than half of all deaths occurred in care homes.</p>	<p>The South African Response to the Pandemic 29 May 2020, <i>New England Journal of Medicine</i></p> <p>NEJM’s new COVID-19 Notes series presents a detailed outline of South Africa’s eight-stage national COVID-19 response.</p>
<p>Why Lockdowns Aren’t a One-Size-Fits-All Solution to the Pandemic 2 June 2020, <i>Devex</i></p> <p>Some public health experts have raised questions about the use of</p>	<p>Senegal to Ease Coronavirus Curfew as Protests Spread to Capital 4 June 2020, <i>Reuters</i></p> <p>Senegal will relax its curfew and ban on inter-regional travel after</p>	<p>Thailand’s One Million Health Volunteers Hailed as Coronavirus Heroes 4 June 2020, <i>Reuters</i></p>

national lockdowns in countries with weak health systems and fragile economies, especially those with a large informal sector.	demonstrations highlighted the economic impact of the three-month shutdown. <i>See also:</i> South African court rules lockdown restrictions 'irrational'	Thailand has been praised for effective pandemic control. Village Health Volunteers have been a critical support for the prevention, detection and reporting of COVID-19.
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COVID-19 AND INEQUALITY

<p>Black and Asian People in England More Likely to Die from COVID-19, Says Report 2 June 2020, <i>Reuters</i></p> <p>A new report by Public Health England (PHE) reinforced previous studies which indicated ethnic minority groups were more at risk from the virus. <i>See also:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More key findings: The Guardian • Opinion: BMJ 	<p>'This is what happens to us.' 3 June 2020, <i>The Washington Post</i></p> <p>This report suggests that there was little early action to halt the spread of SARS-CoV-2 among African Americans and the poor reporting of race-disaggregated data continues to hamper efforts.</p> <p><i>See also:</i> Many Black Men Fear Wearing a Mask More Than the Coronavirus</p>	<p>Address 'appalling impact' of COVID-19 on minorities, UN rights chief urges 2 Jun 2020, <i>UN News</i></p> <p>Responding to reports from multiple countries, the UN High Commission for Human Rights called for urgent action to address "the major disproportionate impact" of COVID-19 on racial and ethnic minorities, including people of African descent.</p>
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NOVEL CORONAVIRUS AND CHILDREN

More evidence on the multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children related to SARS-CoV-2 was published:

- A study in [The BMJ](#) describes 21 children and adolescents with features of Kawasaki disease admitted to a hospital in Paris, France. Nineteen had evidence of recent SARS-CoV-2 infection. An unusually high proportion had gastrointestinal symptoms and Kawasaki disease shock syndrome, and were of African ancestry.
- [Healio](#) summarized a study that suggested treatment with intravenous immune globulin is effective for acute cardiac failure associated with the inflammatory syndrome in children.

Based on evidence suggesting lower transmission rates, the South African Paediatric Association released a [statement](#) supporting the reopening of schools. *See also:* [Two girls' lockdown learning underlines South Africa's educational divide](#)

Two weeks after schools were reopened in Israel, more than 200 cases among children and staff have been confirmed; the government has [ordered](#) schools with cases reported to close. The [New York Times](#) reports that some parents in the UK are hesitant to let their children attend schools even if they reopen.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

