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Sent: 2020-09-11 8:29 AM
To: gphin / rmisp (PHAC/ASPC)
Subject: GPHIN Daily Report (11 September 2020)
Attachments: GPHIN Daily Report 2020SEP11 FM.docx

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 10 September 2020 at 19:00 EDT, a total of 134,924 cases have been recorded in Canada including 9,163 deaths. The cases are reported in Newfoundland and Labrador (270 confirmed cases, 3 deaths), Prince Edward Island (55 confirmed cases), Nova Scotia (1,086 confirmed cases, 65 deaths), New Brunswick (193 confirmed cases, 2 deaths), Quebec (64,244 confirmed cases, 5,773 deaths), Ontario (43,855 confirmed cases, 2,814 deaths), Manitoba (1,378 confirmed cases, 16 deaths), Saskatchewan (1,676 confirmed cases, 24 deaths), Alberta (15,304 confirmed cases, 253 deaths), British Columbia (6,830 confirmed cases, 213 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 11 September 2020, 10:32 GMT, there were 28,361,240 cases of COVID-19 and 914,463 deaths reported globally. Top 10 countries with the highest number of cases, by alphabetical order are: Argentina (524,198 cases, 10,907 deaths), Brazil (4,239,763 cases, 129,575 deaths); Colombia (694,664 cases, 22,275 deaths); India (4,566,726 cases, 76,336 deaths); Mexico (652,364 cases, 69,649 deaths); Peru (710,067 cases, 30,344 deaths); Russia (1,051,874 cases, 18,365 deaths); South Africa (644,438 cases, 15,265 deaths); Spain (554,143 cases, 29,699 deaths); United States (6,588,448 cases, 196,332 deaths).

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

- On 9 September 2020, [The Windsor-Essex County Health Unit reported a community cluster of COVID-19 that began with one party has now reached 37 cases](#). When the health unit first released details of the cluster last week, the number of cases were 31. WECHU communicated that 12 cases have been discharged and there have been no deaths associated with cluster. Windsor-Essex community cluster of COVID-19 reaches 37 cases.
- On 10 September 2020, the Quebec Premier made the statement at a press conference in Quebec City alongside Quebec Health Minister and the province's director of public health. The announcement was that as of 12 September 2020, [Quebecers who do not comply with public health guidelines amid the COVID-19 pandemic; particularly, those who don't wear masks inside public places and on public transit will be subject to fines](#). The measure will apply across the province but the government is asking police officers to pay particular attention to regions labelled yellow on Quebec's new regional alert system and to increase their presence in closed public spaces.
- On 10 September 2020, [The Province of Quebec is reporting 188 new infections of COVID-19](#), bringing the total case count to 64,244 since the pandemic began. To date, there are 56,624 recoveries in the province. Health authorities recorded two additional deaths linked to COVID-19 from the previous day, although only one occurred in the past 24 hours. As a result, the province's death toll has risen to 5,773. It remains the highest in Canada, which has seen the virus claim more than 9,000 lives since March. Quebec surpassed its daily testing goal on 9 September 2020, the latest day for which that information is available, with 17,739, tests. To date, 1,817,362 tests have been administered in Quebec.
- [Minister of Health has announced an investment of \\$11.5 million in mental health funding for organizations across the country to promote mental health and wellbeing in communities, and to tackle systemic challenges and barriers, including those faced by Black Canadians](#). This funding supports community-based programs in mental

health promotion, to increase health equity and address the underlying determinants of health. It also supports the development and implementation of culturally focused mental health programs for Black Canadians in communities across the country.

