

13 March 2020

Army Public Health Weekly Update

Army Public Health Center



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U.S. MILITARY

44 percent of service members have experienced suicidal ideation since joining

9 March- Among today's Iraq and Afghanistan War veterans, 44 percent have experienced suicidal ideation since joining the ranks — an amount that has continuously increased every year since 2014 for a total increase of 13 percent. Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) released those figures and others as part of their annual survey that provides updated information about suicide and mental health conditions among veterans of the Global War on Terror. "It was surprising," IAVA CEO Jeremy Butler said. "But also very telling about how little we as a country have done to get our hands around this issue." Of the 1,700 veterans who participated in the survey, 62 percent personally know a veteran who died by suicide. This is a 22 percent increase since 2014. Among the increases in percentages such as these, however, were what Butler referred to as "silver linings." For example, 96 percent of veterans are aware of the Veteran Crisis Line, and 61 percent of those who have contacted the VCL reported having excellent or good experiences. "We're talking about it," Butler said. "There's a real emphasis on making progress here. People are beginning to be more open and accepting of the fact this is not their fault. Depression, mental health, suicidal ideation — these are not reflective of any personal shortcomings." connectingvet.com

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Army signs agreement with drug giant Gilead on experimental COVID-19 treatment

11 March- U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command has signed an arrangement with Gilead Sciences to provide the company's investigational coronavirus drug to U.S. troops confirmed to have the COVID-19 virus. Gilead's medication, remdesivir, was approved for clinical research in February by the Food and Drug Administration. The medication, which initially was developed by the Foster City, California-based company to treat Ebola, has had some demonstrated success targeting coronaviruses, including Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, or MERS, and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, SARS. The medicine, given intravenously, is currently being tested for safety and effectiveness in two separate clinical trials in China and one by the National Institute of Allergy and Infection Diseases. In the U.S. study, the first volunteer was an evacuee from the Diamond Princess cruise ship hospitalized with the illness at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. Under the agreement between Gilead and U.S. Army Medical Materiel Development Activity, remdesivir will be provided to the Defense Department at no cost. "Together with our government and industry partners, we are progressing at almost revolutionary rates to deliver effective treatment and prevention products that will protect the citizens of the world and preserve the readiness and lethality of our service members," Army Brig. Gen. Michael Talley, commanding general of USAMRDC and Fort Detrick, Maryland, said in a

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**APHC COVID-19
Communication
Toolkit**

This page contain communication messages and materials that Leaders, Public Affairs Officers, and communication staffs can use and tailor for various groups during the spread of COVID-19. Share these messages and products throughout your installation and on your social media platforms to raise awareness of and knowledge about COVID-19.



statement Tuesday. [Military Times](#)

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Brain Injury Awareness Month raises awareness of TBI in the military

2 March- Traumatic brain injury remains a key health concern for the military. TBI ranges in severity from mild, moderate, severe and penetrating. Most traumatic brain injuries in the military are mild, otherwise known as concussion and most service members return to duty after recovering from their injuries, according to the Defense Health Agency's Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center. Together with other elements of the Military Health System, DVBIC will offer resources and tools to educate the military community about TBI during Brain Injury Awareness Month this March. [Health.mil](#)

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Commissaries support their military communities during coronavirus outbreak

9 March- FORT LEE, Va. – The Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) is working with the military communities most impacted by the coronavirus outbreak to increase shipments of high-demand items, particularly hand sanitizers and disinfectant wipes. DeCA is working with its industry partners daily to procure and prepare items for shipments to Japan, Korea, and Europe via air and sealift, said Rear Adm. (retired) Robert J. Bianchi, DOD special assistant for commissary operations. "In light of current events, we're diligently monitoring inventory levels at our central distribution centers (CDC) on a daily basis and working closely with senior leaders on the ground at each location to overcome any challenges that might impact the timely delivery of products to stores," Bianchi said. "Right now we're increasing deliveries to our commissaries in the Pacific and Europe to ensure product availability, and we will continue to fully maintain this level of support throughout the duration of the crisis wherever necessary. "Delays of shipboard supply containers prompted DeCA to increase air shipments of high-demand items to our overseas stores as needed, particularly products such as hand sanitizer, sanitizing wipes, toilet paper, disinfectants and other related items. In the Pacific theater alone, for example, the agency has airlifted multiple shipments of high-demand items to supplement the stock in its CDC that support commissaries in that geographic region. [DVIDS](#)

