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Sent: 2020-09-08 8:40 AM
To: gphin / rmisp (PHAC/ASPC)
Subject: GPHIN Daily Report (08 September 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 07 September 2020 at 19:00 EDT, a total of 132,142 cases have been recorded in Canada including 9,146 deaths. The cases are reported in Newfoundland and Labrador (270 confirmed cases, 3 deaths), Prince Edward Island (51 confirmed cases), Nova Scotia (1,086 confirmed cases, 65 deaths), New Brunswick (192 confirmed cases, 2 deaths), Quebec (63,713 confirmed cases, 5,770 deaths), Ontario (43,161 confirmed cases, 2,813 deaths), Manitoba (1,338 confirmed cases, 16 deaths), Saskatchewan (1,662 confirmed cases, 24 deaths), Alberta (14,474 confirmed cases, 242 deaths), British Columbia (6,162 confirmed cases, 211 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 08 September 2020, 11:25 GMT, there were 27,514,164 cases of COVID-19 and 897,289 deaths reported globally. Top 10 countries with the highest number of cases, by alphabetical order are: Argentina (488,007 cases, 10,129 deaths), Brazil (4,147,794 cases, 127,001 deaths); Colombia (671,848 cases, 21,615 deaths); India (4,284,103 cases, 72,843 deaths); Mexico (637,509 cases, 67,781 deaths); Peru (691,575 cases, 29,976 deaths); Russia (1,035,789 cases, 17,993 deaths); South Africa (639,362 cases, 15,004 deaths); Spain (525,549 cases, 29,516 deaths); United States (6,485,708 cases, 193,536 deaths).

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

- [On 06 September 2020, In lieu of an in-person update to the media, Canada's Chief Public Health Officer stated](#) that with the continued increase in daily cases we are keeping a very watchful eye for signs of COVID-19 spread into high-risk populations or settings. Last week hospitalizations, critical care admissions and deaths had been closely monitored for possible indications of increased severity of COVID-19, which may indicate spread among those at higher risk. Although these indicators remain low at present, they are known to lag behind real-time increases in COVID-19 illness by a few to many weeks. In terms of age, the trend of increased disease activity among younger individuals has continued for many weeks, with people under 40 years of age accounting for over 62% of cases in the latest data reported to the PHAC. The highest number of outbreaks continue to occur in long-term care homes and seniors residences. While many of these outbreaks involve very few cases owing to increased vigilance and sensitive surveillance in high risk settings, each introduction increases the risk for severe illness outcomes of COVID-19.
- [On 05 September 2020, In lieu of an in-person update to the media, Canada's Chief Public Health Officer stated](#) that a key concern this past week has been the continuing increase in daily case counts. Although we are well below the almost 1,800 cases reported daily at the peak of the initial wave in early May, we have been seeing an increasing trend in this disease activity indicator. Increasing daily case counts tell us that COVID-19 is continuing to spread. Over the long weekend, the official urges all Canadians to keep up with the proven effective public health practices that have worked to bring the rate of COVID-19 infection down to a manageable level.
- [On 04 September 2020, Canada's Chief Public Health Officer \(CPHO\) stated](#) that Canada faces a different COVID-19 situation in September, than it did in February and March. Governments, businesses and Canadians themselves have adapted and worked to put measures into place that help keep COVID-19 in Canada on the

slow-burn path that we need. With Fall and Winter approaching, families and friends once again want to know if it's safe to gather together indoors. No individual and no family faces the same set of circumstances, and people will need to make decisions for themselves. While all risk cannot be eliminate all, and the situation may change, Canadians should ask themselves some "quick check" questions, about their risk factors and about the location of the event or activity they are thinking of attending.