<p>Updates on Vaccine Development</p> <p>The Gavi replenishment summit this week raised \$567 million towards an initial goal of \$2 billion for an Advanced Market Commitment to buy future SARS-CoV-2 vaccines for low- and middle-income countries.</p> <p>Brazil will be a testing site for the vaccine candidate developed by the University of Oxford and AstraZeneca.</p> <p>The US selected finalists for its Operation Warp Speed; selected vaccine programs will get additional funding, clinical trial assistance and manufacturing support.</p> <p>The WHO unveiled a new initiative called the COVID-19 Technology Access Pool that aims to make treatments, vaccines and tests accessible to all. It builds on the Medicines Patent Pool, which expanded treatment access for HIV and hepatitis.</p>	<p>Treatment Updates: Hydroxychloroquine, Remdesivir</p> <p>The WHO is resuming a clinical trial on the malaria drug hydroxychloroquine for COVID-19 treatment. The trial was temporarily suspended last week after a study published in the <i>Lancet</i> tied the drug to a higher risk of death in hospitalized COVID-19 patients. (STAT) This week, <i>The Lancet</i> issued an expression of concern about the data used and retracted the study.</p> <p>In a new study, the incidence of COVID-19 did not differ significantly among participants receiving hydroxychloroquine following exposure to the virus and those receiving placebo. Participants were mostly healthcare professionals. The study, from the US and Canada, is the first randomized clinical trial that tested the drug as a preventive measure. (MedPage Today)</p> <p>Meanwhile, the government of India issued recommendations that frontline workers take hydroxychloroquine as prevention and the US sent Brazil 2 million doses of the drug.</p> <p>Gilead's Remdesivir has been approved for emergency use in severe COVID-19 patients in India and South Korea. It was approved in the US last month. <i>See also:</i> The Global Need for Open and Equitable Access to Remdesivir</p>
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EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

<p>The Curious Case of COVID-19 in Africa 3 June 2020, <i>Inter Press Service</i></p> <p>From UNDP Africa, this commentary discusses key factors that contribute to Africa's low case numbers and mortality rates as well as lessons for the future.</p>	<p>How My All-Female, HIV-Positive Health Workers Are Fighting Two Epidemics 28 May 2020, <i>Marie Claire</i></p> <p>Ilda Kuleba, Mozambique country director at mothers2mothers, discusses ensuring services for people living with HIV during the pandemic.</p>	<p>Trump's WHO Exit Threatens Polio, Tuberculosis Fights Along With COVID 2 June 2020, <i>Bloomberg</i></p> <p>Experts fear that U.S. decision to terminate its relationship with the WHO will harm efforts to address diseases like polio and TB. <i>See also:</i> Nature</p>	<p>COVID-19 and the Danger of Criminalization 3 June 2020, <i>Maverick Citizen</i></p> <p>South Africa's regulations make it a crime for someone who knows they tested positive for COVID-19 to avoid quarantine. The author suggests that the lesson from HIV is to take a different approach.</p>
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<p>Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo on How Economies Can Rebound 26 May 2020, <i>The Economist</i></p> <p>The Nobel-winning economists recommend a “COVID-19 Marshall Plan” for low-income countries and other policies for economic recovery. <i>See also: The Conversation</i></p>	<p>COVID-19 Shows the World Needs Physicians Who Can Look Beyond Medical Charts 4 June 2020, <i>The Conversation</i></p> <p>The pandemic is stressing the importance of “social medicine,” which centers health equity and multi-sectoral approaches of delivering healthcare.</p>	<p>In the Battle against COVID-19, Women Make Somalia Stronger 1 June 2020, <i>Devex</i></p> <p>Somalia’s Minister of Women and Human Rights Development outlines the contributions of women in the COVID-19 response, including as health care workers and caregivers.</p>	<p>COVID-19 Lockdowns: Impact on Facility-Based HIV Testing and Case for the Scaling Up of Home-Based Testing Services in Sub-Saharan Africa 2 June 2020, <i>AIDS and Behavior</i></p> <p>The authors make case for scaling up home-based HIV testing in response to disruptions to HIV services.</p>
<p>Dr. Fauci: How Larry Kramer 'Transformed the Relationship' Between Activists and Government 29 May 2020, <i>Time</i></p> <p>Dr. Anthony Fauci discusses the vital role HIV activist Larry Kramer played in establishing how the government can be held accountable for health.</p>	<p>UNAIDS Chief Winnie Byanyima: COVID-19 could roll back gains made in fighting HIV in Africa 28 May 2020, <i>UN</i></p> <p>The Africa Renewal programme interviewed Winnie Byanyima of UNAIDS about COVID-19 in Africa and impact on people living with HIV.</p>	<p>The Coronavirus Pandemic Will Last Longer If We Ignore Other Health Threats 2 June 2020, <i>The Telegraph</i></p> <p>In the backdrop of the Gavi replenishment summit happening this week, this comment urges countries to simultaneously respond to other diseases.</p>	<p>COVID-19 Research in Africa 29 May 2020, <i>Science</i></p> <p>Responding to inaccurate claims that ethical and safety standards for clinical trials are lower in Africa, Linda-Gail Bekker and Valarie Mizrahi spotlight the important role Africa has played and continue to play in clinical research .</p>

