



CATEGORIES

[Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles](#)

[Recent Public Health News](#)

[Training and Resources](#)

[Publications and Reports](#)

[Conferences and Events](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

WHO: Strengthen Nurse Workforce

JAMA | May 2020

Bridget Kuehn

An urgent global effort is needed to bolster the nurse workforce, according to a **report** from the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Council of Nurses, and **Nursing Now**, an international campaign to raise nurses' status.

Based on **data** from 191 countries, the report found that although the shortage of nurses worldwide improved slightly, from 6.6 million in 2016 to 5.9 million in 2018, an estimated 89% of that shortage, or 5.3 million nurses, is in low- and middle-income countries. About 80% of the world's nurses are concentrated in countries that are home to only half of the world's population; 1 in 8 work in a country other than where they were born or trained. An aging nurse workforce may exacerbate the gap, with 1 in 6 nurses expected to retire in the next 10 years.

Characteristics and outcomes of older people on antiretroviral therapy in Tlokwe Clinics, South Africa

South African Journal of HIV Medicine | 7 July 2020

Mareike Rabe, Huibrecht Lion-Cachet, Melaku Eyassu

South Africa has a large HIV epidemic but little is known of its effect on those ≥ 60 years of age viz. 'older-persons' living with HIV (OPLWH). Numbers in this age group are increasing and are expected to place a greater strain on existing resources. The objectives were to describe the demographic features and the co-morbidities of OPLWH in Tlokwe. This included an assessment of viral load (VL) suppression and the identification of associations between patient characteristics and clinical outcomes.

Association Between Universal Masking in a Health Care System and SARS-CoV-2 Positivity Among Health Care Workers

JAMA | published online 14 July 2020

Xiaowen Wang, Enrico Ferro, Guohai Zhou, et al

The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome

coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), has severely affected health care workers (HCWs).¹ As a result, hospital systems began testing HCWs² and implementing infection control measures to mitigate workforce depletion and prevent disease spread.³ Mass General Brigham (MGB) is the largest health care system in Massachusetts, with 12 hospitals and more than 75 000 employees. In March 2020, MGB implemented a multipronged infection reduction strategy involving systematic testing of symptomatic HCWs and universal masking of all HCWs and patients with surgical masks.⁴ This study assessed the association of hospital masking policies with the SARS-CoV-2 infection rate among HCWs.

Population health, economics and ethics in the age of COVID-19

BMJ Global Health | 15 July 2020

Sanjay Reddy

Are the steps that have been taken to arrest the spread of COVID-19 justifiable? Specifically, are they likely to have improved public health understood according to widely used aggregate population health measures, such as Quality Adjusted Life Years (QALYs) and Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) as much or more than alternatives? This is a reasonable question, since such measures have been promoted extensively in global and national health policy by influential actors, and they have become almost synonymous with quantification of public health. If the steps taken against COVID-19 did not meet this test, then either the measures or the policies must be re-evaluated. There are indications that policies against COVID-19 may have been unbalanced and therefore not optimal. A balanced approach to protecting population health should be proportionate in its effects across distinct health concerns at a moment, across populations over time and across populations over space. These criteria provide a guide to designing and implementing policies that diminish harm from COVID-19 while also providing due attention to other threats to aggregate population health. They should shape future policies in response to this pandemic and others.

Where are the women? Gender inequalities in COVID-19 research authorship

BMJ Global Health | 11 June 2020

Sanne Peters, Kelly Thompson, Carinna Hockham, Katherine Ripullone, Mark Woodward, et al

Women account for about a third of all authors who published papers related to COVID-19 since the beginning of the outbreak in January 2020. Women's representation is lower still for first and last authorship positions. Gender biases seem to be affecting COVID-19 research similar to other scientific areas, highlighting that women are consistently being under-represented. This may have implications for the availability and interrogation of sex-disaggregated data and therefore our understanding of COVID-19. These gender biases hint at wider gender inequalities in our global response to the pandemic, which may reduce the chance of dealing with it robustly and speedily. Women are under-represented as authors of research papers in many scientific areas, particularly in senior authorship positions.

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

Injectable PrEP is Highly Effective for Some Populations and Must Move Forward as Quickly as Possible

AVAC | 7 July 2020

AVAC welcomes new, additional data that shows an injectable antiretroviral for HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is safe and highly effective in reducing HIV risk cisgender men and transgender women who have sex with men. At the 23rd **International AIDS Conference** [...] researchers from the **HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN)** released data comparing rates of HIV among trial participants who received the bi-monthly injection, and those who received daily oral tenofovir/emtricitabine (TDF/FTC). While both strategies reduced HIV risk among participants, the injectable strategy was more effective compared to oral PrEP.

