**Figure 1: PRISMA flow diagram**

**Identification of studies via other methods**

**Identification of studies via databases and registers**

Records identified from preliminary references repositories, websites, organizations, and citation searching (n = 149)

Records removed *before screening*:

Duplicate records removed (n =2808)

Records identified from electronic databases: n = 5962

Medline: n= 1714

Embase: n= 1351

Scopus and Web of Science: n= 2897

**Identification**

Records screened.

(n =3154)

Records excluded.

(n =3000)

Reports not retrieved.

(n = 0)

Reports sought for retrieval.

(n =4)

Reports sought for retrieval.

(n =154)

Reports not retrieved.

(n = 1)

**Screening**

Reports excluded: (n = 110)

Failing to evaluate epidemiological parameters of interest (n =77)

Wrong study design (n = 2)

Not study period of interest (n=2)

Theoretical model only (n=25)

Poster abstract (no full text) (n=4)

Reports excluded: (n = 0)

Reports assessed for eligibility.

(n =4)

Reports assessed for eligibility.

(n =153)

**Studies included in review (n =47)**

Case fatality rate: n= 25

Incubation period: n = 26

Basic reproduction number: n = 10

Effective reproduction number: n = 8

Serial interval: n = 5

Generation time: n = 2

Infectious period: n = 1

**Included**