

## Exton, Adam (HC/SC)

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**Sent:** 2020-09-10 8:28 AM  
**To:** gphin / rmisp (PHAC/ASPC)  
**Subject:** GPHIN Daily Report (10 September 2020)  
**Attachments:** GPHIN Daily Report 20200910 MP.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 09 September 2020 at 19:00 EDT, a total of 134,294 cases have been recorded in Canada including 9,155 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 (192 confirmed cases, 2 deaths), Quebec (64,056 confirmed cases, 5,771 deaths), Ontario (43,685 confirmed cases, 2,813 deaths), Manitoba (1,365 confirmed cases, 16 deaths), Saskatchewan (1,670 confirmed cases, 24 deaths), Alberta (15,191 confirmed cases, 248 deaths), British Columbia (6,691 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 10 September 2020, 11:42 GMT, there were 28,057,154 cases of COVID-19 and 908,659 deaths reported globally. Top 10 countries with the highest number of cases, by alphabetical order are: Argentina (512,293 cases, 10,658 deaths), Brazil (4,199,332 cases, 128,653 deaths); Colombia (686,856 cases, 22,053 deaths); India (4,470,166 cases, 75,119 deaths); Mexico (647,507 cases, 69,095 deaths); Peru (702,776 cases, 30,236 deaths); Russia (1,046,370 cases, 18,263 deaths); South Africa (642,431 cases, 15,168 deaths); Spain (543,379 cases, 29,628 deaths); United States (6,549,771 cases, 195,245 deaths).

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

- On 09 September 2020, Chief Public Health Officer (CPHO) noted that as Canadians continue to experience the joy of welcoming new additions to their families, [there are important public health measures to consider keeping their infants safe](#). Newborns are particularly vulnerable to a variety of infectious diseases, and it is especially important to protect them from COVID-19. Women that are pregnant, or thinking of becoming pregnant, may consider taking additional precautions to protect themselves beyond the public health measures of physical distancing, frequent hand hygiene, and wearing a mask when distancing is not possible. They should ask visitors to postpone their visit if they have experienced any symptoms of COVID-19 in the past 14 days, or if they have had contact with a confirmed case. In-person visits should be limited to only those inside the close contacts bubble, with the exception of medical visits. Breastfeeding is still recommended when possible during the pandemic. Parents are encouraged to stay connected with family, friends, and community supports, even if that connection is virtual. In addition, some Canadians have reported increased alcohol consumption during the COVID-19 pandemic. The CPHO reminded that September is Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) awareness month, and that there is no known safe amount of alcohol to drink during pregnancy.
- [A new report finds immigrants, refugees and other newcomers accounted for nearly 44 per cent of Ontario's COVID-19 cases in the first half of 2020](#). That is despite the fact overall testing rates were lower for those groups, and that they comprised just one quarter of the population. The non-profit research institute ICES examined health administrative data collected between 15 January and 13 June 2020. The study excludes long-term care residents and those not eligible for provincial health coverage, such as asylum seekers awaiting refugee hearings.
- [Nova Scotia is investigating whether latest COVID-19 case involving home-care nurse is a reinfection](#). Nova Scotia's latest case of COVID-19 is a home-care nurse who already tested positive several months ago and was

considered recovered. The case, located in the Nova Scotia Health Authority's central zone, was first reported on 7 September 2020. According to the Provincial government, the case was under investigation by public health. The individual's test results have been inconclusive and Nova Scotia is working with the local lab and the national lab to determine whether this is a true case of reinfection or not.

