



Vaccines and Global Health: The Week in Review
18 April 2020 :: Number 550
Center for Vaccine Ethics & Policy (CVEP)

This weekly digest targets news, events, announcements, articles and research in the vaccine and global health ethics and policy space and is aggregated from key governmental, NGO, international organization and industry sources, key peer-reviewed journals, and other media channels. This summary proceeds from the broad base of themes and issues monitored by the Center for Vaccine Ethics & Policy in its work: it is not intended to be exhaustive in its coverage.

*Vaccines and Global Health: The Week in Review is also **posted in pdf form** and as a set of blog posts at <https://centerforvaccineethicsandpolicy.net>. This blog allows full-text searching of over 8,000 entries.*

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Milestones :: Perspectives :: Research

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COVID-19 :: WHO

No Time to Cut World Health Organization Funding, Secretary-General Stresses, as Member States Battle against Vast COVID-19 Impact

14 April 2020 SG/SM/20045

As I said on 8 April: "The COVID-19 pandemic is one of the most dangerous challenges this world has faced in our lifetime. It is above all a human crisis with severe health and socioeconomic consequences. The World Health Organization (WHO), with thousands of its staff, is on the front lines, supporting Member States and their societies, especially the most vulnerable among them, with guidance, training, equipment and concrete life-saving services as they fight the virus.

"It is my belief that the World Health Organization must be supported, as it is absolutely critical to the world's efforts to win the war against COVID-19. This virus is unprecedented in our lifetime and requires an unprecedented response. Obviously, in such conditions, it is possible that the same facts have had different readings by different entities. Once we have finally turned the page on this epidemic, there must be a time to look back fully to understand how such a disease emerged and spread its devastation so quickly across the globe, and how all those involved reacted to the crisis. The lessons learned will be essential to effectively address similar challenges, as they may arise in the future. But, now is not that time."

As it is not that time, it is also not the time to reduce the resources for the operations of the World Health Organization or any other humanitarian organization in the fight against the virus.

As I have said before, now is the time for unity and for the international community to work together in solidarity to stop this virus and its shattering consequences.

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Financial Times, 16 April 2020

Opinion – Editorial Board

The WHO should be bolstered, not crippled

Suspending US funding to global health body is grossly irresponsible

A global pandemic demands a global response. The only international body that can provide that response is the World Health Organization. It is the WHO's job to track the spread of coronavirus, to share information and advice about best practice, and to help co-ordinate the international response to a common threat to humanity. To cut the WHO off at the knees during the biggest global health emergency for a century is, therefore, grossly irresponsible. Yet that is precisely what Donald Trump's administration has done, by suspending US funding for the WHO.

As it struggles with this pandemic, the WHO needs more money, not less. It is a sorry state of affairs that the Gates Foundation, a private organisation, is the second-largest donor to the WHO, after the US, and that the Rotarians donate considerably more money to the organisation than the People's Republic of China.

The fact that the Trump administration is behaving recklessly does not mean that the WHO's behaviour over coronavirus has been beyond reproach. Far from it. On January 14, the WHO tweeted that there was no "clear evidence of human-to-human transmission" of the coronavirus — an incautious piece of reassurance that echoed the line being taken by the Chinese government. On January 30, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the WHO's director-general, praised China for "setting a new standard for outbreak control" — despite the fact that China had intimidated and silenced doctors who had raised the alarm about the pandemic, and initially refused the WHO's own requests to send observers to Hubei province, where the outbreak began.

Yet weaknesses in the WHO's response pale in comparison with Mr Trump's own complacency. As late as February 24, more than a month after the first Covid-19 case had emerged in America, Mr Trump was tweeting that the disease was "very much under control in the US" and urging people to buy into the stock market. The fact that the president is now rounding on the WHO looks like a transparent effort to deflect attention from his own weak response. Like any UN agency, the WHO needs the support and co-operation of its members. Securing that co-operation is a particularly difficult task when the world's two most powerful countries — the US and China — are both run by nationalistic presidents, hypersensitive to any slight to their dignity. Mr Tedros's early praise for China now looks ill-advised. But it was an understandable error, given that the WHO badly needed China's co-operation.

The real problem was the Chinese government, not the WHO. China's initial failure to be open about events in Wuhan has been compounded by its obsession with preventing recognition of Taiwan. Yet, despite close links to the mainland, Taiwan has done an admirable job in containing the pandemic and was among the first to warn of human-to-human transmission. However, if a secretive China exerts excessive influence over the WHO, the answer is not for the US to withdraw. The real solution is for western powers — above all the US and the EU — to work together to improve the organisation. Instead, the Trump administration has treated both the UN and the EU as deeply suspect, belittling and ignoring them. Washington's neglect and western disunity have allowed the Chinese government greatly to expand its influence within UN agencies.

Restoring US and western influence in those agencies is a key task. But it must wait for calmer times. Right now, the WHO needs to be allowed to get on with its job. The US threat of crippling cuts in its funding must be withdrawn.

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COVID-10 :: Impacts

[More than 117 million children at risk of missing out on measles vaccines, as COVID-19 surges](#)

Statement by the Measles & Rubella Initiative: American Red Cross, U.S. CDC, UNICEF, UN Foundation and WHO

ATLANTA/GENEVA/NEW YORK, 14 April 2020: "As COVID-19 continues to spread globally, over 117 million children in 37 countries may miss out on receiving life-saving measles vaccine. Measles immunization campaigns in 24 countries have already been delayed; more will be postponed.

"During this challenging period, the Measles & Rubella Initiative (M&RI) expresses solidarity with families, communities, governments and emergency responders and joins our global immunization and health partners, including those within Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) in our collective focus and fight against the threat of COVID-19. The pandemic sweeping the globe requires a coordinated effort and commitment of resources to ensure frontline health workers around the world are protected, as they face and respond to this new threat. At the same time, we must also champion efforts to protect essential immunization services, now and for the future.

"The World Health Organization (WHO) has issued new [guidelines](#) endorsed by the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization -- to help countries to sustain immunization activities during the COVID-19 pandemic. The guidelines recommend that governments temporarily pause preventive immunization campaigns where there is no active outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease. M&RI partners, which include the American Red Cross, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF, the United Nations Foundation and WHO, strongly agree with these recommendations. We also urge countries to continue routine immunization services, while ensuring the safety of communities and health workers. The recommendations also ask governments to undertake a careful risk-benefit analysis when deciding whether to delay vaccination campaigns in response to outbreaks, with the possibility of postponement where risks of COVID-19 transmission are deemed unacceptably high.

"If the difficult choice to pause vaccination is made due to the spread of COVID-19, we urge leaders to intensify efforts to track unvaccinated children, so that the most vulnerable populations can be provided with measles vaccines as soon as it becomes possible to do so. While we know there will be many demands on health systems and frontline workers during and beyond the threat of COVID-19, delivering all immunization services, including measles vaccines, is essential to saving lives that would otherwise be lost to vaccine-preventable diseases.

"The M&RI supports the need to protect communities and health workers from COVID-19 through a pause of mass campaigns, where risks of the disease are high. However, this should not mean that children permanently miss out. Urgent efforts must be taken now at local, national, regional and global levels to prepare to close the immunity gaps that the measles virus will exploit, by ensuring that vaccines are available and that they reach children and vulnerable populations, as quickly as possible, to keep them safe.

"Despite having a safe and effective vaccine for over 50 years, measles cases surged over recent years and claimed more than 140,000 lives in 2018, mostly of children and babies – all of which were preventable. Against this already dangerous backdrop, preventive and responsive **measles vaccination campaigns have now been paused or postponed in 24 countries to help avert further spread of COVID-19. Campaigns expected to take place later in**

2020 in an additional 13 countries may not be implemented. Together, more than 117 million children in 37 countries, many of whom live in regions with ongoing measles outbreaks, could be impacted by the suspension of scheduled immunization activities. This staggering number does not include the number of infants that may not be vaccinated because of the effect of COVID-19 on routine immunization services. Children younger than 12 months of age are more likely to die from measles complications, and if the circulation of measles virus is not stopped, their risk of exposure to measles will increase daily.

"The M&RI salutes the heroism of health and emergency workers across the globe, and we recognize the vital role they play in delivering clear, trusted information, as well as preventive and supportive care within their communities. We must invest in health workers and ensure they are protected from infection and empowered as part of sustainable and functioning primary health systems. They are the first line of defense against global epidemics. We also recognize the role of parents and caregivers in ensuring their children are vaccinated by following physical distancing recommendations in line with national guidance. Finally, we call on countries and local leaders to implement effective communication strategies to engage communities, ensure supply and demand for vaccination remains strong, and help assure a healthy life for every child especially in this challenging time."

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COVID-19 :: Resources

[Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Expands Commitment to Global COVID-19 Response, Calls for International Collaboration to Protect People Everywhere from the Virus](#)

APRIL 15, 2020

Additional funding brings foundation commitment to more than \$250 million to support development of diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines; help strengthen African and South Asian health systems; and help mitigate the social and economic impacts of the virus.

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COVID-19 R&D

[NIH to launch public-private partnership to speed COVID-19 vaccine and treatment options](#)

Health agencies, leading pharmaceutical companies to join forces to accelerate pandemic response

April 17, 2020 —.

The National Institutes of Health and the Foundation for the NIH (FNIH) are bringing together more than a dozen leading biopharmaceutical companies, the Health and Human Services Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the European Medicines Agency to develop an international strategy for a coordinated research response to the COVID-19

pandemic. The planned Accelerating COVID-19 Therapeutic Interventions and Vaccines (ACTIV) partnership will develop a collaborative framework for prioritizing vaccine and drug candidates, streamlining clinical trials, coordinating regulatory processes and/or leveraging assets among all partners to rapidly respond to the COVID-19 and future pandemics. This is part of the whole-of-government, whole-of-America response the Administration has led to beat COVID-19.

"We need to bring the full power of the biomedical research enterprise to bear on this crisis," said NIH Director Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D. "Now is the time to come together with unassailable objectivity to swiftly advance the development of the most promising vaccine and therapeutic candidates that can help end the COVID-19 global pandemic."

Coordinated by the FNIH, ACTIV government and industry partners will provide infrastructure, subject matter expertise and/or funding (both new and in-kind) to identify, prioritize and facilitate the entry of some of the most promising candidates into clinical trials. Industry partners also will make available certain prioritized compounds, some of which have already cleared various phases of development, and associated data to support research related to COVID-19. The partnership is being developed with input from a steering committee managed by the FNIH which includes leaders from NIH, FDA and the research and development organizations of the companies.

"COVID-19 is the most significant global health challenge of our lifetime, and it will take all of us working together as a global community to put an end to this pandemic," said Paul Stoffels, M.D., Vice Chairman of the Executive Committee and Chief Scientific Officer, Johnson & Johnson. "We will need to harness the best ideas from multiple stakeholders, including governments, regulatory authorities, academia, NGOs and industry to stop COVID-19. At Johnson & Johnson, we are committed to working closely with FNIH, IMI and are part of other important consortia to speed solutions to stop this pandemic."

"Battling the COVID-19 pandemic is far too great a challenge for any one company or institution to solve alone," said Mikael Dolsten, M.D., Ph.D., Chief Scientific Officer and President, Worldwide Research, Development and Medical, Pfizer. "We are seeing an unprecedented level of collaboration across the innovation ecosystem to address this global health crisis, and this potentially powerful NIH initiative may allow us to further accelerate the delivery of much needed therapies to patients around the world."...

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[Editor's Note:

IFPMA appears to be updating and extending its "backgrounder" each week, providing an inventory of company initiatives involving development of vaccines, treatments and diagnostics. We will monitor and provide an excerpt as it is the most comprehensive list we have encountered]

IFPMA Backgrounder - COVID-19

16 April 2020

[Excerpts]

... Vaccine development

While vaccines and small molecule treatments are approved through different regulatory pathways and their development programs vary, they generally both must complete three phases of clinical trials. However, there are differences in the data required to show the safety of vaccines and the size of clinical trials for vaccines relative to small molecules.

Experts are hoping it will take as little as 12 to 18 months before there is a vaccine available. This is a best-case estimate that assumes one or two of the first few vaccines that enter development will be successful. Typically, only approximately one in ten experimental vaccines make it all the way through to regulatory approval. Therefore, the more companies taking different approaches to find a vaccine, the more "shots on goal" and significantly greater chances of success.

