

## Exton, Adam (HC/SC)

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**Sent:** 2020-11-05 8:42 AM  
**To:** gphin / rmisp (PHAC/ASPC)  
**Subject:** GPHIN Daily Report (05 November 2020)  
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Good morning,

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

### GPHIN Daily Report Email Summary

#### Special Section on Coronavirus

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

As of November 4, 2020 at 19:01 EDT, a total of 247,703 cases have been recorded in Canada including 10,331 deaths. The cases are reported in Newfoundland and Labrador (292 confirmed cases, 4 deaths), Prince Edward Island (64 confirmed cases), Nova Scotia (1,118 confirmed cases, 65 deaths), New Brunswick (347 confirmed cases, 6 deaths), Quebec (109,918 confirmed cases, 6,350 deaths), Ontario (79,692 confirmed cases, 3,182 deaths), Manitoba (6,751 confirmed cases, 87 deaths), Saskatchewan (3,408 confirmed cases, 25 deaths), Alberta (29,932 confirmed cases, 338 deaths), British Columbia (16,135 confirmed cases, 273 deaths), Yukon (23 confirmed cases, 1 death), Northwest Territories (10 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 November 5, 2020, 12:08 GMT, there were 48,561,473 cases of COVID-19 and 1,230,786 deaths reported globally. Top 10 countries with the highest number of cases, by alphabetical order are: Argentina (1,205,928 cases, 32,520 deaths), Brazil (5,590,941 cases, 161,170 deaths), Colombia (1,108,084 cases, 32,013 deaths), France (1,543,321 cases, 38,674 deaths), India (8,364,086 cases, 124,354 deaths), Mexico (943,630 cases, 93,228 deaths), Russia (1,712,858 cases, 29,509 deaths), Spain (1,356,798 cases, 38,118 deaths), United Kingdom (1,099,059 cases, 47,742 deaths), and United States (9,802,374 cases, 239,842 deaths).

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

- The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) [has revised its guidelines on how COVID-19 spreads to include the risk of aerosol transmission](#). The updated guidance indicates that "SARS-CoV-2, spreads from an infected person to others through respiratory droplets and aerosols created when an infected person coughs, sneezes, sings, shouts, or talks". Canada still downplays risk of airborne spread of coronavirus despite WHO, CDC guidance.
- [Health authorities have released a preliminary guidance on policy for who will be first in line for early immunization](#). The guidance by the [National Advisory Committee on Immunization \(NACI\)](#) provided recommendations to the Public Health Agency of Canada on targeting key populations for early COVID-19 vaccination. Top of the list for early immunization are those at high risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 and those most likely to transmit COVID-19 to them, as well as workers essential to maintaining the COVID-19 response. The list also includes those contributing to the maintenance of other essential services for the functioning of society; and those whose living or working conditions put them at elevated risk of infection and where infection could have disproportionate consequences, including Indigenous communities.
- [According to data from Indigenous Services Canada, active cases of COVID-19 jumped from 362 to 500 in the last week of October](#), with the majority of the 356 new cases, which have been reported on reserve, occurring in the Prairies. Cases in Manitoba doubled, while Quebec also saw a spike in cases. Akwesasne, south of Cornwall, Ont., announced that it is dealing with an outbreak after five cases were reported in the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's northern jurisdiction and four cases in the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's southern jurisdiction. As of November 2<sup>nd</sup>, there have been a total of 1,610 cases on-reserve in Canada since the pandemic started. Ten additional hospitalizations were reported since last week bringing the total to 83. The death toll remains at 15. The number of First Nations people who have recovered from the disease has reached 1,095.

- **British Columbia:** [A second child in B.C. has been COVID-19-associated with multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children \(MIS-C\)](#). B.C.'s first case was confirmed mid-October. The patient was a child under the age of five who has fully recovered. Provincial Health Officer has declared in October that there were 16 other suspected cases of MIS-C, however those were investigated and ruled out.
- **Manitoba:** [Manitoba First Nation leaders sound alarm over the outbreak of COVID-19 at the Keeyask construction site in Northern Manitoba](#), including members of nearby Tataskweyak Cree Nation, Fox Lake Cree Nation, War Lake First Nation, and York Factory Cree Nation. It is reported that 23 workers are currently confirmed positive, while another eight are waiting for their results. In addition, 55 workers are now isolating in special dorm rooms at the Keeyask site.
- **Manitoba:** [Peguis First Nation is setting up its own COVID-19 testing site run by community members](#). Health staff in Peguis First Nation began training to do COVID-19 testing in the community on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. In total, 16 people from the community have been trained to run the COVID-19 test site. The members can also train others if needed. The initiative was a collaboration between the First Nation, the Interlake Regional Health Authority and the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch.
- **Manitoba:** [Premier of Manitoba is defending the government's decision to ask Manitobans to help decide if a curfew is needed to curb rising COVID-19 numbers](#). Manitoba is considering instituting a curfew after hearing about large get-togethers being promoted on social media on the weekend. On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, an online survey looking for opinions on the idea went live on the Province's website. However, the plan to wait for feedback faced criticism from some social media who wondered why the government would not just follow advice from public health experts and put a curfew in place if it is needed.
- **Ontario:** [Forty workers at an apple orchard in Elgin County have test positive for COVID-19](#). The outbreak has mainly affected migrant workers. Public health officials have linked the case spread to close living conditions. The workers at Martin Family Fruit Farms lived in bunkhouses, where it is impossible to maintain physical distance. Southwestern Public Health officials stated that they tested 157 people for the virus after one person sought medical treatment on October 30, 2020. The migrant workers are currently in mandatory self-isolation in local hotel rooms. Any locals who tested positive are isolating at their own homes.
- **Saskatchewan** is reporting 37 new COVID-19 cases on October 11, however the final number is expected to be higher. According to the Province, the Roy Romanow Provincial Laboratory experienced technical difficulties with the validation of COVID-19 tests. This resulted in fewer cases to report than expected. Saskatchewan's government indicated that it is anticipating any delayed cases to be reflected in next day's COVID-19 case update.

