

Exton, Adam (HC/SC)

From: Guerrero, Gerardo (PHAC/ASPC) on behalf of gphin / rmisp (PHAC/ASPC)
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To: gphin / rmisp (PHAC/ASPC)
Subject: GPHIN Daily Report (09 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 08 September 2020 at 19:00 EDT, a total of 133,748 cases have been recorded in Canada including 9,153 deaths. The cases are reported in Newfoundland and Labrador (270 confirmed cases, 3 deaths), Prince Edward Island (53 confirmed cases), Nova Scotia (1,086 confirmed cases, 65 deaths), New Brunswick (192 confirmed cases, 2 deaths), Quebec (63,876 confirmed cases, 5,770 deaths), Ontario (43,536 confirmed cases, 2,813 deaths), Manitoba (1,349 confirmed cases, 16 deaths), Saskatchewan (1,669 confirmed cases, 24 deaths), Alberta (15,093 confirmed cases, 247 deaths), British Columbia (6,591 confirmed cases, 213 deaths), Yukon (15 confirmed cases), Northwest Territories (5 confirmed cases), Nunavut (0 confirmed case), and repatriated travellers (13 confirmed cases). A detailed [epidemiological summary](#) is available. The risk will vary between and within communities, but given the increasing number of cases in Canada, the risk to Canadians is considered [high](#).

[International \(Update\) - Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) Outbreak \(Media\)](#)

As of 09 September 2020, 11:39 GMT, there were 27,771,195 cases of COVID-19 and 902,548 deaths reported globally. Top 10 countries with the highest number of cases, by alphabetical order are: Argentina (500,034 cases, 10,405 deaths), Brazil (4,165,124 cases, 127,517 deaths); Colombia (679,513 cases, 21,817 deaths); India (4,374,314 cases, 73,953 deaths); Mexico (642,860 cases, 68,484 deaths); Peru (696,190 cases, 30,123 deaths); Russia (1,041,007 cases, 18,135 deaths); South Africa (640,441 cases, 15,086 deaths); Spain (534,513 cases, 29,594 deaths); United States (6,514,376 cases, 194,037 deaths).

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

- [On 08 September 2020, Chief Public Health Officer \(CPHO\) noted](#) that the transition back to school for children and families can be stressful under normal circumstances and it is known that 2020 will present real and new challenges. Although Canada is striving to maintain a “slow burn”, the average daily case count has been increasing in recent days, which is concerning. The CPHO has underscored that cases reported, including in schools, are a reflection of what is happening in the community. Therefore, the key to keeping COVID-19 at a manageable level is for each, and every one, is to keep up effective public health practices at home, at work and in the public spaces Canadians frequent.
- On 07 September 2020, [Chief Public Health Officer noted that as fall season arrives, Canadians would need to be even more vigilant about following public health guidance](#), particularly as the cold weather shifts activities indoors. In addition to the colder weather, the fall brings holidays and traditional family gatherings for many Canadians. The CPHO recommends Canadians that before they decide to attend an event or activity, remember to ask themselves some quick-check questions about their personal risk factors and the setting of the event or activity.
- [Canadas Health Minister has declared that the federal review would probe the shutdown of its surveillance system, as well as allegations from scientists inside the Public Health Agency of Canada that their voices were disregarded within the department, preventing key messages from making it up the chain of command](#). Though the Global Public Health Intelligence Network had garnered a solid reputation internationally, and a key group assessing global pandemic preparedness by the World Health Organization, officials within PHAC decided in late 2018 and early 2019 that the operation was “too internationally” focused, and could be put to better use working on domestic projects. Canada’s Health Minister has ordered an independent review of the country’s pandemic

early warning system, after the media reported that the surveillance and research unit was silenced in 20219, several months before the COVID-19 outbreak hit.