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Apple watch can soon detect your blood oxygen levels and irregular heartbeats- Here's how

9 March- According to a statement from 9to5mac, Apple is currently working on a new feature that your wristwatch can now detect blood oxygen levels. You will be able to receive notifications if your blood oxygen saturation falls to a particular threshold. These saturations the blood can also indicate a lot of health conditions with 95 to 100% for a healthy base. Anything that is below 80% could mean life-threatening respiratory or cardiac arrest. Having this with you every day is pretty much convenient. It can help you save money from expensive medical technology and lessen trips to the doctor. An upgrade on the ECG is also likely to come as well. It has been reported that Apple is removing a failed electro diagram function on the Apple Series 4 and 5 that has resulted in incomplete ECG readings with the heart rates at 100 and 120 beats per minute. Another update will be coming to watchOS to fix an issue wherein the fourth and fifth-gen models do not prompt alerts when detecting irregular heartbeat in some users. The company has stated that this bug issue only impacted those who are in Iceland. [Tech Times](#)

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Coronavirus: COVID-19 is now officially a pandemic, WHO says

11 March- The COVID-19 viral disease that has swept into at least 114 countries and killed more than 4,000 people is now officially a pandemic, the World Health Organization announced Wednesday. "This is the first pandemic caused by coronavirus," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus declared at a briefing in Geneva. It's the first time the WHO has called an outbreak a pandemic since the H1N1 "swine flu" in 2009. Even as he raised the health emergency to its highest level, Tedros said hope remains that COVID-19 can be curtailed. And he urged countries to take action now to stop the disease. "WHO has been in full response mode since we were notified of the first cases," Tedros said. "And we have called every day for countries to take urgent and aggressive action. We have rung the alarm bell loud and clear." [NPR](#)

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Coronavirus: What you need to know

5 March- Novel coronavirus, known as COVID-19, continues to spread worldwide. As COVID-19 spreads, so does information about the disease. If one surfs the Internet, everything from scientifically-proven medical information about the virus to debunked conspiracy theories can be found. More than 95,000 cases have been reported worldwide, and COVID-19 has killed more than 3,300 people, mostly in mainland China. The disease has spread wider in Washington state, where ten people have died. A 71-year-old-man in

The Surgeon General Weekly Read Book

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California with underlying health conditions passed away from the disease this week, bringing the nationwide death total to 11. Washington Gov. Jay Inslee declared a state of emergency on Feb. 29, a number of school districts have cancelled classes, and more than 50 people in a Seattle-area nursing facility are being tested for the virus. According to the Centers for Disease Control, there were 205 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the U.S. as of March 5. The disease has spread to 17 U.S. states. The Washington State Department of Health reported 70 cases in the state as of March 5. Among the information circulating online are lists of items people "should buy" -- surgical masks, exam gloves, gallons of disinfectant -- but epidemiologists and preventive medicine practitioners say that's not exactly the case. While there is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19 and no specific antiviral treatment for the disease, Lt. Gen. Ronald J. Place, director of the Defense Health Agency, stated in a March 5 email to the force that "Each of you can take actions to help respond to this emerging public health threat." Place's email also stated, "The CDC has produced more than 23 guidance documents on infection control, hospital preparedness assessments, personal protective equipment supply planning, and clinical evaluation and management." According to the CDC, symptoms of COVID-19 can include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. The CDC believes that symptoms of the disease may appear in as little as two days or up to 14 days after someone has been exposed. [Army.mil](#)

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EPA releases list of approved disinfectants to use against coronavirus

6 March- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released a list of disinfectants that are "qualified for use against SARS-CoV-2, the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19," a press release reads. As coronavirus continues to expand throughout the U.S., keeping your home and surfaces clean is as crucial in preventing its spread as washing your hands. "Using the correct disinfectant is an important part of preventing and reducing the spread of illnesses along with other critical aspects such as hand washing," said EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler. [Fox News](#)