- [Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food has announced number of initial projects funded under the \\$77.5 million Emergency Processing Fund \(EPF\)](#). The EPF is focused on projects to help companies respond to the urgent health and safety needs of workers in agri-food sectors impacted by COVID-19, with an emphasis on supporting meat processing facilities.
- [As of 3 September, Indigenous Services Canada \(ISC\) is aware of these confirmed cases of COVID-19 for First Nations on reserve: 459 confirmed positive cases of COVID-19; 38 hospitalizations; 417 recovered cases. There are a total of 17 confirmed positive cases in Nunavik, Quebec, and all have recovered.](#) When compared to the general Canadian population, the infection rate, hospitalization rate, and death rate were lower in First Nations communities on reserve. For example, the rate of COVID-19 reported among First Nations individuals living on reserve is currently one-quarter the rate of the general Canadian population. While data to make this comparison is currently only available for First Nations living on reserve, First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities have all taken many positive measures to protect their populations in the face of COVID-19 and have done a successful job in responding and preventing outbreaks.
- [Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council has confirmed the first case of COVID-19 in a member living on reserve in its territory](#). The tribal council, which represents 14 First Nations spanning 300 kilometres on the west coast of Vancouver Island, has been calling for additional supports to protect its remote communities as the province opens up. As a condition for B.C. to move into Phase 3 of reopening, the tribal council asked the provincial government for supports, including rapid testing kits in remote communities, screening of people entering their territory, training for culturally safe contact tracing and a protocol to alert Nuuchahnulth communities when there is a confirmed case nearby.
- As Ottawa prepares for the possibility of a second wave of COVID-19, [the Ottawa Hospital with Ottawa Public Health \(OPH\) are opening their next testing centre](#). Residents around Ottawa now have the option of being tested for the virus at the new drive-thru centre at 300 Coventry Rd., also known as RCGT Park. While the centre is set to open on 4 September 2020, it is open for online booking, and appointments must be booked in advance. The booking is available on the OPH website. Those under the age of 14 will not be tested at this location, however, as CHEO continues to operate at the Brewer Assessment Centre, as well as the Moodie and Heron care clinics. A maximum of four people per vehicle can be tested, and every individual must have their own appointment booked for the same day.
- [On 05 September 2020, Ontario, Quebec report largest daily increases in COVID-19 cases since late July.](#) Ontario reported 169 new confirmed cases, while there were 175 new cases in Quebec and two deaths tied to the respiratory infection. Most schools in Ontario will open for students on 08 Sept., but schools in Quebec have been open for more than a week, and 47 out of 3,100 schools in the province have at least one case of COVID-19 since then, according to government figures released on 4 September. Quebec Health Minister noted that the number of cases are in line with what was expected and that in most of the 46 cases, the staff or student was infected outside of school. Ontario Education Minister, in reaction to the Quebec figures, noted that Ontario has mandated masking in classrooms, while Quebec has not, and said more than 600 public health nurses will be stationed in schools this fall. Under Ontario's plan, students in grades 4 to 12 will be required to wear masks indoors, and younger students will be encouraged to do so. But individual school boards, including in Toronto, have voted to require masks for all students.
- [The Ontario government is helping protect jobs and businesses by extending protection to prevent temporary layoffs from automatically becoming permanent job losses](#). Although Ontario is now in Phase 3 of reopening, this extension will give businesses more time to reopen and return to full operations. This extension will last until 02 January 2021. Under Ontario labour laws, termination of an employee after 13 weeks of being temporarily laid off triggers costly payouts which, for many businesses, could be the difference between survival and closure. This regulatory amendment delays these terminations and severance liabilities.
- [The Ontario government is providing \\$2 million from the Ontario Together Fund to the Bracebridge-based company, Smart Safe Science, to make lighter, breathable, and more comfortable face masks](#). This investment will help the company create 50 local jobs and, when at full capacity, produce 200,000 made-in-Ontario masks monthly and build up regional personal protective equipment (PPE) manufacturing capacity. Ontario is planned to reduce and eventually eliminate the reliance on any other country for these critical health supplies because they can be made in Ontario in communities like Bracebridge. The filter used in the mask will be NIOSH 95+ certified, which is used in N95 masks. As part of the development of this mask and other safety products, the company tapped into technical expertise at several Ontario universities, including Lakehead University, Laurentian University, McMaster University and the University of Toronto. The mask comes with attachments that monitor body temperature while the person is wearing the mask. This technology will allow the user to connect a smart device in the mask to their phone using an app that will transmit critical real-time data about the user's health status. The mask will conform to the wearer's

facial structure, providing greater comfort and protection. Smart Safe Science further plans to purchase equipment and expand its facilities to reach the targeted end-production capacity.

