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To: gphin / rmisp (PHAC/ASPC)
Subject: GPHIN Daily Report (13 October 2020)
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Good morning,

Please find below the daily Summary and articles collected by GPHIN for your review and risk assessment.

GPHIN Daily Report Email Summary

Special Section on Coronavirus

[Canada \(Update\) - Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) Outbreak \(Official\)](#)

As of 12 October 2020 at 19:00 EDT, a total of 182,839 cases have been recorded in Canada including 9,627 deaths. The cases are reported in Newfoundland and Labrador (283 confirmed cases, 4 deaths), Prince Edward Island (63 confirmed cases), Nova Scotia (1,092 confirmed cases, 65 deaths), New Brunswick (278 confirmed cases, 2 deaths), Quebec (86,976 confirmed cases, 5,965 deaths), Ontario (59,139 confirmed cases, 3,005 deaths), Manitoba (2,655 confirmed cases, 34 deaths), Saskatchewan (2,140 confirmed cases, 25 deaths), Alberta (19,995 confirmed cases, 282 deaths), British Columbia (10,185 confirmed cases, 245 deaths), Yukon (15 confirmed cases), Northwest Territories (5 confirmed cases), Nunavut (0 confirmed case), and repatriated travellers (13 confirmed cases). A detailed [epidemiological summary](#) is available. The risk will vary between and within communities, but given the increasing number of cases in Canada, the risk to Canadians is considered [high](#).

[International \(Update\) - Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) Outbreak \(Media\)](#)

As of October 13, 2020, 10:47 GMT, there were 38,097,303 cases of COVID-19 and 1,086,400 deaths reported globally. Top 10 countries with the highest number of cases, by alphabetical order are: Argentina (903,730 cases, 24,186 deaths), Brazil (5,103,408 cases, 150,709 deaths); Colombia (919,083 cases, 27,985 deaths); France (743,479, 32,779 deaths); India (7,177,783 cases, 109,917 deaths); Mexico (821,045 cases, 83,945 deaths); Peru (851,171 cases, 33,357 deaths); Russia (1,326,178 cases, 22,966 deaths); Spain (918,223 cases, 33,124 deaths); United States (8,038,037 cases, 220,018 deaths).

Canada – Coronavirus disease (COVID -19) Outbreaks and Outcomes (Official and Media)

- On 9 October 2020, [Prime Minister announced an additional investment of \\$100 million](#) through the Emergency Food Security Fund. This investment will help improve access to food and increase food supply for vulnerable Canadians across the country, who are facing the impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic. The Government of Canada will provide this funding to national and regional organizations, who will then support food banks and local food organizations across Canada in order to help reach people experiencing food insecurity.
- [A new probable case of the novel coronavirus has been detected in Yukon Territory](#). Officials are now awaiting confirmation from a laboratory in British Columbia. The potentially infected person is from Whitehorse, and received care at the Whitehorse General Hospital's emergency department. The territory has not reported a new case of COVID-19 since 07 August.
- [P.E.I. Chief Public Health Officer urging Islanders to consider whether they must travel over Thanksgiving weekend](#) as an outbreak of COVID-19 at a long-term care home in Moncton, N.B., is raising concerns about transmission of the virus inside the Atlantic bubble. She added that the outbreak is a concern but they are watching carefully what is going on.
- On 9 October 2020, [the Minister of Health announced an investment of more than \\$10.2M in COVID-19 mental health and substance use service needs and delivery research](#). This investment is part of a larger Government of Canada approach to address the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding for this research is provided by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR), the New Brunswick Health Research Foundation (NBHRF), the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (OMHLTC), and the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF). The total investment is \$10,287,598. This funding will support 55 research teams across the country that will tackle the specific mental health and substance use crisis response needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and the strategies to contain and

mitigate its impact. The research teams are located in Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Québec, and Saskatchewan

