

Finding & Reading the Literature on COVID-19

There are very few positives that have come from this COVID-19 Pandemic, but there is one that has made it easier for scientists, health care providers, and anyone who wants to know what is happening, from a scientific or medical perspective, to have access to the latest information on a wide range of topics related to SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19.

The downside is that those readers who are not used to reading scientific or medical literature, may not realize that the info and conclusions (also called interpretations) regarding the current pandemic are often published or posted so quickly, that they may not be peer-reviewed, which provides a critical analysis of the information offered. However, if we waited for peer review, much of the progress that has been made in identifying, testing, managing and controlling COVID-19 would not have occurred rapidly enough for changes to have been made in time to impact both quality of life and the prevention of death.

So, when seeking information, either in general or on a certain topic, it helps to have some idea of what sites tend to **typically** provide more scrutinized information. Articles that have been **Published**, or **Accepted for Publication** in a known medical journal are generally more reviewed content than those that are listed as **Pre-Published**, **Comment**, **Letter**, **Research Letter**, **Opinion**, **Unreviewed** or **Not Open to Comment**. **Editorial** or **Editorial Comment** may be published from a designee of the Journal and typically supports, disagrees or adds context to the published study. Full research articles can be quite long and contain an **Abstract** or **Summary** at the beginning, which is generally short, with a synopsis of the important takeaway information. Many **Abstracts** will contain abbreviated versions of the **Background**, **Methods**, **Results** and **Conclusions**, which are often complete enough to get the gist of the study or leave one wanting to read more. The body of the article will add a full **Introduction** or **Background**, **Methodology**, **Data**, **Results** (**Tables & Figures** may be included in the article or found in **Supplemental Material**), **Discussion**, **Conclusions**, and **References** (**Bibliography**). Some articles will also contain **Limitations** that outline what has not been answered by the study, limits of the methodology, or that the results are not backed up by any other independent research and need corroboration. It's basically written like the paper accompanying a well-done science project.

Following, are some of the Medical Journals that can be accessed for free when related to SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19. On these sites, you can register for a free account to be able to read the entire article, as well as print it out. Normally, particularly for U.S. medical journals, there is a substantial cost for a subscription or a per article or publication cost. Most costs have been waived when involving COVID or the Pandemic (much as many news articles have been). You can even sign up for their Online Updates so they'll send you a list of newly published articles with links.

JAMA Report on Using Science During a Pandemic:

https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2768397?questAccessKey=095ee5ff-c108-44b4-85c0-332edb0287d0&utm_source=silverchair&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=article_alert-jama&utm_content=olf&utm_term=071320

JAMA Research on Medical Leave with N.Y. Firefighters and EMS and COVID-19:

https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2768614?utm_source=silverchair&utm_campaign=jama_network&utm_content=covid_weekly_highlights&utm_medium=email

NEJM Research on MIS-C in U.S. Children & Adolescents:

<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2021680>

Lancet Research – Monitoring Health Care Workers During the COVID-19 Pandemic:

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099\(20\)30458-8/fulltext?dgcid=hubspot_email_newsletter_tlicoronavirus20&utm_campaign=tlcoronavirus20&utm_medium=email&hsmi=91982435&hsenc=p2ANqtz-96xR95pVEqU4XsqucefuGGqUyxN2h5ki2-xYhdN17gmcQjB4pfl7cJbYAMIRgPad1eLXcdOoyHU7X6kZwOJJjUXHIA1A&utm_content=91964139&utm_source=hs_email](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099(20)30458-8/fulltext?dgcid=hubspot_email_newsletter_tlicoronavirus20&utm_campaign=tlcoronavirus20&utm_medium=email&hsmi=91982435&hsenc=p2ANqtz-96xR95pVEqU4XsqucefuGGqUyxN2h5ki2-xYhdN17gmcQjB4pfl7cJbYAMIRgPad1eLXcdOoyHU7X6kZwOJJjUXHIA1A&utm_content=91964139&utm_source=hs_email)

There are also some other sites that have seemingly reliable Pandemic-related information, including specific info on medical issues/research. You can register for free and these online information centers also have other non-COVID medical information that you can select for specific interests and they'll send you links accordingly (e.g. emergency medicine). They will also give a synopsis of published research and link to the article(s) mentioned. They act as a clearinghouse of sorts. Here are a few of them:

WebMD: <https://www.webmd.com/coronavirus>

Medscape: <https://www.medscape.com/resource/coronavirus>

Medscape for Nurses: <https://www.medscape.com/nurses>

Healthline: <https://www.healthline.com/coronavirus>

Science Direct: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/>