- On 4 September 2020, [Ontario's Provincial Health officials announced 148 new patients infected with the novel coronavirus](#), where nearly half are in Peel Region. Of those patients, 72 are in Peel Region, 41 are in Toronto and 13 are in Ottawa.
- As of 06 of September, [York Region Public Health has traced back 23 confirmed cases of COVID-19 to wedding events in Toronto](#). The four separate events, involving the same wedding, took place on Aug. 28 at a private residence in Stouffville, at the Rexdale Singh Sabha Religious Centre in Toronto, as well as Lakshmi Narayamandir Temple in Toronto and on Aug. 29 at a home in Markham. Of the 23 people who tested positive for the virus, four are residents of Durham Region and one is a resident of Peel Region, while the rest live in York Region. York Region Public Health has followed up with known close contacts of the identified cases and directed them to self-isolate for 14 days and to get tested. Public health is working with the families to notify attendees about the potential exposures. ronto, Markham and the town of Whitchurch-Stouffville
- [Since Canada imposed COVID-19 travel restrictions in late March 2020, more than four million people have entered the country](#). To help reduce the spread of COVID-19, Canada only allows foreigners to enter for non-discretionary purposes. In June, the federal government relaxed its rules to allow foreigners to visit immediate family in Canada. According to the CBSA just over 4.4 million Canadians and foreigners have entered Canada by land or air since 23 March. The CBSA reports that between 22 March and 19 August, it denied entry to more than 16,000 people trying to cross from the U.S. by land or air. According to the PHAC, the percentage of COVID-19 cases associated with international travel have declined dramatically since March, when the country implemented its travel restrictions and advised Canadians to not travel abroad. In February, 42.2% of COVID-19 cases were associated with international travel. That number dropped to a low of 0.4% in May, and has since inched up to 3.2% for the first three weeks of August. Canada requires all international arrivals to quarantine for 14 days, but at least a handful of people have been caught defying the order and fined up to \$1,000.
- [Ottawa Mayor has said that facemasks will likely remain mandatory inside of Ottawa's indoor public spaces for longer than initially planned](#). He also said the novel coronavirus is a "mid-to-long-term problem" and that residents must remain vigilant until a vaccine is developed.
- On 04 September, [the Quebec government released a list of COVID-19 cases and outbreaks in schools](#). The province tallied up 47 schools, 6 private schools and the rest public, that have had at least one COVID-19 case. The list doesn't include the number of known cases per school, simply listing the name of the school, the board or service center that oversees it and the date the case was divulged. Only two full outbreaks have been recorded. The province considers an outbreak to be two or more linked cases. The first was in a high school near Montreal, where a symptom-free teacher who was unaware of being infected then infected colleagues even before the school year began, as staff prepared for classes. The second outbreak has only two cases.
- [A group of lab technicians at Quebec's Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food \(MAPAQ\) has been trained to analyze samples taken at COVID-19 testing sites](#). Should the second wave put a strain on the province's current testing system, the MAPAQ technicians and three private labs in Montreal will help speed up the processing of results.
- The [Nova Scotia Health Authority has reported a 35 per cent increase in calls this past July compared to the same month in 2019](#). The increase in demand for mental health supports has caused health-care providers to adapt their services to meet the needs of their patients. The Halifax branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) has adapted their services to meet the needs of the community by connecting with people through telephone and virtual chat, often supporting those most vulnerable to hardships caused by COVID-19 and a lack of health equity.
- [Starting the week of 14 September, three Saskatchewan high schools will offer students voluntary COVID-19 tests](#). Campbell Collegiate in Regina will begin offering tests on 16 September. Holy Cross High School in Saskatoon and Carlton Comprehensive High School in Prince Albert on will start offering tests on 18 September. Parents can expect consent forms to be distributed to students on 09 September.
- [In Canada, the national Immunity Task Force has so far examined antibody levels from the blood of 35,000 Canadians across the country](#) who donated blood or who had their blood drawn for medical tests in British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario. The task force found that the level of coronavirus antibodies in the population, or seroprevalence, barely registered in some cases. The message is clear, according to a co-chair of the task force: Immunity in the Canadian population remains very low. With so few people carrying antibodies, everyone in Canada remains at risk for infection.
- [Ottawa Public Health \(OPH\) says it is aware of positive cases of COVID-19 at five schools in the city](#); however, the source of each of the infections is unclear. All of the schools are in the Conseil des écoles catholiques du Centre-Est (CECCE). The CECCE did not immediately respond to a request for comment on 07 September 2020. Classes resumed at many CECCE schools on 3 September, though secondary students in the board's Ottawa high schools aren't set to return until 8 September. OPH is working closely with the school principals to

investigate and reaching out to close contacts directly to provide direction on isolation and instruction on testing, including information on how and when to get tested for COVID-19.

