10 January
Researchers share the SARS-CoV-2 genetic sequence

17 January
First PCR protocol shared

20 January
China confirms human-human transmission

11-12 February
Global research priorities identified; Virus (SARS-CoV-2) and disease (COVID-19) officially named

11 March
WHO declares COVID-19 a pandemic

16 March
First COVID-19 vaccine (Moderna) enters phase 1 trials

17 March
Pfizer and BioNTech announce vaccine partnership

16 April
ACE-2 receptor confirmed as SARS-CoV-2 route of entry into human cells

24 April
The WHO launches the ACT accelerator to support the development of diagnostics, vaccines and therapeutics

30 April
Oxford and AstraZeneca announce their vaccine partnership

16 June
Dexamethasone identified as first effective treatment

6 July
Scientists call for greater recognition of airborne transmission

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29 September
Trials show that the REGEN-COV antibody combination may be effective in treating COVID-19

22 October
First COVID antiviral, remdesivir, approved in the USA

7 October
Trials show that the bamlanivimab and etesevimab antibody combination may be effective in treating COVID-19

6 November
UK pilots mass testing using lateral flow tests

18 December
Alpha variant designated as variant of concern

3 December
The UK becomes the first country to authorise a COVID-19 vaccine for use

Countries that have developed COVID-19 vaccines which are currently in use as of Feb 2022.

Countries that have published genomic sequences of SARS-CoV-2 to an international database, helping track variants, as of Feb 2022.

View the full interactive Chem vs. COVID timeline at: www.rsc.li/chemvscovid

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