- The [Ontario Premier has announced that his government will give \\$14.75 million to expand access to mental health and addiction services across the province](#). The money will go toward safely resuming in-person counselling services, virtual services and providing care in congregate settings, as well as to specialized services for Indigenous communities. The Ontario government says \$4.75 million will support culturally appropriate services for Indigenous communities, while \$3 million will go toward increasing online services, including for peer support, online cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) and addictions support. The Ontario government also announced that it will invest more than \$2.9 million to fund eight research projects that aim to support Ontario's response to COVID-19. The government says the projects will focus on a number of different areas, including supporting people's mental health, assessing the long-term health effects of COVID-19 and evaluating the effectiveness of wearing masks to block the virus.
- [The Saskatchewan Health Authority \(SHA\) has said that if an outbreak in a school is declared, it will be announced on the provincial government's website](#). All the parents of that school will also be notified. As defined by the SHA, an outbreak will be declared when two or more people from one school test positive for COVID-19, within a specific time period. An outbreak does not necessarily mean the school will automatically close, nor does it mean there is a risk to others. If a student or education staff receives a positive COVID-19 test result, public health immediately begins their contact investigation. Notification processes will proceed as outlined in the Safe Schools Plan Parent Information Packages.
- [Two COVID-19 outbreaks have been declared at high schools in southern Alberta](#). A letter sent to parents of students at Henry Wise Wood High School from Alberta Health Services says two or more cases have been confirmed at the southwest Calgary school. A similar letter was sent to parents with children at Chinook High School in Lethbridge. They say staff or students who have had direct contact with those people with COVID-19 will be contacted.
- A [Grade 7 student at Churchill High School in Winnipeg tested positive and was briefly in school on opening day on 08 September](#). The student was asymptomatic and had gone for testing earlier, and left school when the test came back positive. The child had been wearing a mask and had practiced physical distancing while in school, and classmates do not need to self-isolate but should self-monitor for symptoms.
- [Provincial health officials are warning Manitobans about two separate cases of potential exposure to COVID-19, including an Air Canada flight](#). The first incident happened from 1-3 September at Lilac Resort in Ste. Anne. The second incident happened on an Air Canada flight on 5 September. The flight was AC 295, which departed from Winnipeg and flew to Vancouver. The affected rows are 19 to 25.
- The [BC Centre for Disease Control has added a flight to its COVID-19 exposure list](#). The first flight was Flair Airlines 8101 from Vancouver to Edmonton on 30 August. Passengers seated in rows 17 to 23 may have a higher risk of exposure because of their proximity to the case.
- [Four recent flights in and out of Saskatchewan have been exposed to COVID-19](#). The impacted flight according to the Government of Saskatchewan are Flair Airlines: F8513, Toronto to Saskatchewan, 3 September, Rows 1 to 7; WestJet: WS256, Calgary to Regina 1 September 1, Rows 2 to 8; Air Canada: AC8569, Regina to Vancouver, 23 August; Air Canada: AC8570 Vancouver to Regina, 21 August.
- The [N.W.T. government is getting ready to start regular surveillance of wastewater in some communities within the territory to identify the presence — or absence — of the coronavirus](#). The program will collect samples of wastewater, or sewage, from Hay River, Yellowknife, Fort Smith, Inuvik and Fort Simpson and test it for COVID-19. The territory expects these samples will cover about half of the N.W.T. population and it will cover 100 per cent of all the isolation centres in those communities.
- [Canada is "aggressively negotiating" with drug makers on delivery schedules for potential COVID-19 vaccines and shipments would begin early in 2021 under existing deals](#). The Canadian government has announced four vaccine purchase deals and is negotiating more, while also funding local projects that are less advanced, and building new vaccine manufacturing capacity at a facility in Montreal. The exact timing of deliveries depends on the result of clinical trials, regulatory approvals and manufacturing capacity. Should approvals come earlier than expected; the government will negotiate earlier deliveries.
- [Minister of Foreign Affairs, hosted the 10th call of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19 with his counterparts from Australia, Brazil, Germany, Morocco, Peru, South Africa and the United Kingdom](#). The ministers provided an update on their countries' responses to COVID-19 and ongoing multilateral work on vaccines and supply chains, reiterating the importance of maintaining strong global cooperation in ensuring the continued flow of medical supplies across borders. The ministers furthered discussions on the importance of multilateral vaccine research and development and ensuring equitable vaccine access to developing countries and vulnerable health systems. They also mentioned the ongoing need for coordination and multilateralism in response to the economic effects of COVID-19.

- [Ontario's surgeons may be asked to start working weekends in order to clear a major backlog of procedures delayed by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the province's premier has said as he pledged funding to help tackle the issue.](#) The data, published earlier in September in the Canadian Medical Association Journal, suggested more than 148,000 procedures were postponed between mid-March, when elective operations were cancelled due to the lockdown, and May, when those restrictions eased. Researchers estimated the backlog would take at least a year and a half to clear. The premier pegged the backlog at more than 180,000.
- [Minister of Labour, has announced new funding of \\$2.5 million over two years for the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety \(CCOHS\).](#) Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, CCOHS has published health and safety tip sheets on its website, made e-learning courses available free of charge and provided an online space, Pandemic Info Share, where businesses can share resources and advice. This new funding enables CCOHS to continue its important work; including creating more sector-specific guidance and new e-learning tools that will help Canadian workplaces operate safely during the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding is part of a coordinated response by federal, provincial and territorial governments, public health authorities and CCOHS to the COVID-19 pandemic. These entities are making sure that businesses have all the necessary tools and resources to protect workers' health and safety during and beyond COVID-19.
- [Various public services including criminal courts and casinos will reopen over the next four weeks in Ontario despite the province's announced pause in announcing new measures to relax restrictions imposed by COVID-19.](#) Moreover, provincial officials say there is nothing they plan to do to change that despite a steady increase in COVID-19 infections across the province. Occupancy at the casinos will be capped at 50 patrons at a time per provincial guidelines. In addition, at least 20 locations of the Ontario Court of Justice are planning to resume preliminary hearings and criminal trials on 14 September.
- [Alberta has launched an online map to help parents track COVID-19 cases in schools across the province.](#) The new tool will list every school that reports two or more cases within a 14-day period where the virus could have been acquired or transmitted within the school itself.

