Figure 1— Source Data 3. Search strategy used for Cochrane Central.

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| Database: **EBM Reviews – Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials** 20 Nov 2020 |
| **#** | **Searches** |
| 1 | exp Coronavirus/ |
| 2 | exp Coronavirus Infections/ |
| 3 | betacoronavirus/ |
| 4 | (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. |
| 5 | (2019nCov\* or 2019-novel CoV or corona or covid19 or ((novel or new or nouveau) adj2 (CoV or Pandemi\*))).tw,kw. |
| 6 | (pneumonia.tw,kw. Or exp pneumonia/) and (Wuhan or Hubei).tw,kw. |
| 7 | exp Influenza A Virus, H1N1 Subtype/ |
| 8 | (“A/H1N1\*” or H1N1\* or pdm09 or ((influenza or virus or pandemic) adj4 “2009”) or influenza A or swine flu).tw,kw. |
| 9 | 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 or 7 or 8 |
| 10 | ((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. |
| 11 | Nasal cavity/ |
| 12 | Sputum/ |
| 13 | Nasopharynx/ |
| 14 | Oropharynx/ |
| 15 | \*Saliva/ |
| 16 | Pharynx/ |
| 17 | (clinical adj2 (sample\* or specimen\*)).tw,kw. |
| 18 | (“RT-PCR” or “RTPCR” or “ddPCR” or “polymerase chain reaction”).tw,kw. |
| 19 | exp Coronavirus Infections/vi or exp Coronavirus/vi or exp Betacoronavirus/vi |
| 20 | polymerase chain reaction/ or multiplex polymerase chain reaction/ or real-time polymerase chain reaction/ or reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction/ |
| 21 | 10 or 11 or 12 or 13 or 14 or 15 or 16 or 17 or 18 or 19 or 20 |
| 22 | 9 and 21 |
| 23 | (vir\* load\* or vir\* shed\* or vir\* burden or vir\* titer\* or vir\* titre\* or (vir\* adj2 count\*)).tw,kw. |
| 24 | (((copies or copy) adj2 (ml\* or milli\* or microl\*)) or ((RNA\* or vir\*) adj2 concentration\*)).tw,kw. |
| 25 | ((calibration adj1 curve\*) or (standard adj1 curve\*)).tw,kw. |
| 26 | ((ct\* adj1 value\*) or cycle threshold or (copies adj2 test\*) or (copy adj2 test\*) or ((copy or copies) adj2 number\*)).tw,kw. |
| 27 | Viral load/ |
| 28 | Viral shedding/ |
| 29 | (“copy/m\*” or “copies/m\*” or “copy/test\*” or “copies/test\*”).tw,kw. |
| 30 | ((test or diagnos\*) adj2 sensitiv\*).tw,kw. |
| 31 | 23 or 24 or 25 or 26 or 27 or 28 or 29 or 30 |
| 32 | 22 and 31 |