

Exton, Adam (HC/SC)

From: Romanova, Svetlana (PHAC/ASPC) on behalf of gphin / rmisp (PHAC/ASPC)
Sent: 2020-08-27 8:26 AM
To: gphin / rmisp (PHAC/ASPC)
Subject: GPHIN Daily Report (27 August 2020)
Attachments: GPHIN Daily Report 20200827 SR1.docx

Good morning,

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

GPHIN Daily Report Email Summary

Special Section on Coronavirus

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

As of 26 August 2020 at 19:00 EDT, a total of 126,417 cases have been recorded in Canada including 9,094 deaths. The cases are reported in Newfoundland and Labrador (268 confirmed cases, 3 deaths), Prince Edward Island (44 confirmed cases), Nova Scotia (1,081 confirmed cases, 65 deaths), New Brunswick (190 confirmed cases, 2 deaths), Quebec (61,945 confirmed cases, 5,747 deaths), Ontario (41,695 confirmed cases, 2,802 deaths), Manitoba (1,043 confirmed cases, 13 deaths), Saskatchewan (1,604 confirmed cases, 24 deaths), Alberta (13,210 confirmed cases, 235 deaths), British Columbia (5,304 confirmed cases, 203 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 27 August 2020, 11:28 GMT, there were 24,365,479 cases of COVID-19 and 830,368 deaths reported globally. Top 10 countries with the highest number of cases, by alphabetical order are: Brazil (3,722,004 cases, 117,756 deaths); Chile (402,365 cases, 10,990 deaths); Colombia (572,270 cases, 18,184 deaths); India (3,315,017 cases, 60,652 deaths); Mexico (573,888 cases, 62,076 deaths); Peru (613,378 cases, 28,124 deaths); Russia (975,576 cases, 16,804 deaths); South Africa (615,701 cases, 13,502 deaths); Spain (426,818 cases, 28,971 deaths); United States (6,001,103 cases, 183,677 deaths).

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

- On 26 August 2020, Canada's Chief Public Health Officer (CPHO) in lieu of an in-person update to the media issued a [statement](#). There have been 125,969 cases of COVID-19 in Canada, including 9,090 deaths. 89% of people have now recovered. Labs across Canada tested an average of almost 48,000 people daily over the past week with 0.7% testing positive. Currently, Canada is testing more than 140 people for every positive case. An average of 400 new cases have been reported daily during the most recent seven days. In many regions of the country, the COVID-19 pandemic is contributing to an increase in drug-related overdoses and deaths. There are indications that the street drug supply is growing more unpredictable and toxic in some parts of the country, as previous supply chains have been disrupted by travel restrictions and border measures. Public health measures designed to reduce the impact of COVID-19 may increase isolation, stress and anxiety as well as put a strain on the supports for persons who use drugs. For the third consecutive month in 2020, the number of drug overdose deaths recorded in British Columbia has exceeded 170. These deaths represent a 136% increase over the number of deaths recorded in July 2019.
- On 25 August 2020, [The Prime Minister of Canada and the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs held the seventeenth call with Canada's provincial and territorial premiers to discuss their shared response to the COVID-19 pandemic](#). The federal, provincial, and territorial collaboration that led to the Safe Restart Agreement, First Ministers discussed provincial and territorial efforts to re-open schools for the fall 2020. The assistants reaffirmed the need to ensure a safe and secure return to class for students and staff, and to minimize future surges in cases of COVID-19.
- On 26 August 2020, [The Prime Minister of Canada, announced that the Government is working to support provinces and territories in their efforts to ensure a safe return to school and protect the health of students and](#)

[staff](#). In addition, the PM announced an additional \$112 million in funding for First Nations to support community measures to ensure a safe return to school on reserves.