- [On 06 September 2020, several students at Bowness High School in northwest Calgary have been ordered to self-isolate for 14 days](#) after a positive case of COVID-19 was confirmed at the school. The school remains open to in-person learning for all students, and it is working closely with Alberta Health Services to ensure necessary measures continue to be in place to protect all staff and students, according to a principal's letter.
- [On 06 September 2020 Winnipeg authorities announced](#) that a previously identified case in the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority is linked to the assisted living facility. Donwood Manor care home is one of four Winnipeg senior facilities under increased restrictions right now. There are currently nine senior facilities with outbreak protocols in Manitoba.

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

- [On 06 September 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) updated its Staffing Resources and Guidance](#). CDC is using a multi-pronged approach to help enhance and complement the efforts of state, tribal, local, and territorial staff. This initiative will help health departments with the staffing resources they need for their programs to get and keep America open.
- [On 06 September 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) updated its Considerations for Restaurants and Bars](#). As restaurants and bars resume operations in some areas of the United States, CDC offers the following considerations for ways in which operators can protect employees, customers, and communities and slow the spread of COVID-19. Restaurants and bars can determine, in collaboration with [state and local health officials](#), whether and how to implement these considerations, making adjustments to meet the needs and circumstances of the local community. Implementation should be guided by what is feasible, practical, acceptable, and tailored to the needs of each community. These considerations are meant to supplement—**not replace**—any state, local, territorial, or tribal health and safety laws, rules, and regulations with which businesses must comply.
- On 03 September 2020, [the U.S. State Department said that Washington would redirect its funding for the WHO to other UN assessments and reduce the U.S. engagement with the organization](#). This redirection includes reprogramming the remaining balance of its planned Fiscal Year 2020 assessed WHO contributions to partially pay other UN assessments. The statement also said that Washington would scale down its engagement with the WHO through July 2021, recalling the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) detailees from WHO headquarters, regional offices, and country offices, and reassigning these experts. U.S. participation in WHO technical meetings and events will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Director of the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law at Georgetown University, tweeted that the U.S. move to redirect WHO funds is unethical and unlawful, noting that Washington should meet all financial obligations to the WHO before withdrawal. The United States in July officially submitted its notification of withdrawal from the WHO to the United Nations secretary-general, and the withdrawal becomes effective on July 6, 2021.
- On 3 September 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its guidance on [What Hotel, Resort, and Lodge Workers Need to Know about COVID-19](#). The guidance provides information on how COVID-19 spreads, recommendations on how people can protect themselves and others, additional cleaning guidance for housekeeping, how to cope with stress, among other.
- The FDA issued an updated [FDA COVID-19 Response At-A-Glance Summary](#) that provides a quick look at facts, figures, and highlights of the agency's response efforts.
- On 3 September 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its [Interpretation of Forecasts of New Cases](#). This week CDC received forecasts that predict the number of new reported COVID-19 cases over the next four weeks, for the nation, states and territories, and counties. A total of 26 modeling groups submitted forecasts for one or more jurisdictions. This week's national ensemble forecast predicts that weekly reports of new COVID-19 cases may decrease over the next four weeks, with 150,000 to 360,000 new cases reported during the week ending 26 September 2020. The state- and territory-level ensemble forecasts predict that the number of new reported cases per week may decrease over the next four weeks in 10 states and territories, which are labeled on the forecast plots below. Trends in numbers of future reported cases are uncertain or predicted to remain stable in the other states and territories.
- On 3 September 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its [Interpretation of Forecasts of New and Total Deaths](#). This week CDC received forecasts of national COVID-19 deaths over the next 4 weeks from 35 modeling groups. Of the 35 groups, 33 provided forecasts for both new and total deaths and two provided forecasts for total deaths only. This week's national ensemble forecast predicts that weekly reports of new COVID-19 deaths may decrease nationally over the next four weeks, with 3,300 to 7,500 new deaths reported during the week ending 26 September 2020. The ensemble indicates that the number of total COVID-19 deaths is likely to reach between 200,000 to 211,000 by this date. The state- and territory-level ensemble forecasts predict that the number of reported new deaths per week may decrease over the next 4

weeks in 3 jurisdictions, which are indicated in the forecast plots below. Trends in numbers of future reported deaths are uncertain or predicted to remain stable in the other states and territories.