- [Indigenous communities have been facing an alarming rise in the number of new and active COVID-19 cases.](#) While the COVID-19 infection rate for First Nations living on-reserve remains one third the rate among other Canadians, in the last month alone, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) was made aware of more than 200 new cases in First Nations communities. As of October 8, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) is aware of these confirmed cases of COVID-19 for First Nations communities on reserve: 778 confirmed positive cases of COVID-19; 129 active cases; 61 hospitalizations; 636 recovered cases; and 13 deaths. There are 22 confirmed positive cases in Nunavik, Quebec, and all but three have recovered. ISC recommends everyone familiarize themselves with the recommended public health guidelines outlined by their province or territory of residence, and/or by their community Leadership. ISC also encourages everyone to share the advice of public health experts, such as from the Public Health Agency of Canada, so that their friends and families are also well informed. ISC is working to support access to COVID-19 Antigen rapid tests to point-of-care testing in First Nation communities.
- [Air Canada is offering passengers free COVID-19 medical insurance, even as the Canadian government continues to advise against non-essential travel.](#) Air Canada announced on 8 October that it would now be including complimentary COVID-19 emergency medical and quarantine insurance for eligible passengers who book round-trip international flights. The coverage will be available for new bookings made in Canada from 17 September until 31 October 2020. The airline hopes that the free insurance will give customers added confidence when booking flights and travelling abroad. Air Canada says that the Plan is available to all Canadian residents, subject to eligibility requirements.
- [A new daily increase in COVID-19 patients admitted into critical care this week is a spike not seen in Ontario since June, according to new data](#) on 9 October 2020. The record of new cases was shattered when [the province's health minister reported 939 new cases](#) — a figure that's forcing government to hold an emergency cabinet meeting to discuss tighter restrictions. Not only will more of those patients needing treatment as the weeks pass, but also hospitals are facing the added pressure of rescheduled surgeries put off during the pandemic's first wave. The CCSO data shows of the 1,670 people currently in ICUs, 52 have tested positive for COVID-19 — a slightly higher number than Ontario's latest publicly reported figure of 47.
- On 9 October 2020, [Ontario is urging people across the province to stay home except for essential purposes and has announced the three COVID-19 hotspots will revert to a modified Stage 2.](#) Effective 12:01 a.m. on 10 October, a number of new measures will be implemented in Toronto, Peel Region and Ottawa, which includes the shutdown of indoor dining and gyms for the next 28 days. The indoor dining restriction applies to restaurants, bars and other food and drink establishments, including nightclubs and food courts in malls. Indoor gyms and fitness centres, including yoga studios and dance studios will also be closed in these regions. Cinemas, casinos, bingo halls and other gaming establishments are also required to close.
- [Canadians will be able to get the COVID-19 vaccine for free when one is developed,](#) Prime Minister has said in the House of Commons on 07 October.
- [World-wide shortages of a Swiss pharmaceutical Roche's crucial chemical for COVID-19 testing, along with staff shortages, are hampering Ontario's laboratory system as the province deals with record numbers of tests.](#) The province's testing system relies heavily on instruments from the Swiss pharmaceutical company. Their machines use a proprietary reagent chemical that only Roche manufacturers and the company has struggled to keep up with demand.
- [A survey of 1,003 Canadians has found that two in five Canadians said that their mental health is currently worse than before the pandemic.](#) The survey also found that Canadians reported a 20 per cent increase in alcohol consumption compared to before the pandemic. According to the survey results, four in 10 Canadians said their mental health is now worse (16 per cent) or somewhat worse (24 per cent) than it was in April during the early stages of the pandemic. At that time, 10 per cent of respondents reported worse and 28 per cent reported somewhat worse mental health. Just under half of the respondents said their mental health is about the same as it was prior to COVID-19, while one in 10 Canadians said their mental health is better (four per cent) or somewhat better (seven per cent). One per cent of those surveyed said they were unsure.