AROUND THE UNITED NATIONS

- WHO [highlighted](#) the significant impact of COVID-19 on the prevention and treatment of NCDs.
- UN Secretary-General António Guterres [called for increasing aid](#) to the humanitarian crisis in Yemen.
- UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet [called on](#) several countries in the Asia-Pacific to protect freedom of expression during their response to coronavirus-related misinformation.
- The UN [released](#) a policy brief on COVID-19’s impact on refugees, internally displaced people and migrants.

RECENT RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

<p>Epidemiology, Clinical Features, and Disease Severity in Patients with Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in a Children’s Hospital in New York City, New York 3 June 2020, <i>JAMA Pediatrics</i></p> <p>In this case series describing 50 children and adolescents hospitalized with COVID-19 in New York, respiratory symptoms were not always present, but comorbidities were common. Obesity was most prevalent comorbidity.</p>	<p>A Rapid Review of Economic Policy and Social Protection Responses to Health and Economic Crises and Their Effects on Children: Lessons for the COVID-19 response 2 June 2020, <i>UNICEF Office of Research - Innocenti</i></p> <p>The review assesses policy responses to past virus outbreaks, economic crises and natural disasters, including the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and their impact on children and their families.</p>
<p>Clinical Characteristics and Outcomes in People Living with HIV Hospitalized for COVID-19 30 May 2020, <i>Clinical Infectious Diseases</i></p> <p>The paper describes the characteristics of 31 people living with HIV hospitalized for COVID-19 in New York. All patients were on ART and outcomes were similar to those reported in other hospitalized cohorts. <i>See also: A Case Series of Five People Living with HIV Hospitalized with COVID-19 in Chicago, Illinois</i></p>	<p>Secondary Transmission of Coronavirus Disease from Presymptomatic Persons, China 26 May 2020, <i>Emerging Infectious Diseases</i></p> <p>The authors examined secondary transmission rates across different types of contact with persons presymptomatic for COVID-19. The highest risk of infection was among close contacts who lived with or had frequent contact with the presymptomatic individuals.</p>

New resources for global, regional and country level practitioners working on HIV during the COVID-19 pandemic are presented below. To find additional documents and join the discussion, visit: www.childrenandaids.org/covid19

RESOURCES

<p>Children in Monetary Poor Households and COVID-19 28 May 2020</p> <p>This technical note describes the analysis by Save the Children and UNICEF to calculate the number of additional children that could be pushed into household poverty due to COVID-19’s economic impact.</p>	<p>DSD and the COVID-19 Response, Updates on Policy and Practice Adaptations: Mozambique and DRC WEBINAR 2 June 2020</p> <p>ICAP at Columbia University and DSD hosted a webinar on policy and practice adaptations for COVID-19 in Mozambique and the Democratic Republic of Congo.</p>	<p>PEPFAR Technical Guidance in Context of COVID-19 Pandemic UPDATED 3 June 2020</p> <p>Updates can be found in sections on the availability of paediatric ARVs, key population housing referrals, masks and PPEs.</p>
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UPCOMING EVENTS

- 9 Jun 2020: ICAP at Columbia University and DSD webinar series continues with “DSD, supply chain and COVID-19: What to expect and how to be prepared”. 8am ET | 2pm SAST >> [More](#)

To submit feedback or content for inclusion in our weekly digests, please email Rikke Le Kirkegaard at rlkirkegaard@unicef.org.