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

- According to the media, [the U.S. government is set to end enhanced screening of some international passengers for COVID-19 and drop requirements that travellers coming from the targeted countries arrive at 15 designated U.S. airports.](#) The changes are set to take effect as early as 14 September 2020, according to the draft rollout plan, but the move could still be delayed. The administration in February 2020 imposed enhanced screening requirements on travellers who had been in China, the United Kingdom, Brazil, Iran and the Schengen region of Europe, and barred most non-U.S. citizens who have been in those locations from coming to the United States.
- On 10 September 2020, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its [COVID-19 Travel Recommendations by Destination](#). Travelers Prohibited from Entry to the United States: With specific exceptions, foreign nationals who have been in any of the following countries during the past 14 days may not enter the United States: [China](#); [Iran](#); [Most European Countries](#) (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Monaco, San Marino, Vatican City); [United Kingdom](#) (England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland); [Republic of Ireland](#); and [Brazil](#). **Level 3:** COVID-19 Risk Is High – Please refer to the list posted in the page. **Level 2:** COVID-19 Risk Is Moderate - CDC recommends that older adults, people of any age with [certain underlying medical conditions](#), and [others at increased risk for severe illness](#) postpone all nonessential travel to the following destinations: [Bermuda](#), [Curacao](#), [Malaysia](#), [Northern Mariana Islands](#) and [Saint Vincent and the Grenadines](#). **Level 1:** COVID-19 Risk Is Low - CDC recommends that older adults, people of any age with certain underlying medical conditions, and others at increased risk for severe illness talk to their healthcare providers before traveling to the following destinations: [Fiji](#), [New Zealand](#), [Saint Barthelemy](#), [Thailand](#). **No Travel Health Notice:** COVID-19 Risk is Very Low: American Samoa; Anguilla; Bonaire; Brunei; Cayman Islands; Dominica; Falkland Islands; Guernsey; Greenland; Grenada; Isle of Man; Laos; Macau SAR; Marshall Islands; Mauritius; Micronesia; Montserrat; New Caledonia; Palau; Saba; Saint Kitts and Nevis; Saint Lucia; Saint Pierre and Miquelon; Sint Eustatius; Taiwan; and Timor-Leste. In addition: **Level 3:** No Data Available-COVID-19 Risk is Unknown - CDC recommends that travelers avoid all nonessential travel to the following destinations because these countries have not reported COVID-19 data and risk is unknown: [Cook Islands](#), [Kiribati](#), [Nauru](#), [Niue](#), [North Korea](#), [Pitcairn Islands](#), [Samoa](#), [Solomon Islands](#), [Tokelau](#), [Tonga](#), [Turkmenistan](#), [Tuvalu](#), and [Vanuatu](#).
- On 10 September 2020, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its guidance on [When to Quarantine](#). At this time, authorities have limited information about reinfections with the virus that causes COVID-19. This is a new virus, and CDC is actively working to learn more. Data to date show that a person who has had and recovered from COVID-19 may have low levels of virus in their bodies for up to 3 months after diagnosis. This means that if the person who has recovered from COVID-19 is re tested within 3 months of initial infection, they may continue to have a positive test result, even though they are not spreading COVID-19. There are no confirmed reports to date of a person being re infected with COVID-19 within 3 months of initial infection. However, additional research is ongoing. Therefore, if a person who has recovered from COVID-19 has new

symptoms of COVID-19, the person may need an evaluation for reinfection, especially if the person has had close contact with someone infected with COVID-19. The person should isolate and contact a healthcare provider to be evaluated for other causes of their symptoms, and possibly retested. CDC recommends that all people, whether or not they have had COVID-19, take steps to prevent getting and spreading COVID-19. Wash hands regularly, stay at least 6 feet away from others whenever possible, and wear masks.