:: CEPI and GSK will collaborate to help the global effort to develop a vaccine for the novel coronavirus. GSK is making its adjuvant technology available to support rapid development of candidate vaccines and is working with The University of Queensland, Australia.

:: CSL Limited/ Seqirus is providing scientific and technical expertise and its established MF59® adjuvant technology to the University of Queensland in Australia to help fast-track the development of their CEPI-funded COVID-19 vaccine candidate, which uses novel molecular-clamp technology.

:: GSK announced it would partner with the Chinese biotech company Clover Biopharmaceuticals. Under the partnership, GSK will provide Clover with its proprietary adjuvants – compounds that enhance the effectiveness of vaccines. By mid-March, GSK expanded their collaborations and is now working with five partner companies and research groups across the world, including in the USA and China.

:: GSK and Sanofi entered into a collaboration to develop an adjuvanted vaccine for COVID-19, using innovative technology from both companies, to help address the ongoing pandemic. The vaccine would be ready to begin testing in humans in the second half of 2020.

:: Johnson & Johnson expanded its collaboration with the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), part of U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), and established a new collaboration with Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC), to accelerate development of a potential novel coronavirus vaccine.

:: Johnson & Johnson announced the selection of a lead COVID-19 vaccine candidate from constructs it has been working on since January 2020; the significant expansion of the existing partnership between the Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson and the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA); and the rapid scaling of the Company's manufacturing capacity with the goal of providing global supply of more than one billion doses of a vaccine.

:: Pfizer and BioNTech have entered into a partnership to jointly develop BioNTech's mRNA-based vaccine candidate BNT162 to prevent COVID-19 infection. The collaboration aims to accelerate global development of BNT162, which is expected to enter clinical testing by the end of April 2020. BioNTech and Pfizer will also work jointly to commercialize the vaccine worldwide (excluding China which is already covered by BioNTech's collaboration with Fosun Pharma) upon regulatory approval.

:: Sanofi announced a collaboration with the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), to advance a novel COVID-19 vaccine candidate. Work is underway to leverage previous development of a SARS vaccine candidate using Sanofi's recombinant DNA technology. Sanofi is also coordinating with the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and sharing its vaccine R&D experience and expertise to advance vaccine solutions.

:: **Sanofi and U.S. company Translate Bio** announced plans to collaborate on developing a vaccine to treat the coronavirus. The companies said Translate Bio would work on discovering, designing, and manufacturing a number of SARS-CoV-2 vaccine candidates, while Sanofi would provide its expertise in the field of vaccines and support from its research networks.

:: **Shionogi's subsidiary UMN Pharma Inc.** is pursuing the discovery and development of a recombinant protein vaccine in a project supported by the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED).

:: **UCB** is collaborating with The University of Oxford on a vaccine development.

Treatment development

Currently a number of existing and new treatments are in various research phases and clinical trials to test their efficiency and safety for treating COVID-19. Listed below is a snapshot of the different areas of research focused on finding an effective treatment.

:: **Abbott** launched an antibody test for coronavirus and plans to ramp up manufacturing to produce 20 million tests by June.

:: **AbbVie** announced it is partnering with global authorities to determine the effectiveness of HIV drugs in treating COVID-19. AbbVie is supporting clinical studies and basic research with lopinavir/ritonavir, working closely with European health authorities and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institutes of Health and the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority to coordinate these efforts.

:: **Amgen and Adaptive Biotechnologies** (Seattle, USA) are partnering to combine expertise to discover and develop fully human neutralizing antibodies targeting SARS-CoV-2 to potentially prevent or treat COVID-19.

:: **AstraZeneca's** Research and Development (R&D) teams have also been working expeditiously to identify monoclonal antibodies to progress towards clinical trial evaluation as a treatment to prevent COVID-19. More than 50 virology, immunology, respiratory, and protein engineering experts across research, clinical, regulatory, and manufacturing are placing the highest priority on developing a treatment to minimise the global impact of the disease.

:: **AstraZeneca** will initiate a randomised, global clinical trial to assess the potential of Calquence (acalabrutinib) in the treatment of the exaggerated immune response (cytokine storm) associated with COVID-19 infection in severely ill patients. Calquence is approved for the treatment of adult patients with chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL) in the US and a few other countries with an active global filing programme.

:: **Boehringer Ingelheim** is searching for novel virus-neutralizing antibodies. It is also screening its entire molecule library for compounds that could target the virus. Boehringer Ingelheim actively participates with its COVID-19 projects in the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) of the European Union and the COVID-19 Therapeutics Accelerator, coordinated by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

:: **Bristol Myers Squibb (BMS)** identified 1,000 compounds in its discovery library that they are making available to collaborators for screening for potential treatments for COVID-19. BMS is actively evaluating certain medicines in its portfolio that could be included in near-term clinical trials with a focus on agents impacting the inflammatory immune response associated with COVID-19.

:: **Chugai** (daughter of Roche) is working to start a Phase III clinical trial in Japan with Actemra® Chugai filed a clinical trial notification with the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency on April 8th, 2020. It hopes to enroll patients hospitalized with severe COVID-19 soon.

:: **CSL Behring** (CSL Limited is the parent company) together with Takeda set up a partnership bringing together world-leading plasma companies to focus on developing and delivering a hyperimmune immunoglobulin in the global fight against COVID-19.

:: **CSL Group** is evaluating potential treatment candidates with SAB Therapeutics as part of its previously announced collaboration to investigate new therapies to treat infectious diseases as well as immunological and neurological conditions. CSL Group is also engaging with investigators regarding its monoclonal antibodies to identify treatment candidates from the portfolio that have the potential to treat Diffuse Alveolar Damage caused during COVID-19.

:: **Eli Lilly and AbCellera** (Canadian biotech firm) have entered into an agreement to co-develop antibody products for the treatment and prevention of COVID-19. The collaboration will leverage AbCellera's rapid pandemic response platform, developed under the DARPA Pandemic Prevention Platform (P3) Program, and Lilly's global capabilities for rapid development, manufacturing and distribution of therapeutic antibodies.

:: **Eli Lilly** has entered into an agreement with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), to study baricitinib as a potential treatment for hospitalized patients diagnosed with COVID-19. Baricitinib is approved in more than 65 countries as a treatment for adults with moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis.

:: **EFPIA** is working with the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) on potential actions to support collaborative research programs in order to fast-track the development of therapeutics.

:: **Gilead** has initiated two Phase 3 clinical trials of remdesivir in countries with high prevalence of COVID-19. The company is also supporting two Phase 3 trials in China and a global Phase 2 trial led by the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. Gilead donated drug and provided scientific input for these studies. Gilead has provided remdesivir to physicians for compassionate use to treat several hundred severely ill patients with confirmed COVID-19, and has accelerated manufacturing of remdesivir at risk, in anticipation of potential future supply needs.

:: **GSK** is entering into the new collaborative research effort, the COVID-19 Therapeutics Accelerator. The aim of the Accelerator is to bring pharmaceutical companies and expert academic institutions into coordinated research programs, with the aim of bringing the most promising molecules forward that could be used to treat cases of COVID-19. GSK will contribute by making available compounds from its libraries for screening for activity against COVID-19. In addition, GSK is evaluating its marketed pharmaceutical products and medicines in development to determine if any could be used beyond their current indications in response to the pandemic. Further, GSK is evaluating options to make available specialised laboratory space to help in research and testing of COVID-19.

:: **GSK and Vir Biotechnology, Inc.** signed a binding agreement to enter into a collaboration to research and develop solutions for coronaviruses, including SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. The collaboration will use Vir's proprietary monoclonal antibody platform technology to accelerate existing and identify new anti-viral antibodies that could be used as therapeutic or preventative options to help address the current COVID-19 pandemic and future outbreaks.

:: **GSK** announced plans to collaborate with China's Xiamen Innovex on a potential vaccine to treat the COVID-19 coronavirus. The companies are testing a recombinant protein-based coronavirus vaccine candidate, which is being developed by Inovax with Xiamen University.

:: **Ipser** donated financial resources to the Institut Pasteur to support research on COVID-19. Since January, the Institut Pasteur has devoted a portion of its research to

understanding the emerging COVID-19 virus, in terms of epidemiology, biological characteristics, pathogenicity.

:: Johnson & Johnson, in partnership with the Rega Institute for Medical Research, University of Leuven (Belgium), are working to identify existing or new compounds with antiviral activity against COVID-19 that could contribute to providing immediate relief to the current outbreak.

:: Merck, as part of the global effort to investigate potential therapeutics for COVID-19 and their support of independent research, recently donated a supply of interferon beta-1a (Rebif®) to the French Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (INSERM) following a request for use in a clinical trial. To date, Merck's interferon beta-1a is not approved by any regulatory authority for the treatment of COVID-19 or for use as an antiviral agent.

:: Novartis announced that it has entered new collaborative research efforts such as the COVID-19 Therapeutics Accelerator, coordinated by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Wellcome, and Mastercard, as well as a COVID-19 directed partnership organized by the Innovative Medicines Initiative. Novartis is contributing by making available several compounds from its libraries that are considered suitable for in vitro antiviral testing. In addition, the company is rapidly evaluating other existing products to see if any could be utilized beyond their approved indications in response to the pandemic.

:: Novartis plans to initiate a Phase III clinical trial in collaboration with Incyte to evaluate the use of Jakavi® (ruxolitinib) for treatment of a type of severe immune overreaction called cytokine storm that can lead to life-threatening respiratory complications in patients with COVID-19.

:: Pfizer announced that it completed a preliminary assessment of certain antiviral compounds that were previously in development and that inhibited the replication of coronaviruses similar to the one causing COVID-19 in cultured cells. Pfizer is engaging with a third party to screen these compounds under an accelerated timeline and expects to have the results back by the end of March.

:: Pfizer also outlined a detailed 5-point action plan to battle COVID-19. The plan includes a commitment to sharing its clinical development and regulatory expertise to support other smaller biotech companies that are screening compounds or existing therapies for activity against the virus causing COVID-19.

:: Regeneron Pharmaceuticals announced an expanded agreement with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to develop new treatments combating the novel coronavirus.

:: Regeneron Pharmaceuticals and Sanofi SA started a clinical program evaluating Kevzara, originally a drug to treat arthritis, in patients hospitalized with severe COVID-19. Kevzara is a fully-human monoclonal antibody that inhibits the interleukin-6 (IL-6) pathway by binding and blocking the IL-6 receptor. IL-6 may play a role in driving the overactive inflammatory response in the lungs of patients who are severely or critically ill with COVID-19 infection.

:: Roche's Actemra was approved by China on March 5 to treat Covid-19 patients with lung complications. Roche has donated nearly \$2m-worth of Actemra to China to help the country manage the COVID-19 outbreak". Actemra has been on the European market since 2010 for treatment of several kinds of arthritis.

:: Roche announced that they are working with the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) to initiate a Phase III clinical trial to evaluate the safety and efficacy of Actemra in hospitalised adult patients with severe COVID-19 pneumonia. This is the first global study of Actemra in this

setting and is expected to begin enrolling as soon as possible in early April with a target of approximately 330 patients globally, including the US.

:: Shionogi and the Hokkaido University Research Center for Zoonosis Control are in early stages of identifying drugs active against COVID-19. Shionogi has also just entered into an agreement with Micro Blood Science to test an antibody test kit.

:: Takeda announced that it is initiating the development of a drug to treat people infected with the novel coronavirus. The experimental drug would be derived from the blood of coronavirus patients who have recovered from the respiratory disease. In parallel, Takeda is also exploring whether currently marketed and pipeline products may be an effective treatment option for infected patients.

:: Takeda together with CSL Behring set up a partnership bringing together world-leading plasma companies to focus on developing and delivering a hyperimmune immunoglobulin in the global fight against COVID-19.

Diagnostics

Rolling out diagnostics to detect whether patients are genuinely infected with the new coronavirus is a key step in preventing or slowing its spread. However, the rapid spread of COVID-19 has drastically increased the demand for testing kits around the world, especially in the United States and Europe, and governments are trying to ramp up their testing capacities.

