

news

From: John Gerrard
Sent: Saturday, 16 March 2024 9:44 AM
To: news; Matthew Brown
Cc: news
Subject: Re: FOR APPROVAL: question about long COVID study

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Connor/Keith

Looks good to me.
 John Gerrard

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From: news <news@health.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Saturday, March 16, 2024 9:39:25 AM
To: Matthew Brown <s.73 - Irrelevant information@health.qld.gov.au>; John Gerrard <s.73 - Irrelevant information@health.qld.gov.au>
Cc: news <news@health.qld.gov.au>
Subject: FOR APPROVAL: question about long COVID study

Hey both,

So I have drafted the below, but thought it best to use the media release to answer the journalist's questions, rather than rewriting the release for a new attributable response.

More than happy to work into a response if you would like, but otherwise let me know if you are happy with the below email back to the journalist.

//

Hi <s.73 - Irrelevant information>

Thanks for your email.

I have attached the ECCMID media release and a copy of the abstract for your information. The media release provides answers to your questions.

For your background, and as per the media release, Queensland Health researchers are presenting a new study which suggests long COVID is indistinguishable from influenza or other respiratory illnesses, a year after infection. These new findings complement a previous study commissioned by Queensland Health which was published in the *BMJ Public Health* which found no difference in ongoing symptoms and functional impairment when COVID-19 is compared with influenza.

Please find the exclusive interview Dr John Gerrard facilitated with Australian Broadcasting Network which may provide further information for your story [here](#).

Dr John Gerrard also held a press conference yesterday (Friday 15/3) for media about this topic which will be useful to your story. You can view the presser [here](#).

Thanks, Connor

From: s.73 - Irrelevant information
Sent: Saturday, 16 March 2024 12:57 AM
To: Matthew Brown <s.73 - Irrelevant information@health.qld.gov.au>
Cc: news <news@health.qld.gov.au>
Subject: s.73 - Irrelevant information question about long COVID study

Hi Dr. Brown,

We're working on a story about the long COVID study you'll be presenting this year at ECCMID and I was hoping you could answer a few questions for us.

- Are the findings of this study enough to convince people to stop using long COVID terminology? Or is this conclusion based on this and also other findings?
- Why have you and your colleagues concluded that long COVID terminology causes unnecessary fear and potentially impedes recovery?
- In the study limitations, you note that participants who had severe disease or were hospitalized, or who had pre-existing conditions, were not identifiable in the cohort. Previous research has suggested that more severe disease increases risk for long COVID/post COVID symptoms. Do you think if these people were identifiable it would change your conclusion?
- What is the main takeaway of the study for clinicians?

Thanks so much!

Best,

s.73 - Irrelevant information



news

From: news
Sent: Saturday, 16 March 2024 10:55 AM
To: s.73 - Irrelevant information Matthew Brown
Cc: news
Subject: RE: s.73 - Irrelevant information question about long COVID study
Attachments: ECCMID_AcceptedAbstract.pdf; 327longCOVIDQueensland.docx

Hi s.73 - Irrelevant information

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Thanks, Connor

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Cc: news <news@health.qld.gov.au>
Subject: s.73 - Irrelevant information question about long COVID study

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- In the study limitations, you note that participants who had severe disease or were hospitalized, or who had pre-existing conditions, were not identifiable in the cohort. Previous research has suggested that more severe disease increases risk for long COVID/post COVID symptoms. Do you think if these people were identifiable it would change your conclusion?
- What is the main takeaway of the study for clinicians?

Thanks so much!

Best,

s.73 - Irrelevant information



RTI Release

news

From: news
Sent: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 10:15 AM
To: Connor Wallace
Cc: news
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: Request for comment on long COVID study findings

Good to go!

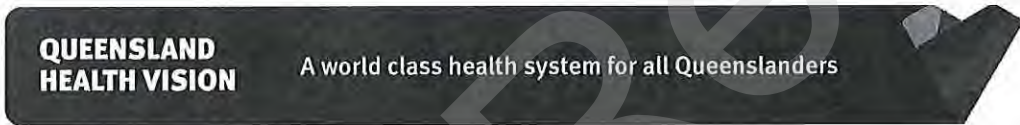
Fire away.

Em



Emilee Colasimone
Team Leader– Media and Issues Unit
Strategic Communication
Branch | Queensland Health
Working hours Monday - Friday

P Call me on Teams or [s.73 - Irrelevant information](#)
E [s.73 - Irrelevant information](#) @health.qld.gov.au
W [health.qld.gov.au](#)



Queensland Health acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land across Queensland, and pays respect to First Nations Elders past, present and future.

From: Connor Wallace <[s.73 - Irrelevant information](#) @health.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 10:14 AM
To: news <news@health.qld.gov.au>
Subject: FOR APPROVAL: Request for comment on long COVID study findings

Hi Em,

Happy with the below??

Thanks, Con

//

Hi [s.73 - Irrelevant information](#)

Thanks for your email.

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Thanks, Connor

From: s.73 - Irrelevant information
Sent: Tuesday, 19 March 2024 11:45 PM
To: news <news@health.qld.gov.au>; tony@tonykirby.com
Subject: Request for comment on long COVID study findings

Hello,

My name is s.73 - Irrelevant information I write for s.73 - Irrelevant information a global coalition of physicians and scientists working to improve the accuracy of science media coverage online.

We're covering a claim in viral social media posts and articles based on a press release about a study in patients with persistent symptoms after getting COVID-19. The study was co-authored by Queensland's Chief Health Officer Dr. John Gerrard.

Articles by the New York Post and The Blaze have claimed that the study shows long COVID "doesn't exist". Similarly, this article by One America News Network alleged that "Queensland Health Researchers Claim 'Long COVID' Isn't Real" and that "The government-sponsored medical researchers in Australia insinuated that the term is merely an excuse for those with poor immune systems and memory issues".

Through articles like these, the claim has received several thousand engagements on social media platforms like Facebook and X (formerly Twitter).

We're reaching out to Queensland Health and the ECCMID to request for comment on the scientific credibility of these articles. Could you tell us if the articles accurately represent the findings of the study? What is the current state of scientific understanding regarding the condition known as long COVID?

We would be grateful if your response could reach us by the end of this Thursday 21 March 2024.

Thank you for your time.

Regards,

s.73 - Irrelevant information

news

From: s.73 - Irrelevant information
Sent: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 11:42 PM
To: news
Cc: tony@tonykirby.com
Subject: Re: Request for comment on long COVID study findings

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Connor/Keith

Hello Connor,

Thank you very much for the rapid response and the links to resources! We will notify you by email once our review of the claim is published on our website.

Best wishes,

s.73 - Irrelevant information

On Wed, Mar 20, 2024 at 1:15 AM news <news@health.qld.gov.au> wrote:

Hi

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