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FDA warns companies selling products that claim to treat coronavirus disease

9 March- The U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) on Monday issued warning letters to seven companies for selling products that claim to prevent, treat or cure COVID-19 caused by the new coronavirus. The health agency said such products may cause consumers to delay or stop from reaching out for appropriate medical care, leading to serious and life-threatening harm. "There already is a high level of anxiety over the potential spread of coronavirus," said FTC Chairman Joe Simons. "What we don't need in this situation are companies preying on consumers by promoting products with fraudulent prevention and treatment claims. The FDA and FTC jointly issued

reut.rs/3cJliLO warning letters to Vital Silver, Quinessence Aromatherapy Ltd, Xephyr LLC doing business as N-Ergetics, GuruNanda LLC, Vivify Holistic Clinic, Herbal Amy LLC, and The Jim Bakker Show. The products cited in these letters are teas, essential oils, tinctures and colloidal silver. The FDA had previously warned that colloidal silver is not safe or effective for treating any disease or condition. None of the companies immediately responded to Reuters' request for comment. There are currently no vaccines or drugs approved to treat or prevent COVID-19, only investigational COVID-19 vaccines and treatments under development. The flu-like disease has infected more than 110,000 people in 105 countries and territories and 3,800 have died, the vast majority in mainland China, according to a Reuters tally. [Reuters](#)

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New CDC guidance says older adults should 'stay at home as much as possible' due to coronavirus

6 March- Amid a coronavirus outbreak in the United States, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is encouraging older people and people with severe chronic medical conditions to "stay at home as much as possible." This advice is on a CDC website that was posted Thursday, according to a CDC spokeswoman. Early data suggests older people are twice as likely to have serious illness from the novel coronavirus, according to the CDC. A Trump administration official tells CNN that the US Department of Health and Human Services "is in the process of doing targeted outreach to the elderly community and those that have serious underlying health conditions." The CDC guidance comes as two top infectious disease experts with ties to the federal government have advised people over 60 and those with underlying health problems to strongly consider avoiding activities that involve large crowds. [CNN](#)

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Only 63% of children meet recommended vaccination schedule

3 March- A new study found a large number of children were not 'on-schedule' to complete their initial vaccination schedule. Being from a low-income family, moving out of state and receiving vaccines from a public facility were linked to not following the recommended schedule. Published on February 21, 2020, this study reported most children's (63%) vaccination patterns were consistent with the recommended schedule, but 23 percent followed an alternate pattern, and about 15 percent were in the unknown category.

[Precision Vaccinations](#)

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Scarcity of health workers a new concern as self-quarantining spreads with virus

9 March- As the U.S. battles to limit the spread of the contagious new coronavirus, the number of health care workers ordered to self-quarantine because of potential exposure to an infected patient is rising at a rapid pace. In Vacaville, Calif., alone, one case — the first documented instance of community transmission in the U.S. — left more than 200 hospital workers under quarantine and unable to work for weeks. Across California, dozens more health care workers have been ordered home because of possible contagion in response to more than 80 confirmed cases as of Sunday morning. In Kirkland, Wash., more than a quarter of the city's fire department was quarantined after exposure to a handful of infected patients at the Life Care Center nursing home. With the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases growing by the day, a continued quarantine response of this magnitude would quickly leave the health care system short-staffed and overwhelmed. The situation has prompted debate in the health care community about just what standards medical facilities should use before ordering workers quarantined — and what safety protocols need to become commonplace in clinics and emergency rooms. [NPR](#)

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Some hospitals are close to running out of crucial masks for coronavirus

9 March- As hospitals around the country prepare for an influx of highly infectious coronavirus cases, their supplies of a crucial type of respirator mask are dwindling fast. "We're not willing to run out of N95 masks," Dr. Susan Ray, an infectious disease specialist at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, said in a phone interview, referring to the masks by their technical name. "That's not O.K. at my hospital." At some point she may have no choice. Grady executives said on Monday that the hospital had a little more than a month's supply of N95 masks; they did not immediately explain whether that estimate was based on normal levels of use or accounted for a possible spike in need. With global supplies already depleted from the outbreak in China and manufacturers facing an explosion of new orders as the virus spreads, some hospitals in the United States have been unable to get new shipments of N95 masks or even an estimate of when they might become available. [The New York Times](#)