United States - Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) - Communication Resources (Official and Media)

- [Health and Human Services Secretary indicated that the Trump administration's coronavirus vaccine program Operation Warp Speed expects to have up to 100 million doses by the end of the year.](#) He added that the U.S. is currently manufacturing doses for all six potential vaccines backed by the U.S. government across more than 23 manufacturing facilities. Health and Human Services Secretary stated that the U.S. could have enough Covid-19 vaccine doses for every American as early as March.
- On 9 October 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its [Contact Tracing by Community Health Workers in Low-Resource, Non-US Settings](#). This document provides information on how community health workers (CHWs) can support contact tracing efforts related to COVID-19 in low resource and

resource-limited non-U.S. settings. The considerations provided can be adapted to follow national or local guidelines and account for local context.

- On 9 October 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published early release of [Transmission Dynamics by Age Group in COVID-19 Hotspot Counties — United States, April–September 2020](#). CDC works with other federal agencies to identify counties with increasing coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) incidence (hotspots) and offers support to state, tribal, local, and territorial health departments to limit the spread of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Among 767 hotspot counties identified during June and July 2020, early increases in the percent positivity among persons aged ≤24 years were followed by several weeks of increasing percent positivity in persons aged ≥25 years. Addressing transmission among young adults is an urgent public health priority. On 9 October 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published early release of [Factors Influencing Risk for COVID-19 Exposure Among Young Adults Aged 18–23 Years — Winnebago County, Wisconsin, March–July 2020](#). Identifying factors that influence risk for COVID-19 exposure and framing messaging to target those factors could help persuade young adults to adhere to public health guidelines that prevent the spread of COVID-19. Providing clear and consistent messages regarding the need for and effectiveness of masks could help increase widespread adoption of evidence-based guidance.
- On 9 October 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its guideline for [Travelers Returning from Cruise Ship and River Cruise Voyages](#). CDC recommends that all people defer travel on cruise ships, including river cruises, worldwide. That's because the risk of COVID-19 on cruise ships is high. People with an increased risk of serious illness should especially defer travel on cruise ships, including river cruises. CDC has issued a Level 3 Travel Health Notice for cruise ship travel.
- As part of the FDA's effort to protect consumers, the FDA and the Federal Trade Commission issued warning letters to two companies, [Griffo Botanicals](#) and [Prairie Dawn Herbs](#) for selling fraudulent COVID-19-related products.

IHR Announcement - Additional health measures in relation to the COVID-19 outbreak: 09 October 2020

As of 09 October 2020, there has been no new State Party that reported on additional health measures that significantly interfere with international traffic since the last announcement published on 02 October 2020. A total of 194 out of 196 States Parties reported to date with Mexico and Nicaragua not reporting any measure. Moreover, 28 countries provided updates to their previously implemented measures. The distribution by WHO Regions is as follows: AFR: 0 (0 updates), AMR: 0 (0 updates), EMR: 0 (3 updates), EUR: 0 (25 updates), SRO: 0 (0 updates), WPR: 0 (0 updates).

International - Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) Outbreak and Outcomes (Media)

- [Hong Kong Local Health authorities](#) reported new cases of COVID-19 with unknown source of infection for 10 days in a row since 30 September. On 9 October 2020, the Center for Health Protection (CHP) reported eight additional confirmed COVID-19 cases.
- [An experimental dual vaccine for both influenza and the new coronavirus delivered via a nasal spray will enter human studies in Hong Kong next month](#), a top infectious diseases doctor said. The candidate vaccine is similar to a nasal spray flu immunization already on the market that's designed to start working where respiratory viruses typically enter the body: the nose. Research on the experimental spray received funding from the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations in Norway and Hong Kong's government, and will join dozens of clinical trials around the world aimed at identifying safe and effective vaccines to prevent Covid-19.
- On 9 October 2020, the health ministry data showed that number of [new coronavirus infections in France jumped more than 20,000 in one day](#) for the first time since the start of the epidemic.
- On 9 October 2020, [Spain imposes state of emergency on Madrid to curb virus spread](#). Spain's central government has declared a state of emergency in Madrid and its surrounding region to enforce a partial lockdown of the capital amid a surge in coronavirus infections. They also impose an 11pm curfew on bars and restaurants and reduce indoor seating capacity by half. On 9 October 2020, [Sri Lankan health authorities working to contain a growing cluster](#) of new coronavirus infections, ordering the closure of bars, restaurants, casinos, nightclubs and spas.
- On 9 October 2020, [Coronavirus infections in Slovakia](#) have hit a record high for the third straight day, reaching almost 1,200 in a day for the first time. In reaction to the record numbers, the government announced deploying of 267 service members to help health authorities with contact tracing, conduct tests and distribute protective equipment.
- [Scientists in Chile are investigating a possible mutation of the coronavirus in southern Patagonia, a far-flung region near the tip of South America that has seen an unusually contagious second wave of infections in recent weeks](#). Questions have arisen as the remote region of Magallanes, which accounts for only one percent of the country's population, reported nearly 20 percent of Chile's total cases so far, suggesting a potential mutation of the novel virus. While such mutations have already been observed in other places, researchers have yet to understand what their effect on humans is.

