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Sent: 2020-10-07 8:20 AM
To: gphin / rmisp (PHAC/ASPC)
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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

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

As of 06 October 2020 at 19:00 EDT, a total of 171,323 cases have been recorded in Canada including 9,530 deaths. The cases are reported in Newfoundland and Labrador (277 confirmed cases, 4 deaths), Prince Edward Island (61 confirmed cases), Nova Scotia (1,089 confirmed cases, 65 deaths), New Brunswick (205 confirmed cases, 2 deaths), Quebec (81,014 confirmed cases, 5,899 deaths), Ontario (55,362 confirmed cases, 2,987 deaths), Manitoba (2,246 confirmed cases, 24 deaths), Saskatchewan (1,984 confirmed cases, 24 deaths), Alberta (19,211 confirmed cases, 281 deaths), British Columbia (9,841 confirmed cases, 244 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 07, 2020, 11:13 GMT, there were 36,097,083 cases of COVID-19 and 1,054,604 deaths reported globally. Top 10 countries with the highest number of cases, by alphabetical order are: Argentina (824,468 cases, 21,827 deaths), Brazil (4,970,953 cases, 147,571 deaths); Colombia (869,808 cases, 27,017 deaths); India (6,757,131 cases, 104,591 deaths); Mexico (794,608 cases, 82,348 deaths); Peru (832,929 cases, 32,914 deaths); Russia (1,248,619 cases, 21,865 deaths); South Africa (683,242 cases, 17,103 deaths); Spain (865,631 cases, 32,486 deaths); United States (7,724,207 cases, 215,849 deaths).

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

- On 6 October 2020, [the Chief Public Health Officer in her speech](#) indicated that while we live with COVID-19, we all need to think carefully about our Thanksgiving plans this year to protect ourselves, our loved ones and communities. Wherever you live, this year's cornucopia needs to include an abundance of personal protections and a set up for virtual or safe distancing connections. Gatherings indoors will be safest if they only include household members, especially where infection rates are highest. Gatherings outdoors that involve people from outside our households will be safest if well-spaced.
- [Tsuut'ina First Nation has closed all schools and its administrative offices due to COVID-19 exposure at a community gathering](#). The First Nation notified residents of the closure in a notice posted to its Facebook pages, signed by chief and council on 5 October. Another notice, posted to the nation's emergency management Facebook page, stated that anyone who attended a memorial feast on 4 October is required to self-isolate for 14 days and be tested for COVID-19. It said those who attended a wake or funeral on 5 October, are required to self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 10 days but do not need to isolate at this time.
- Anxiety and depression is growing among [workers trapped at Nunavut's Hope Bay mine because of a COVID-19 outbreak](#), according to an employee at the site. The mine is experiencing an outbreak of COVID-19. The government confirmed seven new positive cases in a news release on 5 October, bringing the total number of positive cases at the mine to nine. Four more people have been deemed presumptive positives; they are waiting for results from southern labs. The employee says the main stress for workers does not know when they will be able to return. All mineworkers in Nunavut come up on charter flights from southern Canada. The government news release said all non-critical travel to and from the mine, including scheduled shift changes, have been cancelled.
- Simcoe County health officials report a [significant increase in COVID-19 cases inside the Simcoe Manor in Beeton since an outbreak was declared on 02 October 2020](#). 16 positive cases have been confirmed on 06 October including 6 staff positive cases. The county says the 171 staff members at the Simcoe Manor were

tested on 05 October, and enhanced screening measures are in place for everyone inside the long-term care facility.