- [Spike in teachers seeking medical exemptions from work amid COVID-19 pandemic noted in Ontario.](#) Organizations representing family physicians and teaching staff affirm there is an uptick in the number of Ontario teachers requesting medical exemptions from work amid growing concerns over potential COVID-19 transmission in schools. Those inquiries have prompted the Ontario College of Family Physicians (OCFP), which represents more than 12,500 family doctors across the Province, to provide new guidance to its members on how to handle work accommodation requests from people coping with chronic illnesses. The President of the OCFP indicated that family physicians are "increasingly" getting the requests, including many from teachers. According to the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario (ETFO), there can be either temporary or permanent accommodations.
- [School bus cancellations are piling up in Ontario,](#) with transportation providers noting that fears related to the COVID-19 pandemic are compounding an existing bus driver shortage across the industry. Twelve bus routes were cancelled in both the Grey-Bruce and Thunder Bay regions as of 9 September 2020. In Sudbury, the student services consortium announced that 23 routes will not run for at least the first week of school because not enough drivers returned to work. The cancellations come weeks after concerns were raised the union, asking for better health and safety guidance for the industry.
- [Ontario has not scaled back its health order yet, but has opted to pause further reopening of the economy.](#) The pause in Ontario's reopening plan, which will last for at least a month, means social gatherings and sports event attendance won't increase.
- [Ottawa Public Health \(OPH\) has added Hillel Lodge long-term care home to its list of local institutional COVID-19 outbreaks after a staff member tested positive for the virus.](#) OPH says the staff member tested positive on Tuesday, 8 September 2020. There are 17 institutions dealing with COVID-19 in Ottawa. OPH has counted 17 more new lab-confirmed positive cases of the virus across the city, bringing the community to 3,151 since the beginning of the pandemic. There have been 2,659 resolved cases (84.4 per cent) since March.
- [Unions are raising concerns over the health of seafarers and Metro Vancouver dock workers after cases of COVID-19 were reported on a bulk carrier that arrived in British Columbia from South Korea.](#) According to Union officials, the Japanese-owned vessel ended up stuck at a container terminal in Delta, B.C. for several days after its captain and at least one crew member tested positive for the disease. It is the second ship sailing Vancouver-area waters to report a potential COVID-19 outbreak among the crew since late August.
- British Columbia First Nation declares state of emergency due to COVID-19 outbreak. [The Tla'amin First Nation on B.C.'s Sunshine Coast has declared a state of emergency and issued a shelter-in-place order for 72 hours due to four lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the community.](#) The order went into effect on 8 September at 5 p.m. PT and requires residents to stay home (or wherever they were at the time the order was issued) until 11 September. Tla'amin Nation leaders posted several statements online notifying residents of emergency measures that have been put in place as they work with provincial health authorities and the First Nations Health Authority to deal with the outbreak. In addition to the four confirmed cases, several other people in the community are exhibiting symptoms, according to the Tla'amin Nation's notice.
- [British Columbia is ordering nightclubs and stand-alone banquet halls closed,](#) ending the sale of liquor at restaurants past 10 p.m. and telling venues to reduce the volume from music or other sources to conversational levels, as cases of COVID-19 continue to spike in the Province. Bars and restaurants must close by 11 p.m., unless they are serving food. The amendments to public health orders come as the province reported 429 new cases of COVID-19 over a four-day period, bringing the total to 6,591. Two more people, both in long-term care, have died of the virus.
- [British Columbia's fall and winter pandemic battle plan](#) involves ramping up COVID-19 testing, contact tracing and a campaign to administer almost two million flu shots. Health Ministry officials have prepared the B.C. for COVID-19 scenarios ranging from low to exceptional outbreaks and they are confident the health system can meet the challenges. According to the officials, some of the preparations include being able to conduct up to 20,000 daily COVID-19 tests, hiring more than 600 additional contact tracers and purchasing more than 1.9 million doses of flu vaccine. The plan will also focus on protecting older people, who are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19, with staff increases at long-term care homes and administering 45,000 high-dose flu shots for seniors.
- [Alberta has ordered hundreds of students to stay home from school after they were potentially exposed to the coronavirus at their respective institutions across the province, just days after the students returned to their classrooms.](#) According to the Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health, the isolation restrictions will last two weeks, even if a person who was potentially exposed to the infection tests negative for COVID-19. Alberta counted 1,692 active cases of COVID-19 as of 7 September, the highest since 9 May, when the pandemic first reached the Province. Alberta Health Services (AHS), since 1 September, has identified 11 different cases where someone who was infectious attended a school, affecting 11 schools. The number of schools affected by the

virus is likely larger than 11 because the AHS count includes only those who attended the institution while they were considered infectious. All those who are considered close contacts of such a case, including every classmate, must isolate for 14 days. AHS does not believe the identified cases were infected at their respective school.