COVID-19 and HIV: Weekly Digest

12 June 2020

The Children and AIDS Learning Collaborative’s COVID-19 and HIV digest compiles recent knowledge and updates related to the COVID-19 pandemic of interest to those working on HIV among children, adolescents, and pregnant women. The selections below represent views of the authors and do not reflect UNICEF positions.

COVID-19: IMPACT ON HIV AND HIV SERVICE DELIVERY

<p>Coronavirus Disrupts HIV prevention efforts in Africa 7 June 2020, <i>The East African</i></p> <p>Lockdowns and restrictions have caused health system disruptions across Africa. Among HIV-related services, interviews suggest that HIV prevention services, especially for populations considered most at risk for HIV, were the most disrupted.</p>	<p>‘Flying blind’: Doctors race to understand what COVID-19 means for people with HIV 10 June 2020, <i>STAT</i></p> <p>Doctors are trying to understand the implications of COVID-19 on people with HIV. A new study with CNIS, a network of HIV research centers, is aiming to find out more with a larger dataset of patients with HIV.</p>	<p>Is Telemedicine for HIV Here to Stay? 8 June 2020, <i>aidsmap</i></p> <p>Adapting to COVID-19 accelerated the uptake of telemedicine interventions for HIV prevention and treatment in many settings. Some are asking if these remote services, provided via video and phone calls, apps and social media, will remain a part of HIV service delivery.</p>
<p>Peer Consultants Helping the AIDS Response in Kyrgyzstan 10 June 2020, <i>UNAIDS</i></p> <p>Peer consultants in Kyrgyzstan have been working in an expanded capacity since the pandemic began. They are delivering medicines, distributing food packages and providing psychological support for people living with HIV.</p>	<p>Tajik Businesses Run by Women Living with HIV Supply Key Protective Gear for COVID-19 Response 8 June 2020, <i>UN Women</i></p> <p>A small business run by women living with HIV is supplying protection masks during the pandemic. In 2019, it participated in a business training by a UN Women- UNAIDS project.</p>	<p>COVID-19 Lockdown in Wuhan: Community group delivers HIV medicine 8 June 2020, <i>UNAIDS</i></p> <p>A community-based center in Wuhan, China quickly responded to the city’s lockdown to ensure people living with HIV continue treatment. By March, they delivered medicines to nearly 3,000 people with HIV.</p>
<p>People with HIV at Greater Risk Of COVID-19 Death in South African Study 10 June 2020, <i>aidsmap</i></p> <p>In a recent webinar (see: recording and slides), South Africa’s Western Cape Department of Health described a preliminary analysis of routine public sector data that suggests people with HIV have an increased risk of death from COVID-19. The researcher noted that the numbers are still low and almost all people with HIV who died had comorbidities, such as diabetes or hypertension.</p>	<p>Lockdown, hunger and staying on HIV treatment in Hammonds Farm 10 June 2020, <i>Maverick Citizen</i></p> <p>This article describes the impact of COVID-19 on people living with HIV in a community in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. Most people living with HIV in this area worked in the informal sector and lost their jobs. Vulnerability to hunger and poverty is a barrier to being able to continue HIV treatment and care.</p>	