- The current Ottawa Public Health ([OPH instruction to restrict close contact to those you live with also applies to children – even if they are mixing with others at school](#)). The updated OPH guidance, first shared the week of 28 September, means that any social contact with people you do not live with should involve at least two metres of distance and take place outdoors. Those who need close contact beyond their own household (people living alone, single parents) should limit this to one or two external supports. Ottawa's largest COVID-19 assessment centre at Brewer Park as well as care clinics on Moodie Drive and Heron Road were closed on 05 October, following provincial instructions to all assessment centres to discontinue walk-in testing and transition to appointment-based testing starting 06 October.
- [Federal labs are currently processing 1,000 COVID-19 tests from Ontario daily, with more labs slated to come online](#). The feds also have an agreement with Ontario to provide 500 full-time contact-tracing workers to Ontario, including 30 specifically for Ottawa.
- [More than 600 people in Ontario have voluntarily and anonymously inputted their positive COVID-19 test result into the COVID Exposure app](#), allowing it to notify other app users who they were in close contact with.
- Alberta's top doctor declared that she is concerned about a surge in COVID-19 cases in Edmonton and is alarmed that many people are going to work or socializing while sick. The province recorded 982 active cases in the Edmonton health zone on 06 October. The zone, which encompasses the provincial capital and surrounding communities, now makes up 55% of Alberta's 1,783 active cases. [Chief medical officer said her office is in talks with local public health and municipal officials to figure out if new restrictions for the Edmonton region are warranted](#).
- On 6 October 2020, [Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health and Member of Parliament for Dartmouth–Cole Harbour, on behalf of the Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Rural Economic Development, announced up to \\$50 million in funding to support organizations providing supports and services to those experiencing gender-based violence](#). This funding announced includes up to \$10 million for women's shelters and sexual assault; up to \$10 million to support organizations providing services related to gender-based violence to Indigenous people off-reserve; and up to \$30 million for other women's organizations to support the delivery of GBV supports, to help combat the spread of COVID, and to address the increased demand for services. The 6 October's announcement builds on previous emergency funding provided to women's shelters, sexual assault centres and other organizations providing gender-based violence services to ensure continuity of services at this challenging time. This brings the total COVID-19 emergency funding provided to GBV organizations to \$100 million.
- [Researchers at the University of Waterloo have created a model that can help health officials decide who should get the COVID-19 vaccine first](#). The model predicted that people over the age of 60 should be vaccinated first if there is one available by January 2021, because that age group has the highest death rate from the disease. However, if the vaccine is not available until the summer of 2021, then a different group could be prioritized, according to the model. The model can use information from any province or country to decide its vaccination strategy in order to prevent the most deaths from COVID-19. The model outlines four COVID-19 vaccine strategies: vaccinating people 60 or older first, vaccinating people 20 or younger first, vaccinating everyone irrespective of their age or to start by targeting the area of the population that has the most contacts. Researchers said the last three strategies would prevent transmission, while the first strategy targets the most vulnerable group.
- [A prominent Alberta virology expert believes a COVID-19 vaccine will be available to Canadians by the spring](#). The expert is part of a panel looking into the development of vaccines and advising the federal government and works at the University of Alberta, and is a member of Canada's 12-person task force advising government on the latest science when it comes to vaccines for coronavirus.
- On 06 October 2020, [Health Canada regulators approved another rapid COVID-19 test](#) — the first antigen device to receive the necessary approvals for use in this country. U.S.-based Abbott Laboratories can now sell and distribute the Panbio COVID-19 Ag Rapid Test Device, which can produce results in less than 20 minutes. The test is advertised as a solution for mass testing in "decentralized settings." Health Canada has authorized it as a point of care test, meaning trained professionals in pharmacies, walk-in clinics or doctors' offices can use it.
- [The University Health Network in Toronto announced](#) that it has begun the first Canadian trial of the Bacillus Calmette–Guerin (BCG) vaccine on more than 3,600 front-line workers in the area, including medical staff, paramedics, police officers and firefighters. The vaccine being used for this study is a genetically modified version of the original BCG vaccine made in Germany. Participants will be given either the vaccine or a placebo and will be monitored over the next seven months during the second wave of COVID-19 in Canada.
- [Four more schools in Ottawa are in outbreak status, according to Ottawa Public Health \(OPH\). On 6 Octobers daily COVID-19 dashboard update](#), OPH stated the following four schools have COVID-19 outbreaks: École élémentaire Catholique Saint François d'Assise (2 staff cases); École secondaire Catholique Franco-Cité (7 cases among staff and students); École élémentaire Catholique Horizon-Jeunesse (6 student cases, 1 staff

case); Prince of Peace Catholic School (4 student cases). According to the Conseil des écoles catholiques du Centre-Est (CECCE), only Horizon-Jeunesse is closed as a result of the outbreaks. Ten classes at Franco-Cité are in isolation and two classes at Saint François d'Assise are in isolation. The Ottawa Catholic School Board states one class and two cohorts at Prince of Peace are closed, but the school remains open. This brings the total number of schools in Ottawa experiencing a current COVID-19 outbreak to 11.