- Vancouver Coastal Health says patrons who visited a local karaoke restaurant and bar recently could be at risk for potential coronavirus exposure. [The health authority issued a public exposure notification on 25 August 2020 about Privé Kitchen + Bar, a food and entertainment venue in Fairview featuring karaoke rooms and a large outdoor patio](#). The potential exposure dates were August 3, 6, 7, 8, 15, 16, and 17. The warning applies to the entire time Privé was open on those days.
- The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit is concerned with what it calls a troubling trend. [According to the Medical Officer of Health, the most significant driver for that would be people socializing, among family members, larger groups, potentially beyond their social circle of 10 people](#). In the past month, COVID-19 cases had been on a downward trend, but now it is on the rise. An outbreak was also declared at Mill Creek Care Centre in Barrie, where a staff member tested positive for the virus. Residents at the long-term care home on Hurst Drive are now undergoing testing.
- In a media release, [a security guard working at one of Nunavut's isolation facilities in Ottawa has tested positive for COVID-19](#). The Government of Nunavut said Ottawa Public Health (OPH) has confirmed an isolation site staff member at the Residence Inn on Walkley Road has tested positive for COVID-19. According to the Nunavut's Chief Public Health Officer, public health authorities are currently establishing what risk, if any, there is to Nunavummiut and will begin contact tracing in territory if necessary.
- On 26 August 2020, the [Government of Canada is set to provide the support for a safe return to First Nations schools on reserves](#). Indigenous Services Canada continues to work with Indigenous partners to address the challenges related to the reopening of schools and the increased pressures being faced. Minister announced \$112 million to support a safe return to elementary and secondary schools on reserves. The investment will provide funding to meet the needs of schools and students, including, for example, for salaries for teachers, custodians and bus drivers, access to technology, purchase of e-learning software, and the development of take-home learning materials.
- On 26 August 2020, [Chinese vaccine maker's coronavirus program with Canada ends](#). Canada's National Research Council (NRC) said that it has ended its partnership for a coronavirus vaccine with CanSino Biologics, saying the Chinese company lacks the authority to ship the vaccine at this time. CanSino in May had agreed to bring its vaccine candidate to Canada for testing through a partnership with the National Research Council (NRC). Because of the delay, NRC has since moved on to focus our team and facilities on other partners.

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

- [The Department of Health and Human Services \(HHS\) has announced the release of 1.5 million N95 respirators from the Strategic National Stockpile \(SNS\) for distribution to approximately 3,336 nursing home facilities across the United States](#). Beginning 28 August 2020, the Defense Logistics Agency will direct shipments of N95 respirators to select nursing homes that recently reported having enough supplies for only zero to three days of operations. These respirators are meant to supplement existing supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE) and will provide a seven-day supply for each nursing home to support an entire shift before discarding used products.
- On 26 August 2020, CDC release [Statement on "Preventing and Mitigating SARS-CoV-2 Transmission — Four Overnight Camps, Maine, June–August 2020"](#). Using a combination of proven public health strategies to slow the spread of COVID-19, campers and staff were able to enjoy a traditional summer pastime amid a global pandemic. As communities work together to get us back to where we used to be, it is essential that everyone – for their own good and that of their family's – follow CDC and the federal government's recommendations to protect against COVID-19.
- On 26 August 2020, [FDA authorizes first diagnostic test where results can be read directly from testing card](#). This new COVID-19 antigen test is an important addition to available tests because the results can be read in minutes, right off the testing card. The emergency use authorization was issued to Abbott Diagnostics Scarborough, Inc for its BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card. [The 15-minute test from Abbott Laboratories will sell for \\$5](#), giving it a competitive edge over similar tests that need to be popped into a small machine. The size of a credit card, the self-contained test is based on the same technology used to test for the flu, strep throat and other infections. According to the test manufacturer, it plans to make up to 50 million tests available monthly in the U.S. at the beginning of October 2020.

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

- On 26 August 2020, [Belgium COVID-19 death toll was about to pass the milestone of 10,000 fatalities](#). Health authorities have reviewed figures from care homes in the northern region of Flanders and found some COVID-19 deaths not reported as such, some recorded twice and some not caused by the coronavirus. The net effect is a reduction of 121. The revision brought the total fatalities to 9,878. Belgium's COVID-19 deaths per capita are

among the highest in the world and it reports a higher proportion of fatalities in care homes than other countries, including when the disease is suspected but not confirmed.