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Telehealth shaping up for COVID-19

9 March- As COVID-19 coronavirus encroaches into communities across the U.S., cardiology's use of telemedicine could set a precedent for what specialties can do with the technology to both protect coronavirus-vulnerable patients and manage comorbidity that arises. "Self-quarantine and social distancing are important tools in managing disease transmission, especially among patients who are acutely vulnerable to the risk of infection,"

noted an American College of Cardiology (ACC) and American College of Physicians statement urging greater use of telehealth tools to combat community spread...But telemedicine could also help keep uninfected chronic cardiovascular disease patients out of the emergency department, Kovacs told MedPage Today. In heart failure, for instance, "symptoms may be indistinguishable, if they are short of breath, from infection with a respiratory virus," he said. "Being able to tell the difference and not having a patient who is having a heart failure exacerbation mixed in with patients in an emergency department being in close proximity to patients who are infected we think may be very important." With virtual visits and/or remotely collected data, he said, the care team could assess symptoms and help guide patients in deciding whether to "seek care in a place where they might be at higher risk or maybe there are some simple interventions, some simple medication adjustments that might be made over the telehealth conduit to fix the problem." [MedPage Today](#)

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INFLUENZA

AFHSB: DoD Seasonal Influenza Surveillance Summary

Week 09 (23 February 2020— 29 February 2020):

NORTHCOM- ILI activity remained high. Influenza A accounted for just over half of the positive specimens. Among subtyped influenza A specimens, A(H1N1) has predominated.

EUCOM- ILI activity increased to high. Among positive specimens, the majority continued to be influenza A.

INDOPACOM- ILI activity increased to high. The majority of positive specimens continued to be influenza A. Among subtyped influenza A specimens, the majority were A(H1N1).

SOUTHCOM- ILI activity remained minimal. The majority of specimens continued to be influenza A (not subtyped).

CENTCOM- ILI activity remained moderate. [DHA -Armed Forces Health Surveillance Branch](#)

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U.S. flu season beginning to ease, modelers say

9 March- While health officials in the United States wait to see just how bad a public health challenge COVID-19 will pose, they still have to deal with an all-too-familiar challenge: flu. It's been a bad flu season. Not the worst ever, but bad. "It started very early this year," says Emily Martin, associate professor of epidemiology at the University of Michigan School of Public Health. She works with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention collecting statistics about flu. This year's flu season started picking up steam around Thanksgiving. The CDC doesn't test everyone who has flu symptoms to be certain they really have flu, rather than some other viral infection. Still, the CDC estimates are reckoned to be pretty accurate, and they are updated regularly. "So far this season we've had between 30 and 40 million

illnesses in the United States," Martin says. [NPR](#)

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WHO: Influenza Update

02 March 2020 - Update number 362, based on data up to 16 February 2020:

- In the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere, respiratory illness indicators and influenza activity remained elevated overall.
- In North America, influenza activity remained elevated influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and B viruses co-circulating.
- In Europe, influenza activity continued to increase across the region but appeared to have peaked in some countries.
- In Central Asia, influenza activity decreased with detections of all seasonal influenza subtypes.
- In Northern Africa, influenza activity continued to increase in Algeria and Tunisia, with detections of influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and B viruses.
- In Western Asia, influenza activity remained elevated overall, though in some countries activity returned to low levels.
- In East Asia, influenza-like illness (ILI) and influenza activity appeared to decrease overall.
- In the Caribbean and Central American countries, influenza activity was low across reporting countries with some exceptions. In Mexico, influenza activity appeared to decrease, with influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses most frequently detected. In tropical South American countries, influenza activity remained low.
- In tropical Africa, influenza detections were low across reporting countries.
- In Southern Asia, influenza activity was low overall, though remained elevated in Afghanistan.
- In South East Asia, influenza activity continued to be reported in some countries.
- In the temperate zones of the southern hemisphere, influenza activity remained at inter-seasonal levels.
- Worldwide, seasonal influenza A viruses accounted for the majority of detections. [WHO](#)

