

# KEEPING UP WITH SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19

**B**y the time this issue goes to print, world and local situations related to SARS-CoV-2 will have changed. And changed. And changed again.

Two things that will not have changed by June are your need for, and interest in, up-to-date information about SARS-CoV-2 in this continually changing environment.

## Articles and Preprints

How can there be so many articles about SARS-CoV-2 already? Have they all been processed through journal peer-review processes?

There are several answers.

One answer is, yes, a large number of research articles have been fully peer-reviewed and published. Some journals added a rapid peer-review process for articles related to SARS-CoV-2. Other items may not be research articles and are, instead, correspondence, opinion or perspective pieces.

Another answer is that thousands are preprints. When you see breaking news, consider whether the report is discussing a preprint. Preprints are completed manuscripts that have not yet undergone peer-review. The copyright is owned by the author; it is a form of self-archiving. Physicists have been posting preprints for three decades. In the life sciences, the practice is perhaps one-third of that time. Preprints are a component of the Open Science movement.

The practice of preprints can be controversial. Some liken posting manuscripts to a large-scale sharing of unpublished data similar to a presentation at a scientific meeting. Others are concerned that preprints degrade the novelty of the research and may make the manuscript unattractive to journal editors.

In recent years, the acceptability of preprints in the life sciences has increased dramatically; the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and other funders allow preprints to be cited in



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grant applications. Some funding agencies require preprints to be posted.

COVID-19 created an extreme and immediate need for researchers to share information. Preprints offer several benefits—speed, open review and free access. At the time of writing, a joint collection of COVID-19/SARS-CoV-2 preprints (<https://connect.biorxiv.org/relate/content/181>) has more than 2,300 articles.

Where are life sciences preprints? MedRxiv (<https://medrxiv.org>) accepts manuscripts in the medical, clinical and health sciences. BioRxiv (<https://www.biorxiv.org>) accepts manuscripts in the biological sciences. You can locate citations and links to preprints by searching MedRxiv or BioRxiv in a number of indexes and in Google Scholar.

## Twitter

In addition to your usual news sources, consider using Twitter. If you have a personal account, consider a separate account for following work-related news. To use it as a source of information without posting items yourself, create an account, designate that it is private and follow accounts without posting.

Think about what you want to gain from this. You may want to begin by following specific accounts rather than individual hashtags; it may take a bit of time to meld what you want to discover with the right accounts. Start with an organization you know. See what they're posting. See what they retweet. Begin to follow and build a focused

## FREQUENTLY UPDATED WEBSITES

In addition to the TVMA COVID-19 resources (<https://www.tvma.org/Resources/COVID-19-Resources>), the following are worth perusing. To keep up to date, look for the option to receive email updates from many of these sites.

- AMVA COVID-19: <https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/covid-19>
- AAHA: <https://www.aaaha.org/publications/newstat/articles/2020-03/covid-19-resources/>
- CDC Information for Veterinarians: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/veterinarians.html>
- CDC Information for Pet Owners: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html#animals>
- Occupational Health and Safety: <https://www.osha.gov/covid-19>
- OSHA "Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19": <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf>

## From Around the Globe

- RCVS: <https://www.rcvs.org.uk/setting-standards/advice-and-guidance/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- OIE: <https://www.oie.int/scientific-expertise/specific-information-and-recommendations/questions-and-answers-on-2019-novel-coronavirus/>
- WSAVA Companion Animal Information: <https://wsava.org/news/highlighted-news/the-new-coronavirus-and-companion-animals-advice-for-wsava-members/>
- BSAVA: <https://www.bsava.com/COVID-19>

Twitter feed. Don't be shy about unfollowing an account when it no longer shares what you are interested in. When you follow an account, you have the choice of some of the tweets (default) or all of the tweets. Maybe start by searching Texas VMA or @TVMA and following TVMA. AVMA, CDC, OIE and others listed above also have accounts. **IV**

*Texas veterinarians may contact the Medical Sciences Library at Texas A&M University for assistance at no cost for reference service, literature searching and copies of articles, chapters and conference papers from our collection. Details can be found at <http://tamu.libguides.com/txvetalum>.*