- European Union nations, Britain and EU partners have agreed on a blueprint for a COVID-19 vaccination plan envisaging inoculation of at least 40% of their populations, a step that may set back the World Health Organisation's own vaccine blueprint. [The EU target for early vaccinations is twice as high as the goal set by the WHO, which is aiming to buy vaccines initially for 20% of the world's most vulnerable people through a global procurement scheme](#). The EU estimates that the share of its population in need of initial vaccination, should a shot be developed, would be at least 40%, effectively reducing the availability of possible doses for less developed countries. There is so far no approved COVID-19 vaccine, except one authorized in Russia before large-scale trials. The supply of the vaccines that might be successful is expected to be limited for a long period as production capacities are limited.
- On 26 August 2020, [Libya's National Center for Disease Control announced it had found 553 new coronavirus cases, the highest daily infection rate so far](#). The total count of cases in Libya reached 11,834, including 210 deaths and 1,152 recoveries. In a statement, the center reported 7 deaths and 40 recoveries in the last 24 hours.
- The fears are mounting for the safety of people with health issues as already-strained hospitals are largely without power and the [Palestinian territory faces a coronavirus outbreak](#). Two million residents are surviving on only four hours of electricity a day after Israel cut off the fuel supply, leading to the shut down of Gaza's sole power plant. On 24 August 2020, a total lockdown was imposed on Gaza Strip after authorities confirmed the first coronavirus infections.
- On 26 August 2020, [Lebanon could 'lose control' of coronavirus outbreak](#). Prime Minister said that Lebanon was at risk of losing control over the coronavirus outbreak after a rise in the number of cases following the explosion in Beirut on Aug 4. Cases doubled in the two weeks following the blast as infections spread in hospitals where victims were being treated, medics say.
- On 25 August, [Sweden's Public Health Agency indicated that it has found thousands of false positive coronavirus test results from Chinese-made tests kits](#). In a statement, the agency said that the PCR kits, which test for coronavirus infection, were made in China by BGI Genomics and that the errors were discovered during routine quality control checks in two laboratories. The tests were unable to distinguish the difference between very low levels of virus infection and a negative result. According to the agency, the tests were used to conduct at-home tests between March and August. Approximately 3,700 residents received false positive results, the agency said.
- On 26 August 2020, [Brazil asks China for proof chicken wings had coronavirus](#). Brazil has asked Chinese authorities to provide results of laboratory tests that detected traces of the novel coronavirus on chicken wings exported by the South American country, according to a statement sent to Reuters by Brazil's Agriculture Ministry. The request was made during a meeting in the city of Shenzhen, in Guangdong province, where Brazilian agriculture attachés met local health and trade officials on Tuesday, the statement said.

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

- On 26 August 2020, [the Phase II clinical trial of the Oxford COVID-19 vaccine](#), being manufactured by the city-based Serum Institute of India (SII), began at a medical college and hospital. Before administering the vaccine, doctors checked the volunteers' temperature, blood pressure and heart beats. The COVID-19 and antibodies tests were conducted on all the five volunteers. Of them, the reports of three volunteers' antibodies test came out positive. So they became ineligible for the trial. The two other volunteers, who were administered the vaccines are being monitored. Twenty-five candidates will given the vaccine in the next seven days. SII, the world's largest vaccine maker, has signed an agreement to manufacture the potential vaccine developed by the Jenner Institute of Oxford University in collaboration with British-Swedish pharma company AstraZeneca.
- According to researchers, [COVID-19 survivors might require a lung transplant in the future](#). Although doctors are currently uncertain about the long-term effects of COVID-19 on the lungs of those who get the disease, they do know that patients who recover from an episode of severe acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), a secondary condition that can be caused by infections like COVID-19, may not recover their full lung capacity. There are rare cases of patients who develop severe ARDS, experience respiratory failure and are not able to come off a ventilator. In those situations, experts say they would consider a lung transplant if the patient is otherwise reasonably healthy.
- Nonpharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) have been shown to decrease spread of communicable disease. Data on the effectiveness of NPIs on the prevention and mitigation of SARS-CoV-2 transmission among children and adolescents in congregate settings are limited. According to a research posted on 26 August 2020, in the [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#), during the 2020 summer camp season, four Maine overnight camps with 1,022 attendees from 41 states and international locations implemented a multilayered prevention and mitigation strategy that was successful in identifying and isolating three asymptomatic COVID-19 cases and preventing secondary transmission. The study shows that no cohort members received a positive test result, and all were released from quarantine on day 8 after the asymptomatic camper's positive test result. No secondary transmission was identified. Understanding successful interventions to prevent and mitigate SARS-CoV-2

transmission in overnight camps has important implications for similar congregate settings such as day camps and schools with the same age range.