- [U.S. deaths from the coronavirus will reach 410,000 by the end of the year, more than double the current death toll, and deaths could soar to 3,000 per day in December, the University of Washington's health institute has forecasted](#). Deaths could be reduced by 30% if more Americans wore face masks as epidemiologists have advised, but mask-wearing is declining, the university's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation said. The U.S. death rate projected by the IHME model, which has been cited by the White House Coronavirus Task Force, would more than triple the current death rate of some 850 per day.

WHO- Widespread coronavirus vaccine not expected until mid-2021 (Media)

On 04 September 2020, the spokeswoman informed that WHO does not expect widespread vaccinations against COVID-19 until the middle of 2021, stressing the importance of rigorous checks on their effectiveness and safety. None of the candidate vaccines in advanced clinical trials so far has demonstrated a *clear signal* of efficacy at the level of at least 50 per cent sought by the WHO. Russia granted regulatory approval to a COVID-19 vaccine in August after less than two months of human testing, prompting some Western experts to question its safety and efficacy.

WHO - Responding to noncommunicable diseases during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic (Official)

On 4 September 2020, WHO posted a scientific brief entitled "*Responding to NCDs during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic*." The report describes why strong action on noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) must be an integral part of the COVID-19 response, recovery and building back better and steps that should be taken immediately and in the longer term.

Infection prevention and control for the safe management of a dead body in the context of COVID-19: interim guidance (Official)

WHO on 4 September issued an Interim guidance for Infection prevention and control for the safe management of a dead body in the context of COVID-19. This interim guidance is designed for individuals who tend to the bodies of persons who have died of suspected or confirmed coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Potential users include managers of health-care facilities and mortuaries, as well as religious leaders and public health authorities. Moreover, this document provides guidance for the management of the dead in the context of COVID-19 in low, middle- and high-income settings.

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

On 04 September 2020, the WHO posted on their secure Event Information Site (EIS) the Additional Health Measures in relation to the COVID-19 outbreak reports based on official statements by States Parties to the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR).

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

- [On 06 September 2020, a New Front in America's Pandemic is College Towns](#). Now, Iowa City is a full-blown pandemic hot spot — one of about 100 college communities around the country where infections have spiked in recent weeks as students have returned for the fall semester. Though the rate of infection has bent downward in the Northeast, where the virus first peaked in the U.S., it continues to remain high across many states in the Midwest and South — and evidence suggests that students returning to big campuses are a major factor. Despite the surge in cases, there has been no uptick in deaths in college communities, data shows. This suggests that most of the infections are stemming from campuses, since young people who contract the virus are far less likely to die than older people. However, leaders fear that young people who are infected will contribute to a spread of the virus throughout the community.
- [On 6 September 2020, a small outbreak of COVID-19 cases has prompted authorities to re-close schools in a central Cuban province](#) only a week after they opened. 75 of the province's 90 schools would return to televised teaching on 7 September.
- [On 6 September 2020, state of Victoria extended a hard lockdown in its capital Melbourne by two weeks to the end of September](#) as infection rates have declined more slowly than hoped. State Premier extended the hard lockdown, in place since 2 August to 28 September with a slight relaxation, and mapped out a gradual easing of restrictions over the following two months.
- According to a survey results released on 04 September 2020, [despite persistent messaging by the Australian government urging people with even minor symptoms to get tested for COVID-19, 85% of Australians with cold or flu-like symptoms were still not complying](#). According to the data collected between early to mid-August, most of those people reported were reluctant to get tested because they didn't think they had coronavirus or that their symptoms were too mild to warrant a test. The survey was in the seventh wave of data collection of the Survey of COVID-19 Responses to Understand Behaviour (SCRUB), conducted by Australia's Monash University in partnership with the government of the State of Victoria.