GLOBAL IMPACT OF COVID-19

<p>With No Current Cases, New Zealand Lifts Remaining COVID-19 Restrictions 8 June 2020, <i>NPR</i></p> <p>Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said New Zealand has eradicated COVID-19 and lifted all restrictions. The country had 1,500 infections and 22 deaths.</p>	<p>Global Report: WHO urges Pakistan to return to lockdown 10 June 2020, <i>The Guardian</i></p> <p>The WHO urged Pakistan to return to lockdown and suggested implementing restrictions in two-week cycles. This global report also describes the rising numbers in South America.</p>	<p>COVID-19 Can Last for Several Months 4 June 2020, <i>The Atlantic</i></p> <p>According to the WHO, about 80 per cent of SARS-CoV-2 infections are mild or asymptomatic. However, some patients are reporting a range of debilitating symptoms that have lasted a month or more.</p>	<p>Coronavirus: John Magufuli declares Tanzania free of COVID-19 8 June 2020, <i>BBC</i></p> <p>President John Magufuli declared that Tanzania is free of the coronavirus. The data has not been publicly available since 29 April.</p>
<p>COVID-19 Infections are Rising Fast in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan 6 June 2020, <i>The Economist</i></p> <p>While Bangladesh, India and Pakistan have mostly lifted lockdown, the number of COVID-19 cases continue to</p>	<p>Why Forecasters Can't Make Up Their Mind About Africa and the Coronavirus 10 June 2020, <i>NPR</i></p> <p>There are a range of predictions about the spread of the SAR-CoV-2 virus in</p>	<p>China Defends its Coronavirus Response in New Report 8 June 2020, <i>AP</i></p> <p>A new report from China asserts that the country quickly shared information about the new virus,</p>	<p>Hundreds of Coronavirus Deaths Confirmed in Nigeria, as Doctors Go on Strike 9 June 2020, <i>The Telegraph</i></p>

increase. At the current pace, the numbers are doubling every two weeks.	Africa and many misjudge the region's heterogeneity. <i>See also:</i> Africa's coronavirus 'hotspots' in South Africa, Algeria, Cameroon: WHO	including its gene sequence, with the WHO and others.	In Nigeria, government doctors are preparing for a strike to protest low salaries and poor working conditions.
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COVID-19 AND INEQUALITY

<p>COVID-19 Just the Latest Epidemic in Areas Struck by Disease 11 June 2020, <i>AP</i></p> <p>In many settings, COVID-19 is adding to a list of infectious diseases including polio, ebola, cholera, dengue, TB and malaria. These are often aggravated by poverty, malnutrition and medical care as well as violence and instability.</p>	<p>'Enormous Disparities': coronavirus death rates expose Brazil's deep racial inequalities 9 June 2020, <i>The Guardian</i></p> <p>In Brazil, a new study is adding to the evidence that black Brazilians are disproportionately dying of COVID-19. The virus is now spreading in poorer areas.</p> <p><i>See also, blog:</i> COVID-19 in Latin America: A pandemic meets extreme inequality</p>	<p>COVID Crisis Could Worsen Existing UK Inequality, Think Tank Says 11 June 2020, <i>Reuters</i></p> <p>The Institute for Fiscal Studies noted that the virus is increasing inequalities in the UK. The gap in death rates between rich and poor neighbourhoods have widened, and new infections are disproportionately higher among Black people.</p>	<p>Stolen Breaths 10 June 2020, <i>New England Journal of Medicine</i></p> <p>The article discusses the simultaneous health impacts of the pandemic and racial inequality for Black Americans and suggests five practices to address racial inequality in healthcare.</p> <p><i>See also, editorial:</i> Diagnosing and Treating Systemic Racism</p>
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NOVEL CORONAVIRUS AND CHILDREN

New research on the multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children related to SARS-CoV-2 include:

- A case series in [JAMA](#) describes symptoms and clinical course of 58 children hospitalized with the inflammatory syndrome in the UK. Nearly half were Black or Asian, and the median age was nine years.
- Another paper in [JAMA](#) describes 17 children admitted to hospitals in New York with the syndrome. Median age was eight years. *See also, editorial:* [SARS-CoV-2–related inflammatory multisystem syndrome in children. Different or shared etiology and pathophysiology as Kawasaki disease?](#)
- An article in [Eurosurveillance](#) describes results of a nationwide surveillance in France conducted from 1 March to 7 May. The authors estimated the risk of the syndrome to be fewer than 2 cases per 10,000 children. *For an explanation of results, see:* [Studies yield clearer picture of rare COVID-linked syndrome in kids](#)
- [Gastroenterology](#) published a chart review of 44 children hospitalized with the multisystem inflammatory syndrome in New York. Gastrointestinal symptoms were prominent in 84 per cent of cases. *For an explanation of results:* [GI Issues in Kids With COVID-19 MIS-C May Muddy Diagnosis](#)

While schools reopened in South Africa this week, [Reuters](#) reported that some parents remained concerned about safeguards in schools to reduce infections. Officials in the Philippines [announced](#) that children will not be allowed to go back to school until a vaccine is available; online or TV classes will resume in August. [The Wall Street Journal](#) featured the implications of the pandemic on education in Asia, noting that it may reverse gains in increasing access to education among those affected by poverty.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Updates on Vaccine Development

A COVID-19 vaccine being developed in China [showed promise](#) in trials in monkeys, triggering antibodies and raising no safety issues.

