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Sent: 2020-10-02 8:23 AM
To: gphin / rmisp (PHAC/ASPC)
Subject: GPHIN Daily Report (02 October 2020)
Attachments: GPHIN Daily Report 20201002 HG.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 01 October 2020 at 19:00 EDT, a total of 160,535 cases have been recorded in Canada including 9,319 deaths. The cases are reported in Newfoundland and Labrador (275 confirmed cases, 3 deaths), Prince Edward Island (59 confirmed cases), Nova Scotia (1,088 confirmed cases, 65 deaths), New Brunswick (200 confirmed cases, 2 deaths), Quebec (75,221 confirmed cases, 5,850 deaths), Ontario (52,248 confirmed cases, 2,851 deaths), Manitoba (2,029 confirmed cases, 20 deaths), Saskatchewan (1,927 confirmed cases, 24 deaths), Alberta (18,235 confirmed cases, 269 deaths), British Columbia (9,220 confirmed cases, 235 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 02 October 2020, 11:13 GMT, there were 34,531,083 cases of COVID-19 and 1,028,523 deaths reported globally. Top 10 countries with the highest number of cases, by alphabetical order are: Argentina (765,002 cases, 20,288 deaths), Brazil (4,849,229 cases, 144,767 deaths); Colombia (835,339 cases, 26,196 deaths); India (6,397,896 cases, 99,833 deaths); Mexico (748,315 cases, 78,078 deaths); Peru (818,297 cases, 32,535 deaths); Russia (1,194,643 cases, 21,077 deaths); South Africa (676,084 cases, 16,866 deaths); Spain (778,607 cases, 31,973 deaths); United States (7,497,256 cases, 212,694 deaths).

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

- On 1 October 2020, [Canada's Chief Public Health Officer \(CPHO\) reminded that 1 October is the National Seniors Day](#) (as well as International Day of Older Persons), noting that during the initial wave, over 1000 separate outbreaks occurred in long-term care and assisted living homes, accounting for about 20% of confirmed cases and tragically over 80% of all deaths. The CPHO urges everyone to check in regularly with older family members, friends and the elderly in their communities virtually, by phone, or even by mail or care package.
- [Four school boards in Ottawa are reporting 81 schools with at least one case of COVID-19](#). The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board is reporting 16 schools with a case of the virus. In total, 14 students and two staff members are affected. There are 22 schools in the Ottawa Catholic School Board reporting cases. In total, 38 students and six staff members are affected. Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario is reporting 15 schools with cases of COVID-19, affecting 15 students and six staff members and Conseil des écoles catholiques du Centre-Est is reporting 28 schools with at least one case of the virus, affecting 43 people. Meantime, there are currently nine schools in Ottawa reporting outbreaks of COVID-19.
- On 01 October 2020, [Canada's Prime Minister and the Premier of Manitoba](#) announced that people in Manitoba can now receive one-time keys from their health authorities to use with COVID Alert, Canada's COVID-19 exposure notification app. The app helps notify users if they may have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Public health officials are calling an overnight spike of five new COVID-19 cases on Six Nations Territory a wake-up call for community members. [Ohsweken Public Health](#) has reported three confirmed cases and two probable cases of the virus within 24 hours