- On 10 September 2020, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its information on [Duration of Isolation and Precautions for Adults with COVID-19](#). Accumulating evidence supports ending isolation and precautions for persons with COVID-19 using a symptom-based strategy. This update incorporates recent evidence to inform the duration of isolation and precautions recommended to prevent transmission of SARS-CoV-2 to others, while limiting unnecessary prolonged isolation and unnecessary use of laboratory testing resources. Recommendations are provided and based on the best information available in mid-July 2020 and reflect the realities of an evolving pandemic.
- On 10 September 2020, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its guidance [When You Can be Around Others After You Had or Likely Had COVID-19. If you have or think you might have COVID-19](#), it is important to stay home and away from other people. Staying away from others, helps stop the spread of COVID-19. If you have [an emergency warning sign](#) (including trouble breathing), get emergency medical care immediately.
- On 10 September 2020, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its [Crew Disembarkations through Commercial Travel](#). CDC is allowing crew members to disembark from all cruise ships in U.S. waters with certain precautions. Cruise lines with complete and accurate response plans will be able to use commercial travel to disembark crew members from certain ships if the ships meet certain criteria set by CDC including that there have been no confirmed cases of COVID-19 or COVID-like illnesses on board the ship within the last 28 days. These ships are also able to lessen certain social distancing restrictions onboard. Cruise lines with complete and accurate response plans under the No Sail Order but not meeting the above criteria will still be able to disembark their crewmembers using non-commercial travel. Cruise lines must have measures in place to ensure those involved in transport are not exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19 and follow all CDC requirements to prevent interaction of disembarking crew with the public.
- On 10 September 2020, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated the information regarding [What to Do if Your Pet Tests Positive for the Virus that Causes COVID-19](#). If your pet tests positive for the virus that causes COVID-19, isolate the pet from everyone else, including other pets. Do not wipe or bathe your pet with chemical disinfectants, alcohol, hydrogen peroxide, or other products, such as hand sanitizer, counter-cleaning wipes, or other industrial or surface cleaners. Only a few pets have been confirmed to be infected with SARS-CoV-2. Some pets did not show any signs of illness, but those pets that did get sick all had mild disease that could be taken care of at home. None have died from the infection. If you think your pet has COVID-19, call a veterinarian first to discuss what should be done. Pets with confirmed infection with the virus that causes COVID-19 should be restricted to isolation in the home until a [veterinarian or public health official has determined](#) that they can be around other pets and people.
- The [National Institutes of Health has launched two of three adaptive Phase 3 clinical trials evaluating the safety and effectiveness of varying types of blood thinners to treat adults diagnosed with COVID-19](#). Part of the Accelerating COVID-19 Therapeutic Interventions and Vaccines (ACTIV) initiative, these trials will be conducted at more than 100 sites around the world and will involve patients in various clinical settings — those who have not been hospitalized, those currently hospitalized and those discharged after hospitalization for moderate to severe disease. Collectively known as ACTIV-4 Antithrombotics, the trials will provide critical insights that could help guide the care of patients with COVID-19, particularly those who suffer from life-threatening blood clots. The trial for hospitalized COVID-19 patients and the trial for patients with COVID-19 who have not been hospitalized are now underway. A third trial to start later will focus on patients discharged after hospitalization for moderate to severe COVID-19 disease. All three clinical trials will be coordinated and overseen by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), part of NIH, and funded through Operation Warp Speed.
- As part of the FDA's effort to protect consumers, the agency issued a warning letter jointly with the Federal Trade Commission to [Pharmacy Plus, Inc. dba Vital Care Compounder](#) for selling unapproved products with fraudulent COVID-19 claims. The company sells "COVID PACK" and "COVID 'POSITIVE' PACK" products with misleading claims that the products can mitigate, prevent, treat, diagnose, or cure COVID-19 in people. FDA requested that Pharmacy Plus, Inc. dba Vital Care Compounder immediately stop selling these unapproved and unauthorized products. Consumers concerned about COVID-19 should consult with their health care provider.
- The [American company Contract Research Organization \(CRO\) is advising Russian doctors in the third phase of research of the Sputnik V vaccine](#), according to Russian's health officials. According to the data of the state registry of medicines of the Ministry of Health, the Russian vaccine will go into civilian circulation on January 1, 2021. As later reported in the RFPI, applications were received for the purchase of 1 billion doses of coronavirus vaccine from more than 20 countries.