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Fatalities reported in Listeria outbreak traced to imported mushrooms

10 March- Four people are dead and at least 36 people across 17 states have been sickened in a three-year Listeria outbreak linked to mushrooms imported from Korea. The virulent strain has hospitalized at least 30 of the patients. In the outbreak announcement today, the FDA reported that Sun Hong Foods Inc. has recalled all enoki mushrooms it imported from the Republic of Korea. The company reported the mushrooms were sent to distributors in five states, but the product was sent along to an unknown number of other states and retailers, according to the company's notice posted by the Food and Drug Administration. "The firm recalled product after the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development found that a sample of these mushrooms was positive for Listeria monocytogenes," according to the FDA's outbreak announcement this afternoon. "Additionally, the Listeria monocytogenes in the enoki mushrooms distributed by Sun Hong Foods Inc. was determined, by whole genome sequencing, to be a genetic match to the outbreak strain when tested by Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development." The FDA's public health officials are urging the certain people to avoid all enoki mushrooms from Korea, not just the product imported by Sun Hong Foods. "At this time, high risk groups, including the elderly, people with weakened immune systems or chronic diseases, pregnant women and their newborn babies, should not eat enoki mushrooms from Korea (Republic of Korea), even if they were not part of the Sun Hong Foods Inc. recall," according to the FDA's notice. "Consumers, restaurants, retailers, and high risk groups should discard and not eat, sell, or serve enoki mushrooms if they cannot tell where they came from." The specific Sun Hong Foods mushrooms subject to the recall were sold in 7.05-ounce/200-gram clear plastic packaging with a green label. Sun Hong Foods Inc. is printed on the back of the packaging underneath the bar code. These products can be identified by the UPC number 7 426852 625810. Enoki mushrooms are a long thin white mushroom, usually sold in clusters. They are especially popular in East Asian cuisine and are also known as enokitake, golden needle, futu, or lily mushrooms. New York has been hardest hit so far with 4 confirmed patients. Other states and the number of patients in them are: Arizona with 2, California with 9, Florida with 2, Hawaii with 3, Indiana with 1, Kentucky with 1, Massachusetts with 2, New Jersey with 1, Nevada with 1, Rhode Island with 1, Tennessee with 1), and Virginia with 3. Illness onset dates confirmed as of today range from Nov. 23, 2016 through Dec. 13, 2019. [Food Safety News](#)

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Vita Wild Herring in Wine Sauce recalled for undeclared milk

6 March- Vita Food Products of Chicago, Illinois is recalling up to 8,376 individual jars of Vita Wild Herring in Wine Sauce that may contain sour cream. That means the product contains milk, one of the eight major food allergens, that is not declared on the label. Anyone who is allergic to milk or who has lactose intolerance could have a serious illness if they eat this product. There have been no illnesses reported to date in connection with this issue. This product was sent to retailers nationally beginning on January 13, 2020. The recalled product is Vita Wild Herring in Wine Sauce, sold in 32 ounce containers. The lot code on the product is 03609. The UPC number on the label is 22635 40011, and the best if used before date is June 26, 2020. The lot number and best if used by dates are on the back side of the jar at the bottom of the label. The front of the recalled product has a label that states, "Vita Wild Herring in Wine Sauce." The recall notice states that the fact that the product contains sour cream should be obvious, because the white sauce can be seen through the plastic jar. But when an allergen is present in food it must be listed on the label. If you purchased this product and cannot eat milk for whatever reason, don't eat it. Throw it away or take it back to the store where you bought it for a full refund. [Food Poisoning Bulletin](#)

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WELLNESS

Gyms and coronavirus: What are the risks?