- [On 08 September 2020, Ontario Health Minister indicated that Ontario would not consider any additional loosening of public health measures](#) for the next month due to a recent uptick in COVID-19 infections. The decision will mean that the Province will not consider increasing the number of people allowed to gather indoors (50) or outdoors (100) for the time being, nor will it expand social circles any further. Other facilities that are currently prohibited from operating, such as amusement parks and nightclubs, will also remain closed until at least October.
- [The Ontario government is providing up to \\$1.3 billion in critical supports and has delivered more than 37 million pieces of personal protective equipment \(PPE\) to safely reopen classrooms across the province.](#) These investments are part of Ontario's comprehensive back to school plan, which was developed in consultation with medical experts, school boards, and educators. The government has taken extraordinary steps to reopen schools safely, such as hiring up to 625 school-focused nurses to provide rapid-response support to schools and boards, and facilitate public health measures, including screening, surveillance testing, tracing and mitigation strategies. Providing students and families with clear and transparent standards for those that choose fully remote virtual learning. The government have set number of public health protocols and procedures that will be implemented to help protect students, teachers, staff and visitors.
- On 08 September 2020, [Ontario's Education Minister declared that his concerns regarding the rise in daily infections across Ontario](#), which have stayed above 100 cases for the last 11 days, and it could impact continued operation of schools. The Minister declared that public health officials have not provided any sort of maximum number of cases required before they recommend that schools be shut down once more, noting instead that there are a number of indicators they would look to.
- On 08 September 2020, [the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit in Northumberland County reported a first COVID-19 death in the county.](#) Details on the case were not provided in the brief statement issued from the Health Unit, which has also reported 229 cases overall: in the City of Kawartha Lakes (179), in Northumberland County (35) and in Haliburton County (15).
- On 08 September 2020, [Ottawa Public Health confirmed COVID-19 cases at five schools within Ottawa's French Board.](#) In those facilities, 193 students and seven staff have been deemed high risk contacts and were instructed to stay home. The schools are part of the Conseil des écoles catholiques du Centre-Est (CECCE). Classes in that board resumed on 3 September.
- After updating its running list, [Quebec is reporting at least one confirmed case of COVID-19 at 70 of its schools across the province.](#) Two schools added to the list in Quebec's latest update are in the Monteregion region, one of which is a high school and the other an elementary. Another two have been added in the Laval region, both of which are elementary schools. On 04 September 2020, Quebec Health Minister announced that the number of schools with confirmed cases needs to be contextualized alongside the thousands of institutions across the Province. Quebec has decided to make its list of schools publicly available following criticism from parents, who stated they deserved to know, one of which went so far as to create their own informal list in the interim.
- On 08 September 2020, [the Province of Quebec introduced a regional COVID-19 alert and intervention system in light of a potential second wave of cases.](#) According to an announcement from the Province's Health Minister, the alert and intervention system will allow the Quebec government to intervene and deploy measures to slow down transmission of the virus in specific regions to ensure the safety and security of Quebecers when it is needed over the coming months. According to a press release from the Quebec government, there are four alert levels; Vigilance (green), Early Warning (yellow), Moderate alert (orange), and Maximum alert (red), and health measures are going to be associated with each alert level.
- [Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary School, in Gatineau, used more than \\$3,000 of his own money in the summer to order three large wedding-style tents that have been secured with concrete blocks.](#) Students at this elementary school are spending part of their day learning outdoors while sitting on logs and working on clipboards underneath white party tents. As schools across Canada reopen, a smattering of principals, teachers and parents are moving learning outdoors amid worries about coronavirus outbreaks in crowded, poorly ventilated classrooms that do not allow for physical distancing. Recent reports from Harvard University and a group of Ontario hospitals have recommended moving classes outside when possible because the risk of transmitting COVID-19 is much lower there. The idea itself is not new: Open-air schoolrooms were built to prevent the spread of tuberculosis in some North American cities in the early 20th century. However, provincial governments and school boards have not mandated outdoor learning, though some are encouraging teachers to take their students outside when practical.
- [The Quebec government is allowed to require in-class attendance after the Province's Superior Court denied a safeguard order](#) to a group of parents demanding wider access to online learning during the COVID-19 health crisis. On 08 September 2020, Justice issued his ruling affirming that the evidence presented by the plaintiffs did not justify emergency intervention until a full legal challenge can be heard. The safeguard order would have provided parents access to remote courses for their children immediately.