- [On 6 September 2020, the number of people infected with the coronavirus has continued to surge in the Czech Republic](#), surpassing 700 for the first time. Health authorities have already imposed new restrictive measures in the Czech capital, reacting to the spike. Starting 2nd, it is mandatory again to wear face masks in stores and shopping malls.
- [On 5 September 2020, India's total number of coronavirus cases crossed four million](#). The country is leading the world in new infections and closing in on Brazil's total, which is the second highest in the world. The virus has stretched to almost every state in the country, spreading through villages and smaller cities where access to health care is crippled.
- [The pandemic has hit Mexico so hard that the governments of several states ran out of death certificates](#). Officials say federal forms started running out about 15 to 20 days ago in at least three states — Baja California, the State of Mexico and Mexico City — and authorities say a million new forms have been printed and are being distributed. Mexico has suffered the fourth-highest level of COVID-19 deaths in the world.
- On 4 September 2020, [Public Health England posted its guidance on COVID-19 surveillance in school KIDs \(sKIDs\): pre and primary schools](#). Prospective active national surveillance of preschools and primary schools for SARS-CoV-2 infection and transmission in England, June 2020. A report on the preliminary results of the COVID-19 testing and antibody prevalence surveillance in schools programme, colloquially known as sKIDs. The report concludes that SARS-CoV-2 infection and transmission rates were low in preschool and primary schools under surveillance during the summer.
- [On 06 September 2020, almost 3,000 people in the UK tested positive for Covid-19, a 50% increase in a single day](#) and the highest daily total since May amid concerns the government has lost control of the epidemic just as people are returning to work and universities prepare to reopen. Labour has demanded the health secretary, give an urgent statement to the House of Commons to explain the increase and why some people are still being told to drive hundreds of miles to have a test. The rise came amid concerns that testing centres were struggling to cope with demand. Many people who sought tests in recent days were advised to take round trips of more than 100 miles because their local centres did not have capacity.
On 4 September 2020, [The Education Minister of France, declared that COVID-19 has forced 12 schools in mainland France to be closed](#), but the rest of the almost 60,000 opened as planned at the start of the academic year. The French school year began on 2 September 2020, with some parents and teachers' unions voicing concerns that the virus could spread through classrooms. The Minister stated that further 10 schools were closed for the same reason on La Reunion, an island off Madagascar administered by France.
- [A team of 19 global health experts, led by the chair of Medical Ethics and Health Policy in the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, propose a new framework for distributing a future COVID-19 vaccine: focus on preventing premature deaths](#). The framework appeared in *Science*. While some groups, including the National Academy of Sciences, have called for distributing a vaccine first to healthcare workers and the elderly, and the World Health Organization (WHO) has said vaccine dose distribution should be in proportion to a nation's population, the experts said both strategies are ethically flawed. Instead, phase 1 of the Fair Priority Model focuses on distributing the vaccine to people determined by a country to be at risk from premature death from COVID-19, a calculation derived from "standard expected years of life lost." Phase 2 would focus on vaccinating groups based on the extent to which people would be spared from poverty, and phase 3 would focus on countries with high transmission rates.
- [The COVID-19 pandemic has sparked a health and socio-economic emergency across the occupied Palestinian territory, the UN agency for the region warned, noting a swell of coronavirus cases in recent weeks](#). The UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNWRA), said that it requires some \$95 million to cover the emergency needs of 5.6 million registered Palestinian refugees in the Middle East, until the end of December. Palestinians in Gaza, including the 76% of the population that are Palestine refugees, are enduring the COVID-19 pandemic at the same time as 20 hours of electricity cuts, 14 years of blockade and ongoing denial of their freedom of movement. The funds will, among other things, focus on health, cash assistance and education.
- The [European Commission has proposed a common traffic light system for EU member states to coordinate border controls and remedy the current, confusing patchwork of coronavirus restrictions on travelers across Europe](#). Under the proposal, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) would produce a weekly map with every region or country colored green, orange or red. The Commission is advising that no restrictions be set for travelers from green or orange zones, though visitors from the latter might be recommended to take a COVID-19 test. Restrictions, whether a quarantine or a test, would be appropriate for those coming from red zones, although the measures should be the same for all red zones, whether inside or outside the country. Countries would be free to determine what measures to take.