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

- [The National Institutes of Health, working in collaboration with the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority \(BARDA\)](#) announced on 6 October, a third round of contract awards for scale-up and manufacturing of new COVID-19 testing technologies. The six new Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics (RADx) initiative contracts total \$98.35 million for point-of-care and other novel test approaches that provide new modes of sample collection, processing and return of results. Innovations in these new technologies include integration with smart devices, mobile-lab processing that can be deployed to COVID-19 hot spots, and test results available within minutes.
- On 6 October 2020, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued an update on [Travel during the COVID-19 Pandemic, asking to follow state, local, and territorial travel restrictions](#). For up-to-date information and travel guidance, check the [state, territorial, tribal](#) and local health department where you are, along your route, and where you are going. If traveling internationally or across international borders, check with the destination's Office of Foreign Affairs or Ministry of Health or the [US Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs, Country Information page external icon](#) for details about entry requirements and restrictions for arriving travelers, such as mandatory testing or [quarantine](#).
- [The U.S. Food and Drug Administration communicated to coronavirus vaccine developers that it would need at least two months of data after a full vaccination regime to review applications for emergency use authorization of an experimental vaccine](#). The agency's advice was released on 6 October 2020 as part of documents posted ahead of a meeting of its expert panel later this month to discuss coronavirus vaccines under development.

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

- [European countries are facing shortages of COVID-19 drug remdesivir because limited supplies are running out with cases surging and the United States having bought up most of drugmaker Gilead's output](#). In July, the 27 European Union countries and Britain, with a combined population of 500 million, secured doses to treat about 30,000 patients. The United States signed a deal for more than 500,000 courses of treatment, accounting for most of Gilead's output through September. Remdesivir has run out but new deliveries were expected shortly. The antiviral drug has been shown to shorten hospital recovery time in severe cases of COVID-19. Remdesivir and the steroid dexamethasone are the only drugs authorized in Europe to treat COVID-19.
- On 6 October 2020, the WHO Director-General announced that a vaccine against COVID-19 might be ready by year-end. The WHO Director-General called for solidarity and political commitment by all leaders to ensure equal distribution of vaccines when they become available. In addition, the EU health regulator has launched a real-time review of a COVID-19 vaccine developed by U.S. drug maker Pfizer and Germany's BioNTech. [At this time, nine experimental vaccines are in the pipeline of the WHO-led COVAX global vaccine facility that aims to distribute 2 billion doses by the end of 2021](#). Currently, 168 countries have joined the COVAX facility, but neither China, the United States nor Russia are among them.
- [China is in talks to have its locally produced COVID-19 vaccines assessed by the World Health Organization](#), as a step toward making them available for international use, according to a WHO official on 6 October. Hundreds of thousands of essential workers and other groups considered at high risk in China have been given locally developed vaccines even as clinical trials had not been completed, raising safety concerns among experts. WHO's coordinator for essential medicines and health technologies in the Western Pacific region, told a news conference conducted online that China had held preliminary discussions with WHO to have its vaccines included in a list for emergency use. China has at least four experimental vaccines in the final stage of clinical trials - state-backed China National Biotec Group (CNBG) develops two, and the remaining two are from Sinovac Biotech SVA.O and CanSino Biologics 6185.HK688185.SS respectively. They are tested in such countries as Pakistan, Indonesia, Brazil, Russia and the United Arab Emirates. Last month, the UAE authorized the emergency use of a CNBG vaccine, the first international emergency clearance for one of China's vaccines, just six weeks after human trials began in the Gulf Arab state.
- [The United Arab Emirates has become the first country in the world](#) where the number of coronavirus, COVID-19, tests exceeded the total population, with the number of tests performed by national health establishments totalling over 10 million, according to the statement made by the UAE Government.

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

- Researchers at University College London suggest that dozens of animal species could be vulnerable to the virus that causes COVID-19. They investigated how the spike protein from SARS-CoV-2 could interact with the Ace2

protein it attaches to when it infects people. The [study](#), published in Scientific Reports, found that 26 animals, including pigs, horses and rabbits, might be susceptible to infection.

