

**Confidence grading**

- Low Little or poor-quality evidence, uncertainty or conflicting views amongst experts, no experience with previous similar incidents.
- Moderate Adequate quality evidence - including consistent results published only in grey literature, reliable source(s), assumptions made on analogy and agreement between experts or opinion of at least 2 trusted experts.
- High Good quality evidence, multiple reliable sources, verified, expert opinion concurs, experience of previous similar incidents.

Indicator	Risk assessment framework			
Zoonotic emergence and transmission to humans	Animal reservoir identified but no evidence of transmission from animals to humans	Sporadic transmission from animals to humans	Frequent transmission from animals to humans	
Transmissibility between humans	No demonstrated person to person transmission	Limited human case clusters	Established human to human transmission, which appears similar to wild type virus	Transmissibility appears greater than the wild type virus
Infection severity	Evidence of less severe clinical picture or lower infection fatality than from wild type SARS-CoV-2 infections	Similar clinical picture and infection fatality to wild type SARS-CoV-2 infections OR experimental animal data suggesting potential for increased disease severity humans	More severe clinical picture or higher infection fatality than from wild type SARS-CoV-2 infections (limited to specific risk groups)	More severe clinical picture or higher infection fatality than from wild type SARS-CoV-2 infections
Immunity after natural infection	Evidence of no antigenic difference from other circulating wild type virus and/or evidence of no increase in reinfection rate	Structural data suggesting antigenic difference from other circulating wild type virus	Experimental evidence of functional evasion of naturally acquired immunity	Evidence of frequent infection in humans with known prior infection with earlier virus variant.
Vaccines	Evidence of no structural or antigenic difference in vaccine targets and/or evidence that vaccine performance is preserved	Structural data suggesting difference in vaccine target epitopes	Experimental evidence of functional evasion of vaccine derived immunity	Evidence of frequent vaccine failure or decreased effectiveness in humans
Drugs and therapeutics	Evidence of no structural or antigenic difference in therapeutic targets	Structural data suggesting difference in therapeutic target epitopes	Experimental evidence of reduced drug susceptibility	Evidence of frequent drug or therapeutic failure or decreased effectiveness in humans