9 March-It's not the kind of thing you want to think about while you're in child's pose in yoga class, when your nose is close to the mat, but after hearing how you should stop touching your face to guard against the coronavirus, you might wonder: What are the risks of transmission while working out at a gym? The spread of the coronavirus could make even the most ardent gym rats stress out about picking up barbells. There's a lower risk of picking up the coronavirus at a gym or health club than at a church service, for example, said Dr. David Thomas, a professor of medicine and director of the Division of Infectious Diseases at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. By comparison, church services may include shaking hands and being in closer proximity to people. But if you're in a community where there have been cases of the coronavirus, "that's, perhaps, a time to be more cautious with all types of exposures, including a gym," Dr. Thomas said. Sweat cannot transmit the virus but high-contact surfaces, such as barbells, can pose a problem, he said. [The New York Times](#)

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Stop touching your face

6 March- It's a quirk of human nature that we touch our eyes, noses and mouths all day long. It's also a major way we pick up infections like coronavirus. Want to improve your chance of staying healthy? Stop touching your face! One of the more difficult challenges in public health has been to teach people to wash their hands frequently and to stop touching the facial mucous membranes — the eyes, nose and mouth, all entry portals for the new coronavirus and many other germs. "Scratching the nose, rubbing your eyes, leaning on your chin and your fingers go next to your mouth — there's multiple ways we do it," said Dr. Nancy C. Elder, a professor of family medicine at Oregon Health and Science University in Portland who has studied face touching among doctors and clinic staff members. "Everybody touches their face, and it's a difficult habit to break." As communities prepare for the spread of coronavirus around the globe, the primary advice from health officials is for people to wash their hands. But a number of health researchers say the public health message also should include a more forceful warning about face touching. [The New York Times](#)

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USAFRICOM

South Africa reports 6 additional COVID-19 cases, brings total to 13

11 March- South Africa's Minister of Health, Dr. Zwelini Mkhize reported today that the country has recorded six new confirmed COVID-19 cases. The latest cases include four in Gauteng, and one each in KwaZulu-Natal and Western Cape. All six cases are linked to international travel. This brings the total COVID-19 cases in South Africa to 13. To date, 3642 tests have been conducted. All the patients have now been advised. Those who are symptomatic have started receiving treatment. Some of these patients are already in hospital while some, specifically those who are asymptomatic are in self-quarantine. Contact tracing has also started for all these cases. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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South Africa reports 3rd confirmed COVID-19 case

8 March- In a follow-up on the coronavirus situation in South Africa, Minister of Health, Dr. Zwelini Mkhize made the following statement today: An announcement was made yesterday confirming the second case of COVID-19 in South Africa. In that statement, we indicated that the second patient is a direct contact of the first. We further indicated that they were a group of 10 people who had travelled to Italy. We confirm that we traced all 10 of these individuals. Nine of them had returned to South Africa. The tenth did not and is therefore not in our country. This morning we have received results of the direct contact of the first patient, his wife. She had also travelled with him to Italy as part of the group of ten.

I now wish to advise the public that she has tested positive for COVID-19 and is therefore the third confirmed case in South Africa. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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USCENTCOM

Pakistan reports 4 additional polio cases, Afghanistan see first cases of 2020

7 March- Global health officials reported six additional wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) in two countries last week, bringing the total for the year to 23. In Pakistan, four WPV1 cases were reported: One each in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh and Balochistan provinces. This brings the number of 2020 cases to 21. In neighboring Afghanistan, two cases of WPV1 case were reported: one each in Helmand and Zabul provinces making them the first cases in 2020. In the third polio endemic country, Nigeria, the African Regional Certification Centre on Thursday disclosed that Nigeria would soon be declared polio-free by June 2020. Mr. Anad Dumba, the Team leader for the ARCC stated that the delegates are in the state to deliberate on polio Eradication in North-Central Nigeria, adding that the team is preparing towards the certification. "We are here to ensure Kwara and Nigeria as a whole is truly polio free. "We are to ensure the state data meets the standard," he said. In addition to the WPV1 cases reported last week, five countries reported circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) cases–Pakistan, Angola, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Ethiopia. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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USEUCOM

France: COVID-19 cases top 1,000, Doubled in 2 days

8 March- The France Ministry of Solidarity and Health has reported a doubling of COVID-19 cases since Friday. According to official data, 1,126 cases have been reported as of March 8, and 19 patients have died. This is up from 577 cases and 9 deaths reported Friday. France is currently in stage 2 of the management of COVID-19 Coronavirus infection. There are currently several foci of infection spread over the territory and secondary cases. Grand Est, Hauts-de-France, Bourgogne-Franche-Comté and Ile-de-France regions have reported the most cases. Globally, nearly 110,000 cases have been reported from more than 100 countries, including 3,804 deaths. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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Italy expands COVID-19 lockdown to whole country

