**Search strategy: How long do COVID-19 patients remain infectious?**

**Sources searched**  
Cochrane Library (0)  
EMBASE (16)  
EUROPE PMC (0)  
Google Advanced Search (1)  
KnowledgeShare (1)  
MEDLINE (50)  
NICE Evidence Search (9)  
PubMed (3)  
TRIP Database (1)  
UpToDate (2)

**Date range used** (5 years, 10 years): 2019-current   
**Limits used** (gender, article/study type, etc.): none   
**Search terms and notes** (full search strategy for database searches below):

Relevant natural language and controlled vocabulary terms were selected and combined. Thesaurus terms were adapted for different databases. Medline and Embase searched on Ovid. Results were reviewed for relevance and de-duplicated in EndNote. Full search strategy below.

**Search terms:**

UpToDate - COVID-19 infectious period

NICE Evidence - COVID-19 infectious period, COVID-19 incubation period, viral shedding, prolonged COVID-19 infection

Cochrane Library - Coronavirus infection, coronavirus infectious period, coronavirus incubation, viral shedding, COVID-19

PubMed - COVID-19 Viral Shedding, COVID-19 infectious period

Google (Advanced) - COVID-19 viral shedding

TRIP - COVID-19 viral shedding, long covid-19 infection period

EUROPE PMC - (("COVID-19" or COVID19 or 2019nCoV or "Corona Virus" or Coronavirus or "CoV 2" or CoV2 or COVID or nCoV or SARS2 or SARSCoV or "SARS-CoV") AND (("viral shedding" OR "prolonged infection" or "long infection"))) AND (SRC:PPR)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Ovid MEDLINE(R) ALL <1946 to July 15, 2021> | exp coronavirus/ | 84148 |
| 2 | Ovid MEDLINE(R) ALL <1946 to July 15, 2021> | exp Coronavirus Infections/ | 102739 |
| 3 | Ovid MEDLINE(R) ALL <1946 to July 15, 2021> | ((corona\* or corono\*) adj1 (virus\* or viral\* or virinae\*)).ti,ab,kw,kf. | 3738 |
| 4 | Ovid MEDLINE(R) ALL <1946 to July 15, 2021> | (coronavirus\* or coronovirus\* or coronavirinae\* or CoV).ti,ab,kw,kf. | 96314 |
| 5 | Ovid MEDLINE(R) ALL <1946 to July 15, 2021> | ("2019-nCoV\*" or 2019nCoV\* or "19-nCoV\*" or 19nCoV\* or nCoV2019\* or "nCoV-2019\*" or nCoV19\* or "nCoV-19\*" or "COVID-19\*" or COVID19\* or "COVID-2019\*" or COVID2019\* or "HCoV-19\*" or HCoV19\* or "HCoV-2019\*" or HCoV2019\* or "2019 novel\*" or Ncov\* or "n-cov" or "SARS-CoV-2\*" or "SARSCoV-2\*" or "SARSCoV2\*" or "SARS-CoV2\*" or SARSCov19\* or "SARS-Cov19\*" or "SARSCov-19\*" or "SARS-Cov-19\*" or SARSCov2019\* or "SARS-Cov2019\*" or "SARSCov-2019\*" or "SARS-Cov-2019\*" or SARS2\* or "SARS-2\*" or SARScoronavirus2\* or "SARS-coronavirus-2\*" or "SARScoronavirus 2\*" or "SARS coronavirus2\*" or SARScoronovirus2\* or "SARS-coronovirus-2\*" or "SARScoronovirus 2\*" or "SARS coronovirus2\*" or covid).ti,ab,kw,kf. | 149456 |
| 6 | Ovid MEDLINE(R) ALL <1946 to July 15, 2021> | (respiratory\* adj2 (symptom\* or disease\* or illness\* or condition\*) adj5 (Wuhan\* or Hubei\* or China\* or Chinese\* or Huanan\*)).ti,ab,kw,kf. | 353 |
| 7 | Ovid MEDLINE(R) ALL <1946 to July 15, 2021> | (("seafood market\*" or "food market\*") adj10 (Wuhan\* or Hubei\* or China\* or Chinese\* or Huanan\*)).ti,ab,kw,kf. | 105 |
| 8 | Ovid MEDLINE(R) ALL <1946 to July 15, 2021> | (pneumonia\* adj3 (Wuhan\* or Hubei\* or China\* or Chinese\* or Huanan\*)).ti,ab,kw,kf. | 635 |
| 9 | Ovid MEDLINE(R) ALL <1946 to July 15, 2021> | ((outbreak\* or wildlife\* or pandemic\* or epidemic\*) adj1 (Wuhan\* or Hubei\* or China\* or Chinese\* or Huanan\*)).ti,ab,kw,kf. | 408 |
| 10 | Ovid MEDLINE(R) ALL <1946 to July 15, 2021> | "severe acute respiratory syndrome\*".ti,ab,kw,kf. | 23087 |
| 11 | Ovid MEDLINE(R) ALL <1946 to July 15, 2021> | or/1-10 | 179641 |
| 12 | Ovid MEDLINE(R) ALL <1946 to July 15, 2021> | limit 11 to yr="2019 -Current" | 160217 |
| 13 | Ovid MEDLINE(R) ALL <1946 to July 15, 2021> | Infectious Disease Incubation Period/ | 326 |
| 14 | Ovid MEDLINE(R) ALL <1946 to July 15, 2021> | ((infect\* or contag\* or incub\*) adj2 period).ti. | 768 |
| 15 | Ovid MEDLINE(R) ALL <1946 to July 15, 2021> | ("viral shed\*" or "viral load").ti. | 4127 |
| 16 | Ovid MEDLINE(R) ALL <1946 to July 15, 2021> | 13 or 14 or 15 | 5124 |
| 17 | Ovid MEDLINE(R) ALL <1946 to July 15, 2021> | (prolong\* or long\* or delay\* or "post 14 day\*" or persist\*).ti. | 601557 |
| 18 | Ovid MEDLINE(R) ALL <1946 to July 15, 2021> | 12 and 16 and 17 | 56 |