- [Ontario is changing its COVID-19 symptom screening guidance for the province's schools and child care centers.](#) The province is now asking parents to keep their children home from school for 24 hours if they have either a runny nose or headache. If a child has both of those symptoms they are asked to consult a health-care provider or have a COVID-19 test before returning to school or child care.
- [Transport Canada has updated its standards for personal protective equipment required for anyone moving through an airport.](#) Acceptable masks must cover the nose and mouth and be fitted, with ear loops around the ears or the back of the head. These can be disposable or cloth. Face masks with exhalation valves or vents, open-neck triangle bandanas, neck gaiters and plastic face shields are no longer permitted beginning 1 October. Travellers wearing these types of masks will not be permitted into airports or on their flight.
- The [Vancouver International Airport and WestJet will co-pilot a new COVID-19 rapid testing study with UBC.](#) As part of the pilot project, departing WestJet passengers will be asked whether they would be willing or interested in taking a COVID-19 rapid test before boarding a plane. The goal of the project is to gather data and develop a study regarding health safety at airports. Methodology and testing technologies will be outlined in the coming weeks.
- [Health Canada has quickly approved the use of Abbott Rapid Diagnostics COVID-19 tests in Canada.](#) This comes just 24 hours after the federal government signed an agreement for up to 7.9 million of the tests. However, Health Canada's Chief Medical Adviser has indicated that [Canadians will have to wait until 2021 before millions of the Abbott rapid COVID-19 test are available for use.](#) In an interview on 2 October 2020, the official stated that while details are still being confirmed, the first Abbott ID NOW tests should arrive in Canada in the following two to three weeks. The new Abbott Rapid Diagnostics COVID-19 tests are a nasal swab-based test will provide results in about 15 minutes.
- [Experts in vaccine development think it's unlikely a vaccine for COVID-19 will become available to the general public before fall 2021.](#) Twenty-eight academics working in vaccinology were asked by a team from McGill University to make forecasts about three milestones in the development of a vaccine for the disease. The experts note that, the best-case scenario is June 2021 and worst, July 2022 – but their best guess is September or October 2021.

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

- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and The Rockefeller Foundation have signed an [agreement to identify and share effective approaches for using rapid point-of-care \(POC\) antigen tests to screen for COVID-19 in communities](#), with a focus on safely reopening K-12 schools. The partnership establishes a pilot program with select cities and states in The Rockefeller Foundation's Testing Solutions Group (TSG), a network of public officials devoted to rapidly scaling COVID-19 testing, tracing, and tracking in their communities.
- [Beginning 1 October 2020, American hospitals can purchase Veklury \(remdesivir\) directly from the drug's distributor.](#) Over the past five months, the U.S. government has overseen the allocation and distribution of Veklury due to drug's limited supply to ensure fair and equitable distribution to COVID-19 patients.
- [The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services \(HHS\), through the Health Resources and Services Administration \(HRSA\), is announcing \\$20 billion in new funding for providers on the frontlines of the coronavirus pandemic.](#) Under this Phase 3 General Distribution allocation, providers that have already received Provider Relief Fund payments will be invited to apply for additional funding that considers financial losses and changes in operating expenses caused by the coronavirus.
- The FDA has revised its [Emergency Use Authorization \(EUA\) to reflect changes in the distribution and allocation of the antiviral drug Veklury \(remdesivir\).](#)
- The FDA has issued a [warning letter](#) to Kerri Rivera and her company KetoKerri, LLC, for the sale of unapproved and misbranded drugs related to the coronavirus. Products "KK Black Seed Oil," "KK Breakthrough Vitamin D with Chondroitin & Oleic", "Stonebreaker," "KK EDTA with Selenium and Minerals," "Zeolite," "Ultra Liquid Zeolite," and "DR. FITT FIRE FIGHTERS" make fraudulent claims to mitigate, prevent, treat, or cure COVID-19 in people.

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

- [Scientists are warning that a Covid-19 vaccine may not help life return to normal until 2023.](#) Experts looking at possible rollout concluded, it may take up to a year after a jab is possibly approved next spring to expand it to the general population. A report has been published by the Royal Society looking at challenges developing, evaluating, manufacturing and distributing a vaccine. The verdict from its Data Evaluation and Learning for Viral Epidemics (DELVE) group will come as a shock to families desperate for a jab to save us from the pandemic and has big implications for the economy. The UK's leading experts warned that while a vaccine may initially help control outbreaks, full population immunity may take a long time after the first one is approved and social distancing is likely with us for the foreseeable future.
- Testing has uncovered 170 cases of Covid-19 among workers [at a pork meat processing plant in Cornwall. Five hundred staff at Pilgrim's Pride in Pool, near Camborne](#), were tested in a contact tracing exercise by the NHS.

Most of those who tested positive were unaware they had Covid-19 and were not displaying symptoms. Cases of Covid-19 in the South West are still below the national average, Cornwall remains the area in the region with the highest number of cases.