9 March- Italy today expanded its COVID-19 lockdown to include the whole country, affecting about 60 million people, as the World Health Organization (WHO) today said the threat of a pandemic from the COVID-19 virus is very real, signaling a tone of increased urgency. Italy's announcement marks the first time a whole country has been placed on lockdown and comes on the heels of 1,797 new cases today and quickly rising numbers in other European countries. Over the weekend, Italian officials had announced a lockdown for Lombardy region and 14 provinces in other regions. [CIDRAP](#)

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Madrid COVID-19 cases top 1,000, flights from Italy prohibited

11 March- Health authorities in Spain continue to see a rapid rise in coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases. According to officials, 2,277 cases have been reported, including 54 deaths. In Madrid, more than 1,000 cases are reported with 31 deaths. Also of note in the country is País Vasco (225), La Rioja (179) and Cataluña (156), each reporting significant case numbers. Areas with community transmission in Spain include the Autonomous Communities of Madrid and La Rioja and the municipalities of La Bastida and Vitoria (Basque Country). In addition, government officials made the following announcements:

-Direct flights from Italy to Spain are prohibited from March 11 to 25 and trips to Imsero are suspended during the next month.

-In Madrid, La Rioja, Vitoria and Labastida, since they are areas of significant transmission, activities in closed spaces that bring together more than a thousand people are suspended.

-The government maintains close coordination with both the autonomous communities and the European authorities to address this public health challenge, prioritizing the health of citizens. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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USINDOPACOM

COVID-19 in the Philippines: 10 cases, details on the 4 newest

9 March- In a follow-up on the coronavirus situation in the Philippines, The Department of Health (DOH) reported four new confirmed cases of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), bringing the total number of confirmed cases in the country to ten. The four latest cases include: The 7th case (PH7) is a 38-year-old Taiwanese male. The patient has a history of contact with a Taiwanese foreign national who visited the Philippines and tested positive for COVID-19 in Taiwan. The patient has no history of travel outside of the country and his symptoms started last March 3. He is currently admitted to a private hospital. The 8th case

(PH8) is a 32-year-old Filipino male with history of travel to Japan within the past 14 days. Onset of symptoms began on March 5 and the patient is currently admitted to a private hospital. The 9th case (PH9) is an 86-year-old American male with pre-existing hypertension and history of travel to USA and South Korea. Symptoms began on 1 March 2020 and the patient is currently admitted to a private hospital. The 10th case (PH10) is a 57-year-old Filipino male with no history of travel outside of the country. He was reported to have had contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case, however, DOH is currently investigating details of his exposure. The patient is currently admitted to a private hospital. [Outbreak News Today](#)
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USNORTHCOM

U.S.: California-COVID-19: More cases reported in Los Angeles, 1st case of community transmission

10 March- The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health reports investigating two additional cases of COVID-19 in Los Angeles County; the total number of cases for the county is now 16. One case traveled through Japan. One case has an unidentified source of exposure, therefore Public Health has determined this is the first possible case of community transmission in LA County. Public Health is identifying persons who may have had close personal contact with these individuals, including any friends, family members or health care professionals, to assess and monitor them for signs and symptoms of illness has begun. All confirmed cases are being isolated and close contacts will be quarantined. There are no known public exposure locations related to these cases at this time. "This is our first case of community transmission in LA County and we will continue to see more cases of COVID- 19," said Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd, and Director of Public Health. "We continue to urge everyone to do their part: stay home if you are sick and keep your children home if they are sick; plan for the possibility of school and business closures, and be sure to follow any additional directives issued by Public Health and/or local officials. By working together, we can slow the transmission of novel coronavirus," she added. [Outbreak News Today](#)
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U.S.: New York- COVID-19 cases top 100, Cuomo encourages telecommuting

8 March- On Sunday, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today confirmed 16 additional cases of novel coronavirus in New York State, bringing the statewide total to 105 confirmed cases. Of the 16 new cases identified since the Governor's last update, 12 are in Westchester County, one in New York City in the Bronx, one in Nassau, one in Suffolk, and one in Ulster. Additionally, the Governor today called on the federal government to expedite their approval of private labs and automated and manual testing to expand New York State's testing capacity. He also encouraged New Yorkers to work from home, telecommute and

avoid densely populated spaces whenever possible to help contain the spread of the virus.