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| 1 | Embase <1974 to 2021 Week 27> | exp Coronavirinae/ | 56458 |
| 2 | Embase <1974 to 2021 Week 27> | exp Coronavirus infection/ | 147369 |
| 3 | Embase <1974 to 2021 Week 27> | ("coronavirus disease 2019" or "severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2").sh,dj. | 132849 |
| 4 | Embase <1974 to 2021 Week 27> | ((corona\* or corono\*) adj1 (virus\* or viral\* or virinae\*)).ti,ab,kw. | 2935 |
| 5 | Embase <1974 to 2021 Week 27> | (coronavirus\* or coronovirus\* or coronavirinae\* or CoV).ti,ab,kw. | 94704 |
| 6 | Embase <1974 to 2021 Week 27> | ("2019-nCoV\*" or 2019nCoV\* or "19-nCoV\*" or 19nCoV\* or nCoV2019\* or "nCoV-2019\*" or nCoV19\* or "nCoV-19\*" or "COVID-19\*" or COVID19\* or "COVID-2019\*" or COVID2019\* or "HCoV-19\*" or HCoV19\* or "HCoV-2019\*" or HCoV2019\* or "2019 novel\*" or Ncov\* or "n-cov" or "SARS-CoV-2\*" or "SARSCoV-2\*" or "SARSCoV2\*" or "SARS-CoV2\*" or SARSCov19\* or "SARS-Cov19\*" or "SARSCov-19\*" or "SARS-Cov-19\*" or SARSCov2019\* or "SARS-Cov2019\*" or "SARSCov-2019\*" or "SARS-Cov-2019\*" or SARS2\* or "SARS-2\*" or SARScoronavirus2\* or "SARS-coronavirus-2\*" or "SARScoronavirus 2\*" or "SARS coronavirus2\*" or SARScoronovirus2\* or "SARS-coronovirus-2\*" or "SARScoronovirus 2\*" or "SARS coronovirus2\*" or covid).ti,ab,kw. | 145510 |
| 7 | Embase <1974 to 2021 Week 27> | (respiratory\* adj2 (symptom\* or disease\* or illness\* or condition\*) adj5 (Wuhan\* or Hubei\* or China\* or Chinese\* or Huanan\*)).ti,ab,kw. | 415 |
| 8 | Embase <1974 to 2021 Week 27> | (("seafood market\*" or "food market\*") adj10 (Wuhan\* or Hubei\* or China\* or Chinese\* or Huanan\*)).ti,ab,kw. | 109 |
| 9 | Embase <1974 to 2021 Week 27> | (("seafood market\*" or "food market\*") adj10 (Wuhan\* or Hubei\* or China\* or Chinese\* or Huanan\*)).ti,ab,kw. | 109 |
| 10 | Embase <1974 to 2021 Week 27> | (pneumonia\* adj3 (Wuhan\* or Hubei\* or China\* or Chinese\* or Huanan\*)).ti,ab,kw. | 675 |
| 11 | Embase <1974 to 2021 Week 27> | "severe acute respiratory syndrome\*".ti,ab,kw. | 22281 |
| 12 | Embase <1974 to 2021 Week 27> | or/1-11 | 187662 |
| 13 | Embase <1974 to 2021 Week 27> | limit 12 to yr="2019 -Current" | 164375 |
| 14 | Embase <1974 to 2021 Week 27> | incubation time/ | 48887 |
| 15 | Embase <1974 to 2021 Week 27> | ((infect\* or contag\* or incub\*) adj2 period).ti. | 644 |
| 16 | Embase <1974 to 2021 Week 27> | ("viral shed\*" or "viral load").ti. | 5375 |
| 17 | Embase <1974 to 2021 Week 27> | 14 or 15 or 16 | 54518 |
| 18 | Embase <1974 to 2021 Week 27> | (prolong\* or long\* or delay\* or "post 14 day\*" or persist\*).ti. | 729155 |
| 19 | Embase <1974 to 2021 Week 27> | 13 and 17 and 18 | 61 |