:: AstraZeneca is accelerating the development of its diagnostic testing capabilities to scale-up screening and is also working in partnership with governments on existing screening programmes to supplement testing.

:: Bayer is making more than 40 virus diagnostics devices available from its research operations to scale up Germany's COVID-19 analysis by several thousand tests daily.

:: Roche announced that the FDA issued an Emergency Use Authorization for its diagnostic kit cobas® SARS-CoV-2 Test, advancing coronavirus testing to meet urgent medical needs. Roche is committed to delivering as many tests as possible and is going to the limits of production capacity.

:: Takeda is partnering with public entities and other pharmaceutical companies through the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) in Europe to leverage collective expertise in the hope of developing diagnostics for COVID-19 as well as inhibitors to help prevent future outbreaks.

:: UCB is working closely with the Belgian government to scale up COVID-19 testing capabilities. It is looking at similar possibilities in the UK.

In addition to the individual contributions companies are already making, a consortium of life sciences companies announced an important collaboration on March 25 to accelerate the development, manufacture, and delivery of vaccines, diagnostics, and treatments for COVID-19, alongside the Gates Foundation. Co-chaired by Vas Narasimhan, chief executive officer of Novartis, the consortium seeks out to accelerate solutions to this pandemic.

Companies participating in the collaboration include BD, bioMérieux, Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Eisai, Eli Lilly, Gilead, GSK, Johnson & Johnson, Merck (known as MSD outside the U.S. and Canada), Merck KGaA, Novartis, Pfizer, and Sanofi.

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EMERGENCIES

Coronavirus [COVID-19]

Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)

Editor's Note:

We certainly recognize the velocity of global developments in the COVID-19 pandemic. While we have concentrated the most current key reports just below, COVID-19 announcements, analysis and commentary will be found throughout this issue, in all sections.

Beyond the considerable continuing coverage in the global general media, the WHO's authoritative guidance is available here:

:: Daily WHO situation reports here: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>

:: WHO Coronavirus disease (COVID-2019) daily press briefings here: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/media-resources/press-briefings>

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[Situation report - 88](#) [WHO]

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

17 April 2020

[Excerpts]

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Globally

2 074 529 confirmed (82 967)

139 378 deaths (8493)

European Region

1 050 871 confirmed (37 778)

93 480 deaths (4163)

Region of the Americas

743 607 confirmed (36 486)

33 028 deaths (2783)

Western Pacific Region

127 595 confirmed (2024)

5558 deaths (1319)

Eastern Mediterranean Region

115 824 confirmed (4392)

5662 deaths (130)

South-East Asia Region

23 560 confirmed (1770)

1051 deaths (61)

African Region

12 360 confirmed (517)

586 deaths (36)

WHO RISK ASSESSMENT

Global Level – Very High

HIGHLIGHTS

:: No new country/territory/area reported cases of COVID-19 in the past 24 hours.

:: Globally, the number of reported confirmed cases exceeded 2 million.

:: WHO has released public health guidance for social and religious practices and gatherings during Ramadan. The guidance also offers advice to strengthen mental and physical wellbeing as the COVID-19 pandemic continues. [The guidance is available here.](#)

:: WHO has released guidance on considerations in adjusting public health and social measures in the context of COVID-19. This document is intended for national authorities and decision makers in countries that have introduced large scale public health and social measures. It offers guidance for adjusting public health and social measures, while managing the risk of a resurgence of cases. [The guidance is available here.](#)

:: The Chinese authorities have informed WHO that as cases have declined in China and the strain on the healthcare system has eased, a multisectoral team was established in late March 2020 to perform a comprehensive review of COVID-19 data in Wuhan, Hubei Province. Information from a variety of sources was reviewed, leading to duplicate cases being removed and missed cases added. Following this review, the total number of cases in Wuhan increased by 325 and the total number of deaths increased by 1290.

:: As of 11 April 2020, 167 countries, territories and areas have implemented additional health measures that significantly interfere with international traffic.

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Emergencies

Ebola – DRC+

Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)

Ebola Outbreak in DRC 88: 14 April 2020

[Excerpts]

Situation Update

Two new confirmed cases of Ebola virus disease (EVD) were reported in Beni Health Zone on 10 and 12 April (Figure 1). Both cases passed away in the community after visiting several healthcare facilities. Prior to this, the last person who was confirmed to have EVD in the Democratic Republic of the Congo tested negative twice and was discharged from a treatment centre on 3 March 2020.

Specimens from the two cases were sent to the Institut de Recherche Biomedicale (INRB) in Katwa and Kinshasa for genetic sequencing in order to support surveillance teams in the

investigation of the source of infection and to determine whether these two cases were linked to a known chain of transmission. **A total of 213 contacts of these cases have been registered, 116 of whom were followed on 12 April 2020, and 90 were vaccinated. On 9 April, two new probable cases were validated.**

Active outbreak response activities continue, including retrospective and prospective surveillance, pathogen detection, and clinical management activities in previously affected areas, in addition to alert validation, supporting appropriate care and rapid diagnosis of suspected cases, building partnerships with community members to strengthen investigation of EVD deaths in communities, and strategically transitioning activities.

...Conclusion

The newly confirmed cases in Beni Health Zone 40 days into the 42-day count down period to the end of the outbreak are unfortunate but not unexpected. The WHO criteria for end of the outbreak includes a 42-day period when we expect to identify cases within undetected chains of transmission. Thorough investigation of yet-to-be-identified cases and probable cases should be conducted in order to tackle this new chain of transmission. Outbreak response teams continue to face insecurity in affected areas, which makes the ongoing surveillance and response activities particularly challenging. This development reinforces the importance of continued vigilance and the maintenance of strengthened surveillance activities, rapid detection and response capacities in affected areas. It is also important that response activities for other local and global emergencies, including COVID-19 synergize and enhance, not detract from, EVD surveillance and response efforts.

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Congo Records Five New Ebola Cases, Shelves Declaration of End to Epidemic

Five new Ebola infections have been recorded in eastern Congo since last week in a new flare-up just as the government was about to declare an end to the deadly epidemic, the World Health Organization said on Friday.

By Reuters

New York Times, Africa, Apr 17, 2020

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Emergencies

POLIO

Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)

Polio this week as of 15 April 2020

:: The GPEI will continue to make available the plans and guidance documents regarding the impact of COVID-19 on polio eradication on [this page](#).

Summary of new viruses this week (AFP cases and ES positives):

- :: **Afghanistan:** eight cVDPV2 positive environmental samples
- :: **Pakistan:** three WPV1 cases and five WPV1 positive environmental samples
- :: **Niger:** one cVDPV2 case
- :: **Ghana:** four cVDPV2 positive environmental samples

:: **Malaysia:** one cVDPV1 positive environmental sample
:: **Côte d'Ivoire:** one cVDPV2 positive environmental sample

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WHO Grade 3 Emergencies [to 18 Apr 2020]

Democratic Republic of the Congo

:: Ebola Outbreak in DRC 88: 14 April 2020

[See Ebola above for detail]

Mozambique

:: World Health Organization: 28 cases of COVID-19 confirmed in Mozambique 14 April 2020

Nigeria - *No new digest announcements identified*

Somalia - *No new digest announcements identified*

South Sudan - *No new digest announcements identified*

Syrian Arab Republic - *No new digest announcements identified*

Yemen - *No new digest announcements identified*

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WHO Grade 2 Emergencies [to 18 Apr 2020]

Angola

:: COVID-19 accelerated response caravan begins countrywide operation 17 April 2020

Afghanistan - *No new digest announcements identified*

Burkina Faso [in French] - *No new digest announcements identified*

Burundi - *No new digest announcements identified*

Cameroon - *No new digest announcements identified*

Central African Republic - *No new digest announcements identified*

Ethiopia - *No new digest announcements identified*

HIV in Pakistan - *No new digest announcements identified*

Iran - *No new digest announcements identified*

Iraq - *No new digest announcements identified*

Libya - *No new digest announcements identified*

Malawi - *No new digest announcements identified*

Measles in Europe - *No new digest announcements identified*

MERS-CoV - *No new digest announcements identified*

Myanmar - *No new digest announcements identified*

Niger - *No new digest announcements identified*

occupied Palestinian territory - *No new digest announcements identified*

Sudan - *No new digest announcements identified*

Ukraine - *No new digest announcements identified*

Zimbabwe - *No new digest announcements identified*

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WHO Grade 1 Emergencies [to 18 Apr 2020]

Chad - *No new digest announcements identified*

Djibouti - *No new digest announcements identified*

Kenya - *No new digest announcements identified*

Mali - *No new digest announcements identified*

Namibia - viral hepatitis - *No new digest announcements identified*

Tanzania - *No new digest announcements identified*

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UN OCHA – L3 Emergencies

The UN and its humanitarian partners are currently responding to three 'L3' emergencies. This is the global humanitarian system's classification for the response to the most severe, large-scale humanitarian crises.

Syrian Arab Republic

:: Recent Developments in Northwest Syria - Situation Report No. 12 - As of 17 April 2020

. Immense humanitarian needs remain for people in northwest Syria despite a relatively calm security situation under the current ceasefire. Further scale-up is needed as the COVID-19 pandemic intensifies people's needs and hampers response efforts. Urgent emergency needs are increasingly being exacerbated by needs associated with those of people in longer-term displacement.

. To date, no cases of COVID-19 have been identified in northwest Syria. Humanitarian response efforts continue to focus on preparedness and response planning to minimise potential impact of COVID-19 on communities and on humanitarian partners.

:: Syrian Arab Republic: COVID-19 Update No. 06 - 17 April 2020

Number of people confirmed by the Ministry of Health (MoH) to have COVID-19: 38 (including two fatalities, five recovered)

Yemen - *No new digest announcements identified*

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UN OCHA – Corporate Emergencies

When the USG/ERC declares a Corporate Emergency Response, all OCHA offices, branches and sections provide their full support to response activities both at HQ and in the field.

CYCLONE IDAI and Kenneth - *No new digest announcements identified*

EBOLA OUTBREAK IN THE DRC - *No new digest announcements identified*

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WHO & Regional Offices [to 18 Apr 2020]

Weekly Epidemiological Record, 17 April 2020, vol. 95, 16 (pp. 145–160)

Infodemic management: a key component of the COVID-19 global response

Progress towards measles elimination – Eastern Mediterranean Region, 2013–2019

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WHO Regional Offices

Selected Press Releases, Announcements

WHO African Region AFRO

:: WHO, WFP and AU deliver critical supplies as COVID-19 accelerates in West and Centra...
16 April 2020

Just over two months since COVID-19 was first detected in Africa, the disease has now spread to nearly every country, resulting in nearly 17 000 confirmed cases and around 900 deaths across the continent.

WHO Region of the Americas PAHO

No new digest content identified.

WHO South-East Asia Region SEARO

:: 15 April 2020 *News release*

WHO's polio surveillance team, other field staff join COVID19 fight

Tapping into the best practices and key resources that helped India win its war against polio, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and World Health Organization today initiat ...

WHO European Region EURO

:: Transition to a 'new normal' during the COVID-19 pandemic must be guided by public health principles 16-04-2020

:: COVID-19: ensuring refugees and migrants are not left behind 16-04-2020

:: Alcohol does not protect against COVID-19; access should be restricted during lockdown 14-04-2020

WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region EMRO

:: UN flight carries COVID-19 medical supplies to all African nations 14 April 2020

WHO Western Pacific Region

:: 14 April 2020 | *Feature story*

Staying safe during season of religious and cultural events, amid the COVID-19 outbreak

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CDC/ACIP [to 18 Apr 2020]

<http://www.cdc.gov/media/index.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/index.html>

Latest News Releases

No new digest content identified.