The weekly report presented the following contents: Over 400 000 children vaccinated against polio and measles in [Banadir in Somalia during the COVID-19 pandemic](#). Across 17 districts in Banadir, Somalia over 3,000 health care workers conducted a 5-day campaign targeting the vaccination of 400 000 children under the age of five against measles and polio as well as offering vitamin A and deworming tablets at fixed and outreach sites. In addition, health workers shared information with families on how to prevent the further spread of COVID-19; From the field: [Papua New Guinea tackles the threat of COVID-19 with an all-of-government approach](#). Early response measures included enhanced surveillance, health screening at the major ports and the activation of a COVID-19 hotline. Provinces across the country resumed their EOC operations, established prior through the country's response to polio and measles outbreaks, to manage their local response to COVID-19; WHO and the Robert Koch Institute participate in an Intra-Action Review in Uzbekistan; COVID-19 Partners Platform; Operations Support and Logistics; Medicines and Health Products; COVID-19 Global Preparedness and Response Summary Indicators; The Unity Studies: WHO Early Investigations Protocols; and Key links / useful resources.

[WHO – Coronavirus Global Response: Access to COVID-19 Tools-Accelerator Facilitation Council holds inaugural meeting](#)

The first ACT-Accelerator Facilitation Council meeting was held on 10 September 2020. United Nations Secretary General appeals for a quantum leap in funding for the ACT-Accelerator, a global solution to get the world moving, working and prospering again. Global leaders – including over 30 heads of state and ministers – release [statement of commitment](#) to galvanizing support for the ACT-Accelerator and the need for the financial resources required to leave no one behind. ACT-Accelerator calculates that \$35 billion is still required to give all countries the tools needed to end the pandemic as quickly as possible. The meeting was held at a crucial pivot point for the ACT-Accelerator as it reviewed an updated strategy and investment case for its scale-up phase. The document will be finalised by 17 September 2020 with publication soon after. The UN Secretary-General has confirmed a high-level event will take place on 30 September 2020 at the forthcoming General Assembly.

[ECDC - Rapid Risk Assessment: Coronavirus disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) in the EU/EEA and the UK – eleventh update: resurgence of cases \(Official\)](#)

In this update, we analyse the risk of further escalation of COVID-19 in the countries that have reported a recent increase in COVID-19 cases and the risk of further escalation of COVID-19 across all EU/EEA countries and the UK. In countries where there is a strong indication of increasing transmission, locally or nationally, as demonstrated by a recent increase in cases and an increase in hospitalisations, the risk of further escalation of COVID-19 is **high**. For those countries, the risk is **very high** if they do not implement or reinforce multiple measures, including physical distancing and contact tracing, if they have sufficient testing capacity. In countries where there is evidence that is suggestive of increasing transmission, as demonstrated by a recent increase in cases and no increase in hospitalisations but where there has been an increase in test positivity rates (if they have sufficient testing capacity and intensity of testing has remained stable), the risk of further escalation is **high**. For those countries, the risk is **very high** if they do not implement or reinforce multiple measures, including physical distancing and contact tracing. The risk of further escalation of COVID-19 is **moderate to high** for countries reporting a recent increase in cases but no increase in hospitalisations or test positivity rates (if they have sufficient testing capacity and intensity of testing has remained stable). Countries that have multiple measures in place should conduct local assessments to better understand the local drivers of the increase in cases and to determine measures to be added or strengthened. Overall, the risk of further escalation of COVID-19 across all EU/EEA countries and the UK (if they have sufficient contact tracing and testing capacity), is **moderate** for countries that continue to implement and enforce multiple measures including physical distancing and **very high** for countries that do not implement or enforce such measures.

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

- [According to the International Air Transport Association \(IATA\) shipping a coronavirus vaccines around the world will be the largest transport challenge ever](#). There is no Covid-19 vaccine yet, but IATA is already working with airlines, airports, global health bodies and drug firms on a global airlift plan. The equivalent of 8,000 Boeing 747s will be needed. The distribution programme assumes only one dose per person is needed, while airlines have been shifting their focus onto delivering cargo during the severe downturn in passenger flights, shipping vaccines is far more complex. Not all planes are suitable for delivering vaccines as they need a typical temperature range of between 2 and 8C for transporting drugs. Some vaccines may require freezing temperatures which would exclude more aircraft.
- On 9 September 2020, [a team from Melbourne University revealed a new software program, dubbed COVID-3D, which harnesses genomic and protein information about the virus to help develop more effective vaccine and drug targets](#). The researchers explained that these mutations can affect the ability of vaccines and drugs to bind the virus or create a specific immune response against it. The new tool will help tackle the problem of mutations in COVID-19, which could render prospective vaccines ineffective.
- On 9 September 2020, [the University of Hong Kong \(HKU\) announced clinical trials of a nasal spray vaccine for COVID-19 jointly developed by the university's Department of Microbiology and mainland institutions have been](#)

[approved](#). The State Key Laboratory of Emerging Infectious Diseases has been working on the vaccine with Xiamen University and Beijing Wantai Biological Pharmacy.