- [Several schools on Montreal's South Shore are reporting multiple COVID-19 cases](#). On 7 September 2020, a mobile testing clinic was set up by Quebec Public Health for students and staff at the school, 250 people were tested. Students in five classes were sent home, and the school set up distance learning for them until the situation improves. The number of cases in school coincides with an increase in cases in the community. According to figures released earlier 8 September, there have been 120 confirmed cases of COVID-19 among students and staff since schools reopened two weeks ago.
- On 9 September 2020, [the Province of Quebec reported 180 new cases of the coronavirus](#). The total of cases of COVID-19 stands at 64,056, but health authorities reported there have been 56,400 recoveries to date. Three additional deaths linked to COVID-19 were recorded, although they did not occur within the last 24 hours. The death toll now stands at 5,771 after authorities reported two previous deaths have been removed from the tally after an investigation found they were not linked to the virus. Quebec's number of hospitalizations increased by eight to 113. Of those patients, 14 are in intensive care. Quebec Officials mentioned that 16,368 tests were administered on 7 September 2020, the last day for which that information is available. To date, 1,799,623 tests have been carried out in Quebec

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

- On 9 September 2020, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Assistant Secretary for Health, [issued guidance under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act \(PREP Act\) to expand access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines when they are made available](#). This guidance authorizes state-licensed pharmacists to order and administer, and state-licensed or registered pharmacy interns acting under the supervision of the qualified pharmacist to administer, COVID-19 vaccinations to persons ages 3 or older, subject to certain requirements.
- On 9 September 2020, HHS' Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response published its [Discharge Planning and Care Coordination during the COVID-19 Pandemic, a resource developed in partnership with ACL and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services](#). This tool is designed to support nurses, social workers, case managers, and others conducting discharge planning for adults with disabilities after COVID-19 treatment.
- On 09 September 2020, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published its [Federal Government Adjusts COVID-19 Entry Strategy for International Air Passengers](#). As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, the United States Government (USG) is innovating and taking a new approach to help keep international air passengers healthy. The new, more effective strategy focuses on the continuum of travel and the individual passenger, including pre-departure and post-arrival education, efforts to develop a potential testing framework with international partners, and illness response. This strategy is consistent with the current phase of the pandemic and more effectively protects the health of the American public. Beginning 14 September 2020, the USG will remove requirements for directing all flights carrying airline passengers arriving from, or recently had a presence in, certain countries to land at one of 15 designated airports and halt enhanced entry health screening for these passengers. Currently, enhanced entry health screening is conducted for those arriving from, or with recent presence in, China (excluding the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau), Iran, the Schengen region of Europe, the United Kingdom (excluding overseas territories outside of Europe), Ireland, and Brazil. Transmission of the virus may occur from passengers who have no symptoms or who have not yet developed symptoms of infection. Therefore, CDC is shifting its strategy and prioritizing other public health measures to reduce the risk of travel-related disease transmission.
- On 09 September 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published its [COVID-19 Forecasts: Hospitalizations](#). Three national forecasts predict a likely increase in the number of new hospitalizations per day over the next four weeks, three forecasts predict a likely decline, and one forecast is uncertain about the trend. For October 5, the forecasts estimate 1,600 to 6,000 new COVID-19 hospitalizations per day. State-level forecasts also show a high degree of variability, which results from multiple factors. Hospitalization forecasts use different sources of data for COVID-19 cases or deaths, with different limitations, and make different assumptions about social distancing.
- On 09 September 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated its document [Markets: Operational considerations for COVID-19 mitigation measures in global low-resource setting](#). Markets are a critical place of commerce and a source of many essential goods, but they can pose potential risks for COVID-19. This document provides suggestions for mitigating COVID-19 transmission in markets in global low-resource settings and describes considerations associated with each mitigation measure. The proposals are presented in table format and are organized by mitigation practice (physical distancing, hand hygiene, cleaning and disinfection, and respiratory hygiene). This document provides suggestions that can be considered by personnel in low-resource settings outside the U.S. and can be adapted to follow national or local guidelines, and to account for local context. Local populations can be [engaged](#) in the planning and decision-making process by identifying

trusted stakeholders and community leaders to provide feedback on proposed mitigation measures before their implementation.