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Releases April 17, 2020

CDC Response Corps to Support State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Health Departments Friday, April 17, 2020

COVIDView Weekly Summary Friday, April 17, 2020

[Resources for State, Local, Territorial and Tribal Health Departments](#) Friday, April 17, 2020
[Symptoms](#) Friday, April 17, 2020
[Serology Testing for COVID-19](#) Friday, April 17, 2020
[Infection Prevention and Control in Diverse Settings](#) Friday, April 17, 2020
[Contact Tracing](#) Friday, April 17, 2020
[Cases & Latest Updates](#) Friday, April 17, 2020
[Surveillance and Data Analytics](#) Friday, April 17, 2020
[Financial Resources](#) Friday, April 17, 2020
[Staffing Resources](#) Friday, April 17, 2020
[Community Mitigation](#) Friday, April 17, 2020
[Laboratory Capacity](#) Friday, April 17, 2020
[Communication Materials](#) Friday, April 17, 2020
[Cases in U.S.](#) Friday, April 17, 2020
[Considerations for Providing Hemodialysis to Patients with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 in Acute Care Settings](#) Friday, April 17, 2020
[Testing in the U.S.](#) Friday, April 17, 2020
[Groups at Higher Risk for Severe Illness](#) Friday, April 17, 2020
[Commercial Labs](#) Friday, April 17, 2020
[U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network \(ILINet\): Overall Percentage of Visits for ILI](#) Friday, April 17, 2020
[NCHS Mortality Surveillance Data](#) Friday, April 17, 2020
[U.S. Clinical Laboratories Reporting SARS-CoV-2 Test Results to CDC](#) Friday, April 17, 2020
[COVID-19 Travel Recommendations by Country](#) Friday, April 17, 2020
[National Syndromic Surveillance Program \(NSSP\): Emergency Department Visits Percentage of Visits for COVID-19-Like Illness \(CLI\) or Influenza-like Illness \(ILI\) September 29, 2019 - April 4, 2020 Data as of April 9, 2020](#) Friday, April 17, 2020
[U.S. State and Local Public Health Laboratories Reporting to CDC](#) Friday, April 17, 2020
[Frequently Asked Questions and Answers: Coronavirus Disease-2019 \(COVID-19\) and Children](#) Friday, April 17, 2020

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Africa CDC [to 18 Apr 2020]

<http://www.africacdc.org/>

News

[Outbreak Brief Number 13: COVID-19 Pandemic – 14 April 2020](#)

14 April 2020

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China CDC

<http://www.chinacdc.cn/en/>

No new digest content identified.

National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China

<http://en.nhc.gov.cn/>

News

[April 18: Daily briefing on novel coronavirus cases in China](#)

2020-04-18

On April 17, 31 provincial-level regions on the Chinese mainland as well as the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps reported 27 new cases of confirmed infections (17 imported cases and 10 indigenous cases, 7 in Heilongjiang province, 2 in Guangdong province and 1 in Sichuan province), 5 new cases of suspected infections (all are imported cases, 3 in Shanghai municipality and 2 in Heilongjiang), and no deaths. 50 patients were released from hospital after being cured. 986 people who had had close contact with infected patients were freed from medical observation. Serious cases decreased by 4...

Xi: Cooperation, solidarity key to contagion fight

2020-04-17

China endeavors to improve COVID-19 testing capability, promote work resumption

2020-04-17

Plasma from recovered patients an effective coronavirus treatment, officials said

2020-04-18

Govt transparent in COVID-19 data

2020-04-17

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Announcements

Paul G. Allen Frontiers Group [to 18 Apr 2020]

<https://alleninstitute.org/what-we-do/frontiers-group/news-press/>

Press Release

No new digest content identified.

BMGF - Gates Foundation [to 18 Apr 2020]

<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/Media-Center/Press-Releases>

APRIL 15, 2020

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Expands Commitment to Global COVID-19 Response, Calls for International Collaboration to Protect People Everywhere from the Virus

Additional funding brings foundation commitment to more than \$250 million to support development of diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines; help strengthen African and South Asian health systems; and help mitigate the social and economic impacts of the virus.

Bill & Melinda Gates Medical Research Institute [to 18 Apr 2020]

<https://www.gatesmri.org/>

The Bill & Melinda Gates Medical Research Institute is a non-profit biotech organization. Our mission is to develop products to fight malaria, tuberculosis, and diarrheal diseases—three major causes of mortality, poverty, and inequality in developing countries. The world has

unprecedented scientific tools at its disposal; now is the time to use them to save the lives of the world's poorest people

NEWS RELEASE 4/14/20 --

Bill & Melinda Gates Medical Research Institute and the Institut Pasteur to Develop a Novel Vaccine Against Shigella

Cambridge, MA USA and Paris, FRANCE — The Bill & Melinda Gates Medical Research Institute (Gates MRI) and the Institut Pasteur have entered into an exclusive collaboration and license agreement to jointly develop a quadrivalent synthetic carbohydrate-based conjugate vaccine against *Shigella flexneri* serotypes 2a, 3a, and 6 and *Shigella sonnei*. Gates MRI will have an exclusive license for manufacture and commercialization of the vaccine in 73 GAVI low-income countries, thereby furthering Gates MRI's mission of preventing or mitigating infections caused by *Shigella*. Financial terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

CARB-X [to 18 Apr 2020]

<https://carb-x.org/>

CARB-X is a non-profit public-private partnership dedicated to accelerating antibacterial research to tackle the global rising threat of drug-resistant bacteria.

No new digest content identified.

CEPI – Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations [to 18 Apr 2020]

<http://cepi.net/>

Latest News

Netherlands and Switzerland join the search for COVID-19 vaccines

The total sum pledged towards the US\$2 billion target now stands at US\$765 million.

Blog 16 Apr 2020

IVI, INOVIO, and KNIH to partner with CEPI in a Phase I/II clinical trial of INOVIO's COVID-19 DNA vaccine in South Korea

CEPI grants \$6.9 million to INOVIO and IVI to run clinical testing in Korea for INOVIO's COVID-19 vaccine candidate. Korea National Institute of Health (KNIH) to support IVI's testing efforts.

COVID-19 16 Apr 2020

Clinton Health Access Initiative, Inc. (CHAI) [to 18 Apr 2020]

<https://clintonhealthaccess.org/>

News & Press Releases

No new digest content identified.

EDCTP [to 18 Apr 2020]

<http://www.edctp.org/>

The European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) aims to accelerate the development of new or improved drugs, vaccines, microbicides and diagnostics against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria as well as other poverty-related and neglected infectious diseases in sub-Saharan Africa, with a focus on phase II and III clinical trials

Latest news

No new digest content identified.

Emory Vaccine Center [to 18 Apr 2020]

<http://www.vaccines.emory.edu/>

No new digest content identified.

European Medicines Agency [to 18 Apr 2020]

<http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/>

News & Press Releases

[News: Meeting highlights from ICMRA global regulatory workshop on COVID-19 observational studies and real world data](#)

[Last updated: 16/04/2020](#)

Observational studies of data generated in clinical practice in the context of COVID-19 can contribute to the development, authorisation and monitoring of the safety and efficacy of medicines and vaccines to prevent and treat COVID-19. Closer collaboration between international medicines regulators and information sharing in this area will benefit patients around the world. This is highlighted in the summary of the latest global regulatory workshop on COVID-19 observational studies and real world data, organised under the umbrella of the International Coalition of Medicines Regulatory Authorities (ICMRA), which has been published today.

The meeting report provides a snapshot of ongoing or planned observational studies, platforms and registries in various countries and regions around the world. The studies are aimed to characterise COVID-19 disease and identify links between clinical outcomes and the use of potential treatments for COVID-19 and of concomitant medication, such as angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors, angiotensin receptor antagonists (ARBs) and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medicines (NSAIDs). Observational studies also have the potential to generate robust evidence on the safety and effectiveness of vaccines and treatments when they are released on the market...

European Vaccine Initiative [to 18 Apr 2020]

<http://www.euvaccine.eu/news-events>

Latest News

No new digest content identified.

FDA [to 18 Apr 2020]

<https://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/default.htm>

Press Announcements

[April 17, 2020 - Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Update: Daily Roundup April 17, 2020](#)

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration today announced the following actions taken in its ongoing response effort to the COVID-19 pandemic:

:: The National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Foundation for the **NIH announced a public-private partnership with the FDA and others to speed the development of COVID-19 vaccine and treatment options.** The Accelerating COVID-19 Therapeutic

Interventions and Vaccines (ACTIV) partnership also includes the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the European Medicines Agency, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, as well as more than a dozen biopharmaceutical companies. The ACTIV partnership will develop a collaborative framework for prioritizing vaccine and drug candidates, streamlining clinical trials, coordinating regulatory processes and/or leveraging assets among all partners to rapidly respond to the COVID-19 and future pandemics.

:: Today, a federal court has entered an emergency temporary restraining order and a preliminary injunction against the Genesis II Church of Health and Healing (Genesis) and four individuals associated with the entity requiring them to immediately stop distributing its “Miracle Mineral Solution” (MMS), an unproven and potentially harmful treatment offered for sale to treat Coronavirus, which includes Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and many other diseases. The FDA, jointly with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), previously issued a warning letter to Genesis and the FDA has warned consumers numerous times over the past decade not to purchase or drink chlorine dioxide products such as MMS sold as medical treatments. The FDA and FTC requested that the company respond within 48 hours describing the specific steps it has taken to correct the violations. In response to the warning letter, the defendants made clear that they had no intention of taking corrective action and would continue to sell MMS in violation of the law.

:: The FDA and FTC issued a warning letter to a seller of fraudulent COVID-19 products, as part of the agency’s effort to protect consumers. The seller warned, Nova Botanix LTD DBA CanaBD, sells unapproved and misbranded cannabidiol (CBD) products for sale in the U.S. with misleading claims that the products are safe and/or effective for the prevention and treatment of COVID-19. There are currently no FDA-approved products to prevent or treat COVID-19. Consumers concerned about COVID-19 should consult with their health care provider. Yesterday, FDA announced a further expansion of COVID-19 testing options through the recognition that spun synthetic swabs – with a design similar to Q-tips – could be used to test patients by collecting a sample from the front of the nose. As part of this effort, U.S. Cotton, the largest manufacturer of cotton swabs and a subsidiary of Parkdale-Mills, developed a polyester-based Q-tip-type swab that is fully synthetic for compatibility with COVID-19 testing. Harnessing its large-scale U.S.-based manufacturing capabilities, U.S. Cotton plans to produce these new polyester swabs in large quantities to help meet the needs for coronavirus diagnostic testing.

:: The FDA issued a new emergency use authorization (EUA) for Extracorporeal Blood Purification (EBP) to ExThera Medical Corporation for emergency use of the Seraph 100 Microbind Affinity Blood Filter device to treat patients 18 years of age or older with confirmed COVID-19 admitted to the intensive care unit with confirmed or imminent respiratory failure to reduce pathogens and inflammatory mediators from the bloodstream. The Seraph 100 Microbind Affinity Blood Filter device is an extracorporeal broad-spectrum sorbent hemoperfusion device that is designed to reduce bacteria, viruses, toxins, cytokines and other inflammatory mediators from whole blood. The Seraph 100 Microbind Affinity Blood Filter device is designed to share a form factor very similar to other blood filters, such as hemodialyzers or hemoperfusion filters, and therefore is compatible with hemodialysis systems that use industry standard bloodline connectors for ease of operation, training, and utility.

:: *Diagnostics update to date:*

:: During the COVID-19 pandemic, the FDA has worked with more than 320 test developers who have said they will be submitting emergency use authorizations (EUA) requests to FDA for tests that detect the virus.

:: To date, the FDA has issued 39 individual emergency use authorizations for test kit manufacturers and laboratories. In addition, 16 authorized tests have been added to the EUA letter of authorization for high complexity molecular-based laboratory developed tests (LDTs).

:: The FDA has been notified that more than 190 laboratories have begun testing under the policies set forth in our COVID-19 Policy for Diagnostic Tests for Coronavirus Disease-2019 during the Public Health Emergency Guidance.

:: The FDA also continues to keep its COVID-19 Diagnostics FAQ up to date.

Fondation Merieux [to 18 Apr 2020]

<http://www.fondation-merieux.org/>

News, Events

No new digest content identified.