[WHO - WHO Director-General's opening remarks at the media briefing on COVID-19 - 9 October 2020 \(Official\)](#)

COVAX is an unprecedented partnership between WHO, Gavi, manufacturers and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness or CEPI, and has the largest portfolio of potential COVID-19 vaccines, with several in advanced human trials. This week, China, the Republic of Korea and Nauru joined the COVAX Facility, bringing the total number of countries and economies that are part of the global initiative for vaccine access to 171. Initially, supply of vaccines will be limited. But by sharing supply equitably, countries and economies that are part of COVAX can distribute vaccines simultaneously to priority populations, including health workers, older people and those with underlying conditions. The aim of COVAX is to ensure that 2 billion doses are manufactured and distributed equitably by the end of 2021. We also welcome the announcement by one vaccine developer, Moderna, that it will not enforce its patent rights over its COVID-19 vaccine during the pandemic.

[IOM \(International Organization for Migration\) - Immediate Action Required to Address Needs, Vulnerabilities of 2.75m Stranded Migrants \(Official\)](#)

On 9 October 2020, the International Organization for Migration stated that effective international cooperation is urgently needed to address the circumstances of millions of migrants stranded worldwide due to mobility restrictions imposed to contain the spread of COVID-19. A three-month-long [COVID-19 Impact on Migrants](#) effort by IOM's Returns Task Force reveals for the first time the scope and complexities of the challenges facing governments and people on the move at a time when at least 2.75 million* migrants are stranded (13 July) worldwide. Once stranded, some migrants are at a higher risk of abuse, exploitation and neglect. Canada, Portugal, Italy and Germany and many other states have adjusted the visa arrangement for seasonal workers in light of the mobility constraints posed by the pandemic. The government of Qatar also announced that migrant workers in quarantine or undergoing treatment will receive full salaries, while the Slovak Republic has extended residency permissions for non-citizens as an exceptional crisis measure. While mobility restrictions continue to impede the movement of migrant workers globally, exceptions are being made. In recent weeks the first of an expected 3,400 Mozambiquan miners have been allowed to cross back into South Africa to resume work after being medically screened and informed about the risks posed by COVID-19 by IOM. Discussions are progressing about providing the same facility to thousands of agricultural workers. International cooperation has also paved the way for IOM to provide voluntary return assistance to more than 15,000 vulnerable, stranded migrants in recent months, in a manner that addresses public health concerns related to COVID-19.

[PAHO - PAHO and IOM sign agreement to improve the health of 70 million migrants in the Americas \(Official\)](#)

More than 70 million migrants living across international borders in the Region of the Americas are set to benefit from a joint agreement signed on 9 October 2020 by Director of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and, Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Under the agreement, PAHO and IOM will focus on scaling up coordinated interventions to support countries of the Americas in addressing health and migration, while leaving no one behind. It will also ensure greater advocacy for the inclusion of the specific needs of migrants in health and development policy throughout the Region, both in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. Beyond COVID-19, many migrants in the Americas experience a range of communicable as well as non-communicable diseases that require urgent recognition and treatment. Diseases including malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, diabetes and hypertension among migrant populations must be addressed. The new agreement aims to improve access to health for this vulnerable population, and support countries in border health, including in emergency preparedness and response. It also aims to enhance action across sectors, including education, social welfare and protection, to better plan health interventions with a short-, medium-, and long-term vision.