- A new poll suggests that Canadians are divided about whether to let the COVID-19 pandemic disrupt their plans for upcoming holidays and seasonal events. The poll, conducted by Leger and the Association for Canadian Studies, comes as COVID-19 cases are surging and public health authorities are pleading with Canadians in places with rising case counts to avoid contact with anyone outside their immediate families or at least to stick to small social circles. The results suggest that message is only partially getting through. [Respondents with children who went door to door for Halloween in 2019 were closely divided on whether to let them go trick-or-treating again this year, with 52% saying they won't and 48% saying they will](#). The poll found sharp regional variations: about two-thirds of respondents in Atlantic Canada said they will let their kids go out. In harder-hit Ontario and Quebec, two-thirds said they won't.
- Moleculin Biotech, Inc., a clinical stage pharmaceutical company with a broad portfolio of drug candidates targeting significant unmet needs in the treatment of tumors and viruses, announced preliminary new findings from its research collaboration with the Rega Institute in Leuven, Belgium, that demonstrate its drug candidates, [WP1096 and WP1097, are showing significant in vitro activity in a range of infectious diseases. In addition to activity against SARS-CoV-2, antiviral activity has now been documented for HIV, Zika and Dengue Fever](#).
- [Mask mandates in Ontario during the COVID-19 pandemic may have reduced new weekly cases by as much as 25%](#), a team of economists from Simon Fraser University found. The researchers also found that mask mandates dramatically increased mask usage in Canada, with self-reported mask-wearing jumping by 30 percentage points after mandates were introduced. Like almost all non-pharmaceutical measures to fight the pandemic, mask mandates hinge entirely on public compliance. The economists also found that a nationwide mask mandate instituted in mid-July would have reduced weekly cases by 25-40% by mid-August. That would have resulted in between 700 and 1,100 fewer weekly cases in Canada. The study also finds some less reliable, "noisy," data about the effects of other measures, like limiting businesses and closing workplaces, on reducing COVID-19 cases. That means that as these other measures are lifted, they can cancel out the effects of mask-wearing.
- [Researchers in Canada are hoping a century-old vaccine designed to treat tuberculosis can become the key to fighting off a COVID-19 infection](#). The University Health Network in Toronto announced on 05 October that it has begun the first Canadian trial of the Bacillus Calmette–Guerin (BCG) vaccine on more than 3,600 front-line workers in the area, including medical staff, paramedics, police officers and firefighters. The BCG vaccine was first developed in 1921 and is typically used as a tuberculosis vaccine in countries with high rates of infection, but doctors recently noticed that many countries with high BCG vaccination rates had shown lower COVID-19 rates. The vaccine being used for this study is a genetically modified version of the original BCG vaccine made in Germany. Participants will be given either the vaccine or a placebo and will be monitored over the next seven months during the second wave of COVID-19 in Canada.
- According to the new findings in hundreds of racially diverse people with life-threatening COVID-19, [a small percentage of people who suffer the most severe symptoms carry rare mutations in genes that disrupt their antiviral defenses](#). Another 10% with severe COVID-19 produce rogue "auto-antibodies," which misguidedly disable a part of the immune system instead of attacking the virus. The findings published in *Science* in two papers ([study 1](#), [study 2](#)) concluded that either way, the outcome is the same: the body has trouble fending off SARS-CoV-2. The biological reason is there is not enough of an assortment of signaling proteins, called type I interferons, that are crucial to detecting dangerous viruses like SARS-CoV-2 and sounding the alarm to prevent serious illness.
- [A new research report reveals that 94 individuals with rare inherited immune disorders, otherwise known as primary immunodeficiency \(PID\), who were infected with the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus had similar disease outcomes to the general population](#). However, admission rates to intensive care tended to be higher in PID patients and the average age of affected patients was lower than in the general population. The study, led by the Garvan Institute of Medical Research and KU Leuven, provides information for individuals affected by PIDs, their families and clinicians. The findings also contribute to an understanding of the components of the immune system that underpin an effective coronavirus immune response.
- In a new study, [researchers at the Aarhus University \(Aarhus, Denmark\) have shown that a drug called dimethyl fumarate \(DMF\), which is approved for the treatment of MS patients, inhibits the growth of a range of viruses in the body's cells and that this includes the coronavirus \(SARS-CoV2\)](#) – at least when the researchers test it in a test tube. The results with 4-octyl-itaconate were repeated the tests with a corresponding approved product, DMF, which showed virtually the same inhibitory effect. This means that the effect of DMF could be tested on corona patients, and the company that holds the patent is prepared to test the drug it in human trials.
- According to an estimate by the University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, by the end of the year, [some 2.3 million people could have died from the disease](#). The Co-director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Knowledge Translation and Health Technology Assessment in Health Equity noted that people experiencing "pandemic fatigue" and ignoring health advice and those who denied there was a pandemic meant this was likely to continue accelerating. Countries in the Asia-Pacific region are in many cases pursuing a containment approach that is keeping case numbers low. By contrast, most countries in Europe and North

America are seeing resurgences in case numbers when they loosen suppression measures. As the northern hemisphere moves into winter and flu season, health experts have urged the public to stay vigilant.