- On 09 September 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention published [Make a Handwashing Solution For Use in Global, Low-Resource Settings](#), suggesting using chlorine-based hand washing solutions when soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub are not available.
- On 10 September 2020, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its [If You Have Pets guidance](#). A small number of pets worldwide, including cats and dogs, have been [reported](#) to be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, mostly after close contact with people with COVID-19. Based on the limited information available to date, the risk of animals spreading COVID-19 to people is considered to be low. It appears that the virus that causes COVID-19 can spread from people to animals in some situations. People should treat pets as they would other human family members – do not let pets interact with people outside the household. If a person inside the household becomes sick, isolate that person from everyone else, including pets. This is a rapidly evolving situation and information will be updated as it becomes available.
- [According to the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Children's Hospital Association, half a million U.S. children have been diagnosed with COVID-19](#). The groups indicated that 70,630 new child cases were reported from 20 August- 3 September. This is a 16% increase in child cases over two weeks, bringing up the total to at least 513,415 cases. A disproportionate number of cases are reported in Black and Hispanic children and in places where there is high poverty. Children represent nearly 10% of all reported cases in the U.S., according to the report. The child cases are likely underreported because the tally relies on state data that is inconsistently collected.

### **WHO - COVID-19 could reverse decades of progress toward eliminating preventable child deaths, agencies warn (Official)**

On 09 September 2020, World Health Organization published a news release stating that the number of global under-five deaths dropped to its lowest point on record in 2019, down to 5.2 million from 12.5 million in 1990, [according to new mortality estimates](#) released by UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO), the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the World Bank Group. Since then, however, surveys by UNICEF and WHO reveal that the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in major disruptions to health services that threaten to undo decades of hard-won progress. A [recent WHO survey](#) based on responses from 105 countries revealed that 52 per cent of countries reported disruptions in health services for sick children and 51 per cent in services for management of malnutrition. Health interventions such as these are critical for stopping preventable newborn and child deaths. These reports and surveys highlight the need for urgent action to restore and improve childbirth services and antenatal and postnatal care for mothers and babies, including having skilled health workers to care for them at birth. Working with parents to assuage their fears and reassure them is also important.

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

- [Greece's supplier for COVID-19 vaccine suspended trial over illness](#). Greece's hopes to get an initial batch of 600,000 COVID-19 vaccines from AstraZeneca were dashed when it paused global trial of its experimental version after a participant became ill. The company expected to have a first batch of 30 million doses of the vaccine in November for the European Union if it has proved safe and effective during the ongoing trials in a rush to find an answer to COVID-19. EU officials noted that another 100 million shots could be available in a second development with the Greek government affirming that a crucial issue is the terms of indemnification for vaccine manufacturers for the cost of compensating patients if there are unexpected side effects. An Infectious Disease Specialist and Member of Greece's COVID-19 Committee of Experts stated that the second wave hitting the country could be held down with early diagnosis and treatment and effective tracking. Meanwhile, [a New York Times report, which cited a person familiar with the situation, who indicated that the participant in the UK was found to have transverse myelitis, an inflammatory syndrome that affects the spinal cord and is often sparked by viral infections](#). It remains unclear whether the illness was directly linked to the AstraZeneca's vaccine.
- According to people associated with the trials, British drug maker [AstraZeneca Plc could resume trials for its experimental coronavirus vaccine next week](#). Meanwhile, the Director of the US National Institutes of Health disclosed to a Senate Committee on 09 September that the vaccine trial had stopped due to a "spinal cord problem." Appearing before the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, the official noted that the serious adverse event in question was transverse myelitis, a neurological disorder that causes inflammation of the spinal cord. If the review of AstraZeneca finds that, the adverse event is related to the vaccine, all doses already manufactured will be discarded.
- [Three more Dutch mink farms have been infected with the SARS-CoV-2](#). The three fur farms in Venhorst, Deurne, and Wilbertoord together have around 9 thousand dam animals. These minks and their litters are in the process of being culled. That brings the total number of affected farms to 50. The SARS-CoV-2 infection at the farm in Venhorst, in the municipality of Boekel, was confirmed on 4 September, after the farm reported its minks were showing symptoms earlier in the week. The Ministries of Agriculture and Public Health confirmed the other two infections on 7 September 2020. In the latter two cases, the infections were identified through early