- [AstraZeneca CEO has said that the Covid-19 vaccine developed by the pharmacist together with Oxford University could still be available by the end of 2020 despite the interruption of trials](#). He noted that the vaccine was in the final stages of clinical trials before receiving authorization from regulatory bodies to proceed to immunize the population. He also said that manufacturing capacity for global vaccine distribution should be ready by early 2021 and that the company wants it to be available to all regions of the world at the same time.
- [Acting director of the Smorodintsev Research Institute of Influenza in Russia has stated that vaccination and natural course of Covid-19 may lead to the formation of a collective immunity by fall 2021](#). He added that a collective immunity requires the presence of antibodies in 67-70% of the population. It is currently some 20% in Russia.
- The [Smorodintsev Research Institute of Influenza \(St. Petersburg\) plans to begin clinical trials of its COVID-19 vaccine candidate at the start of 2021](#). Preclinical trials have passed Phase 1 testing on animals and researchers are in the works to begin Phase 2 testing on animals.
- [Preliminary data from studies by Chinese scientists have proved that the Russian drug "Triazawirin" is effective in the fight against COVID-19, the vice-president of the Russian Academy of Sciences has stated](#). He explained that China approved a protocol for clinical research (published in the international journal Engineering), according to which ten hospitals in Heilongjiang Province conducted randomized twice-blind trials: on the control group and on those patients who receive the drug but do not know what they are receiving. Studies are carried out on patients with mild to moderate severity of the disease. According to the university, 245 patients are taking part in the study. Similar studies are being carried out in a number of hospitals in Yekaterinburg.
- The [European Commission has completed its COVID-19 vaccines portfolio, upon concluding talks with the sixth manufacturer to purchase a potential vaccine from](#). On 9 September, the EU Commission concluded talks with BioNTech-Pfizer a German company working with US-based Pfizer to develop a new vaccine based on messenger RNA (mRNA), which will have a contractual framework through which the EU will be able to be supplied with the vaccine once it has been proven safe and effective. The Commission intends to purchase up to 300 million doses of vaccines from BioNTech-Pfizer with: 1) the initial purchase of 200 million doses for all EU Member States, and 2) the option to purchase up to a further 100 million doses.
- [Turkey is considering a request from Russia to conduct Phase III trials of Russia's COVID-19 vaccine](#), Health Minister has said, adding a decision would be made in the second week of September 2020.
- [The compulsory quarantine for Moscow residents with an acute respiratory viral infection and negative test results for the presence of the novel coronavirus infection is going to be lifted](#). The Deputy Moscow Mayor has noted that everyone with symptoms of a cold should be tested for the novel coronavirus infection. The Moscow authorities are counting on a stable course of the fall-winter epidemiological period.

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

- [Early research from the Canadian Paediatric Society indicates that children in Canada experience much milder symptoms of COVID-19](#). Data from Canadian Paediatric Surveillance Program (CPSP) shows that 111 cases of COVID-19 among children were reported to the program as of 26 August. Of those, just 1.3 per cent were hospitalized, compared to 13.5 per cent of patients of all ages. Furthermore, the researchers note that about half of the children hospitalized with COVID-19 were admitted for another reason. For example, a COVID-19 infection discovered during a routine screening for a previously scheduled appointment. There has not been a single death among children reported to the CPSP.
- A [University of Saskatchewan engineering researcher is leading a team to develop testing equipment to measure how airborne viruses are transferred in building ventilation systems](#). The research will focus on developing air exchangers which conserve energy without contaminating fresh air, using a barrier membrane to prevent viruses and other tiny pathogens from penetrating. He expects to have preliminary results in six months, and if successful, effective membranes could be incorporated into air exchangers within a year. The researcher is also a co-investigator on a project led by a U of S engineering researcher which aims to inactivate airborne pathogens using an ozone gas air sanitization device. The researchers will test the effectiveness and feasibility of the device for use in existing air conditioning systems. They expect to have results within one year. Both projects are funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council.
- [A new survey by Abacus Data commissioned by Children's Healthcare Canada \(CHC\) reveals the vast majority of Canadians are deeply worried about the future of the country's children and youth](#). Of those polled, 92% fully believe children should be a priority as the Canadian government develops its COVID-19 recovery plan, and beyond, with 70% of respondents expecting the pandemic to have long-term effects on children. The findings indicate a striking and widespread concern, with Canadians seeing the most negative impacts in children's formal education (70%), mental health and wellbeing (66%) and their social and emotional development (66%). Additionally, a notable 62% felt the pandemic has increased inequality between families depending on household income and wealth.