[Outbreak News Today](#)

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U.S.: New York- COVID-19 outbreak: Case count tops 200, State will contract with 28 private labs to increase testing capacity

11 March- Today, New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced 43 additional cases of novel coronavirus, bringing the statewide total to 216 confirmed cases in New York State. Of the 216 total individuals who tested positive for the virus, the geographic breakdown is as follows: Westchester: 121 (13 new), New York City: 52 (16 new), Nassau: 28 (9 new), Suffolk: 6 (5 new), Rockland: 6, Saratoga: 2 and Ulster: 1. In addition, Cuomo announced that New York State will contract with 28 private labs to increase testing capacity for the novel coronavirus. Following a call with the 28 labs, the Governor announced that he has instructed the labs to begin testing immediately as soon as they are ready. The 28 labs are specialized in virology and are routine partners with the New York State Department of Health. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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USSOUTHCOM

Brazil COVID-19: 25 confirmed cases, elderly and health workers 1st to get flu vaccine

10 March- The Brazil Ministry of Health reports they have started to test for coronavirus all patients who are admitted to health units (health posts, UPA, hospitals) with mild or severe flu – who are hospitalized – regardless of the travel history of people abroad. The measure applies to samples with negative results for other flu viruses in cities with confirmed cases of the disease. This expands the identification of coronavirus cases and reinforces the monitoring of circulation in the country. Thus, the Ministry of Health adopts the third definition of the World Health Organization (WHO) of suspected case of coronavirus. The WHO definition for testing hospitalized patients with severe cases has the objective of identifying possible community transmission, which occurs when it is not possible to trace the source of the infection. "It may be that we can identify the community transmission of the virus in Brazil, as Canada has already done. Therefore, we have increased the sensitivity of surveillance in the search for a supposed community transmission of the coronavirus, which will allow us to organize our system better and faster operational ", said the executive secretary of the Ministry of Health, João Gabbardo. The tests for coronavirus will be performed on people who have not traveled abroad or had contact in Brazil with confirmed cases. In this situation, patients hospitalized in cities with already confirmed cases of coronavirus and who have a severe condition, ie Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS),

will be investigated. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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Costa Rica COVID-19 case count rises to 9, health alert raised to yellow

9 March- In a follow-up on the coronavirus situation in Costa Rica, health officials put the case count at nine as of Sunday. There are nine confirmed cases that are registered at this time:

-49 year old woman, American.

-49-year-old man, husband of the American. Continue asymptomatic.

-54-year-old man, Costa Rican, who remains in a delicate condition.

-73 year old woman, Costa Rican, 54 year old man contact.

-41 year old woman, Costa Rican, 54 year old man contact.

-54 year old woman, Costa Rican, 54 year old man contact.

-56 year old woman, Costa Rican, 54 year old man contact.

-34 year old man, Costa Rican, 54 year old man contact.

-A 70-year-old American woman, resident in our country, with a recent travel record to the United States, passing through two airports in that country. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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Jamaica reports 1st COVID-19 case

11 March- The Jamaica Ministry of Health and Wellness reported the first imported case of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Kingston. The patient is a Jamaican female who had travelled from the United Kingdom, which has reported some 400 cases of COVID-19. She arrived in the island on March 4, presented to the public health system on March 9 and has been in isolation since then. Based on the patient's travel history and symptoms, health professionals suspected COVID-19. A clinical sample was collected and sent to the National Influenza Centre, where laboratory tests confirmed the diagnosis Tuesday. The patient and family members have been informed. Health officials say steps are being taken to prevent the risk of community spread. These measures include: The dispatch of a health team to the home of the patient for assessment and initiation of public health measures, the identification and contact tracing for all possible exposed persons and meeting of Ministry officials with members of staff at the hospital and the necessary interventions put in place. In addition, imposed travel restrictions include the following countries: China, Italy, South Korea, Singapore, Iran, Spain, France and Germany. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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