- [Jordan's Minister of State for Information](#) stated that the epidemiological situation in Jordan is very serious, warning of the possible collapse of the health system in the kingdom. If the number of coronavirus infections reaches more than 3,000 active cases, the country will be at risk, and the health system will collapse
- World Bank President has noted that the group is interested in fast-tracking the financing of COVID-19 vaccines, similar to the way it galvanized funding in March to help countries scale up emergency health support. The official has [announced](#), proposing that the [World Bank board make \\$12 billion available to countries to purchase and deploy COVID-19 vaccine](#), once regulatory agencies approve them. The additional support would target low- to middle-income countries that don't have enough access and would help them alter the course of the pandemic for their people.

IHR Announcement - Additional health measures in relation to the COVID-19 outbreak

As of 02 October 2020, there has been no new State Party that reported on additional health measures that significantly interfere with international traffic since the last announcement published on 25 September 2020. A total of 194 out of 196 States Parties reported to date with Mexico and Nicaragua not reporting any measure. Moreover, 20 countries provided updates to their previously implemented measures. The distribution by WHO Regions is as follows: AFR: 0 (3 updates), AMR: 0 (1 update), EMR: 0 (0 updates), EUR: 0 (16 updates), SRO: 0 (0 updates), WPR: 0 (0 updates).

[WHO - The best time to prevent the next pandemic is now: countries join voices for better emergency preparedness](#) (Official)

COVID-19 will not be the world's last health emergency and there is an urgent need for sustainable health emergency preparedness to deal with the next one. This was the strong sentiment shared by participants of the United Nations General Assembly side-event on 'Sustainable preparedness for health security and resilience: Adopting a whole-of-society approach and breaking the "panic-then-forget" cycle'. The high-level virtual event was co-hosted by Finland, France and Indonesia, along with the WHO. This event marked a crucial dialogue among countries, donors and partners on building back better for future emergency preparedness during the current COVID-19 pandemic, and beyond. It comes on the heels of the release of a sobering report by the Global Preparedness and Monitoring Board that also called for urgent action in this area. According to the report, investments in preparedness would only cost US\$ 5 per person annually, whereas the cost of this pandemic is already over US\$ 11 trillion and counting.

[ECDC - Systematic review of the efficacy, effectiveness and safety of newer and enhanced seasonal influenza vaccines](#) (Official)

According to [ECDC latest publication](#), overall, the evidence base for the efficacy and effectiveness of newer and enhanced influenza vaccines appears limited at present, with a number of potentially relevant studies identified as ongoing. It is likely that the use of such vaccines provides greater protection than no vaccination at all, when the usual considerations of circulating strain matching are applied. Evidence regarding the comparability of these vaccines to traditional seasonal influenza vaccines is uncertain with a lack of available literature. The safety profiles of these vaccines are largely in keeping with that expected when considering their individual compositions and, for the most part, they appear to be well tolerated. Some suggestions are provided to enhance research conduct and reporting regarding these newer and enhanced influenza vaccines which are anticipated to improve the data coverage overall and facilitate future decision-making regarding the use of such vaccines.

[ECDC - New tool for the early detection of public health threats from Twitter data: epitweetr](#) (Official)

On 1 October 2020, ECDC launched a free, open source interactive tool to help with the automatized early detection of public health threats using Twitter data. The [R-based tool epitweetr](#) allows users to automatically monitor trends of tweets by time, place and topic, with the aim of detecting public health threats early through signals, such as an unusual increase in the number of tweets. It was designed to support public health experts with the early detection of threats from infectious diseases but can be extended to all hazards and other fields of study by modifying the topics and keywords.

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

- In a study published in [CMAJ](#), research has shown that for-profit ownership of long-term care (LTC) homes has been relevant to patterns of COVID-19 outbreaks and deaths in Ontario; this is related to building characteristics and chain status of owners. For-profit ownership has been related to lower LTC staffing levels in research comparing for-profit and nonprofit facilities. Recent research has also shown an association between lower nurse staffing levels and worse COVID-19-related outcomes in LTC facilities. The researchers noted that long-term care policy should prioritize funding and mandating sufficient staffing levels based on the available evidence.
- A study published in the scientific journal [PNAS](#) (Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences) shows that dogs and cats can be infected by the new coronavirus, although neither species develop the disease. However,

what caught the researchers' attention was the fact that [felines develop an immune response to the virus, which can help in the development of a vaccine for humans](#).