- On 08 September 2020, [Nova Scotia announced that with new cases of COVID-19 remaining low in the Province, it would further ease restrictions in long-term care homes and allow designated caregivers to help care for and support residents](#). The Province implemented the following changes to be enforced by long-term care facilities: work with residents and families to identify up to two designated caregivers per resident; only one designated caregiver may visit at a time; train caregivers on public health requirements, including masking, good hand and respiratory hygiene, and facility procedures; provide medical masks for caregivers to wear while with residents; and establish processes to screen caregivers upon entry and to easily identify caregivers onsite.
- [At least seven schools in southern Alberta have reported positive cases of COVID-19 since students returned last week](#), including a few schools in Calgary. In a Facebook post, local teachers have expressed their concerns, and declared that they are exhausted, devastated and sad at how the situation has unfolded. Other schools with confirmed COVID-19 cases include Raymond High School, St. Mary's in Fort Vermillion, and Lawrence Grassi Middle School in Canmore.
- For the second time in nine days, [Winnipeg's Ikea store has closed for a deep cleaning after one of its employees tested positive for COVID-19](#). According to IKEA's website, the company has learned of the positive case on Labor Day and hopes for the worker full recovery promptly. In the meantime, the location at 500 Sterling Lyon Pkwy has been closed for disinfection. There are information on when the store expects to reopen, and so far, Public Health has not advised Manitobans of any potential exposure to the coronavirus at the store.

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

- In 08 September 2020, United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated [its Travel Guidance](#) during the COVID Pandemic, as well as [Travel Recommendations by Destination](#). In addition, CDC updated its [Travel during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) guidance. According to CDC, travel increases your chance of getting and spreading COVID-19. Staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others from COVID-19. Travelers can get COVID-19 during their travels. Persons may feel well and not have any symptoms, but they can still spread COVID-19 to others. Traveler and their travel companions (including [children](#)) may spread COVID-19 to other people including your family, friends, and community for 14 days after you were exposed to the virus. It is recommended not to travel if [you are sick](#) or [if you have been around someone with COVID-19 in the past 14 days](#). Do not travel with someone who is sick.
- In 08 September 2020, United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated its [Ongoing Mitigation Guidance](#) how to plan, prepare, and respond to COVID-19 in [Residents of shared or congregate housing](#).
- On 08 September 2020, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) published [Virtual Town Hall Series - Immediately in Effect Guidance on Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Diagnostic Tests](#) for the month of September. [The immediately in effect guidance "Policy for Coronavirus Disease-2019 Tests During the Public Health Emergency \(Revised\)"](#) includes policies specific to this public health emergency. This guidance was issued on 29 February 2020 and subsequently updated on March 16, 2020, May 4, 2020, and May 11, 2020.
- On 10 September 2020, [FDA Principal Deputy Commissioner](#) will discuss the potential for diverse, real-world data sources such as electronic health records, insurance claims, patient registries and lab results to further inform their COVID-19 pandemic response.
- [A group funded by the National Institutes of Health has released a series of emotional television ads asking Black people and Latinos to roll up their sleeves and become study participants in clinical trials for coronavirus vaccines](#). The new ads are scheduled to start airing on 08 September 2020, on major television networks as well as the BET network, the Oprah Winfrey Network, TV One, Telemundo, and Univision. The ads show Black and Latino people pointing to their upper arms, where an injection would be given, and then a nurse appears to roll down a Black man's sleeve after giving him a shot. The ad ends with the website, preventCOVID.org, where people can sign up to join a trial. The ads were developed by the COVID-19 Prevention Network, which is based at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, and two advertising agencies, Socialissima and Sam Bonds Creative.