- On 9 September 2020, [according to the media a study was published showing evidence that lowering speaking volume can reduce the spread of the disease](#). In efforts to rein in transmission, a reduction of 6 decibels in average speech levels can have the same effect as doubling a room's ventilation. Microscopic droplets ejected while speaking evaporate to leave behind aerosol particles big enough to carry viable virus, the paper showed. An increase of about 35 decibels in loudness, or the difference between whispering and shouting, boosts the particle emission rate by 50 times.
- [A new study suggests that cats may be catching the novel coronavirus at far higher rates than thought before](#), which could mean they have unique ways of fighting off the virus. The findings were published last week in the journal *Emerging Microbes & Infections*, and describe how researchers from Huazhong Agricultural University took serum samples from 102 cats in Wuhan, China following its COVID-19 outbreak. Antibodies that fight against COVID-19 were found in 15 cats out of the 102. Eleven of these cats also had neutralizing antibodies, which bind so tightly to the virus that they prevent infection. Out of the 11 cats, four were from pet hospitals, four had been abandoned, and three belonged to owners who had been diagnosed with COVID-19. Previous reports have shown that cats can test positive for COVID-19. This new research suggests that if these cats did not test positive, there could be more cats out there who have contracted the virus and developed antibodies, but did not test positive. Two of the cats with the highest levels of antibodies belonged to the same owner, who had contracted COVID-19. Researchers noted that although the cats developed antibodies, the transient nature of the antibody response in their bodies was closer to the reaction to a seasonal virus, as opposed to a more long-lasting immunity, indicating that the cats could now be at risk of reinfection. So far, there has been no evidence of cat-to-human transmission of the virus, and not much is known about human-to-cat transmission, but researchers noted that caution should still be taken with pets.
- According to a study published in *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)*, results of a nationwide survey has shown that 40.9% of Americans have avoided medical care because of the novel coronavirus pandemic, including 12.0% who avoided emergency care and 31.5% who avoided routine care. The authors said the delay or avoidance of care may be due in part to stay-at-home orders, fear of contracting the virus and then spreading it to care recipients, and general concerns about the virus.
- Based on a recent study published in *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)*, findings from a case-control investigation of symptomatic outpatients from 11 U.S. health care facilities found that close contact with persons with known COVID-19 or going to locations that offer on-site eating and drinking options were associated with COVID-19 positivity. Adults with positive SARS-CoV-2 test results were approximately twice as likely to have reported dining at a restaurant than were those with negative SARS-CoV-2 test results.
- [A modeling study led by researchers from the World Health Organization \(WHO\) estimates that the healthcare costs of COVID-19 treatment in low- and middle-income countries \(LMICs\) is more than \\$52 billion a month, an amount that could triple over 3 months without reduced coronavirus transmission](#). In the study, published in *The Lancet Global Health*, the researchers projected the number of COVID-19 cases for 73 LMICs after 26 Jun based on an epidemiologic model from Imperial College London, then calculated what the additional healthcare costs of implementing a strategic preparedness and response plan (SPRP) would be for 4-week and 12-week timeframes under three scenarios: a status quo scenario in which current transmission levels are maintained, a 50% increase in transmission, and a 50% decrease in transmission.
- A study published in *JAMA Internal Medicine* shows that young adults are not immune to severe outcomes from COVID-19, particularly young men with morbid obesity and high blood pressure. The study by researchers at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston identified and collected data on 3,222 young adults ages 18 to 34 diagnosed with COVID-19 and discharged from the hospital from 1 April to 30. During hospitalization, 684 of these young adult patients (21%) required intensive care, 331 (10%) required mechanical ventilation, and 88 (2.7%) died. Morbid obesity was present in 140 patients (41%) who died or required mechanical ventilation. More than half of the patients requiring hospitalization were black or Hispanic. Patients with multiple risk factors (morbid obesity, hypertension, and diabetes) faced risks similar to 8,862 middle-aged adults (ages 35 to 64) without these conditions.
- [As many as 1 in 100 hospitalized COVID-19 patients may experience a pneumothorax, or punctured lung](#), according to a multicenter observational [case series](#) published in the *European Respiratory Journal*. Pneumothorax usually occurs in very tall young men or older patients with serious underlying lung disease. But University of Cambridge researchers identified COVID-19 patients with neither of those traits who had a punctured lung or pneumomediastinum (air or gas leakage from a lung into the area between the lungs) from March to June at 16 UK hospitals. Sixty of 71 COVID-19 patients included in the study had a punctured lung, including two with different episodes of pneumothorax, for a total of 62 punctures. Six of the 60 patients with pneumothorax also had pneumomediastinum, while 11 patients had only pneumomediastinum.