Studies Related to Coronavirus disease (COVID -19) Outbreak (Media)

- [Nearly half of parents surveyed in a recent University of B.C. study said they would be willing to accept an abridged testing process for a COVID-19 vaccine.](#) A study, published in Clinical Therapeutics, surveyed more than 2,500 families from Canada, Israel, Japan, Spain, Switzerland and the United States who visited 17 different emergency departments between the end of March to the end of June. Researchers asked the parents whether they would accept a "less rigorous" testing regime for the COVID-19 vaccine in exchange for faster approval, and found that 42 per cent of parents would. Fathers were more likely than mothers to accept a faster vaccine, as were parents whose children were up-to-date on their vaccines.
- [Scientists have documented the persistence of antibodies that target the novel coronavirus in the blood and saliva of patients with COVID-19](#) at least three months after symptom onset, a finding that may lead to alternative methods of testing for the viral infection. According to a new research from the Harvard Medical School in the US, these antibodies could be detected at similar levels in both blood and saliva, suggesting that saliva could be used as an alternative biofluid for antibody testing. They estimated sensitivities of the antibody types IgG, IgA, and IgM at 95 per cent, 90 per cent and 81 per cent, respectively, for detecting infected individuals between 15 to 28 weeks after symptom onset.

- [The Lancet Infectious Diseases published a report referring to China's successful control of COVID-19](#). As of 4 October 2020, China had confirmed 90 604 cases of COVID-19 and 4739 deaths, while the USA had registered 7 382 194 cases and 209 382 deaths. The UK has a population 20 times smaller than China, yet it has seen five times as many cases of COVID-19 and almost ten times as many deaths. All of which raises the question: [how has China managed to wrest control of its pandemic?](#) Despite being the first place to be hit by COVID-19, China was well placed to tackle the disease. It has a centralized epidemic response system. Most Chinese adults remember SARS-CoV and the high mortality rate that was associated with it. According to a Research Team at Yale School of Public Health, New Haven, Connecticut, USA, the society was very alert as to what can happen in a coronavirus outbreak, other countries do not have such fresh memories of a pandemic". Ageing parents tend to live with their children or alone but nearby, and only 3% of China's elderly population live in care homes, whereas in several western countries, such facilities have been major sources of infection. In addition, the Chinese accept the notion that disease control is a matter of science. The researchers added, China does not have the kind of raucous anti-vaccine, anti-science movement that is trying to derail the fight against COVID-19 in the USA.
- In a study posted in the [Emerging Infectious Diseases Journal](#) on 9 October 2020, researchers report a cluster of surprisingly high spread of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) associated with a single nursery in Poland. Their findings contrast with the presumed negligible role of children in driving the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. Children 1–2 years of age might be effective SARS-CoV-2 spreaders.
- [The chief medical officer of health for the province of Alberta announced three new voluntary public health measures for the region](#) as she indicated that the Edmonton Zone is at a "crucial juncture" to stop the spread of COVID-19. Mandatory restrictions would occur if hospitalizations increased more than five per cent over two weeks or if 50 per cent or more of intensive care beds become occupied. The recommended 15-person gathering limit does not impact schools, or more formal gatherings like theatres, worship services or other gatherings where an organizer can ensure that all COVID-19 guidelines are followed.
- By the week of 12 October, [Canada could see thousands of new COVID-19 cases diagnosed, hitting a total of 197,830 COVID-19 cases nationwide and up to 9,800 deaths, the latest federal modelling on the short-term trajectory of the pandemic shows](#). The new projections show that, as of 17 October, Canada is on track to hit between 188,150 and 197,830 cases, and between 9,690 and 9,800 deaths. According to the report issued by Health Canada, the updated national picture on the severity of the second wave of COVID-19 shows that "a stronger response is needed now". The new data shows that, if Canadians maintain their current rate of contacts, the epidemic will resurge as rates of infection are already accelerating rapidly in Quebec, Ontario, and Alberta, while the pandemic remains largely under control within the Atlantic bubble. As has been the case over the last month, the rate of hospitalization is increasing, but now what was a lessened rate of deaths from the virus is also trending up once again. The second wave is hitting younger age groups harder than other demographics, the data also shows. However, the latest data also shows a "concerning rise" in new cases among individuals 80 years of age and older, who are at the highest risk of severe outcomes.