[WHO - Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) Weekly Epidemiological Update – 07 September 2020 \(Official\)](#)

WHO has published [guidance on the use of corticosteroids in the treatment of patients with COVID-19](#). Based on current evidence, two recommendations are made: a strong recommendation for systemic corticosteroid therapy for 7 to 10 days in patients with severe and critical COVID-19, and a conditional recommendation not to use corticosteroid therapy in patients with nonsevere COVID-19. WHO has also published [guidance for individuals who tend to the bodies of persons who have died of suspected or confirmed COVID-19](#). The document updates guidance issued on 24 March with the following new or modified content: clarification of body bag requirements; clarification of personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements during autopsies; updated ventilation requirements during autopsy. [At the first meeting of the Technical Advisory Group on Behavioural Insights and Sciences for Health](#), WHO's General-Director noted that "the COVID-19 pandemic has taught the world that public health agencies and experts need a better understanding of how people and societies behave and make decisions in relation to their health". The group brings together some 21 advisors representing a variety of countries and expertise in related disciplines. Many parents, educators and children themselves have concerns and anxieties about going to school during these times. [WHO/Europe and the Ministry of Health, Italy](#).

[have released a joint statement on schooling during the COVID-19 pandemic](#) discussing some of the measures that can be considered for risk reduction in school settings. These include: protective measures, such as masks, hand hygiene, and social distancing; specific policies for at-risk children; and online learning. While the race to find safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines continues, African countries are signing up to a ground-breaking initiative, which aims to secure at least 220 million doses of vaccine for the continent, once licensed and approved. [All 54 countries on the continent have expressed interest in COVAX, a global initiative](#) that is co-led by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (Gavi) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The European Commission has joined the COVAX Facility, and WHO's General-Director thanked the Commission for its contribution of 400 million euros. WHO has launched an appeal for at least US\$76 million to support Lebanon in the wake of the blasts four weeks ago, which left more than 6,500 people injured, 300,000 people homeless, and severely damaged critical health infrastructure and medical supplies. Any individual or organization can contribute through [the WHO Foundation](#).

[WHO - Weekly Operational Update on COVID-19 – 04 September 2020 \(Official\)](#)

The weekly report presented the following contents: PAHO Strategic Fund minimizes disruption of critical medications and supplies during COVID-19; From the field: Disruptions to essential health services during COVID-19 pandemic; The Global Health Cluster – GHC; The Emergency Medical Teams – EM; COVID-19 Partners Platform; Operations Support and Logistics; COVID-19 Preparedness; Health Learning; Appeals; COVID-19 Global Preparedness and Response Summary Indicators; The Unity Studies: WHO Early Investigations Protocols; and Key links / useful resources.

[WHO - Coronavirus: WHO official says back-to-school COVID-19 measures must be clear to avoid stigma on children \(Media\)](#)

On 7 September 2020, the World Health Organization's Emergencies Programme Director stated that information surrounding back-to-school COVID-19 measures needs to be clear for parents and children so they can understand what happens should a child get sick. This information is important not just for health, but also to avoid stigma that parents and children may be concerned about if a child is diagnosed, because anyone can get the coronavirus and it is not the fault of the child.

[PAHO - New tool seeks to measure the maturity level of health institutions to offer telemedicine in times of COVID-19 \(Official\)](#)

In order to help interested health institutions assess their maturity level before implementing telemedicine services, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) created a tool they made available in Latin America and the Caribbean, in collaboration with other institutions and experts in the region and Spain. The tool characterizes from 1 to 4 the maturity level of institutions to introduce medical care at a distance. Level 1 is meant when there is no telemedicine initiative and level 4 is when everything is ready to operate with full capacity in telemedicine services. In between these extremes are levels 2 (when there is progress, but the institution is still far from being able to implement services), and 3 (when good progress exists, and some telemedicine services could begin to be implemented). In addition, the tool facilitates the identification of potential gaps or areas that require attention and technical support from experts, and presents an opportunity for those institutions wishing to self-assess to redefine priorities in the face of the pandemic.

