



COVID-19 Recommendations and Guidelines for Data Sharing

The Challenge:

Under public health emergencies, particularly the COVID-19 pandemic, where the rapid pace of a disease and the immense and rapid mobilisation of resources could create an environment for inaccurate or low-quality data, sharing preliminary data and results in both a timely and accurate manner and harmonising the many diverse data infrastructures is crucial. The availability of research data is a key component of pandemic preparedness and response; the timeliness of accessing data and the harmonisation across information systems are currently major roadblocks.



Produced by: **RDA COVID-19 Working Group**
<https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups/rda-covid19>

What is the solution?

Develop a body of work that comprises how data from multiple disciplines inform response to a pandemic combined with guidelines and recommendations on data sharing under the COVID-19 circumstances. This extends to research software sharing, in recognition of the key role in software in analysing data. The work is divided into four research areas (Clinical, Omics, Epidemiology, Social Sciences) with four cross-cutting themes (Community Participation, Indigenous Data, Legal and Ethical Considerations, Research Software). The guidelines aim to help stakeholders follow best practices to maximise the efficiency of their work and to act as a blueprint for future emergencies. The recommendations aim to help policymakers and funders maximise timely, quality data sharing and appropriate responses in such health emergencies.

What is the impact?

A system for data sharing in public health emergencies that supports scientific research and policymaking, including an overarching framework, common tools and processes, and principles that can be embedded in research practice. Guidelines that address general aspects of data practice, for example the FAIR principles, or the adoption of research-domain community standards.

**Find out More about the RDA
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August 2020