Figure 1— Source Data 2. Search strategy used for EMBASE.

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| Database: **Embase** 1974 to 20 Nov 2020 | |
| **#** | **Searches** |
| 1 | coronavirus infection/ or severe acute respiratory syndrome/ |
| 2 | COVID 19/ |
| 3 | coronavirus disease 2019/ |
| 4 | severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2/ or SARS coronavirus 2/ |
| 5 | SARS coronavirus/ or betacoronavirus/ |
| 6 | “influenza a virus (h1n1)”/ |
| 7 | 2009 h1n1 influenza/ or “influenza a (h1n1)”/ |
| 8 | (coronavirus\* or corona virus\* or betacoronavirus\* or OC43 or NL63 or 229E or HKU1 or HcoV\* or ncov\* or covid\* or sars-cov\* or sarscov\* or Sars-coronavirus\* or Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome\* or Sudden acute respiratory syndrome\*).tw,kw. |
| 9 | (2019nCov\* or 2019-novel CoV or corona or covid19 or ((novel or new or nouveau) adj2 (CoV or Pandemi\*))).tw,kw. |
| 10 | (pneumonia.tw,kw. Or exp pneumonia/) and (Wuhan or Hubei).tw,kw. |
| 11 | (covid or SARS or H1N1 or coronavirus).ox. |
| 12 | (“A/H1N1\*” or H1N1\* or pdm09 or ((influenza or virus or pandemic) adj4 “2009”) or influenza A or swine flu).tw,kw. |
| 13 | 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 or 7 or 8 or 9 or 10 or 11 or 12 |
| 14 | nose smear/ |
| 15 | smear/ or nose smear/ or sputum smear/ |
| 16 | \*sputum/ |
| 17 | \*nasopharynx/ or \*pharynx/ |
| 18 | throat culture/ |
| 19 | saliva analysis/ |
| 20 | \*oropharynx/ |
| 21 | exp nasopharyngeal aspiration/ |
| 22 | real time polymerase chain reaction/ or real time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction/ or reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction/ |
| 23 | (clinical adj2 (sample\* or specimen\*)).tw,kw. |
| 24 | ((respiratory adj3 (specimen\* or sample\* or swab\*)) or sputum or nares or endotrachea\* or endotrache\* or endotra\* or ((nasal or oral\* or throat) adj3 (swab\* or sample\* or smear\* or specimen\*)) or NPS or OPS or ((endotrachea\* or endotracheal\*) adj2 aspirat\*) or NPA or ETA or (deep adj4 saliva) or POS or “swab sample\*” or “flocked swab\*”).tw,kw. |
| 25 | (“RT-PCR” or “RTPCR” or “ddPCR” or “polymerase chain reaction”).tw,kw. |
| 26 | \*2009 H1N1 influenza/di or coronavirus disease 2019/di or Coronavirus infection/di |
| 27 | 14 or 15 or 16 or 17 or 18 or 19 or 20 or 21 or 22 or 23 or 24 or 25 or 26 |
| 28 | 13 and 27 |
| 29 | virus load/ |
| 30 | virus shedding/ |
| 31 | (vir\* load\* or vir\* shed\* or vir\* burden or vir\* titer\* or vir\* titre\* or (vir\* adj2 count\*)).tw,kw. |
| 32 | (((copies or copy) adj2 (ml\* or milli\* or microl\*)) or ((RNA\* or vir\*) adj2 concentration\*)).tw,kw. |
| 33 | ((calibration adj1 curve\*) or (standard adj1 curve\*)).tw,kw. |
| 34 | ((ct\* adj1 value\*) or cycle threshold or (copies adj2 test\*) or (copy adj2 test\*) or ((copy or copies) adj2 number\*)).tw,kw. |
| 35 | (“copy/m\*” or “copies/m\*” or “copy/test\*” or “copies/test\*”).tw,kw. |
| 36 | ((test or diagnos\*) adj2 sensitiv\*).tw,kw. |
| 37 | 29 or 30 or 31 or 32 or 33 or 34 or 35 or 36 |
| 38 | 28 and 37 |
| 39 | exp animal/ not human/ |
| 40 | 38 not 39 |