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

- On 07 September 2020, [the French Health Ministry reported that the number of new COVID-19 cases had risen by 4,203 compared with the previous day to reach a total of 328,980](#). The number of confirmed cases of coronavirus and deaths in France continued to climb, as the country battles to contain a likely second wave of the virus. The number of deaths also rose by 25 over the past 24 hours to 30,726. France has the seventh-highest COVID-19 death toll in the world, and authorities are scrutinising the data to see what further measures might be needed to help the country cope with an expected second wave of the virus this winter.
- On 08 September 2020, and according to South Korea's health authorities, [it was raised a concern over the credibility of China's claim of no local infection cases for more than three weeks](#). The Korean authorities described how five passengers from China arriving in South Korea have been tested positive for coronavirus since 16 August 2020. Among the five people, two were South Korean nationals and three were Chinese nationals. All of them showed no symptoms. This claim came as China has announced that there have been no new locally transmitted cases of coronavirus since 16 August.
- [On 08 September 2020, Dutch health authorities](#) indicated that that the number of new coronavirus infections in the Netherlands jumped 51% last week to their highest level since the end of April. Coronavirus cases in the Netherlands had been stable at about 3,500 per week in recent weeks, after the easing of lockdown measures in July was followed by a steady rise to over 4,000 in early August.
- [On 08 September 2020, India reported 1,133 deaths from the coronavirus in the last 24 hours, its highest single-day total](#). The Health Ministry also reported 75,809 new cases, raising India's tally to nearly 4.3 million, second only to the United States and maintaining an upward surge amid an ease in nationwide restrictions to help

mitigate the economic pain. India has been reporting the highest single-day caseload in the world for more than a month.

- On 08 September 2020, [nine leading U.S. and European vaccine developers pledged to uphold the scientific standards their experimental immunizations will be held against in the global race to contain the coronavirus pandemic](#). The companies, including Pfizer, GlaxoSmithKline and AstraZeneca, issued what they called a “historic pledge” after a rise in concern that safety and efficacy standards might slip in the rush to find a vaccine. According to the joint statement, the companies would “uphold the integrity of the scientific process as they work toward potential global regulatory filings and approvals of the first COVID-19 vaccines”. The other signatories were Johnson & Johnson, Merck & Co, Moderna, Novavax, Sanofi and BioNTech.
- As of 07 September 2020, [China halted imports from 56 cold-chain food manufacturers in 19 countries due to potential risks of COVID-19 infections](#). The General Administration of Customs declared on 08 September that the suspension was issued to foreign producers who had reported confirmed cases in their employees, and 47 of them have voluntarily suspended shipments to China.