- [The daily pandemic death counts in Ontario include people who have tested positive for COVID-19 but have not necessarily died from the virus](#). The exact number of people who fit into this category is unknown by the government and not even being counted. Media confirm this information after speaking with three of the hardest hit public health units in Ontario — Toronto, Ottawa and Peel Region. According to local health units, this reporting process is required by the province.
- According to a new study, the [virus that causes COVID-19 can last up to 28 days on surfaces like mobile phone and ATM screens, much longer than previously thought, but lasts for much less time on softer surfaces](#). Australian researchers tested the virus on polymer banknotes, de-monetised paper banknotes and common surfaces including brushed stainless steel, glass, vinyl and cotton cloth. On glass, stainless steel and paper banknotes, the virus lasted for up to 28 days at 20 degrees. As the temperature increased to 30 and 40 degrees, the virus lasted for less than a week on those surfaces. The study found the virus remained on most surfaces for about six to seven days before starting to lose its potency. On more porous materials like cotton, which can absorb the virus, no infectious virus was recovered after two weeks. Similar experiments for Influenza A have found that it survived on surfaces for 17 days. Meanwhile, in a study, published in the journal *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, researchers indicate that [Covid-19 can remain viable on human skin much longer than the flu viruses can](#). However, they found that both SARS-CoV-2 virus and IAV were rapidly inactivated on the skin with a hand sanitizer.
- A study from the King's College indicated [that patients of Asian ethnicity have an increased risk of dying in hospital from Covid-19, while those of Black ethnicity have an increased risk of requiring hospital admission for the disease](#). The findings, published in the journal *Eclinical Medicine*, suggest that different treatment strategies may be required for different ethnic groups.
- A Pune-based paediatrician has teamed up with experts from the community medicine department of B J Medical College and Sassoon hospital to find whether the [measles vaccine can offer protection against Covid-19 or help reduce its severity](#). The researchers plan to enrol about 548 randomly picked participants for the study - an equal number of RT-PCR-positive and Covid-negative individuals aged 1 to 18 - to try to determine if their measles vaccination, or the absence of it, has helped forestall Covid-19 or arrested symptoms from turning severe. The

Clinical Trials Registry-India (CTRI), set up by the ICMR's National Institute of Medical Statistics (NIMS), has allowed the Pune specialists to carry out the research which is being claimed as the first of its kind in India. A cohort study is currently ongoing in Egypt and proposals are being discussed in the United States.

Domestic Events of Interest

[Canada – Overdose advisory issued for Cowichan Valley; toxic drug supply suspected \(Media\)](#)

Island Health has issued an overdose advisory due to an increase in overdoses in the Cowichan Valley and indicated that a toxic drug supply is suspected. They advised drug users to protect themselves by visiting the overdose prevention site and have the substances checked. Family and private gatherings in the city of Edmonton and surrounding municipalities are now recommended to be a maximum of 15 people, down from the province-wide cap of 50. Masks are recommended in all indoor work settings and a limit of three cohorts is advised.

[Canada – Ottawa company recalls eggs over *Salmonella* concerns \(Official\)](#)

Hilly Acres Farm is recalling eggs due to possible *Salmonella* contamination. The Ottawa-based company's eggs have been sold in Newfoundland, Labrador, and Nova Scotia. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is advising consumers and distributors, retailers and food service establishments such as hotels, restaurants, cafeterias, hospitals and nursing homes should not serve, sell or use the recalled eggs.