- A study published in the [American Journal of Preventive Medicine](#), headed by the City University of New York (CUNY) Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy, found [that if 75 percent of the population got the vaccine, 80 percent effectiveness would stop an ongoing epidemic](#). According to the media, the Director of the Science and Technology Development Center of the National Health Commission stated that China's laws clearly say that during a public health emergency, the country can authorize the emergency use of vaccines. By simulating different vaccine scenarios in a population, the researchers from the U.S. looked at how effective a vaccine would need to be if it were to stop the pandemic alone. Scientists were hoping for efficiency of around 75 percent, but added 50 to 60 percent would also be acceptable. An effectiveness of around 50 percent would put a coronavirus vaccine in line with seasonal flu shots.
- A study published in [bioRxiv](#), led by [Bioinformatics and Systems Biology at Illinois tracked the mutation rate in the virus's proteome](#). The collection of proteins encoded by genetic material through time, starting with the first SARS-CoV-2 genome published in January 2020 and ending more than 15,300 genomes later in May 2020. The study found that the virus is changing and varying, but keeping its structure. Within the spike, the researchers found that an amino acid at site 614 was replaced with another (aspartic acid to glycine), a mutation that took over the entire virus population during March and April 2020.
- On 31 August 2020, [the University of Illinois at Chicago \(UIC\) will begin clinical trials that will enroll up to 1,000 people to test the effectiveness of a COVID-19 vaccine](#), which was developed by Massachusetts-based biotech company Moderna. Participants will be randomly assigned to groups that will receive shots of the vaccine or a placebo, and the injections will be administered in two doses over the course of four weeks. The study is using three sites, two at UIC and one at the University of Chicago, and eventually will administer shots to between 20 and 40 people per day.
- Researchers unravel two mysteries of COVID-19, [evidence for predicting how severe a patient's illness will become and why patients develop life-threatening blood clots](#). In one study, the team has identified six molecules that can be used as biomarkers to predict how severely ill a patient will become. In the other study, they are the first to reveal a new mechanism causing blood clots in COVID-19 patients and potential ways to treat them. The studies were conducted by analyzing blood samples from critically ill patients at London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC). They build on a growing body of work from the team who were first in the world to profile the body's immune response to the virus by revealing a separate six molecules that could act as potential targets to treat hyperinflammation in critically ill patients.
- [A Seattle fishing expedition may have inadvertently proven the power of COVID-19 antibodies after the virus swept through the ship](#). According to retrospective analysis published in the [Journal of Clinical Microbiology](#) on 26 August 2020, more than 85% of its 122-person crew tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 after an 18-day expedition from Seattle in May. But three people -- each of whom showed evidence of neutralizing antibodies to COVID-19 prior to departure -- stayed healthy before and after the trip. Most of the crew had been tested for the virus before boarding.

WHO- WHO/Europe to establish a mental health coalition to support system reforms and COVID-19 recovery (Official)

The week of 24 August 2020 marks the launch of one of WHO/Europe's new flagship initiatives: mental health. Mental health is a key public health concern in the WHO European Region – over 110 million people are living with some kind of mental health condition, accounting for over 10% of the population. The 4 new flagships – mental health, digital health and innovation, behavioural and cultural insights, and immunization – represent identified priorities for WHO/Europe in the coming 5 years. The mental health flagship will bring together a broad coalition of mental health leaders, champions, service users and other partners to improve mental health policies and practices across the Region. Mental health has been an essential programme within WHO's agenda since its founding in 1948. But in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, a renewed focus on mental health is particularly important. Apart from the fear and uncertainty regarding infection itself, measures brought in to contain the spread of the virus, such as quarantine and lockdown, have been psychologically challenging. These compound social isolation for many and add to existing anxieties and stresses. Reform and development of the mental health system is an area of work for which many countries across the Region have been requesting help. WHO has responded with guidance, capacity-building and technical support.

Domestic Events of Interest

NIL

International Events of Interest

United States- First Prophylactic Gonorrhea Vaccine Developed (Media)

Intravacc, a global leader in translational research and development of viral and bacterial vaccines, has partnered with American, Buffalo, NY, based Therapyx, to further develop and optimize the world's first prophylactic vaccine against

gonorrhea, NGoXIM. Vaccination with the candidate vaccine inducing a potent and lasting antibacterial activity in primates, not only shows the proof-of-principle for NGoXIM, but also the potency of the mucosal vaccine platform in general. This rapidly adaptable platform for the engineering and development of mucosal vaccines has enormous potential for challenging respiratory viral infections, including influenza and COVID-19, among others.

Researches, Policies and Guidelines

[Austria- BM32 vaccine against grass pollen allergy could be potential treatment for hepatitis B infection \(Media\)](#)

A team of researchers from MedUni Vienna's Center for Pathophysiology, Infectiology and Immunology has now demonstrated that a protein contained in the BM32 vaccine against grass pollen allergy induces antibodies that prevent the hepatitis B virus from docking onto liver cells. The study has been published in the Lancet EBioMedicine journal.

[New Zealand- World-first study on blood hormone could reduce cardiovascular deaths \(Media\)](#)

Researchers from the University's Christchurch Heart Institute studied the blood samples and cardiology scans of 665 healthy young and middle-aged people with no previous heart conditions. They found people with high levels of a hormone in the blood, called C-type Natriuretic Peptide (CNP), were significantly more likely to have stiffening of the arteries, reduced pumping action of the heart, higher fat levels in the blood and liver, and reduced kidney function—all signs of increased risk of heart disease. The discovery could one day enable doctors to identify those people whose lives could be saved from a future heart attack by interventions such as drugs or lifestyle changes. The [study](#) is the first to describe a link between the blood hormone CNP and inflammation across a range of tissues including arteries and the heart.

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