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

- [The Alaska Department of Corrections declared that 22 inmates and five staff at Goose Creek Correctional Center tested positive for COVID-19](#). There are currently two large COVID-19 outbreaks at the state's prisons. The other is at Fairbanks Correctional Center, an overcrowded facility, where the State in mid-October indicated that 33 people had contracted the virus.

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

- **China:** As international travel to the Chinese mainland has slowly resumed, the strict testing and quarantine measures are helping curb the risk of imported COVID-19 cases but they also may be troublesome for the would-be returnees. Starting the week of November 3<sup>rd</sup>, most foreign and Chinese nationals flying into the country are [required to present negative results for both nucleic acid and IgM antibody tests administered 48 hours before boarding](#).
- **Czech Republic:** The [World Health Organization has agreed to send an emergency medical team to the Czech Republic](#), following a request from the government as the country's hospitals struggle to cope under the strain of the second wave. The request to the WHO follows assistance from the U.S., which agreed to send military doctors and medical workers to the country. Volunteers have also answered the call for help.
- **! Denmark:** On November 4<sup>th</sup>, the world's biggest producer of mink fur in Denmark informed that it would cull all of the country's minks after [a mutated version of the new coronavirus was detected at mink farms and had spread to people](#). The Prime Minister told at a press conference that the mutation could pose a risk that future coronavirus vaccines, as they may not work the way they should. Denmark's Police Chief also stated that they would start the culling as soon as possible, but conceded that with 15 million to 17 million minks spread over 1,080 farms it was a very large undertaking. The coronavirus has been detected at 207 mink farms, including some cases with a mutated version that has been confirmed to spread back to humans. Meanwhile, according to the university of Copenhagen, [coronavirus may spread between mink farms via seagulls](#). The University has examined four gulls, and on one of them coronavirus has been found on the foot. This does not mean that the gull is infected with coronavirus as humans, dogs or cats can be, but that it has instead carried the virus on the surface of the body. Several mink breeders have already targeted the gulls because they sometimes eat some of the feed that the minks lose out of the cages.

- **! Denmark (Update):** [Authorities in Denmark will ask residents in North Jutland not to leave their home municipalities due to concerns over the spread of a mutated form of coronavirus.](#) Seven municipalities with confirmed coronavirus cases in mink are to be encompassed by restrictions asking residents to remain within municipal limits as far as possible. The municipalities affected by the order are Hjørring, Frederikshavn, Vesthimmerland, Brønderslev, Jammerbugt, Thisted and Læsø. Regional broadcaster reports that there is unlikely to be any physical control of municipal borders, but that the government is still working to finalise measures. In other development, on November 4, 2020, [Danish Veterinary and Food Administration indicated that based on a new risk assessment from the health authorities, the government has decided to slaughter all Danish mink herds.](#)
- **Kazakhstan:** [A Kazakh woman is reported to have contracted Covid-19 for a second time,](#) in what is believed to be the first confirmed case of coronavirus reinfection in the Central Asian republic. A female patient was confirmed to have contracted coronavirus in June and at the end of October, news website has reported.
- **South Korea:** [Health officials in South Korea have approved a new test that can detect both COVID-19 and seasonal influenza at the same time.](#) The new test targets genes specific to both SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, and the flu virus, and is a version of polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test, a molecular diagnostic testing technique used to identify viral genetic material and confirm infections.
- **WHO:** On November 4, 2020, [WHO published its updated Interim guidance on Critical preparedness, readiness and response actions for COVID-19.](#) WHO reiterates that all countries should increase their level of preparedness, alert and response to identify, manage and care for new cases of COVID-19. Countries should prepare to respond to different public health scenarios, recognizing that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to managing cases and outbreaks of COVID-19. Each country should assess its risk and rapidly implement the necessary measures at the appropriate scale to reduce both COVID-19 transmission and economic, public and social impacts.
- **WHO:** On November 4, 2020, [WHO published its Interim guidance on Considerations for implementing and adjusting public health and social measures in the context of COVID-19.](#) The document is intended for national authorities and decision makers in countries that have introduced large scale public health and social measures. It offers guidance for adjusting public health and social measures, while managing the risk of a resurgence of cases.