Domestic Events of Interest

[Canada - CPHO Statement: World Suicide Prevention Day \(Official\)](#)

On 10 September 2020, Canada's Chief Public Health Officer, issued a statement indicating that there have been 134,294 cases of COVID-19 in Canada, including 9,155 deaths. 88% of people have now recovered. Labs across Canada tested 47,806 people daily over the past week with 1.1% testing positive. An average of 618 new cases have been reported daily during the most recent seven days. 10 September is the World Suicide Prevention Day. The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) has resources that can help individuals who are concerned about themselves or someone they know. PHAC also works collaboratively with public, private, not-for-profit and Indigenous partners and stakeholders to put in place programs and initiatives that promote positive mental health, and contribute to the prevention of suicide and offer support and treatment to those struggling with mental health.

[Alberta - Province to start offering flu vaccine to vulnerable Albertans in October \(Media\)](#)

Health practitioners will start offering the vaccine to vulnerable groups, such as those in long-term care and supportive living as well as homeless or marginalized Albertans, by 13 October. The immunization campaign for all Albertans will begin on 19 October and the vaccine will be offered through public health clinics, doctor's offices and community pharmacies. The province has ordered approximately 360,000 more doses of the flu vaccine, bringing the total to 1.96 million doses compared to 1.6 million doses in 2019 to 2020.

International Events of Interest

IHR Announcement- Poliomyelitis (Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus and Wild Poliovirus) – Global update

Between 3 September and 9 September 2020, there have been seven WPV1 in Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) cases and seventeen WPV1 positive environmental samples reported in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Moreover, during the same period, there have been 26 cVDPV2 in AFP cases reported in, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Sudan. Here is the description of the reported cases by country: Afghanistan: four WPV1 in AFP cases; Pakistan: three WPV1 in AFP cases and 17 WPV1 positive environmental samples; Chad: three cVDPV2 in AFP cases; DRC: 15 cVDPV2 in AFP cases; Sudan: eight cVDPV2 in AFP cases.

IHR Notification - China | Influenza due to identified avian or animal influenza virus

On 28 August 2020, the National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China notified WHO of one confirmed case of human infection with avian influenza A(H9N2) virus detected through Influenza-like Illness Surveillance (ILI). The case is a 4-year-old female from Meizhou, Guangdong Province, China, who had exposure to domestic poultry. She developed mild symptoms on 3 August 2020 and was admitted to a hospital on 4 August. As of 28 August, no further cases were detected in her family members. This case recovered and was discharged from the hospital. This is the sixth case of avian influenza A(H9N2) reported from China in 2020. A total of 34 cases of human infection with avian influenza A(H9N2) have been reported from China to WHO since December 2015.

[Democratic Republic of Congo - Ebola infects 1 more in DRC \(Media\)](#)

Tests have confirmed Ebola in one more person in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), pushing the outbreak total to 113 cases. Health officials are worried about the latest outbreak, because cases are spread over a large geographic region, some confirmed case-patients have remained in the community, the location poses a travel threat to Kinshasa and neighboring countries, and health resources are stretched thin owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Germany - Germany confirms first case of African swine fever \(Media\)](#)

On 9 September 2020, the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institute (FLI) confirmed Germany's first ever case of African swine fever. The institute detected the specific genome sequences of the ASF virus in the samples taken on site and the FLI confirmed the finding the virus. FLI stated that wild boars that have died should continue to be intensively examined nationwide for the presence of ASF and any found dead should be reported immediately to the responsible authorities. The suspected case was detected in a wild boar carcass found in the eastern state of Brandenburg, and bones found carcass were sampled. The institute recommend to the responsible veterinary authorities on site must now take the necessary measures and stressed that it was now extremely important for farmers to carefully observe farm biosecurity.

Researches, Policies and Guidelines

[ECDC - Shigellosis - Annual Epidemiological Report for 2017 \(Official\)](#)

Shigellosis is a relatively uncommon disease in the European Union/European Economic Area (EU/EEA), but remains of concern in some countries and for some population groups. For 2017, 30 EU/EEA countries reported 6 337 confirmed shigellosis cases. The overall notification rate was 1.7 cases per 100 000 population, slightly higher than in 2016. The highest notification rate was observed in children below five years of age, followed by male adults aged 25–44 years. Sexual transmission of shigellosis among men who have sex with men (MSM) is thought to have contributed to the gender imbalance in the latter group.

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

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