Gavi [to 18 Apr 2020]

<https://www.gavi.org/>

Top Stories

17 April 2020

Saudi Arabia pledges US\$ 150 million to Gavi COVID response

:: New funding for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance to support lower-income countries' response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including supporting health systems by protecting health workers, providing diagnostics and improving surveillance

:: Pledge follows G20 commitment to provide immediate resources to Gavi

:: Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala: "COVID-19 is a global problem which requires a global solution"

17 April 2020

Reed Hastings and Patty Quillin support Gavi with US\$ 30 million donation

:: Reed Hastings and Patty Quillin donated US\$ 30 million to support the Alliance's response to COVID-19 and help protect the world against new outbreaks of other infectious diseases

:: Cash donation is the first private sector contribution towards Gavi's drive to raise at least US\$ 7.4 billion to immunise 300 million children and save 8 million lives in the next five years

:: Gavi is working to keep life-saving immunisation programmes running in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as investing hundreds of millions of dollars to help fragile health systems tackle the outbreak

GHIT Fund [to 18 Apr 2020]

<https://www.ghitfund.org/newsroom/press>

GHIT was set up in 2012 with the aim of developing new tools to tackle infectious diseases that
No new digest content identified.

Global Fund [to 18 Apr 2020]

<https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/news/>

News & Stories

Funding Model

COVID-19 Response Mechanism Update for Implementing Countries

17 April 2020

Video

Community-based Monitoring

15 April 2020

Sourcing & Management of Health Products

COVID-19 Response: Impact on Health Product Supply

14 April 2020

Funding Model

COVID-19 Response: Guidance on Country Dialogue and Human Rights

14 April 2020

The Global Fund has published new guidance on country dialogue and on human rights for countries responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Country dialogue

The Global Fund is committed to ensuring that input from those closest to and living with HIV, tuberculosis and malaria are included in every funding request to the Global Fund. Their input is critical to ensuring that programs are effective and designed to help those most impacted.

Inclusive country dialogue and the engagement of civil society, communities, and key and vulnerable populations in the development of funding requests remains a requirement for receiving financing from the Global Fund.

To help ensure that these vital processes continue, the Global Fund has published new guidance on how to host a virtual dialogue that is inclusive and transparent:

Virtual Inclusive Dialogue download in English

Hilleman Laboratories [to 18 Apr 2020]

<http://www.hillemanlabs.org/>

No new digest content identified.

Human Vaccines Project [to 18 Apr 2020]

<http://www.humanvaccinesproject.org/media/press-releases/>

Press Releases

Human Vaccines Project and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health Launch New Initiative to Decode Immune System, Speed New Vaccines

Harvard Chan School-Human Vaccines Project collaboration will use artificial intelligence and causal inference to accelerate drug and vaccine development

Boston, MA – Apr 14, 2020

The Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and the Human Vaccines Project announce the Human Immunomics Initiative, a joint project that aims to revolutionize the understanding of the human immune system and accelerate the creation of effective vaccines, diagnostics, and treatments. The Human Immunomics Initiative (HII) will bring together Harvard Chan School experts in epidemiology, causal inference, immunology, and computational and systems biology with the resources and expertise of the Human Vaccines Project, a global, nonprofit, human

immunology-based clinical research consortium. HII will develop artificial intelligence-powered models of immunity that can be used to accelerate the design and testing of vaccines and therapeutics for a wide range of diseases...

...The insights gained through HII will pave the way for artificial intelligence-powered models that allow researchers to virtually test potential vaccines, and predict what vaccines and therapies might work best across populations. This could massively speed up vaccine and drug development, and lower costs spent on testing and trials...

IAVI [to 18 Apr 2020]

<https://www.iavi.org/newsroom>

Press Releases

No new digest content identified.

International Coalition of Medicines Regulatory Authorities [ICMRA]

<http://www.icmra.info/drupal/en/news>

Selected Statements, Press Releases, Research

No new digest content identified.

International Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association [IGBA]

<https://www.igbamedicines.org/>

News

No new digest content identified.

IFFIm

<http://www.iffim.org/>

Press Releases

No new digest content identified.

IFRC [to 18 Apr 2020]

<http://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/news/press-releases/>

Selected Press Releases, Announcements

No new digest content identified.

IVAC [to 18 Apr 2020]

<https://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/ivac/index.html>

Updates

[Webinars: Register for World Immunization Week Series](#)

Mark your calendars! The International Vaccine Access Center (IVAC) will host a series of webinars to celebrate World Immunization Week, April 24-30, 2020. Please register for the webinars below:

Measuring the Economic Impact of Vaccines ([REGISTER HERE](#))

Date: April 27, 2020

Time: 12:00 PM EST

Description: The webinar will present the estimates from the Decade of Vaccine Economics (DoVE) study of the economic benefits and return-on-investment of vaccines against 10 antigens in 73 low-income countries. The webinar will begin with an overview of the methodology used to compute these estimates and then showcase how we apply these methods to calculate the return-on-investment from 2011-2020 and predict the future return-on-investment from 2021-2030.

IVI [to 18 Apr 2020]

<http://www.ivi.int/>

Selected IVI News & Announcements

[IVI, INOVIO, and KNIH to partner with CEPI in a Phase I/II clinical trial of INOVIO's COVID-19 DNA vaccine in South Korea](#)

:: The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) grants funding \$6.9 million to INOVIO and IVI to conduct clinical testing in Korea for INOVIO's COVID-19 vaccine candidate based on their well-established DNA platform technology

:: Korea National Institute of Health (KNIH) to support IVI's testing efforts

April 16, 2020, SEOUL, Korea and PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA. USA – The International Vaccine (IVI) announced today that the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) has granted \$6.9 million funding to INOVIO (NASDAQ:INO) to work with IVI and the Korea National Institute of Health (KNIH) for Phase I/II clinical trial of INOVIO's COVID-19 vaccine candidate (INO-4800) in South Korea. IVI will conduct the trial in parallel to INOVIO's Phase I INO-4800 study currently underway in the US since April 6, 2020 with 40 healthy adults receiving the vaccine candidate and eventually expanding to older adults...

JEE Alliance [to 18 Apr 2020]

<https://www.jeealliance.org/>

Selected News and Events

No new digest content identified.

MSF/Médecins Sans Frontières [to 18 Apr 2020]

<http://www.msf.org/>

Latest [Selected Announcements]

Mediterranean migration

[EU states use COVID-19 to shirk search and rescue obligations as MSF ends Ocean Viking partnership](#)

Press Release 17 Apr 2020

Coronavirus disease COVID-19

[MSF supports COVID-19 response in Cameroon](#)

Project Update 16 Apr 2020

Coronavirus disease COVID-19

[MSF working with Mali health authorities in treating COVID-19 patient...](#)

Press Release 16 Apr 2020

France

"Access to medical care must be maintained for the most vulnerable" during ...

Voices from the Field 14 Apr 2020

South Sudan

As conflict intensifies near Pibor, thousands flee into the bush

Project Update 14 Apr 2020

Coronavirus disease COVID-19

Northwest Syria will "struggle to cope in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic"

Voices from the Field 14 Apr 2020

Coronavirus disease COVID-19

MSF supports Iraqi hospitals responding to COVID-19

Project Update 14 Apr 2020

DRC Ebola outbreaks

Crisis update - April 2020

Crisis Update 14 Apr 2020

National Vaccine Program Office - U.S. HHS [to 18 Apr 2020]

<https://www.hhs.gov/vaccines/about/index.html>

NVAC 2020 Meetings

June 9-10, 2020 NVAC Meeting

September 23-24, 2020 Meeting (Virtual)

NIH [to 18 Apr 2020]

<http://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases>

Selected News Releases

Antiviral remdesivir prevents disease progression in monkeys with COVID-19

April 17, 2020 — Study supports clinical testing under way across U.S.

B. Williamson, *et al.* [Clinical benefit of remdesivir in rhesus macaques infected with SARS-CoV-2\(link is external\).](#)

Abstract

Background: Effective therapeutics to treat COVID-19 are urgently needed. Remdesivir is a nucleotide prodrug with in vitro and in vivo efficacy against coronaviruses. Here, we tested the efficacy of remdesivir treatment in a rhesus macaque model of SARS-CoV-2 infection. Methods: To evaluate the effect of remdesivir treatment on SARS-CoV-2 disease outcome, we used the recently established rhesus macaque model of SARS-CoV-2 infection that results in transient lower respiratory tract disease. Two groups of six rhesus macaques were infected with SARS-CoV-2 and treated with intravenous remdesivir or an equal volume of vehicle solution once daily. Clinical, virological and histological parameters were assessed regularly during the study and at necropsy to determine treatment efficacy. Results: In contrast to vehicle-treated animals, animals treated with remdesivir did not show signs of respiratory disease and had reduced pulmonary infiltrates on radiographs. Virus titers in bronchoalveolar lavages were

significantly reduced as early as 12hrs after the first treatment was administered. At necropsy on day 7 after inoculation, lung viral loads of remdesivir-treated animals were significantly lower and there was a clear reduction in damage to the lung tissue. Conclusions: Therapeutic remdesivir treatment initiated early during infection has a clear clinical benefit in SARS-CoV-2-infected rhesus macaques. These data support early remdesivir treatment initiation in COVID-19 patients to prevent progression to severe pneumonia.

Investigational chimp adenovirus MERS-CoV vaccine protects monkeys

April 17, 2020 — Vaccine neutralizes multiple MERS-CoV strains.

NIH to launch public-private partnership to speed COVID-19 vaccine and treatment options

April 17, 2020 — Health agencies, leading pharmaceutical companies to join forces to accelerate pandemic response.

[See COVID-19 above for detail]

NIH study validates decontamination methods for re-use of N95 respirators

April 15, 2020 — Three methods effectively sanitized masks for limited re-use.

PATH [to 18 Apr 2020]

<https://www.path.org/media-center/>

Selected Announcements

No new digest content identified.

Sabin Vaccine Institute [to 18 Apr 2020]

<http://www.sabin.org/updates/pressreleases>

Statements and Press Releases

No new digest content identified.

UNAIDS [to 18 Apr 2020]

<http://www.unaids.org/en>

Selected Press Releases/Reports/Statements

17 April 2020

Community networks extend arms to connect people to medicine in Viet Nam

16 April 2020

Building peace through sustainable initiatives

15 April 2020

Keeping HIV treatment available in Pakistan during COVID-19

14 April 2020

Ratio of new HIV infections to number of people living with HIV improving

UNICEF [to 18 Apr 2020]

<https://www.unicef.org/media/press-releases>

Press release

Geneva Palais briefing note on the impact of COVID-19 on children

This is a summary of what was said by UNICEF Director of the Office of Global Insight and Policy Laurence Chandy – to whom quoted text may be attributed – at today's press briefing at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

17/04/2020

Statement

COVID-19: Global ceasefire would be a gamechanger for 250 million children living in conflict-affected areas

Statement by UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore

17/04/2020

Press release

UNICEF provides vital supplies for Nigeria's COVID-19 response

16/04/2020

Statement

UN agencies welcome first relocation of unaccompanied children from Greece

Agencies urge other EU Member States to also follow through on relocation pledges

15/04/2020

Press release

Children at increased risk of harm online during global COVID-19 pandemic

Newly released technical note aims to help governments, ICT companies, educators and parents protect children in lockdown

14/04/2020

Press release

COVID-19: UNICEF Spain contributes 418,000 protective masks to combat pandemic

Masks part of overall support procured by UNICEF Spain for the national response, including 1,050,000 gloves, 100,000 virus detection kits, 1,000 units of personal protective equipment and 97,000 units of hand sanitiser.

14/04/2020

Press release

More than 117 million children at risk of missing out on measles vaccines, as COVID-19 surges

Statement by the Measles & Rubella Initiative: American Red Cross, U.S. CDC, UNICEF, UN Foundation and WHO

13/04/2020

[See COVID-19 above for detail]

Statement

Children in detention are at heightened risk of contracting COVID-19 and should be released

Statement by UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore
13/04/2020

Press release

The European Union and Belgium support UNICEF in shipping vital supplies to the Democratic Republic of the Congo

12/04/2020

Unitaid [to 18 Apr 2020]

<https://unitaid.org/#en>

Unitaid is a global development agency, hosted by the World Health Organization and its major donors are France, the United Kingdom, Brazil, Norway, Chile, the Republic of Korea, Spain and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

14 April 2020

Unitaid greets World Chagas Disease Day with new analysis, new plans

Geneva – Unitaid marked the first World Chagas Disease Day with the release of a comprehensive report on how to better confront the potentially deadly parasitic infection that strikes hardest among Latin America's poor and marginalized.

