



**ESCAIDE**

**ABSTRACT BOOK**

# European Scientific Conference on Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology

Online,  
24-27 November 2020



[www.ecdc.europa.eu](http://www.ecdc.europa.eu)

# Foreword



I hope you found the first online edition of ESCAIDE stimulating and rewarding, and that you have had an enjoyable experience.

The original plan was to hold ESCAIDE in Warsaw, Poland, this year. Regrettably, one of the consequences of COVID-19 was the need to restrict travel and defer from holding mass gathering events, such as ESCAIDE, and so it was that we concluded that it was not possible to plan to hold ESCAIDE as a physical event in 2020, and instead we started planning, in April of this year, to hold the conference as a virtual event in 2020.

The decision to preserve the conference was founded on what we believe to be the invaluable benefit of offering a forum to share thinking and knowledge in such a challenging year for infectious disease prevention and control. Our hope is that by making content available online, everyone is able to access sessions after the conference finishes. I also strongly believe that this change in format provides a unique opportunity to reach a broader audience.

I would like to express my enormous appreciation to my Scientific committee colleagues, who have been able to attract some of the most eminent figures to address the conference and deliver a stimulating plenary programme. The conference began with a keynote session on the COVID-19 pandemic and its epidemiological, clinical and societal impacts (Plenary A). The challenges of pandemic preparedness planning and response in times of COVID-19 were debated in Plenary B. Plenary C discussed the role of behaviour change and new technologies such as drugs, diagnostic modalities, monitoring and infection control precautions in tackling Antimicrobial resistance. The conference concluded with Plenary D, a debate on the future of field-epidemiology training programmes, while reflecting on how those have helped to prepare a generation of public health workforce active today. It was particularly apposite that we held this debate in the year that sees EPIET celebrate its 25th anniversary.

As in every year, the ESCAIDE 2020 conference programme was also built around abstracts that have undergone a peer review process to assess the quality and public health relevance of each submission. This is made possible through the willingness of the many researchers and public health professionals to share their work by submitting abstracts, the large number of reviewers who guide abstract selection, the session moderators who steer the conference sessions, and finally the ESCAIDE scientific committee who oversee the scientific programme as a whole.

I would like to thank the authors who made the effort to submit an abstract to the conference. It is something we take for granted each year, but it is remarkable that in face of this year's extraordinary pressure for infectious disease professionals, you remain committed to writing scientific summaries of your work, so others have an opportunity to learn from your experiences.

The online environment might have discouraged networking and interactions, but I hope you took time to create new contacts that will be of real benefit in your daily work. I wish you all had a most enjoyable ESCAIDE 2020, and hope that you left the conference with useful contacts and renewed enthusiasm for your role in the fight to address communicable disease.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Catchpole'.

**Prof. Mike Catchpole**

Chair, ESCAIDE Scientific Committee

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**Subject:** Surveillance

**Keywords:** Incubation time, SARS-CoV-2, Quarantine duration

**ABSTRACT ID:** 221

**PRESENTED BY:** Iris Finci / iris.finci@gmail.com

## 6.20. COVID-19: Cross-border contact tracing in Germany, February-April 2020

**I. Markus**<sup>1</sup>

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### Background:

The Robert Koch Institute (RKI) manages the exchange of data for cross-border contact tracing related to COVID-19 between public health authorities (PHA) in Germany and abroad. We aimed to describe the extent of RKI cross-border contact tracing activities and challenges experienced.

### Methods:

For data exchange the RKI used different communication channels including the single-window system "Early Warning Response System" (EWRS) for communication within Europe and e-mail within Germany and for International Health Regulation (IHR) National Focal Points (NFP) outside EU/EEA. For the latter, personal data was shared encrypted in a separate message. We analysed RKI activities from 03/02/2020 to 05/04/2020 by the number of PHA contacted, communication channel, number of contact persons and exposure context.

### Results:

The RKI processed 467 activities initiating contact to PHA 1,099 times (median 1, confidence interval [1;16]). EWRS was used for 345 (31%) contacts. Of 327 (70%) events with known exposure context, 64 (14%) exposures occurred on aircrafts, 24 (5%) on cruise ships and 210 (45%) related to non-transport contexts. Cruise ship and aircraft exposures yielded higher median numbers of authorities contacted (10 [2;16], 4[2;11] vs 1[1;6]) and contact persons (60 [9;269], 2[1;3] vs 1[1;2]) than non-transport related exposures.

### Conclusions:

While transport related events didn't reflect the majority of the contact tracing activities, they contributed substantially to the workload. Therefore, the role of transport in transmission of COVID-19 should be further evaluated in order to determine an efficient use of resources. Due to the single-window function, EWRS was perceived as a fast and secure communication option but was not available for the large proportion of communication. Communication structures on national and international level should be synchronized using EWRS as best practice example.

**Subject:** Surveillance

**Keywords:** cross-border contact tracing, surveillance, pandemic preparedness, International Health Regulations, Germany, COVID-19

**ABSTRACT ID:** 234

**PRESENTED BY:** Inessa Markus/ markusi@rki.de

## 6.21. Portuguese National Serological Survey to Coronavirus Disease 19

**A. Rodrigues**<sup>1</sup>

R. Guiomar<sup>2</sup>, ISN COVID19 group

<sup>1</sup> INSA

<sup>2</sup> INSA

### Background:

Seroepidemiological studies allow estimating more precise cumulative incidence when compared with results obtained from the SARS-CoV-2 RNA detection test. In this context, the first Portuguese COVID-19 National Serological Survey (ISN-COVID-19) had as primary objectives to: characterize the extent of SARS-CoV-2 infection; determine seroprevalence in specific age groups and Health Regions; and determine the proportion of asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infections within Portuguese population.

### Methods:

ISN-COVID-19 was an observational, cross-sectional study. A non-probabilistic sample of 2,301 people residing in Portugal, aged over 1 year old, was analyzed. Sociodemographic, epidemiological and clinical data were collected using a questionnaire and a blood sample was collected from each participant, at 114 collection points, between May 21-July 8, 2020. SARS-Cov-2 specific IgG and IgM were measured in serum by ELISA.

### Results:

National seroprevalence was 2.9% (2.0-4.2%), being higher than the accumulated incidence of the infection reported by the National Surveillance System (0.44%). The estimated seroprevalence was higher in males than in females (4.1% vs 1.8%). It ranged from 2.2% in the 10-19 age group to 3.2% in the 40-59 age group. At the regional level, seroprevalence varied between 1.2% in Alentejo and 3.5% in Lisbon and Tagus Valley. Age and regional differences were not statistical significant. About 44% of individuals with SARS-CoV-2 antibodies did not report previous COVID-19 symptoms.

### Conclusions:

The estimated seroprevalence is compatible with a limited extent of infection in the Portuguese population, between March and June 2020. Differences observed between seroprevalence and cumulative incidence

## Poster Abstracts

of the infection are consistent with the evidence of lesser capacity to capture mild or asymptomatic cases by surveillance systems. These results advise universal maintenance of protection measures.

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**Subject:** Surveillance

**Keywords:** Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2, COVID-19, Seroepidemiological Studies; Cross-sectional studies, Immunoglobulin M, Immunoglobulin G.

**ABSTRACT ID:** 236

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