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

- [According to a collaborative study by Canadian Blood Services and Canada's COVID-19 Immunity Task Force \(CITF\)](#), less than one per cent of Canadian blood donors have tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 antibodies, which are present in those who have had coronavirus, suggesting there has been low exposure to the virus. Co-chair of CITF has acknowledged that the results of their study could underestimate the true seroprevalence in the population because antibodies rapidly decline and may have disappeared by the time of testing in some cases, and because blood donors tend to be healthier than the general population. Nonetheless, these results once again tell experts how few Canadians were infected by SARS-CoV-2 by the end of May. This shows that when all actors, especially individual citizens, follow good public health practices, the risk of infection diminishes considerably.
- On 08 September 2020, it was announced that [a large Phase 3 study on the effects of the AstraZeneca and Oxford University Covid-19 vaccine on humans](#) has been put on hold after a participant in a UK study reportedly suffered "a serious adverse reaction.
- On 08 September 2020, [the Vector virology institute of Siberia announced the complete early-stage human trials, known as Phase II, of a second potential Russian vaccine against COVID-19](#). Human trials of the second potential COVID-19 vaccine, a peptide-based jab, began on 27 July 2020 and involved a group of 100 volunteers. Late-stage trials of this vaccine, due to involve 40,000 participants, were launched last week of August 2020.
- According to the researchers at the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), [stool tests may be more effective than respiratory tests in identifying COVID-19 infections in children and infants since they carry a higher viral load in their stool than adults](#). Stool samples carry the virus even after it has cleared from a patient’s respiratory tract and that could lead to better identification of asymptomatic cases, particularly in infants and others who have difficulty providing nasal or throat swabs. The potential for stool testing in young people was a conclusion reached after researchers from CUHK’s Faculty of Medicine carried out stool tests on more than 2,000 asymptomatic children and others who needed such tests who arrived at Hong Kong Airport from 29 March 2020. As of 31 August 2020, of samples collected, six children were confirmed with a COVID-19 infection. The Hong Kong researchers stated that the viral load in the stool of infants and children was many times higher than that in adults, and could be equivalent to that of adult respiratory samples.
- [Chinese firm Sinovac Biotech Ltd declared on 07 September 2020 that its coronavirus vaccine candidate appeared to be safe for older people, according to preliminary results from an early to mid-stage trial](#), while the immune responses triggered by the vaccine were slightly weaker than younger adults. According to Sinovac’s Media Representative, Sinovac’s candidate CoronaVac did not cause severe side effects in a combined Phase 1 and Phase 2 trials launched in May involving 421 participants aged at least 60. The complete results have not been published
- On 08 September 2020, [the Chief Legal Adviser of China National Biotech Group \(CNBG\), that is a subsidiary of China National Pharmaceutical Group Corporation announced that the candidate vaccines, that are already approved for emergency use and are undergoing phase three clinical trials, have proved to be safe](#), and able to cause production of antibodies in all volunteers that are effective enough to protect them from the novel coronavirus, 28 days after they received a second dose. According to the Spokesperson of CNBG in mid-July, data from an experiment by the company showed the two candidate vaccines are also effective against new strains of the virus, including the strain that caused the outbreak at Xinfadi wholesale food market in Beijing in June, and those identified in Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States.
- [A new National Institutes of Health \(NIH\)-funded study on the effects of just one super spreader event in the Boston area was presented on an International Biotech Conference held in February 2020, where almost a hundred people were infected, but the contagious reach it did not end there](#). In the study, the researchers sequenced close to 800 viral genomes, including cases from across the first wave of the epidemic in the Boston area. Using the fact that the viral genome changes in very subtle ways over time, the researchers found that

SARS-CoV-2 was actually introduced independently to the region more than 80 times, primarily from Europe and other parts of the United States. However, the data also suggest that a single superspreading event at the Biotech Conference led to the infection of almost 20,000 people in the area, not to mention additional COVID-19 cases in other states and around the world. When it comes to COVID-19, anyone, even without symptoms, can be a super spreader capable of unknowingly infecting a large number of people and causing a community outbreak. That is why it is so important right now to wear masks when out in public and avoid large gatherings.

- A new study published in [*the Journal of the American Society of Nephrology*](#) shows that 46% of hospitalized adults with severe COVID-19 suffer from acute kidney injury (AKI), and AKI was associated with a 50% mortality rate. The study was based on 3,993 hospitalized patients with COVID-19 admitted to the Mount Sinai Health System in New York City from Feb 27 to May 30. Of those patients, 1,835 (46%) had AKI, and 347 (19%) of the patients with AKI required dialysis. According to the authors, in-hospital mortality was 50% among patients with AKI, versus 8% among those without AKI (adjusted odds ratio, 9.2; 95% confidence interval, 7.5 to 11.3). Risk factors associated with developing AKI include older age, being a man, and having chronic kidney disease, hypertension, congestive heart failure, or diabetes. According to the authors, this study is the first study in the United States to report the persistence of kidney dysfunction in survivors of COVID-19–associated AKI. The researchers conclude that given the high incidence of AKI and lack of full recovery at and after discharge, identification of potential mechanisms of COVID-19–related AKI would allow for potential interventions to reduce this devastating complication.