It was on this date in 1909 that a Brazilian doctor, Carlos Chagas, diagnosed the first case of what was to be called Chagas disease.

Unitaid is also developing an initiative to help eliminate mother-to-child transmission of Chagas disease as part of its mandate to improve maternal, newborn and child health...

...Unitaid's just-released report, Technology and Market Landscape for Chagas Disease, maps out the diagnostics and treatments that are in use now and identifies innovations that could improve upon them. The report also examines market barriers that could be removed to make way for better tests and treatments...

Vaccination Acceptance Research Network (VARN) [to 18 Apr 2020]

<https://vaccineacceptance.org/news.html#header1-2r>

Announcements

No new digest content identified.

Vaccine Confidence Project [to 18 Apr 2020]

<http://www.vaccineconfidence.org/>

Latest News & Archive

No new digest content identified.

Vaccine Education Center – Children's Hospital of Philadelphia [to 18 Apr 2020]

<http://www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center>

No new digest content identified.

Wellcome Trust [to 18 Apr 2020]

<https://wellcome.ac.uk/news>

Opinion | 16 April 2020

Greater investment is needed to help countries with the weakest health systems prepare for COVID-19

Christiane Hertz-Fowler and Georgia Walton, Infection and Immunobiology team Wellcome

We've awarded £12 million, in partnership with the UK Department for International Development, to speed up global COVID-19 research and development and help low- and middle-income countries prepare for the pandemic. But more investment is needed.

The Wistar Institute [to 18 Apr 2020]

<https://www.wistar.org/news/press-releases>

Press Releases

No new digest content identified.

WFPHA: World Federation of Public Health Associations [to 18 Apr 2020]

<https://www.wfpha.org/>

Latest News

WFPHA Press Release: Urge The Government of The USA to Reconsider President Trump's Decision on WHO

Friday, 17 April 2020

The World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) deplores the decision by President Trump to suspend funding...

Call for a Coordinated, Equitable, and Human Rights-based Global Response to COVID-19

Friday, 17 April 2020

WFPHA has signed Call for Global Action Plan on COVID-19. The undersigned 99 organizations and 40 individuals call upon heads of state and government of G20 countries to ensure a robust, coordinated global response to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic that is humane, equitable, based in the universality of human rights, and meets the needs of countries and people who are most vulnerable and have the fewest resources.

Alliance of Public Health Associations of the Americas - APHAA Declaration on COVID-19 Pandemic

Tuesday, 14 April 2020

Alliance of Public Health Associations of the Americas (APHAA) Declaration on the Situation of the COVID-19 Pandemic in the World...

World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) [to 18 Apr 2020]

<https://www.oie.int/en/for-the-media/press-releases/2020/>

Press Releases

No new digest content identified.

.....

ARM [Alliance for Regenerative Medicine] [to 18 Apr 2020]

<https://alliancerm.org/press-releases/>
Press Releases
No new digest content identified.

BIO [to 18 Apr 2020]
<https://www.bio.org/press-releases>
Press Releases
No new digest content identified.

DCVMN – Developing Country Vaccine Manufacturers Network [to 18 Apr 2020]
<http://www.dcvmn.org/>
News
No new digest content identified.

IFPMA [to 18 Apr 2020]
<http://www.ifpma.org/resources/news-releases/>
Selected Press Releases, Statements, Publications
[IFPMA Backgrounder - COVID-19](#)
16 April 2020
[See COVID-19 above for detail]

PhRMA [to 18 Apr 2020]
<http://www.phrma.org/>
Selected Press Releases, Statements
[Lilly, Merck and Pfizer empower team members to volunteer on COVID-19 frontlines](#)
Stephen J. Ubl | April 15, 2020
As biopharmaceutical companies continue to fight COVID-19 through research and development, three companies have teamed up to create programs empowering employees with medical and laboratory expertise to completely or partially pause their current roles and volunteer their medical skills to help their local health care organizations...

Industry Watch
[:: Moderna Announces Award from U.S. Government Agency BARDA for up to \\$483 Million to Accelerate Development of mRNA Vaccine \(mRNA-1273\) Against Novel Coronavirus](#)
April 16, 2020

Moderna, Inc., (Nasdaq: MRNA) a clinical stage biotechnology company pioneering messenger RNA (mRNA) therapeutics and vaccines to create a new generation of transformative medicines for patients, today...

[Sir Andrew Witty to Take Leave of Absence From UnitedHealth Group to Co-lead World Health Organization Efforts to Accelerate a COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

April 15, 2020

* * * *

Journal Watch

Vaccines and Global Health: The Week in Review continues its weekly scanning of key peer-reviewed journals to identify and cite articles, commentary and editorials, books reviews and other content supporting our focus on vaccine ethics and policy. Journal Watch is not intended to be exhaustive, but indicative of themes and issues the Center is actively tracking. We selectively provide full text of some editorial and comment articles that are specifically relevant to our work. Successful access to some of the links provided may require subscription or other access arrangement unique to the publisher.

If you would like to suggest other journal titles to include in this service, please contact David Curry at: david.r.curry@centerforvaccineethicsandpolicy.org

American Journal of Infection Control

April 2020 Volume 48, Issue 4, p355-470

<http://www.ajicjournal.org/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Preventive Medicine

April 2020 Volume 58, Issue 4, p473-612

<http://www.ajpmonline.org/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Public Health

April 2020 110(4)

<http://ajph.aphapublications.org/toc/ajph/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

Volume 102, Issue 4, April 2020

<http://www.ajtmh.org/content/journals/14761645/102/4>

[Reviewed earlier]

Annals of Internal Medicine

7 April 2020 Vol: 172, Issue 7

<http://annals.org/aim/issue>

[Reviewed earlier]

Artificial Intelligence – An International Journal

Volume 282 May 2020

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/artificial-intelligence/vol/282/suppl/C>

[Reviewed earlier]

BMC Cost Effectiveness and Resource Allocation

<http://resource-allocation.biomedcentral.com/>

(Accessed 18 Apr 2020)

[No new digest content identified]

BMJ Global Health

April 2020 - Volume 5 - 4

<https://gh.bmj.com/content/5/4>

[Reviewed earlier]

BMC Health Services Research

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmchealthservres/content>

(Accessed 18 Apr 2020)

[No new digest content identified]

BMC Infectious Diseases

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcinfectdis/content>

(Accessed 18 Apr 2020)

[No new digest content identified]

BMC Medical Ethics

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcmedethics/content>

(Accessed 18 Apr 2020)

[No new digest content identified]

BMC Medicine

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcmed/content>

(Accessed 18 Apr 2020)

[Cost-effectiveness of introducing national seasonal influenza vaccination for adults aged 60 years and above in mainland China: a modelling analysis](#)

China has an aging population with an increasing number of adults aged ≥ 60 years. Influenza causes a heavy disease burden in older adults, but can be alleviated by vaccination. We assessed the cost-effectiveness...

Authors: Juan Yang, Katherine E. Atkins, Luzhao Feng, Marc Baguelin, Peng Wu, Han Yan, Eric H. Y. Lau, Joseph T. Wu, Yang Liu, Benjamin J. Cowling, Mark Jit and Hongjie Yu

Citation: BMC Medicine 2020 18:90

Content type: Research article

Published on: 14 April 2020

BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcpregnancychildbirth/content>

(Accessed 18 Apr 2020)

[No new digest content identified]

BMC Public Health

<http://bmcpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/articles>

(Accessed 18 Apr 2020)

[No new digest content identified]

BMC Research Notes

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcresearchnotes/content>

(Accessed 18 Apr 2020)

[No new digest content identified]

BMJ Open

April 2020 - Volume 10 - 4

<https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/10/4?current-issue=y>

[Reviewed earlier]

Bulletin of the World Health Organization

Volume 98, Number 4, April 2020, 229-296

<https://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/98/4/en/>

[Reviewed earlier]

Child Care, Health and Development

Volume 46, Issue 3 Pages: 249-396 May 2020

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/13652214/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Clinical Therapeutics

February 2020 Volume 42, Issue 2, p237-378, e1-e32

<http://www.clinicaltherapeutics.com/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Clinical Trials

Volume 17 Issue 1, February 2020

<https://journals.sagepub.com/toc/ctja/17/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

Conflict and Health

<http://www.conflictandhealth.com/>

[Accessed 18 Apr 2020]

[No new digest content identified]

Contemporary Clinical Trials

Volume 90 March 2020

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/contemporary-clinical-trials/vol/90/suppl/C>

[Reviewed earlier]

The CRISPR Journal

Volume 3, Issue 1 / February 2020

<https://www.liebertpub.com/toc/crispr/3/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

Current Genetic Medicine Reports

Volume 8, Issue 1, March 2020

<https://link.springer.com/journal/40142/8/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

Current Opinion in Infectious Diseases

April 2020 - Volume 33 - Issue 2

<https://journals.lww.com/co-infectiousdiseases/pages/currenttoc.aspx>

[Reviewed earlier]

Developing World Bioethics

Volume 20, Issue 1 Pages: 1-60 March 2020

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/14718847/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Development in Practice

Volume 30, Issue 2, 2020

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/cdip20/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness

Volume 14 - Issue 1 - February 2020

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/disaster-medicine-and-public-health-preparedness/latest-issue>

[Reviewed earlier]

Disasters

Volume 44, Issue 2 Pages: 233-432 April 2020

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/14677717/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

EMBO Reports

Volume 21 Issue 4 3 April 2020

<https://www.embopress.org/toc/14693178/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Emerging Infectious Diseases

Volume 26, Number 4—April 2020

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/>

[Reviewed earlier]

Epidemics

Volume 30 March 2020

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/epidemics/vol/30/suppl/C>

[Reviewed earlier]

Epidemiology and Infection

Volume 148 - 2020

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/epidemiology-and-infection/latest-issue>

[Reviewed earlier]

Ethics & Human Research

Volume 42, Issue 2 Pages: 1-33 March–April 2020

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/25782363/current>

Incidental Findings :: Data Sharing N-of-1 Trials :: Deception

[Reviewed earlier]

The European Journal of Public Health

Volume 30, Issue 1, February 2020

<https://academic.oup.com/eurpub/issue/30/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

Gates Open Research

<https://gatesopenresearch.org/browse/articles>

[Accessed 18 Apr 2020]
[Reviewed earlier]

Genome Medicine

<https://genomemedicine.biomedcentral.com/articles>
[No new digest content identified]

Global Health Action

Volume 12, 2019 Issue 1
<https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/zgha20/12/sup1?nav=tocList>
[Reviewed earlier]

Global Health: Science and Practice (GHSP)

Vol. 8, No. 1 March 30, 2020
<http://www.ghspjournal.org/content/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Global Public Health

Volume 15, 2020 Issue 5
<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rgph20/current>
Article
[**From advocacy to austerity: The new role of the U.S. public sector in HIV drug development and access**](#)
Ryan Whitacre
Pages: 627-637
Published online: 19 Dec 2019

Globalization and Health

<http://www.globalizationandhealth.com/>
[Accessed 18 Apr 2020]
[No new digest content identified]

Health Affairs

Vol. 39, No. 4 April 2020
<https://www.healthaffairs.org/toc/hlthaff/current>
Integrating Social Services & Health
[Reviewed earlier]

Health and Human Rights

Volume 21, Issue 2, December 2019
<https://www.hhrjournal.org/volume-21-issue-2-december-2019/>

[Reviewed earlier]

Health Economics, Policy and Law

Volume 15 - Issue 2 - April 2020

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/health-economics-policy-and-law/latest-issue>

[Reviewed earlier]

Health Policy and Planning

Volume 35, Issue 3, April 2020

<https://academic.oup.com/heapol/issue/35/3>

[New issue; No digest content identified]

Health Research Policy and Systems

<http://www.health-policy-systems.com/content>

[Accessed 18 Apr 2020]

[No new digest content identified]

Human Gene Therapy

Volume 31, Issue 5-6 / March 2020

<https://www.liebertpub.com/toc/hum/31/5-6>

Focus on Gene Therapy in Women's Health

[Reviewed earlier]

Humanitarian Exchange Magazine

Number 77, March 2020

<https://odihpn.org/magazine/the-crisis-in-yemen/>

Responding to Ebola in the Democratic Republic of Congo

by Humanitarian Practice Network

This edition of Humanitarian Exchange, co-edited with Anne Harmer, focuses on the response to the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Although at the time of publication the outbreak appeared to have ended, over its course it claimed 2,200 lives, with more than 3,300 infected, making this the world's second largest outbreak ever.