- The COVID-19 outbreak on board the USS Theodore Roosevelt aircraft carrier that ultimately infected more than 1,200 sailors and killed one, shows how easily the virus spreads in close quarters, according to a research letter published in [JAMA Network Open](#). The study authors note that COVID-19 is difficult to distinguish from other respiratory infections without specific testing in young people living in a confined space, and asymptomatic and presymptomatic transmission limits the effectiveness of screening for symptoms in the absence of testing, wearing a face mask, and physical distancing. The ship initially had no testing kits on board.
- A report published in the journal [JAMA Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery](#), described a singularly unusual situation, where the [nasal swab disturbed a mass in the woman's nasal cavity containing cerebrospinal fluid and brain tissue](#). The test was done using a nasal swab that reached deep into the nasal cavity, a common form of testing for COVID-19. Afterwards, the woman developed a runny nose in both nostrils, a metallic taste in her mouth, a headache, neck stiffness, and a sensitivity to light, as well as vomiting. A CT scan identified a 1.8-centimetre sac-like structure protruding down into the nasal cavity between a breakage in bone. It was an encephalocele. Doctors believe the nasal swab damaged this mass within the nose, causing the leakage of cerebrospinal fluid.
- [Variation in a genetic mutation among Indians may be the main reason behind the difference in the death rates due to COVID-19 across various states of the country, notes a study that could inform new policies for controlling the novel coronavirus pandemic](#). An international team, led by researchers at Banaras Hindu University (BHU) in Uttar Pradesh, India, analysed mutations in the gene responsible for the expression of the Angiotensin Converting Enzyme 2 (ACE2), a protein on the surface of cells which is believed to act as a gateway for the novel coronavirus into the human body. The spatial analysis showed that in India, frequency of this haplotype, or a combination of mutations, varied between 33-100 per cent across different regions. The researchers, for the first time, also ascertained a significant positive correlation for the mutation with the lower infection and case-fatality ratio (CFR) among Indian populations. The study adds important potential implications to understanding the transmission patterns of SARS-CoV-2 in various world populations. The researchers noted that as far as policies to control the pandemic are concerned, the study suggests a single rule may not be effective in all the states. The researchers also observed that in India as well as in Bangladesh, the tribal populations have a higher frequency of this haplotype than the caste populations.
- [Researchers at Karolinska Institutet and Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology report that people with Neanderthal genes are at higher risk of developing severe Covid-19](#). In the study, the team analysed a gene cluster on chromosome 3, and found that people with a certain version of this gene cluster were three times more likely to have severe Covid-19. People with this gene variant are three times more likely to need artificial ventilation if they are infected by the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2. The study also revealed considerable differences in how common this genetic risk variant is in different parts of the world. According to the researchers, it's particularly common among people in South Asia, while in Europe around one in six carry the risk variant. Meanwhile, the risk variant is almost non-existent in Africa and East Asia. According to the researchers, this must be investigated as quickly as possible.
- On 1 October 2020, in a paper published in [Frontiers in Psychology](#), scientists used artificial intelligence to help analyze the dream content of close to a thousand people and found that [the novel coronavirus had affected more than half of the distressed dreams reported](#). The researchers' crowdsourced sleep and stress data from more than 4,000 people during the sixth week of the COVID-19 lockdown in Finland. The study offered some insights into the sleep patterns and stress levels of people during the pandemic lockdown. The research could provide valuable insights for medical experts who are already assessing the toll the coronavirus is having on mental health as sleep is a central factor in all mental health issues.
- [Widespread reopening of schools after lockdowns and vacations is generally not linked to rising COVID-19 rates, a study of 191 countries has found](#), but lockdown closures will leave a 2020 pandemic learning debt of 300 billion missed school days. The analysis, by the Zurich-based independent educational foundation Insights for Education, stated 84% of those 300 billion days would be lost by children in poorer countries, and warned that 711 million pupils were still out of school.
- In the first known study of COVID-19 psychiatric patients and mortality, a [JAMA Network](#) open study showed that patients with diagnosed psychiatric disorders have significantly higher risk of death. The overall mortality rate for all patients in the study, was 18.9%, with 318 hospital deaths. COVID-19-positive patients with psychiatric diagnoses had a significantly higher risk of hospital death, with a 4-week mortality rate of 44.8%, versus 31.5% for non-psychiatric patients.
- [Four out of five people experiencing the recent loss of smell and/or taste tested positive for COVID-19 antibodies- and of those who tested positive, 40 percent did not have cough or fever](#), reports a new study in [PLOS](#). This study suggests that an over-reliance on cough and fever as the main symptoms of COVID-19 may be flawed and that loss of smell needs to be urgently recognized globally as a key symptom of COVID-19.