Domestic Events of Interest

Nil

International Events of Interest

[WHO – Weekly Bulletin on Outbreaks and Other Emergencies \(Official\)](#)

WHO published its Weekly Bulletin for a period of 31 August – 6 September focused on public health emergencies in the WHO African Region. **In Sudan**, a chikungunya outbreak in the City of Abeche that began in April has sickened 10,631 people as of the end of August. No deaths have been reported, and the most affected group are those older than 15 years, with illnesses more common in females than in males. According to WHO, the outbreak's rapid growth is a sign of a heavy vector load in an area that has challenges with sanitation. The Health Ministry has deployed an expert mission, and a response plan is being finalized. In addition, two more Ebola cases were confirmed in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)** Equateur province outbreak, raising the total to 112. One more death was recorded, lifting the fatality count to 48. The WHO's African regional office noted that the developments are worrisome, given the continued increase in cases with spread to new health areas and health zones.

[United States - Colorado reports 2nd human plague case of 2020 \(Media\)](#)

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment is reporting the second case of human plague in the state this summer. The case, reported to the department on 03 September, is a resident from a rural county in Colorado. The first case was diagnosed earlier this summer in a resident from southwest Colorado. The cases are unrelated. Both cases had exposure to sick animals (a squirrel and a cat). Neither case is suspected of having spread the infection to other people or animals. These are the first cases of human plague reported in the state since 2015. In the past 10 years, there have been 14 cases of human plague in Colorado.

[Mongolia - Mongolia reported its third case of plague death \(Media\)](#)

On 08 September 2020, the Zabhan Provincial Government Office reported a fatal case of plague in a 38-year-old resident of Tosunchengrad County, after eating dry meat, presenting high fever and gland swelling symptoms. According to the Director of the Zabhan provincial branch of Mongolia's National Research Center for Zoonotic Diseases, 25 people who had been in close contact with patients were in good health and the laboratory test results were negative.

[Sri Lanka and WHO have created an online portal to train and mentor health workers on the noncommunicable disease frontline reaching one institute in every province across Sri Lanka \(Official\)](#)

Around 120,000 people die prematurely from noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) in Sri Lanka. Despite its robust health system, gaps exist in the training and mentoring of health professionals to address NCDs in their services, resulting in avoidable diseases, poorer care and worse health outcomes for patients. Recognising that tackling these gaps could improve patient care, and responding to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, Sri Lanka has established a new virtual hub and spoke training module to reach health care professionals working on NCDs. This project to train and mentor staff working in primary care to screen, diagnose, treat and refer for NCDs is one such extremely important partnership. WHO and Sri Lanka are using technology to train and mentor staff on the NCD frontline despite the availability of free health care to all, around 40% of people living with common NCDs in Sri Lanka are currently not diagnosed or treated.

Researches, Policies and Guidelines

[WHO - Health priorities for the European Region and COVID-19 in focus at WHO annual meeting \(Official\)](#)

On 14–15 September 2020, health ministers and high-level representatives of the 53 Member States of the WHO European Region, along with partner organizations and civil society, will meet virtually for the 70th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe (RC70), the Region's annual decision-making meeting. A new vision for health in Europe on the agenda on this year's session. This is the first Regional Committee under the new WHO Regional Director for Europe. The EPW sets down how WHO/Europe will help countries individually and collectively across the Region to meet citizens' expectations for health. This work is built around three core regional priorities that together contribute to WHO's global programme: guaranteeing the right to universal access to quality care without fear of financial hardship; protecting against health emergencies; and building healthy communities, where public health actions and appropriate public policies secure a better life in an economy of well-being.

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

Global Public Health Intelligence Network | Health Security Infrastructure Branch
Public Health Agency of Canada, Government of Canada

phac.gphin-rmisp.aspc@canada.ca

Réseau mondial d'information en santé publique | Direction Générale de l'infrastructure de sécurité sanitaire
Agence de la santé publique du Canada, Gouvernement du Canada

phac.gphin-rmisp.aspc@canada.ca