European officials are [aiming to speed up](#) the trial process for vaccines with genetically modified organisms (GMOs); officials noted that some of the most promising COVID-19 vaccine candidates contain GMOs.

Imperial College scientists are aiming to [bring a low-cost vaccine](#) early next year through a social enterprise called VacEquity Global Health.

Treatment Updates: Hydroxychloroquine, Remdesivir

After finding no evidence of benefit, UK researchers [terminated the hydroxychloroquine arm](#) of its national RECOVERY clinical trial. *See also:* [Three big studies dim hopes that hydroxychloroquine can treat or prevent COVID-19 \(Science\)](#)

Remdesivir, Gilead's antiviral drug, [prevented](#) lung disease in macaque monkeys with SARS-CoV-2 infections. The results were published this week in [Nature](#).

Singapore [approved the use](#) of remdesivir for severely ill patients with COVID-19, joining South Korea, Japan, India and US in doing so. The European Medicines Agency [said](#) it would look to fast-track remdesivir's approval.

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

COVID-19: The state cannot save us

9 June 2020, *African Arguments*

With the example of South Africa, the authors note that while there is a robust biomedical response to the pandemic at the state level, there has not been enough focus on enlisting citizens as partners and mobilizing them to combat the pandemic.

Surviving HIV in the Age of COVID-19

5 June 2020, *Human Rights Campaign*

On National HIV Long-Term Survivors Awareness Day, the Human Rights Campaign interviewed two advocates and long-term HIV survivors about HIV and the impact of COVID-19.

Protecting Midwives and Mothers During the Pandemic

9 June 2020, *Project Syndicate*

The authors highlight the need for continued focus and funding for maternal health services. Even as COVID-19 becomes the priority for health systems, mothers and midwives need to be protected.

<p>South Africa must adopt a localised response to COVID-19. What it would look like 9 June 2020, <i>The Conversation</i></p> <p>In South Africa, COVID-19 infections are clustered within geographical areas and some populations are at higher risk. This is similar to the HIV epidemic and those learnings should inform a localised response.</p>	<p>Let's Not Forget Children Living with HIV/AIDS during COVID-19 Pandemic 5 June 2020, <i>The Southern Times</i></p> <p>This op-ed highlights the challenges faced by children living with HIV. During COVID-19, the nutritional needs of these children who must continue treatment should be considered.</p>	<p>How Many More Will Die from Fear of the Coronavirus? 9 June 2020, <i>New York Times</i></p> <p>The leaders of the Cleveland Clinic and Mayo Clinic urge people with other health conditions or needing emergency care to return to seeking services at hospitals and clinics.</p> <p>See also: ED Visits Down 49% since January, Analysis Reveals</p>
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AROUND THE UNITED NATIONS

- The WHO [noted](#) that the COVID-19 pandemic is worsening globally and urged continued caution; more than 136,000 cases were recorded on Sunday, the highest number in a single day.
- UN ECOSOC [heard](#) appeals to increase funding to the COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan.
- According to the World Bank's latest [Global Economic Prospects report](#), the global economy will shrink by 5.2 per cent this year, which will be the deepest recession since World War Two, due to the pandemic.