monitoring systems, in which mink carcasses are tested on a weekly basis. Due to the still increasing coronavirus outbreaks on mink farms, despite various hygiene measures taken, the government has decided to accelerate the ban on mink farming in the Netherlands. These fur farms will have to close their doors after the current fur season in March 2021, three years earlier than the original plan.

- On 9 September 2020, [the Olympic Committee \(IOC\) President informed that the IOC is set to hold an important discussions on coronavirus countermeasures in the coming weeks](#), but it is still too early to affirm what steps will be taken at the postponed Tokyo Games. In a teleconference following an online meeting of the IOC executive board, the Tokyo Olympics organizers had to prepare for different scenarios without knowing the exact situation surrounding the games the summer 2021. The Board has also discussed virus countermeasures for the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics, with safety plans under way for Tokyo also applying to the games in China.
- On 9 September 2020, [Thailand noted that it had tested nearly 600 people potentially exposed to the country's first domestic coronavirus case in over three months](#), but has so far found no new infections.
- On 9 September 2020, [the Czech Republic reported a record one-day spike in COVID-19 infections, with 1,164 new cases, as it battles a surging spread of the coronavirus](#). Daily case figures have regularly come in above 500 so far in September, already well above a previous daily peak of 377 in March during the first wave of infections. However, the death toll in the Czech Republic has remained lower than in many other European countries.
- On 9 September 2020, [the Prague-seated Charles University \(UK\) presented its newly-developed test to detect the presence of COVID-19 and the flu of A and B types](#), which is to become available in October, speeding up the testing procedure. It took several years to develop this solution, its author from the UK's 1st Medical Faculty, declared, adding that in the spring it turned out that the solution may also be used in COVID-19 testing.
- On 9 September 2020, [British Health Secretary notified on new limits on social gatherings in England to six people are set to stay in place for the "foreseeable future,"](#) potentially until or even through Christmas. The new limit for both indoor and outdoor gatherings, which will come into force and be enforceable by law from 14 September, will provide "more clarity" to people and should help keep a lid on a recent sharp spike in new coronavirus cases.
- On 9 September 2020, [Russia noted that 142 people had died from the coronavirus in the last 24 hours, raising the official death toll to 18,135](#). Russia's coronavirus taskforce reported 5,218 new cases, bringing its nationwide tally to 1,041,007, the fourth largest caseload in the world.
- On 9 September 2020, [Security officials in Germany affirmed that thousands of far-right extremists took part in a demonstration against the country's coronavirus restrictions](#) on August that culminated in attempts by some protesters to storm parliament. The Head of Berlin State's Intelligence Service noted that a preliminary review of images from the 29 August protest indicated that "at least 2,500 to 3,000 right-wing extremists and Reich Citizens took part in the protests.
- On 9 September 2020, [Portugal reported 646 new coronavirus cases, the highest daily toll since April 20, with transmission primarily occurring in family households](#), according to a Health Secretary of State.