In the lead article, Natalie Roberts reflects on the extent to which humanitarian actors have applied learning from the outbreak in West Africa in 2014–2016. Richard Kojan and colleagues report on the NGO ALIMA's flexible, patient-centred approach to reducing mortality, Marcela Ascuntar reflects on lessons learned from community feedback and Bernard Balibuno, Emanuel Mbuna Badjonga and Howard Mollett highlight the crucial role faith-based organisations have played in the response. In their article, Theresa Jones, Noé Kasali and Olivia Tulloch outline the work of the Bethesda counselling centre in Beni, which provides support to grieving families. Reflecting on findings from a recent assessment by Translators without Borders, Ellie Kemp describes the challenges involved in providing clear and accessible information on Ebola and the response, and Sung Joon Park and colleagues explain how humane care and treatment can help

increase trust and confidence in the response. Stephen Mugamba and his co-authors highlight the importance of community involvement in Ebola research, and Gillian McKay and her co-authors examine the impact of the Ebola outbreak and response on sexual and reproductive health services.

Stacey Mearns, Kiryn Lanning and Michelle Gayer present an Ebola Readiness Roadmap to support NGOs in preparing for an outbreak, while Edward Kumakech, Maurice Sadlier, Aidan Sinnott and Dan Irvine report on a Gap Analysis tool looking at the communication, community engagement and compliance tracking activities that need to be in place before an Ebola vaccine is deployed. Emanuele Bruni and colleagues describe the development of a new monitoring and evaluation framework for strategic response planning. The edition ends with an article by Adelia Fairbanks, who argues for an acceptance strategy in the DRC to improve security and access for responding agencies.

Human Vaccines & Immunotherapeutics (formerly Human Vaccines)

Volume 16, Issue 3, 2020

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/khvi20/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Infectious Agents and Cancer

<http://www.infectagentscancer.com/content>

[Accessed 18 Apr 2020]

[No new digest content identified]

Infectious Diseases of Poverty

<http://www.idpjournals.com/content>

[Accessed 18 Apr 2020]

[No new digest content identified]

International Health

Volume 12, Issue 2, March 2020

<https://academic.oup.com/inthealth/issue/12/2>

[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Community Medicine and Public Health

Vol 7, No 3 (2020) March 2020

<https://www.ijcmph.com/index.php/ijcmph/issue/view/60>

[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Epidemiology

Volume 49, Issue 1, February 2020

<https://academic.oup.com/ije/issue/49/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Human Rights in Healthcare

Volume 12 Issue 5

<https://www.emerald.com/insight/publication/issn/2056-4902/vol/12/iss/5>

[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Infectious Diseases

March 2020 Volume 92, p1-272

[https://www.ijidonline.com/issue/S1201-9712\(20\)X0002-6](https://www.ijidonline.com/issue/S1201-9712(20)X0002-6)

[Reviewed earlier]

JAMA

April 14, 2020, Vol 323, No. 14, Pages 1327-1420

<http://jama.jamanetwork.com/issue.aspx>

Original Investigation

[Effect of a Chikungunya Virus–Like Particle Vaccine on Safety and Tolerability OutcomesA Randomized Clinical Trial](#)

Grace L. Chen, MD, MPH; Emily E. Coates, PhD; Sarah H. Plummer, CRNP; et al.

has active quiz

JAMA. 2020;323(14):1369-1377. doi:10.1001/jama.2020.2477

This clinical trial tested whether the chikungunya virus–like particle vaccine was safe for participants living in chikungunya endemic areas.

Editorial

[A New Vaccine for Chikungunya Virus](#)

Kenneth A. Stapleford, PhD; Mark J. Mulligan, MD

Research Letter

[Presumed Asymptomatic Carrier Transmission of COVID-19](#)

Yan Bai, MD; Lingsheng Yao, MD; Tao Wei, MD; et al.

free access has active quiz has audio

JAMA. 2020;323(14):1406-1407. doi:10.1001/jama.2020.2565

This study describes possible transmission of novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) from an asymptomatic Wuhan resident to 5 family members in Anyang, a Chinese city in the neighboring province of Hubei.

[Audio Interview:](#) COVID-19 Update With NIAID's Anthony Fauci, MD; March 6, 2020

[Clinical Review Audio:](#) Update on Coronavirus: March 6, 2020, by NIAID's Anthony Fauci, MD

[Clinical Review Audio:](#) COVID-19 in Seattle: Clinical Features and Managing the Outbreak

[Audio Interview:](#) Coronavirus Testing – March 16 Q&A with the CDC's Jay Butler, MD

Editorial

[Editorial Concern—Possible Reporting of the Same Patients With COVID-19 in Different Reports](#)

Howard Bauchner, MD; Robert M. Golub, MD; Jody Zylke, MD

Viewpoint

[COVID-19—New Insights on a Rapidly Changing Epidemic](#)

Carlos del Rio, MD; Preeti N. Malani, MD, MSJ

free access has active quiz has audio

JAMA. 2020;323(14):1339-1340. doi:10.1001/jama.2020.3072

This Viewpoint provides an update on what's known and not yet known about the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) epidemic, reviewing advances over the initial weeks of the outbreak in understanding the epidemiology and clinical spectrum of the illness and in approaches to diagnosis, management, and infection control.

Response to COVID-19 in TaiwanBig Data Analytics, New Technology, and Proactive Testing

C. Jason Wang, MD, PhD; Chun Y. Ng, MBA, MPH; Robert H. Brook, MD, ScD

free access has active quiz has audio

JAMA. 2020;323(14):1341-1342. doi:10.1001/jama.2020.3151

This Viewpoint describes the outbreak response infrastructure developed by the Taiwanese government following the SARS epidemic in 2003 and actions in response to COVID-19, including dedicated hotlines for symptom reporting, mobile phone messaging and case tracking, and the ramping up of facemask production.

Priorities for the US Health Community Responding to COVID-19

Amesh A. Adalja, MD; Eric Toner, MD; Thomas V. Inglesby, MD

free access has active quiz has audio

JAMA. 2020;323(14):1343-1344. doi:10.1001/jama.2020.3413

This Viewpoint discusses the preparedness plans that need to be implemented in the US to combat the SARS-CoV-2 virus (the cause of COVID-19 disease), including shoring up resources in hospitals and clinics, updating of triage and isolation protocols, expanding PCR manufacturing and patient testing, and communicating to the public with unified public health messages.

JAMA Pediatrics

April 2020, Vol 174, No. 4, Pages 313-393

<http://archpedi.jamanetwork.com/issue.aspx>

<https://journals.lww.com/jbisrir/Pages/currenttoc.aspx>

[Reviewed earlier]

JBI Database of Systematic Review and Implementation Reports

April 2020 - Volume 18 - Issue 4

<https://journals.lww.com/jbisrir/Pages/currenttoc.aspx>

SYSTEMATIC REVIEW PROTOCOLS

Approaches for assessing decision-making capacity in older adults: a scoping review protocol

Usher, Ruth; Stapleton, Tadhg

JBI Evidence Synthesis. 18(4):832-840, April 2020.

Abstract

Objective:

This review will identify and map existing evidence on current approaches to determining decision-making capacity in older adults. It will provide a summary of available evidence and policies and identify gaps in research.

Introduction:

Assessment of decision-making capacity is emerging as an important issue in society and healthcare. It is considered an ethically challenging area of clinical practice, and issues with implementation have been identified internationally. With the aging population increasing globally, approaches to assess and support decision-making are becoming more pertinent.

Inclusion criteria:

This scoping review will consider studies on assessment approaches and procedures that are used to evaluate the decision-making capacity of older adults, aged 60 years and over. It will include those with age-related cognitive impairment, dementia, and neurodegenerative conditions. Quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods studies along with gray literature, including expert opinions, policies reports, and practice guides, will be included.

Methods:

The JBI scoping review methodological framework will be used. The review will also be conducted in accordance with the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses Extension for Scoping Reviews (PRISMA-ScR) checklist for scoping reviews. The following major healthcare databases will be searched: MEDLINE, PsycINFO, Embase, CINAHL, Cochrane Databases, Web of Science, and Scopus. The search will cover studies published in English from January 2000 to the present date. Titles and abstracts will be screened against inclusion criteria. Data will be extracted using a form developed for this review. A stakeholder consultation meeting will be held to provide feedback on the findings.

Journal of Adolescent Health

April 2020 Volume 66, Issue 4, p379-514

[https://www.jahonline.org/issue/S1054-139X\(20\)X0003-6](https://www.jahonline.org/issue/S1054-139X(20)X0003-6)

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research

Vol. 67 (2020)

<https://www.jair.org/index.php/jair>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Community Health

Volume 45, Issue 2, April 2020

<https://link.springer.com/journal/10900/45/2>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Development Economics

Volume 144 May 2020

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/journal-of-development-economics/vol/144/suppl/C>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics

Volume 15 Issue 1-2, February-April 2020

<http://journals.sagepub.com/toc/jre/current>

Special Issue: Ethical Issues in Social Media Research

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health

April 2020 - Volume 74 - 4

<https://jech.bmj.com/content/74/4>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Evidence-Based Medicine

Volume 13, Issue 1 Pages: 1-88 February 2020

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/17565391/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Global Ethics

Volume 16, Issue 1, 2020

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rjge20/current>

[New issue; No digest content identified]

Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved (JHCPU)

Volume 31, Number 1, February 2020

<https://muse.jhu.edu/journal/278>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health

Volume 22, Issue 2, April 2020

<https://link.springer.com/journal/10903/22/2>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies

Volume 18, 2020_ Issue 2

<https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/wimm20/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Infectious Diseases

Volume 221, Issue 6, 15 March 2020

<https://academic.oup.com/jid/issue/221/6>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Medical Ethics

April 2020 - Volume 46 - 4

<http://jme.bmj.com/content/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Patient-Centered Research and Reviews

Volume 7, Issue 1 (2020)

<https://digitalrepository.aurorahealthcare.org/jpcrr/>
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Pediatrics

April 2020 Volume 219, p1-288

<http://www.jpeds.com/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Pharmaceutical Policy and Practice

<https://joppp.biomedcentral.com/>

[Accessed 18 Apr 2020]
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Public Health Management & Practice

March/April 2020 - Volume 26 - Issue 2

<https://journals.lww.com/jphmp/pages/currenttoc.aspx>
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Public Health Policy

Volume 41, Issue 1, March 2020

<https://link.springer.com/journal/41271/41/1>
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Refugee & Global Health

Volume 2, Issue 2 (2019)

<https://ir.library.louisville.edu/rgh/>
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of the Royal Society – Interface

April 2020 Volume 17 Issue 165

<https://royalsocietypublishing.org/toc/rsif/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Travel Medicine

Volume 27, Issue 2, March 2020

<https://academic.oup.com/jtm/issue/27/2>
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Virology

April 2020; Volume 94, Issue 8
<http://jvi.asm.org/content/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

The Lancet

Apr 11, 2020 Volume 395 Number 10231 p1167-1228, e64-e66
<https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/issue/current>
Editorial

[COVID-19 in the USA: a question of time](#)

The Lancet

[Sustaining containment of COVID-19 in China](#)

The Lancet

Health Policy

[Fangcang shelter hospitals: a novel concept for responding to public health emergencies](#)

Simiao Chen, Zongjiu Zhang, Juntao Yang, Jian Wang, Xiaohui Zhai, Till Bärnighausen, Chen Wang

Summary

Fangcang shelter hospitals are a novel public health concept. They were implemented for the first time in China in February, 2020, to tackle the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak. The Fangcang shelter hospitals in China were large-scale, temporary hospitals, rapidly built by converting existing public venues, such as stadiums and exhibition centres, into health-care facilities. They served to isolate patients with mild to moderate COVID-19 from their families and communities, while providing medical care, disease monitoring, food, shelter, and social activities. We document the development of Fangcang shelter hospitals during the COVID-19 outbreak in China and explain their three key characteristics (rapid construction, massive scale, and low cost) and five essential functions (isolation, triage, basic medical care, frequent monitoring and rapid referral, and essential living and social engagement). Fangcang shelter hospitals could be powerful components of national responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as future epidemics and public health emergencies.

