The Covid-19 pandemic: what have we learned and where do we go from here?

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Pandemic status per week 44

- 250 million cases confirmed
- More than 5 million deaths
- 7.5 billion vaccine doses administered
Impact of Covid-19

- Life expectancy was significantly reduced in 34 out of 37 high and upper-middle income countries in 2020.

- Approximately 10 years of life lost per Covid-19 death.

- Globally, COVID-19 is now the third leading cause of death, after heart disease and stroke.

[Graph showing life expectancy, UK 2001-2020 and oil prices 2010-2021]
Guidance for the offshore diving industry

- **IMCA** Information Note No 1563 (May 2021)
- **Norwegian Oil and Gas** Covid-19 and Offshore Diving (April 2020)
- **DMAC 33** Return to Diving after Covid-19
- **DMAC 34** Guidance for Medical Examiners of Divers Conducting Face-to-Face Medicals During the COVID-19 Pandemic
- **DMAC Statement** on COVID-19 Vaccination and the Offshore Energy Diving Community
Barriers to prevent Covid-19 outbreak

- **Primary prevention:**
  - Stay home if symptoms (isolation)
  - Pre-embarkment quarantine
  - Testing/screening
  - Increased time on board / stay at living depth

- **Precautions at work**
  - Social distancing
  - Face mask
  - Cleaning
  - Hand hygiene/coughing etiquette
  - Testing/isolation/tracing/quarantine

- **Vaccine**
Handling case of Covid-19 offshore

- Isolate index case
- Close contact with on-call duty doctor
- Trace, quarantine and test close contacts
- Abort operation? - Risk assessment:
  - Is the index patient a diver in sat?
  - Vaccine status for index patient and close contacts
  - Risk factors for severe infection
  - Symptoms
  - Medical evacuation (available resources, time to shore, weather, ...)
- Step up preventive measures on board
- Screening of all POB?
Equinor offshore experience

**Norwegian Continental Shelf (max POB 9500)**
- 31916 PCR screening tests performed, 6 positive
- 35 Covid-19 cases
- 0 severe cases
- 0 cases of transmission in helicopter
- Minor operational impact, no interruption of production

**Offshore Brazil (max POB 1400)**
- 5 days mandatory hotel quarantine
- 428 positive pre-embarkment screening tests
- 301 Covid-19 cases
- Major operational impact
Saturation diving experience

One case from March 2020:

- One diver in sat reported symptoms compatible with Covid-19 infection
- 5 fellow divers in same chamber, all symptom free
- All 6 divers tested on day 8 (on surface): index patient negative, 4 out of 5 of the remaining tested positive
- All positive divers remained asymptomatic throughout their isolation period
Where are we?

- Covid-19 is still a potentially dangerous illness for the unvaccinated
- There has been a sharp increase in number of covid cases in Europe over that last few weeks
- Winter is coming (flu season)
- New SARS-CoV-2 variants?

- Established preventive measures have proven effective for diving operations
- Vaccines prevent severe illness and reduce virus transmission
Where do we go from here?

- Keep most preventive measures in place through winter season 2022
- Risk assess the more stressful measures (pre-embarment quarantine, increased time in sat, increased time offshore)
  - Case numbers
  - Vaccination
  - Time to treatment
- Maintain/step up testing capabilities (PCR)
- Mandate vaccines?
  - For divers?
  - For all personnel on a DSV?
The SARS-CoV-2 virus will not go away. Sooner or later we will all have some degree of immunity – either through infection or through vaccination.