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

- [Delirium accompanied by fever could be an early symptom of COVID-19.](#) This is the main conclusion drawn by a scientific research review carried out by researchers from the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC) and published in [Clinical Immunology and Immunotherapy](#), which highlights the fact that some patients also develop delirium in addition to more well-known symptoms. The manifestation of this state of confusion, when accompanied by high fever, should be considered an early marker of the disease, particularly in the case of elderly patients.
- As the United Kingdom prepares for a widespread inoculation programme of monumental scale in the months ahead, the need for an effective and powerful tool to process a large number of reports is critical in managing the high volume of reports. The Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Authority (MHRA) has paid Genpact UK [a tender of £1.5m to develop an AI tool to sift through the high volume of reports of adverse reactions to COVID-19 vaccines.](#) The types of vaccine being developed, such as the MRNA and chimpanzee adenovirus are relatively new, making it hard to predict how they will interact with millions of people's immune systems. The [government contract](#) states that the AI tool will process the expected high volume of COVID-19 vaccine adverse drug reaction (ADRs) and will ensure that no details are missed.

#### Domestic Events of Interest

##### [Canada, AB - Albertan contracts rare form of swine flu, a first-ever reported in Canada \(Media\)](#)

According to Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Canada's first confirmed case of H1N2v, a variant swine flu virus found in humans, has been detected in the central part of the Province. Alberta's Chief Veterinarian stated that it is an isolated case and there is no increased risk to Albertans. The virus was detected in mid-October after an Albertan with mild influenza-like symptoms sought medical care. Officials affirm H1N2v is rare with only 27 cases reported globally since 2005, and note there have been no cases in Canada before this one. H1N2 is known to occur in pigs around the world and is caused by the type A influenza virus.

##### [Canada, ON - Sarnia Salmonella cases climb, hospitalizations reported – Update \(Media\)](#)

There are now 24 laboratory confirmed cases and over 100 probable cases of *Salmonella* food poisoning linked to Sarnia's Barakat restaurant. The health authorities have also reported a few hospitalizations. A particular source of the infection has yet to be identified.

### **[Canada, ON - Sexually transmitted infection rates rising \(Media\)](#)**

Hastings Prince Edward Public Health has released a statement indicating that the rates of three sexually transmitted infections are rising. According to the local authorities, a gonorrhoea outbreak declared in June continues, with 48 cases between January and September compared to 35 in all of 2019. Local rates of syphilis and HIV are also increasing.

## **International Events of Interest**

### **[Nigeria \(Update\) - Mysterious disease claims 30 lives in Delta communities \(Media\)](#)**

A mysterious disease is affecting Ute Okpu and Idumusa Communities in Ika North Local Government Area of Delta State. As of October 4<sup>th</sup>, fifteen youths had died by the strange disease in just fourteen days. Sources, from the communities, indicated that the death toll had now risen to 30. The State government, which had alarmed the death of 15 persons aging 18 to 25 years-old in the two communities, suspected hemorrhagic fever, or substance abuse as the likely cause of death. Investigation revealed that some of the victims vomited blood while others complained of general fatigue, headache, and feverish condition before dying either at home, before getting to or in the hospital. Several deaths have also been recorded in neighbouring villages including Ute Erunu. Commissioner for Health gave the assurance that everything possible was being done to curb the disease when he led a team of public health officials to Ute Okpu with a view to unravel the undiagnosed disease.

## **Researches, Policies and Guidelines**

### **[Democratic Republic of the Congo - Scientists find Ebola virus antibodies in people before 2018 DRC outbreak \(Study\)](#)**

Exposure to Ebola viruses may be more frequent and widespread than previously thought. [Scientists found antibodies to Ebola virus in people up to a year before the 2018 Ebola Virus Disease \(EVD\) outbreak began in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo](#). This suggests that either early EVD cases may have been missed or that exposure occurs more commonly than previously thought.

### **[United Kingdom - Laser-based method to detect antibiotic resistant bacteria invented by UK scientists \(Media\)](#)**

Researchers have developed a new, quicker way of detecting drug resistance in bacteria, taking about 45 minutes, an advance that may help clinicians prescribe antibiotics correctly and reduce their misuse. According to the researchers, the standard method for detecting antibiotic resistance in bacterial samples is a relatively slow process that typically takes between 12 and 24 hours. The scientists believe speeding up the time it takes to identify antibiotic-resistant bacteria could improve the ability of clinicians to prescribe antibiotics correctly and reduce their misuse. According to the investigators, the new method uses a nano mechanical sensor and a laser to detect single bacterial cells as they pass through the light's focus, providing a simple readout of antibiotic resistance by detecting growth (resistant) or death (sensitive) of the bacteria.

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

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