RECENT RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

<p>Letter to the Editor: The Characteristics of Two Patients Co-Infected with SARS-CoV-2 and HIV in Wuhan, China 10 June 2020, <i>Journal of Medical Virology</i></p> <p>This letter describes two young male patients living with HIV who were admitted to a hospital in Wuhan, China with COVID-19. It describes their clinical and laboratory features as well as treatment approach and outcomes.</p>	<p>The COVID-19 Response Must Integrate People Living with HIV Needs in Sub-Saharan Africa: The Case of Mali 3 June 2020, <i>Tropical Medicine and Health</i></p> <p>This letter makes recommendations on integrating care for people living with HIV into the COVID-19 response in Mali. Community engagement is suggested as critical to ensure continuity of care for people living with HIV.</p>
<p>Prevalence, clinical characteristics and treatment outcomes of HIV and SARS-CoV-2 co-infection: a systematic review and meta-analysis 3 June 2020, <i>preprint</i></p> <p>The authors reviewed 17 studies to examine the prevalence, clinical characteristics and outcomes of HIV and SARS-CoV-2 co-infection. The pooled prevalence of co-infection was 1 per cent and clinical characteristics were comparable to people without HIV.</p>	<p>COVID-19 in HIV-Infected Individuals: Preliminary Results of a Prospective Cohort 2 June 2020, <i>preprint</i></p> <p>This observational study compared characteristics of patients at an HIV clinic in Spain with COVID-19 and characteristics of patients at the clinic before the pandemic. These preliminary findings indicate that COVID-19 predominantly affects people living with HIV with comorbidities.</p>

New resources for global, regional and country level practitioners working on HIV during the COVID-19 pandemic are presented below. To find additional documents and join the discussion, visit: www.childrenandaids.org/covid19

RESOURCES

<p>Prioritizing the Continuity of Services for Adolescents Living with HIV during the COVID-19 Pandemic 5 June 2020</p> <p>UNICEF released an information note on addressing the vulnerabilities and needs of adolescents living with HIV within national COVID-19 responses.</p>	<p>COVID-19 and Children Living with HIV: Preventing widening inequalities June 2020</p> <p>This op-ed from UNICEF discusses projections of additional AIDS-related deaths and adds recommendations to prevent worsening inequalities.</p>	<p>COVID-19 Impacts on African Children: How to protect-a-generation at risk 8 June 2020</p> <p>Save the Children's policy paper outlines how COVID-19 increases risks to children's rights and well-being in Africa.</p>
<p>Strategic Considerations for Mitigating the Impact of COVID-19 on Key Population-Focused HIV Programs 4 June 2020</p> <p>FHI 360, with UNAIDS, presents considerations to address the impact of COVID-19 on key populations.</p>	<p>Advice on the Use of Masks in the Context of COVID-19: Interim guidance 5 June 2020</p> <p>The WHO released updated guidelines on wearing masks for health workers and the public.</p>	<p>DSD, Supply Chain and COVID-19: What to expect and how to be prepared WEBINAR 9 June 2020</p> <p>ICAP at Columbia University and DSD hosted a webinar on health product supply chain, including ART, during the pandemic.</p>
<p>PEPFAR Technical Guidance in Context of COVID-19 Pandemic UPDATED 5 June 2020</p> <p>Updates can be found in sections on DREAMS, commodity delays and PEPFAR COVID-related resources.</p>	<p>COVID in Eastern Mediterranean and North Africa Region: An Update WEBINAR 3 June 2020</p> <p>ICAP and Columbia Global Centers hosted a webinar on COVID-19 in the Eastern Mediterranean and North Africa Region.</p>	<p>HIV & COVID-19 – What do we know so far? PODCAST 4 June 2020</p> <p>The Sexually Transmitted Infections journal hosted a discussion on information for clinicians and patients about HIV and COVID-19.</p>

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 16 Jun 2020: ICAP at Columbia University and DSD webinar series will continue on Tuesday next week. Details TBA. 8am ET | 2pm SAST >> [More](#)
- 18 Jun 2020: UNICEF Office of Research-Innocenti will host a webinar on the pandemic's impact on worsening learning gaps. 9am ET | 3pm SAST >> [More](#)

To submit feedback or content for inclusion in our weekly digests, please email Rikke Le Kirkegaard at rlekirkegaard@unicef.org.