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

- [Provincial lockdowns aren't as effective as local strategies when it comes to handling the COVID-19 pandemic, according to research from the University of Guelph](#). The research found a local focus helps limit the spread of

the virus and minimize negative social impacts. According to the study, school and workplace closures based on local disease prevention would result in fewer closure days and affect fewer people than a province-wide shutdown. The local strategy also wouldn't result in an increase in cases. The study was published in the *"Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences."* Researchers used COVID-19 case counts from Ontario's health units to look at the effects of different control strategies before a possible second wave. Those case counts were used to estimate the transmission rate of the virus, especially in more densely-populated areas. The numbers, which were run through a model created specifically for the research, showed the infection dynamics varied between counties based on geographical and epidemiological factors, along with travel patterns.

- The [Lancet](#) has [published the results of two nonrandomized trials \(called Sputnik V\) of a Russian COVID-19 vaccine candidate, which showed no serious adverse events and demonstrated that the vaccine elicited an antibody response in study participants within 21 days of administration.](#) The phase 1/2 trials were conducted in 76 healthy adults.
- According to the first peer-reviewed data on studies of the controversial project, [Russia's proposed COVID-19 vaccine induced an antibody response in all participants in early trials and found no serious adverse effects.](#) According to preliminary results from phase 1 and 2 trials that were [published on 04 September 2020 in the Lancet](#), the vaccine also produced a response in T-cells. Russian officials had previously made broadly similar claims about the shot, prior to review by outside experts. Russia has been seeking to gain international credibility after health officials elsewhere harshly criticized the country's regulatory approval of the vaccine in August, before it had gone through wider phase 3 trials. The trials, which took place in two Russian hospitals and involved 76 healthy adults aged 18 to 60, used a two-part vaccine with two different human adenoviruses to transport the antigen into the body. All participants were given the vaccine, with no control group -- one of several limitations to the trials that were cited in the report. The investigators took convalescent plasma from 4,817 people who had recovered from mild or moderate COVID-19 to compare post-vaccination immunity with natural immunity. Antibody responses were higher in those vaccinated.
- According to the study, posted on the website of Northwestern University (NU) on 02 September 2020, [prone or face down, position of severely ill COVID-19 patients on ventilators can cause permanent nerve damage in these patients.](#) The researchers have seen 20 patients from seven different hospitals with these injuries. People who have been critically ill are expected to wake up with some generalized, symmetric weakness. But the pattern of weakness in the COVID-19 patients caught the researchers' attention during rehabilitation since quite often an important joint such as the wrist, ankle or shoulder would be completely paralyzed on one side of the body. The most common injuries are wrist drops, foot drops, loss of hand function and frozen shoulder. Some patients had as many as four distinct nerve injury sites. The researchers believe the nerve damage is the result of reduced blood flow (due to coagulated blood) and inflammation. Other non-COVID-19 patients on ventilators in this position rarely experience any nerve damage. Based on this study and another, 12 percent to 15 percent of the most severely ill COVID-19 patients have permanent nerve damage. Based on the number of COVID patients worldwide.
- On 4 September 2020, [AstraZeneca PLC is a British-Swedish multinational pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical company announced that started clinical trials of a COVID-19 vaccine candidate in Japan, as it plans to begin supplying the vaccine in the country in the first quarter of 2021.](#) The pharmaceutical company agreed in August with the Japanese government to supply 120 million doses of the coronavirus vaccine, and it plans to supply 30 million of those between January and March of 2021. The testing of the vaccine AZD1222, which is being developed with the University of Oxford, will be carried out at multiple facilities targeting about 250 people aged 18 and older, according to AstraZeneca.

Domestic Events of Interest

[British Columbia - Cluster of legionnaires' disease cases found in downtown New Westminster \(Media\)](#)

The Fraser Health authority has detected a cluster of cases of legionnaires' disease in central New Westminster. B.C. Six cases have been discovered since June, with the most recent found the week of 31 August 2020. Two people are currently in hospital, but the health authority did not release their status. The source of the bacteria is still unknown, but Fraser Health says the exposure is around the downtown quay area. The officials asking anyone who has been in New Westminster within 19 days of developing symptoms and has a high-risk condition to seek medical attention. A team has been doing an environmental assessment trying to find out which buildings have cooling towers, air conditioning units and decorative water features. Both residential and commercial buildings are being considered as possible sources of the bacteria.

