Supplementary file 1:

1a: Specific database search terms:


1b: Selection of studies (inclusion/exclusion criteria):

Virology studies – preference was given to studies directly examining/discussing SARS-CoV-2, however, useful papers that explored the structure, genetics, and virology of coronaviruses in general were considered.

Variant studies – in general, large epidemiological studies that explored the prevalence and risk of certain outcomes (e.g. hospitalisation, death, etc.) with COVID-19 infection for certain variants were included. Authors aimed to include studies from multiple countries.

Vaccine studies – Studies with human derived data (e.g. blood sera, phase 1/2 trials) were of greatest interest when collating information on immunogenicity, reactogenicity, and safety. Large randomised controlled trials, test-negative case-control, and observational studies were of selected when exploring vaccine efficacy. Review articles summarising effectiveness studies were excluded, unless a meta-analysis was performed.