Advancing TB services for people living with HIV during the COVID-19 pandemic

UNAIDS | 10 JULY 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic has spread globally at a speed and magnitude unprecedented in modern times, claiming more than half a million lives and damaging societies and economies. In low- and middle-income

countries especially, the COVID-19 pandemic and response is interacting with the global pandemics of tuberculosis (TB) and HIV, creating additional barriers to accessing essential prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care services.

During the opening plenary of the fourth TB/HIV pre-conference of the 2020 International AIDS Conference, the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, Amina Mohammed, noted that, "COVID-19, like HIV decades before it, and tuberculosis centuries before that, brings into stark reality how inequalities of all types can hollow out our societies, institutions and systems, making us all more vulnerable to health, climate, economic and human security threats. COVID-19 is affecting everyone but not everyone is equally affected." People must be placed at the centre of the response through rights-based and gender-transformative approaches that also put an end to stigma and discrimination of all types.

WHO and UNICEF warn of a decline in vaccinations during COVID-19

WHO | 15 July 2020

The World Health Organization and UNICEF warned [...] of an alarming decline in the number of children receiving life-saving vaccines around the world. This is due to disruptions in the delivery and uptake of immunization services caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. **According to new data by WHO and UNICEF**, these disruptions threaten to reverse hard-won progress to reach more children and adolescents with a wider range of vaccines, which has already been hampered by a decade of stalling coverage.

Lockdown SA: EC traditional leaders ramp up social relief

Health-E News | 15 July 2020

Chief of Amazizi clan and traditional leader Bhungaliwile Viwe Mdal ka Xabadiya has put a smile on 71-year-old Novotile Xhabadiya's face. Xhabadiya received winter blankets and food from the traditional leader's social relief initiative for the Mbholompo village, located between Engcobo and Mthatha in the Eastern Cape.

Chief Mdal has distributed more than 40 good quality blankets and groceries to the elderly and most vulnerable in his community. He says this initiative is part of celebrating Nelson Mandela's legacy, which is about helping others.

"This initiative by was inspired by the month of July, which is also known as Mandela month. Also, it is inspired **by the Covid-19 lockdown**, and the colder temperatures. We have noticed that now the Eastern Cape is reaching its coronavirus peak," he notes.

Herd immunity assumptions challenged by latest research

Medical Brief | 15 July 2020

There is a growing body of evidence that immunity to COVID-19 is short lived, writes **MedicalBrief**. The latest study, from the **UK**, found levels of antibodies peaked about three weeks after the onset of symptoms then swiftly declined.

The latest research suggests that people who have recovered from **COVID-19** may lose their immunity to the disease within months, and the virus could re-infect people year after year, like common colds.

Excess deaths rise to 11,000 in research council's latest grim Covid-19 update

Timeslive | 16 July 2020

Excess deaths during the Covid-19 pandemic have reached 10,994 according to the latest weekly estimate from the Medical Research Council. The estimated excess deaths from natural causes between May 6 and July 7 is two-and-a-half times the official Covid-19 death toll of 4,453. The Medical Research Council (MRC) team of Debbie Bradshaw, Ria Laubscher, Rob Dorrington, Pam Groenewald and Tom Moultrie said two-thirds of the excess deaths (7,305) were in people older than 60.

US pharma company raises vaccine hopes but more trials are vital, say experts

The Guardian | 16 July 2020

Promising details were released this week about Moderna's Covid-19 vaccine but it remains in the early stages of development

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

TRAINING AND RESOURCES

WHO | Risk Communications for Influenza Events

Overview: Risk communication, including community engagement and social mobilization, is a core capacity for emergency response that all countries should have in order to respond to health threats. It is an essential component of an effective response to a health threat such as pandemic and seasonal influenza.

The materials are in three languages: English, French and Spanish. Please choose the video lecture on Risk Communication for Influenza Events in your preferred language and watch it.

Learning objective: By the end of this course, participants should be able to:

- list the core ideas and principles for emergency risk communication for an influenza event;
- explain why facts are not enough to communicate risk; and
- describe steps to take to prepare for risk communication. Course duration: Approximately 1 hour.

Certificates: No certificate available at this time.

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

Start Free Stay Free AIDS Free - 2020 report

UNAIDS | 7 JULY 2020

This progress report reviews recent gains, new developments and remaining challenges as countries approach the 2020 targets of the Start Free Stay Free AIDS Free framework.

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Due to the disruption COVID-19 has caused the conferencing industry many events have been cancelled or postponed. As a result of this uncertainty we have decided not to list any conferences and events in the Bulletin for the time being.

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

HST Sub-district Monitoring and Evaluation Officer

Closing date 21 July 2020

[\(Return to Top\)](#)



Copyright © 2019 HEALTH SYSTEMS TRUST, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

hst@hst.org.za

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Health Systems Trust · 34 Essex Terrace · Westville · Durban, KZN 3630 · South Africa