- [The 10-item COVID-SCORE tool, created and validated by the Barcelona Institute for Global Health, the City University of New York \(CUNY\), and other international organizations](#), was used in mid-June to survey the attitudes of 13,426 randomly selected participants in 19 countries heavily affected by the pandemic on key issues such as governmental messaging, access to health services, and social welfare. Mean country score ranged from 35.76 out of 100 points for Ecuador to 80.48 for China. In general, Asian countries garnered better scores than Latin American and European nations. Country scores were strongly tied to the level of people's public trust in their government, with higher scores reflecting higher levels of trust. Lower scores were associated with higher COVID-19 death rates or proportion of participants directly affected by the virus, in addition to low levels of trust. Responses ranged most widely in the United States, where similar proportions of participants rated the government pandemic response positively and negatively. US respondents earning more than the monthly median income tended to give the government higher scores than those earning less. Other countries with broad ranges of responses were Brazil, Ecuador, Mexico, Poland, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.
- [In a study published on 6 October in Anaesthesia, researchers measured how many aerosols are produced during intubation and extubation](#), which have both been considered a high-risk aerosol-generating procedure (AGP) during anesthesia for COVID-19. Best practices have been to wear high-level personal protective equipment (PPE) and go through extensive operating room cleaning, slowing down operations, but this study found that the AGPs' maximum aerosol production was still less than 25% of the aerosol created by a voluntary cough. Researchers from the North Bristol NHS Trust and the University of Bristol conducted their tests in ultraclean ventilation operating theaters on non-COVID-19 patients and went through face-mask ventilation, airway suction, repeated attempts of intubation, and extubation to reflect a real clinic setting with providers of varying experience. In all, they measured 19 intubations and 14 extubations.
- The combination drug lopinavir-ritonavir is not recommended for hospitalized COVID-19 patients because it does not significantly shorten hospital stay or lower the risk of needing mechanical ventilation or of dying, according to a study in [The Lancet](#). The ongoing University of Oxford-sponsored Randomised Evaluation of COVID-19 thERapY (RECOVERY) trial involving coronavirus patients at 176 hospitals in the United Kingdom is the first known large, randomized, controlled trial to assess the effectiveness of lopinavir-ritonavir for this indication. [In the University of Oxford trial](#), patients were randomly assigned to either usual care or usual care plus 400 milligrams (mg) of lopinavir and 100 mg of ritonavir by mouth twice a day for 10 days or until release from the hospital. Neither was there a significant difference in the proportions progressing to require mechanical ventilation (10% of the lopinavir-ritonavir group vs 9% of the usual care group) or dying of their infections (risk ratio, 1.09). Both groups had similar proportions of patients requiring dialysis within 28 days when they did not need it previously (66 of 1,588 [4%] of patients in the lopinavir-ritonavir group vs 140 of 3,348 [4%] of patients in the usual care group; risk ratio, 0.99).
- [Columbia Engineering researchers report that Sofosbuvir-terminated RNA](#) is more resistant to the proofreader of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, than Remdesivir-terminated RNA. The results of the new study, published by the [Nature Research journal Scientific Reports](#), support the use of the FDA-approved hepatitis C drug EPCLUSA—Sofosbuvir/Velpatasvir—in combination with other drugs in COVID-19 clinical trials.

Domestic Events of Interest

Nil

International Events of Interest

[New strain of scarlet fever is infecting children around the world, scientists warn \(Media\)](#)

A new bug has sparked soaring cases of scarlet fever in children across the world, scientists have warned. The resurgence of a disease that has caused high death rates for centuries has been likened to the Covid-19 pandemic. Supercharged 'clones' of the bacteria *Streptococcus pyogenes* that cause the disease are to blame, new research shows. Lead author, of the University of Queensland, said it has taken health authorities globally by surprise. His international team found a variety of *Streptococcus pyogenes* bacteria that had acquired bacterial toxins called 'superantigens' – forming new clones. These acquired toxins allow *Streptococcus pyogenes* to better colonise its host, which likely allows it to out-compete other strains. These supercharged bacterial clones have been causing our modern scarlet fever outbreaks, the author noted. When the researchers removed the toxin genes from the clones, they were less able to cause scarlet fever in experiments on mice. This global re-emergence of scarlet fever has caused a more than five-fold increase in disease rate and more than 600,000 cases around the world.