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

- A Head and Neck Cancer Surgeon at The Ottawa Hospital is a senior author of [a paper that suggests saliva testing, while slightly less sensitive than nasal swabs, could play a role in rapidly expanding COVID-19 testing](#), especially in remote communities and in other challenging populations, such as with long-term care residents and students. The study, published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, was based on data from just fewer than 2,000 people who presented for testing at the Ottawa Hospital's COVID-19 Assessment Centre at Brewer arena earlier this year. Participants agreed to a self-administered saliva test after having undergone the standard nasal test. Seventy of those tested were found to be positive for COVID-19, 34 of them were positive on both tests, 22 were positive only on the swab test and 14 were positive on the saliva test alone. The results convinced researchers that there might be a place for such tests.
- According to an analysis published on 8 September 2020, [a massive motorcycle rally held in South Dakota in August may have been responsible for 260,000 new coronavirus cases](#). This figure, which came from a paper that has not yet been peer-reviewed, would represent the biggest COVID-19 spreading event documented in the U.S. to date. The study was published by the *Institute of Labor Economics*, and it was conducted by economists at the University of San Diego who studied the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, which drew an estimated 460,000 people on 7-16 August. The analysis is a statistical approximation based on anonymized cell phone data that documented the influx in the town from non-residents and showed where they came from. The data also showed a rise in foot traffic at restaurants and bars, retail establishments, entertainment venues, hotels and campgrounds. Citing media reports, the study indicated that the bikers generally did not wear masks or practiced social distancing.
- A study published in *Nature* on 9 September 2020 shows that [the US has a "substantial underestimation" of coronavirus cases because of its restrictions on testing, and the actual figure could be three to 20 times higher](#). The researchers noted that the US mainly tests people with moderate to severe symptoms so those with mild or no symptoms are rarely tested. The team analysed testing rates in each State between February and April

and corrected for incomplete and inaccurate tests. The investigators found discrepancies between States, with higher rates of testing in the northwest and northeast, and lower levels in the south and Midwest.

- A new study published in [Transboundary and Emerging Disease](#) calculated the case-fatality rate (CFR) of COVID-19 infections in 53 countries or regions that experienced a second wave (or resurgence) of coronavirus activity, and found a significantly lower death rate among all confirmed cases than in the first wave. This is the first study to compare the CFR in the first and second waves of the pandemic. Researchers from Hong Kong based the study on daily-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths for 216 countries or regions, during February of 2020 through August 2020, and weekly influenza confirmations during 2015 to the current week of 2020, from the World Health Organization (WHO). They defined the first wave as cases before Jun 1, and deaths before Jun 10, and second wave as any case after Jun 1 or any death after Jun 10.

## Domestic Events of Interest

### [Canada- Government of Canada and Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek celebrate Grand Opening of new Health Centre](#) (Official)

Minister of Indigenous Services, Minister of Health and Member of Parliament for Thunder Bay-Superior North and Chief from Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (BNA) announced the grand opening of the community's new Health Centre. The facility will offer patient assessment and referral when needed, health promotion consultations and other health-related services to all members, as well as members of other nearby First Nations. Indigenous Services Canada provided \$334,333 to BNA for the design and construction of the new Health Centre. The facility will offer patient assessment and referral, health promotion, consultation and other health-related services to members currently living on reserve, those living off reserve, and members of other nearby First Nations. This will enhance the communities control over the delivery of health services according to their priorities and needs.

## International Events of Interest

### [FAO/OIE/WHO - Tripartite Statement on the Pandemic Risk of Swine Influenza](#) (Official)

On 09 September 2020, three global health groups today issued a joint statement from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), and the World Health Organization (WHO) that strongly urged countries to be aware of the pandemic potential for an H1N1 swine influenza subtype circulating in Chinese pigs. The 1C.2.3 ("G4") genetic clade of H1N1 swine influenza was first identified by Chinese researchers in 2016 and has become the dominant genotype circulating in China's pigs. Two variant H1N1 cases involving the subtype have recently been detected in humans, and a small seroprevalence study in Chinese swine workers suggested that 10% had been exposed to the virus. The WHO Collaborating Center in China has developed a candidate vaccine virus targeting the strain. Over the past four decades instances of sporadic transmission of influenza viruses between animals and humans have occurred. These sporadic zoonotic infections remind us that the threat of an influenza pandemic is persistent. While avian influenza has been the focus of surveillance and pandemic preparedness, swine influenza should not be neglected. The development of zoonotic influenza A candidate vaccine viruses, coordinated by WHO, remains an essential component of the global strategy for pandemic preparedness.