International Events of Interest

[CHP investigates case of human infection of rat Hepatitis E virus \(Official\)](#)

On 04 September 2020, [the Centre for Health Protection \(CHP\) of the Department of Health of Hong Kong is](#)

[investigating a case of human infection of rat Hepatitis E virus \(HEV\)](#) and urged members of the public to be vigilant against hepatitis E infection and to strictly observe good personal, food and environmental hygiene. The case involves an 89-year-old woman with underlying illnesses who had presented with anorexia, abdominal pain and jaundice. She was referred by a private doctor to the Accident and Emergency Department of Kwong Wah Hospital on 17 August and was admitted on the same day. She was found to have deranged liver function during hospitalisation. The patient is now in stable condition. Her blood sample tested positive for rat HEV upon laboratory testing. The CHP's epidemiological investigations revealed that the patient resided in Ngau Chi Wan. She did not have contact with rodents or rats, and had no travel history during the incubation period. Based on the available epidemiological information, the source and the route of infection could not be determined.

[ECDC - Locally-acquired dengue fever case - Italy - 2020](#) (Official)

On 4 September 2020, ECDC's Communicable Disease Threats Report indicated that on 27 August 2020, Italian local health authorities reported one locally-acquired confirmed case of dengue fever in a 54-year-old male resident in a small village in Veneto, Italy. The man has not travelled abroad and had flu-like symptoms for four days. The primary case is a relative who travelled to Indonesia in July 2020 and was retrospectively diagnosed with dengue fever by serology. Other members of the family have had similar symptomatology. Response measures have been implemented, including vector control measures and deferral of blood donation. Active case finding is ongoing. According to ECDC, this is the first case of locally-acquired dengue infection reported in Italy. Since 2010, 17 vector-borne local transmission events of dengue virus have been reported in continental EU, including one case in 2020 in mainland France. Considering that the establishment of a sustained transmission depends on a multitude of factors, the occurrence of a larger outbreak cannot be excluded, even if the likelihood remains low.

[ECDC - Probably introduced Plasmodium vivax malaria case - Greece - 2020](#) (Official)

On 4 September 2020, ECDC's Communicable Disease Threats Report indicated that in 2020, a probably introduced *Plasmodium vivax* malaria case has been reported by the Hellenic National Public Health. On 26 August 2020, the malaria case was reported, was initially diagnosed by a rapid test and then laboratory-confirmed in a patient, who is a permanent resident of a small rural non-touristic town, near a wetland (Evros river) in the Municipality of Orestiada. The location is near the land border between Greece and Turkey. The patient had onset of symptoms on 13 August 2020, had not recently travelled to a malaria-endemic country, and had no history of blood transfusion. No imported case has been recently recorded in the area. Authorities have intensified response vector control activities in the area. ECDC assesses that currently, the risk of *P. vivax* infection for residents and travellers in this area is very low.

[ECDC - Dengue - French Antilles – 2020](#) (Official)

On 4 September 2020, ECDC's Communicable Disease Threats Report indicated that French authorities have reported an increased number of dengue cases in Guadeloupe, Saint Martin, Saint Barthélemy and Martinique islands in recent weeks. Since the previous update with data as of 2 August 2020 and as of 30 August 2020, 5,682 additional dengue suspected cases, have been reported in Guadeloupe, Saint Martin, Saint Barthélemy and Martinique. Since the last reported update, from 20 July to 2 August 2020, was analysed, 1,409 additional dengue suspected cases were reported in the French Antilles. The following additional cases have been reported since the previous update: Guadeloupe (895); Saint Martin (165); Saint Barthelemy (272); and Martinique (4,350, including one severe case and one death).

[Mexico - Reach 1,933 dengue cases](#) (Media)

The State of Jalisco has 22.5% of dengue cases in Mexico. According to data from the Federal Health Department (SSA), in the week of 31 August 2020, the state accumulated 182 new contagions for a cumulative of 933; there are 8,585 cases in the country. The new data represents an increase of 8.56% compared to 2019, when the state had 779 people infected by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito. Although Jalisco is the first national in number of cases, it ranks third by incidence, registering 23 cases per 100,000 inhabitants. In 2019, Jalisco finished first nationally in number of cases and deaths, closing with 11,927 contaminants and 108 deaths.

Researches, Policies and Guidelines

NIL

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

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