- In a recent publication in [Eurosurveillance](#), researchers indicated that SARS-CoV-2 samples may escape detection because of a single point mutation in the N gene.

Domestic Events of Interest

[Canada - Outbreak of unknown respiratory illness at Riverview Manor in Peterborough \(Media\)](#)

An unknown respiratory illness has been discovered at Riverview Manor Long Term Care in Peterborough. On 28 September, Peterborough Public Health published that a new outbreak had been declared at the Peterborough long-term care facility. This comes the same day as a second COVID-19 outbreak was declared at Peterborough's Fairhaven Long Term Care. Over the prior weekend, another unknown respiratory illness that affected seven patients and one staff member, was declared over. According to the health unit, the onset of the first case at Riverview was recorded on 24 September. Peterborough has reached out for more information on this outbreak from the health unit, and is waiting to hear back. This is the second time Riverview Manor has had an outbreak during the pandemic, as the first was in April during the height of the first wave of COVID-19. That outbreak would be declared over by the health unit during the Summer.

[Canada - Sprout recalls continue amidst investigation of *Salmonella* outbreak \(Media\)](#)

Fresh sprouted microgreens associated with a *Salmonella* outbreak were distributed more widely than originally thought. Canadian officials report the recalled sprouts were sent to Nova Scotia in addition to Ontario and British Columbia. The wider distribution of the Sunsprout brand sprouts is of particular concern because the recalled products have a shelf life through 13 October. This is the fourth recall notice related to the microgreens, all of which include alfalfa sprouts.

International Events of Interest

IHR Announcement - 26th Meeting of the International Health Regulations (IHR) Emergency Committee for Polio convened by the WHO Director-General on 14 October 2020

The Director-General is convening the 26th Meeting of the Emergency Committee for Polio under the International Health Regulations on 14 October 2020. The meeting is only open to Members of the Emergency Committee and to other experts informing the Committee. The objectives of the meeting include: To review the international spread of poliovirus since the 25th Emergency Committee meeting, the steps taken by affected countries to implement the Temporary Recommendations, and steps by partner agencies in support of affected countries; and; To provide views to the Director-General on the current risk of international spread of polio and recommendations to mitigate the risk. A WHO statement giving an account of the meeting and its conclusions, will be posted on the WHO public website.

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

Between 1 January and 30 September 2020, there have been several countries affected by poliomyelitis including circulating vaccine-derived poliomyelitis type 1 and 2 (cVDPV1 and cVDPV2) and wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) globally. This announcement is a weekly update on the status of cVDPV and WPV1 in these affected countries. Between 24 and 30 September 2020, there have been one WPV1 in Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) cases and 11 WPV1 positive environmental samples reported in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Moreover, during the same period, there have been 18 cVDPV2 in AFP cases and 8 cVDPV2 positive environmental samples reported in Pakistan, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea and Sudan. Below is the description of the reported cases by country: Afghanistan: two WPV1 positive environmental samples; Pakistan: one WPV1 in AFP case, 9 WPV1 positive environmental samples, three cVDPV2 in AFP cases and two cVDPV2 positive environmental samples; Cameroon: one cVDPV2 in AFP case and one cVDPV2 positive environmental sample; Democratic Republic of the Congo: six cVDPV2 in AFP cases; Guinea: seven cVDPV2 in AFP cases; Sudan: one cVDPV2 in AFP case and five cVDPV2 positive environmental samples.