### [WHO - More than 3 billion people protected from harmful trans fat in their food](#) (Official)

On 09 September 2020, World Health Organization published a news release stating that it is two years into the World Health Organization's (WHO) ambitious effort to eliminate industrially produced trans fats from the global food supply. The Organization reports that 58 countries so far have introduced laws that will protect 3.2 billion people from the harmful substance by the end of 2021. However, more than 100 countries still need to take actions to remove these harmful substances from their food supplies. Consumption of industrially produced trans fats are estimated to cause around 500,000 deaths per year due to coronary heart disease. Fifteen countries account for approximately two thirds of the worldwide deaths linked to trans fat intake. Of these, four (Canada, Latvia, Slovenia, United States of America) have implemented WHO-recommended best-practice policies since 2017, either by setting mandatory limits for industrially produced trans fats to 2% of oils and fats in all foods or banning partially hydrogenated oils (PHO). Nevertheless, the remaining 11 countries (Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Ecuador, Egypt, India, Iran, Mexico, Nepal, Pakistan, Republic of Korea) still need to take urgent action. WHO recommends that trans fat intake be limited to less than 1% of total energy intake, which translates to less than 2.2 g/day with a 2,000-calorie diet.

## Researches, Policies and Guidelines

### [United States - E-cigarette Use Among Middle and High School Students — United States, 2020](#) (Official)

On 9 September 2020, CDC posted in the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* a study regarding E-cigarette use among middle and high school students. According to the authors electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) use has increased considerably among U.S. youths since 2011, noting that multiple factors have contributed to this increase, including

youth-appealing flavors and product innovations. Amid the widespread use of e-cigarettes and popularity of certain products among youths, on 6 February 2020, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) implemented a policy prioritizing enforcement against the manufacture, distribution, and sale of certain unauthorized flavored prefilled pod or cartridge-based e-cigarettes (excluding tobacco or menthol). CDC and FDA analyzed nationally representative data from the 2020 National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS), a cross-sectional, school-based, self-administered survey of U.S. middle school (grades 6–8) and high school (grades 9–12) students conducted during 16 January –16 March 2020. Current (past 30-day) e-cigarette use was assessed, overall and by device and flavor type. In 2020, 19.6% of high school students (3.02 million) and 4.7% of middle school students (550,000) reported current e-cigarette use. Among all current e-cigarette users, 82.9% used flavored e-cigarettes, including 84.7% of high school users (2.53 million) and 73.9% of middle school users (400,000). Although the data reflect a decline in current e-cigarette use since 2019, 3.6 million U.S. youths still currently used e-cigarettes in 2020, and among current users, more than eight in 10 reported using flavored e-cigarettes. Comprehensive implementation of evidence-based strategies at the national, state, and local levels, in coordination with FDA regulation, can prevent and reduce youth tobacco product use. Strategies to address factors driving youth e-cigarette use are particularly critical. In addition to FDA's enforcement policy that prohibits the sale of prefilled pod or cartridge-based e-cigarettes in any flavor other than tobacco or menthol, several states and communities have restricted all flavored e-cigarette sales, including menthol.

### **United States - E-cigarette Unit Sales, by Product and Flavor Type — United States, 2014–2020 (Official)**

Since electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) entered the U.S. marketplace in 2007, the landscape has evolved to include disposable e-cigarettes and rechargeable e-cigarettes with prefilled cartridges and flavored e-liquids (e.g., fruit, candy, and mint). On 9 September 2020, and in a study published in the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, researchers shows that during September 2014–May 2020, e-cigarette sales increased by 122.2%. Sales of prefilled cartridges increased during September 2014–August 2019; since then, sales of disposable products have increased. Prefilled mint cartridge e-cigarette sales increased from September 2014 to August 2019, and then decreased, as menthol sales increased during August 2019–May 2020. The findings indicate that continued monitoring of e-cigarette sales and use, is critical to inform strategies to minimize risks. As part of a comprehensive approach, such strategies could include those that address youth-appealing product innovations and flavors.

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

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