International Events of Interest

[IHR Announcement: Poliomyelitis \(Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus and Wild Poliovirus\) – Global update](#)

Between 1 January and 07 October 2020, there have been several countries affected by poliomyelitis including circulating vaccine-derived poliomyelitis type 1 and 2 (cVDPV1 and cVDPV2) and wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) globally. This announcement is a weekly update on the status of cVDPV and WPV1 in these affected countries. Between 01 and 07 October 2020, there have been four WPV1 in Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) cases and 14 WPV1 positive environmental samples reported in Afghanistan and Pakistan. During the same period, there have been 17 cVDPV2 in AFP cases and 17 cVDPV2 positive environmental samples reported in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Burkina Faso, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Egypt and Somalia.

[United States - New *Salmonella* outbreak associated with juice bar in Minnesota \(Media\)](#)

Minnesota officials are investigating a *Salmonella* outbreak among patrons of a juice bar. Health officials believe additional people likely are part of the outbreak. A specific source from NéktØr Juice Bar in Woodbury, MN, has not yet been pinpointed, but the Minnesota Health Department is reporting that all confirmed patients have infections from a specific variant of *Salmonella Paratyphi B*, meaning they were most likely sickened by the same source.

[European Union - West Nile virus in Europe in 2020 - human cases compared to previous seasons, updated 8 October 2020 \(Official\)](#)

Since the start of the 2020-transmission season of West Nile Virus (WNV) and as of 8 October 2020, EU Member States have reported 285 human cases of WNV infection and 31 deaths through TESSy: Greece (135, including 20 deaths), Spain (75, including 7 deaths), Italy (54, including 3 deaths), Germany (12), Romania (6, including 1 death) and Hungary (3). The province of Badajoz, Spain, and five regions in Germany reported locally acquired human cases of WNV infection for the first time (regions of Barnim, Ostprignitz-Ruppin, Saalekreis, Halle (Saale) and Meissen). All other cases were reported from areas that have been affected during previous transmission seasons.

[South Sudan - Mystery Outbreak in South Sudan Kills Three \(Media\)](#)

Three people have died of a mysterious haemorrhagic fever in South Sudan's Raja county of Western Bhar-el-Ghazal State, raising fears of an outbreak of Ebola. On 8 October 2020, South Sudan's Ministry of Health said it is investigating the deaths and indicated that some 127 similar cases had been recorded since last week. In response, it sent a team of six healthcare workers who included epidemiologists from the World Health Organisation, surveillance officers, clinicians, laboratory officers and hygiene officers to investigate the cases.

Researches, Policies and Guidelines

[IOM \(International Organization for Migration\) - Immediate Action Required to Address Needs, Vulnerabilities of 2.75m Stranded Migrants \(Official\)](#)

Effective international cooperation is urgently needed to address the circumstances of millions of migrants stranded worldwide due to mobility restrictions imposed to contain the spread of COVID-19, the International Organization for Migration said today. A three-month-long [COVID-19 Impact on Migrants](#) effort by IOM's Returns Task Force reveals for the first time the scope and complexities of the challenges facing governments and people on the move at a time when at least 2.75 million* migrants are stranded (13 July) worldwide. An IOM Issue Brief on Stranded Migrants notes

that some governments have been proactive in addressing vulnerability issues, allowing migrants regardless of their migratory status or insurance, to have access to medical facilities, particularly those dedicated to COVID-19, and providing food and accommodation to others. Canada, Portugal, Italy and Germany and many other states have adjusted the visa arrangement for seasonal workers in light of the mobility constraints posed by the pandemic. The government of Qatar also announced that migrant workers in quarantine or undergoing treatment would receive full salaries, while the Slovak Republic has extended residency permissions for non-citizens as an exceptional crisis measure.

Best Regards | Sincères salutations
The GPHIN Team / L'équipe du RMISP

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