[United States - CDC investigating *Salmonella* outbreaks linked to pet bearded dragons, pet hedgehogs \(Official\)](#)

CDC and public health officials in eight states are investigating a [multistate outbreak of *Salmonella* Muenster infections linked to pet bearded dragons](#). Seven ill people out of 11 have been hospitalized. No deaths have been reported. Ill people reported purchasing bearded dragons from various pet stores in multiple states, but a common supplier has not been identified. CDC and public health officials in several states are also investigating a multistate [outbreak of *Salmonella* Typhimurium infections linked to contact with pet hedgehogs](#). As of 22 September 2020, a total of 32 people infected with the outbreak strain of *Salmonella* Typhimurium have been reported from 17 states. Five people were hospitalized. No deaths have been reported. [Epidemiologic and laboratory evidence](#) indicate that contact with pet hedgehogs is the likely source of this outbreak. Ill people reported purchasing bearded dragons from various pet stores in multiple states, but a common supplier has not been identified.

[Democratic Republic of the Congo - Monkeypox – Democratic Republic of the Congo Disease outbreak news, 1 October 2020 \(Official\)](#)

From 1 January through 13 September 2020, a total of 4,594 suspected cases of monkeypox, including 171 deaths (case fatality ratio 3.7%), have been reported in 127 health zones from 17 out of 26 provinces in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The first epidemic peak was observed at the beginning of March 2020 (epi week 10), with 136 cases reported weekly. From 1 January through 7 August, the Institut National de Recherche Biomédicale (INRB) received 80 samples from suspected cases of monkeypox, of which 39 samples were confirmed positive by polymerase chain reaction. Four out of the 80 specimens were skin lesions (crusts/vesicles), the remaining samples were blood. There is no further information at this time regarding the outcome of these 80 patients whose samples were tested. Confirmatory testing remains ongoing.

Democratic Republic of the Congo - Three more fatal Ebola cases reported in DRC outbreak (Media)

Three retrospective probable Ebola deaths from July have been added to the total in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) Equateur province, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Human Affairs (UN OCHA) has stated. The development lifts the outbreak total to 128 cases and 53 deaths. The three additional probable cases are all in Bolomba health zone, including one in Boyenge health area, which had not previously reported any confirmed or probable cases. UN OCHA also stated, response teams and medical supplies arrived in Lusengo health zone, the newest affected area in the outbreak.

Researches, Policies and Guidelines

Canada - Announcement: Membership of the Reference Group for the Appropriate Review of Indigenous Research (Official)

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) welcome all members of the newly established tri-agency Reference Group for the Appropriate Review of Indigenous Research (Reference Group). Formation of the Reference Group is an important step in implementing the agencies' strategic plan: [*Setting new directions to support Indigenous research and research training in Canada: Strategic Plan 2019-2022*](#). Co-developed with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples, the plan will guide development of new models of support of Indigenous research and research training in Canada.

International - Scientists discover bacteria linked to post-infectious hydrocephalus in infants (Study)

Scientists at the Center for Infection and Immunity (CII) at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health have discovered bacteria linked to post-infectious hydrocephalus (PIH), the most common cause of pediatric hydrocephalus worldwide. Results of the study, led by Pennsylvania State University with CII scientists and clinical colleagues in Uganda, are published in the journal [*Science Translational Medicine*](#). The findings were subsequently independently confirmed, and a strain of *Paenibacillus* was isolated and characterized through further testing. The researchers also found that *Paenibacillus* quantity was associated with clinical measures of hydrocephalus based on brain imaging scores, as well as potential signs of infection based on immune cell counts in patients. Now that the study have identified a pathogen that may be responsible for some cases of post-infectious hydrocephalus, it will help in developing new, more sensitive tests to quickly detect an infection, assess its severity, identify the source of such infections, and hopefully provide targeted treatments to prevent the development of hydrocephalus.

Netherlands - Autochthonous dengue in two Dutch tourists visiting Département Var, southern France, July 2020 (Media)

In a study published in [*Eurosurveillance*](#), researchers have reported dengue virus (DENV) infection in two Dutch tourists who visited Département Var, southern France, in July and August 2020. The author of the study noted that, as some autochthonous dengue cases have occurred in Europe in recent years, awareness among physicians and public health experts about possible intermittent presence of DENV in southern Europe is important to minimise delay in diagnosis and treatment. Quick diagnosis can lead to timely action to contain the spread of vector-borne diseases and minimise transmission.

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

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