[Sudan - Health emergency declared in West Darfur as chikungunya cases rise \(Media\)](#)

A State of Health Emergency has been declared in West Darfur in Sudan after 41 cases of chikungunya fever were confirmed. On 6 October 2020, the governor of West Darfur, made the declaration after confirming that 41 people were

infected with chikungunya out of a total of 52 suspected cases. There is also a scarcity of medicines, medical supplies, and hospital capacity. The unusually heavy rainy season has made control of vectors such as mosquitoes extra challenging. The First Aid Hospital in the state capital El Geneina is overcrowded and running short of equipment, and lacks sufficient of medical staff, beds, and wards. The Governor described the situation as very worrying. A committee has been formed to harness all the state's capabilities to limit the spread of the disease. The governor called on the United Nations agencies and organisations operating in the state as partners to confront the health situation. The disease shares some clinical signs with dengue and zika, and can be misdiagnosed in areas where they are common.

Sudan - Sudan reports another polio case, Vaccination campaign planned for 8.6 million children (Media)

A circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus-2 (cVDPV2) case was reported in the Red Sea province, Sudan, bringing the total cases reported in to 23 since the first cases were reported in early August. The initial viruses were linked to the ongoing outbreak in Chad followed by local transmission, according to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. Close to 10 million doses of polio vaccine arrived on 1 October 2020 in Khartoum, which will be used during the National Polio Campaign planned for October to immunize 8.6 million of the Sudan's children under the age of five.

Researches, Policies and Guidelines

Canada - Canadian Drug Policy Coalition launches national dialogue series on the overdose crisis and COVID-19 (Media)

Canadian Drug Policy Coalition (CDPC) at Simon Fraser University, in partnership with the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue, is launching [*Getting to Tomorrow: Ending the Overdose Crisis*](#). A series of 18 public health dialogues across Canada over the next two years aimed at identifying and moving towards solutions to the overdose crisis, in the context of COVID-19, by building consensus and shared meaning. The dialogues will happen virtually (open to invited attendees only) and will invite leaders from diverse communities, including people who use drugs, community and business leaders, government officials, First Nations, public health officials, and law enforcement, to share their stories of navigating the challenges of the overdose crisis during a time of pandemic and global instability.

United States - Streptococcus zooepidemicus Infections in Horses (Media)

Streptococcus equi subspecies *zooepidemicus* is a Gram-positive bacterium that can cause infections in many animal species, including horses, cattle, swine, sheep, goats, chickens, cats, and dogs. Researchers documented *S. zooepidemicus* as the cause of a strangles-like disease in 2013 in Sweden, as well as rhinitis and pneumonia in horses on a Pacific island off Australia in the late 1990s. In the past 15 years, scientists have increasingly recognized *S. zooepidemicus* as a potential zoonotic disease, which could spread between animals and humans. Early reports of human outbreaks of *S. zooepidemicus* have been associated with consuming unpasteurized cheese, but more recently disease has been traced to horses. In a 2013 study researchers established proof of *S. zooepidemicus* transmission from horses to humans. Incidents have been rare; however, horse handlers should always practice good hand hygiene and might reconsider kissing their horses' noses.

South Korea- Some Liquid E-cigarette Ingredients are Toxic (study)

on 04 October 2020, the Ministry of Health and Welfare said that some ingredients in liquid e-cigarettes were confirmed to be toxic in cell and animal experiments. The ministry, however, noted that thus far in South Korea, there have been no reported cases of acute lung disease or death resulting from the use of liquid e-cigarettes. In October 2019, there were reported cases of lung injuries and death resulting from the use of liquid e-cigarettes in the U.S., with some suspected cases also being reported in South Korea. To collect related cases, the government organized a private-public joint investigation team and carried out cell and animal experiments. According to the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency, the survival rate of cells declined in a certain density of propylene glycol, glycerin, and flavor chemicals among the ingredients of liquid e-cigarettes. In particular, propylene glycol and glycerin, which are used as solvents, were found in all of the 112 liquid e-cigarette products that are distributed in the domestic market.

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

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