The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health

Apr 2020 Volume 4 Number 4 p251-340, e7-e9
<https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanchi/issue/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Lancet Digital Health

Apr 2020 Volume 2 Number 4 e149-e208

<https://www.thelancet.com/journals/landig/issue/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Lancet Global Health

Apr 2020 Volume 8 Number 4 e451-e611
<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/issue/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Lancet Infectious Diseases

Apr 2020 Volume 20 Number 4 p383-510, e50-e78
<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/issue/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Lancet Public Health

Apr 2020 Volume 5 Number 4 e177-e234
<https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpub/issue/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Lancet Respiratory Medicine

Apr 2020 Volume 8 Number 4 p321-422, e14-e26
<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanres/issue/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Maternal and Child Health Journal

Volume 24, Issue 4, April 2020
<https://link.springer.com/journal/10995/24/4>
[Reviewed earlier]

Medical Decision Making (MDM)

Volume 40 Issue 2, February 2020
<http://mdm.sagepub.com/content/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

The Milbank Quarterly

A Multidisciplinary Journal of Population Health and Health Policy
Volume 98, Issue 1 Pages: 1-222 March 2020
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/14680009/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Nature

Volume 580 Issue 7803, 16 April 2020

http://www.nature.com/nature/current_issue.html

World View | 30 March 2020

Blocking information on COVID-19 can fuel the spread of misinformation

Governments need to think twice before they suppress messages related to COVID-19.

Heidi J. Larson

Two years ago, in a response to false information on social-media platforms, the United Nations special rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression condemned governments that disallow free speech in the name of public order. The report of the special rapporteur gave as an example the Chinese Cybersecurity Law of 2016, which “reinforces vague prohibitions against the spread of ‘false’ information that disrupts ‘social or economic order’, national unity or national security.”

As the world faces the COVID-19 pandemic, we are seeing what problems this suppression can wreak. What if the information deemed by government authorities as disrupting social order is not ‘false’, but instead a life-saving clue? When governments or their leaders repress information in hope of calming anxious publics, or deliberately release supposedly reassuring misinformation, they risk undermining their own credibility and their abilities to help people to counter real health threats.

Examples of this span the world. US President Donald Trump claimed that there would be a diagnostic test for “anybody that needs a test”, and that the malaria drug chloroquine could successfully treat COVID-19, although trials for its efficacy against the virus were not yet complete. One individual has since died after dosing himself with a form of chloroquine sold to clean fish tanks.

Iran, once known for its strong health-care system, has been hit hard by COVID-19. Iranians were already angry and mistrustful following their government’s accidental shooting down of a passenger aircraft in January, amid other grievances. In this climate of distrust, new anger emerged as the public felt that the government was not doing enough to slow the outbreak.

The foreign minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, tried to divert this anger by blaming the United States. Although US sanctions have taken a toll on daily life in Iran, and perhaps weakened their capacity in the COVID-19 response, the government also made conscious attempts to repress information about the state of the outbreak. Medical staff in Iran have been warned by authorities not to share any information about infected patients or limited resources, undermining the ability to respond.

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation reported on 18 March that physicians in Russia fear there could be “hundreds” of deaths, despite Russian President Vladimir Putin’s assurances that all is under control. Some physicians say they are holding back from reporting suspected cases to health authorities as they are concerned about the state of the quarantine facilities where their patients would be sent, and fear that their own practices would be shut down. And news agency Reuters reported that the White House had kept important COVID-19 meetings classified — even though that meant keeping information from experts who would normally be consulted — while the President trumpeted ‘all under control’, until reality forced a rapid about-face.

Where official information sources are perceived as untrustworthy, the climate is set for the viral spread of unfounded speculation. COVID-19 has triggered a fountain of rumours — an indistinguishable mix of unverified information, helpful information, misinformation and intentionally manipulated disinformation. Between 1 January and mid-March 2020, our social-media monitoring at The Vaccine Confidence Project had captured more than 240 million digital and social-media messages globally referring to the new virus, with an average of 3.08 million messages per day. On Twitter, there have been 113 million unique authors sharing everything from messages from news reports and commentary on COVID-19, to views on quarantining measures, speculation on the source of the virus and home-brewed cures. These ranged from the relatively harmless — eat garlic — to the downright dangerous — drink bleach. One message falsely claiming to be from Stanford University in California recommended sipping water to kill the virus, or holding your breath for ten seconds to determine whether you are infected. (Neither works.)

As scientists rushed to investigate the new virus, conspiracy theories started to circulate about whether it was a naturally evolved new pathogen, one that inadvertently slipped out of a high-security laboratory in Wuhan or one that was deliberately created for biowarfare — an idea deemed plausible by some in the current context of geopolitics and deepening tensions between the United States and China.

On 19 February, a group of scientists issued a statement in *The Lancet* to quell the tsunami of conspiracy theories. They confirmed that investigations “overwhelmingly conclude that this coronavirus originated in wildlife”. But between the identification of the new virus and the confirmation of its origin, there was no evidence available to counter the rumours that went viral, and — for those who want to put stock in them — they persist.

The challenge for policymakers and health authorities is that, although some information is clearly false, and even harmful, the validity of other posts is less clear-cut. Some are merely stirring up doubts, confusion and conspiracy, and undermining trust in health authorities, but are difficult to pin down and refute. Some emerging, albeit unverified, information might be valuable, and deleting it would cause harm.

The epidemic began with a poignant example of potential life-saving information suppressed as a rumour. On 30 December, Li Wenliang, a young ophthalmologist in Wuhan, China, posted a message to colleagues that tried to call attention to a severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS)-like illness that was brewing in his hospital. The Chinese government abruptly deleted the post, accusing Li of rumour-mongering. On 7 February, he died of COVID-19.

This is a complicated landscape that is not just a matter of debunking a piece of misinformation. This is about relationships between publics and politicians, a lack of trust in the motives of governing powers and fears among leaders that the truth would spark public disorder and dissent. Advice to “Keep calm and carry on” can have exactly the opposite effect in the context of a fatal, and evolving, new virus.

Review Article | 15 April 2020

[Multispecific drugs herald a new era of biopharmaceutical innovation](#)

The development and future prospects of prospectively designed multispecific drugs, which have the potential to transform the biopharmaceutical industry by enabling the targeting of currently inaccessible components of the proteome, are reviewed.

Raymond J. Deshaies

Nature Biotechnology

Volume 38 Issue 4, April 2020

<https://www.nature.com/nbt/volumes/38/issues/4>

[Reviewed earlier]

Nature Genetics

Volume 52 Issue 4, April 2020

<https://www.nature.com/ng/volumes/52/issues/4>

[Reviewed earlier]

Nature Medicine

Volume 26 Issue 4, April 2020

<https://www.nature.com/nm/volumes/26/issues/4>

Editorial | 02 April 2020

[Safeguard research in the time of COVID-19](#)

As the COVID-19 pandemic shuts down labs across the globe, funders and institutions must step up to support scientists and ensure the healthy future of research.

News Feature | 11 March 2020

[Nigeria responds to COVID-19; first case detected in sub-Saharan Africa](#)

A seasoned public-health institute puts Nigeria in a good position to respond to COVID-19, although there are area-specific challenges to be addressed. Nature Medicine reports from Nigeria.

Paul Adepoju

Comment | 27 March 2020

[On the responsible use of digital data to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

Large-scale collection of data could help curb the COVID-19 pandemic, but it should not neglect privacy and public trust. Best practices should be identified to maintain responsible data-collection and data-processing standards at a global scale.

Marcello Ienca & Effy Vayena

Nature Reviews Genetics

Volume 21 Issue 4, April 2020

<https://www.nature.com/nrg/volumes/21/issues/4>

[Reviewed earlier]

Nature Reviews Immunology

Volume 20 Issue 4, April 2020
<https://www.nature.com/nri/volumes/20/issues/4>
[Reviewed earlier]

Nature Reviews Drug Discovery

Volume 19 Issue 4, April 2020
<https://www.nature.com/nrd/volumes/19/issues/4>
[Reviewed earlier]

New England Journal of Medicine

April 16, 2020 Vol. 382 No. 16
<http://www.nejm.org/toc/nejm/medical-journal>
Perspective

[**A Strategy for Improving U.S. Health Care Delivery — Conducting More Randomized, Controlled Trials**](#) A. Finkelstein

[**Covid-19 and the Stiff Upper Lip — The Pandemic Response in the United Kingdom**](#)
[D.J. Hunter](#)

Pediatrics

Vol. 145, Issue 4 1 Apr 2020
<https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/>
[Reviewed earlier]

Pharmaceutics

Volume 12, Issue 3 (March 2020)
<https://www.mdpi.com/1999-4923/12/3>
[Reviewed earlier]

PharmacoEconomics

Volume 38, Issue 4, April 2020
<https://link.springer.com/journal/40273/38/4>
[Reviewed earlier]

PLoS Genetics

<https://journals.plos.org/plosgenetics/>
(Accessed 18 Apr 2020)
[No new digest content identified]

PLoS Medicine

<http://www.plosmedicine.org/>

(Accessed 18 Apr 2020)
[No new digest content identified]

PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases

<http://www.plosntds.org/>

(Accessed 18 Apr 2020)
[No new digest content identified]

PLoS One

<http://www.plosone.org/>

[Accessed 18 Apr 2020]

[Feasibility of establishing an HIV vaccine preparedness cohort in a population of the Uganda Police Force: Lessons learnt from a prospective study](#)

Ubaldo Mushabe Bahemuka, Andrew Abaasa, Janet Seeley, Moses Byaruhanga, Anatoli Kamali, Philippe Mayaud, Monica Kuteesa

Research Article | published 17 Apr 2020 PLOS ONE

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0231640>

PLoS Pathogens

<http://journals.plos.org/plospathogens/>

[Accessed 18 Apr 2020]

[No new digest content identified]

PNAS - Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/>

[Accessed 18 Apr 2020]

[No new digest content identified]

Prehospital & Disaster Medicine

Volume 35 - Issue 2 - April 2020

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/prehospital-and-disaster-medicine/latest-issue>

[Reviewed earlier]

Preventive Medicine

Volume 133 April 2020

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/preventive-medicine/vol/133/suppl/C>

[Reviewed earlier]

Proceedings of the Royal Society B

08 April 2020 Volume 287 Issue 1924

<https://royalsocietypublishing.org/toc/rspb/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Public Health

Volume 181 Pages 1-204 (April 2020)
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/public-health/vol/181/suppl/C>
[Reviewed earlier]

Public Health Ethics

Volume 12, Issue 3, November 2019
<http://phe.oxfordjournals.org/content/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Public Health Reports

Volume 135 Issue 2, March/April 2020
<https://journals.sagepub.com/toc/phrg/135/2>
[Reviewed earlier]

Qualitative Health Research

Volume 30 Issue 5, April 2020
<http://qhr.sagepub.com/content/current>
[New issue; No digest content identified]

Research Ethics

Volume 15 Issue 3-4, July-October 2019
<http://journals.sagepub.com/toc/reab/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Reproductive Health

<http://www.reproductive-health-journal.com/content>
[Accessed 18 Apr 2020]
[No new digest content identified]

Revista Panamericana de Salud Pública/Pan American Journal of Public Health (RPSP/PAJPH)

<https://www.paho.org/journal/en>

Latest articles

15 Apr 2020

[Comparing South Korea and Italy's healthcare systems and initiatives to combat COVID-19](#)

Risk Analysis

Volume 40, Issue 3 Pages: 439-656 March 2020

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/15396924/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Risk Management and Healthcare Policy

<https://www.dovepress.com/risk-management-and-healthcare-policy-archive56>

[Accessed 18 Apr 2020]

[No new digest content identified]

Science

17 April 2020 Vol 368, Issue 6488

<http://www.sciencemag.org/current.dtl>

Special Issue: Drought

[New issue; no digest content identified]

Science Translational Medicine

15 April 2020 Vol 12, Issue 539

<https://stm.sciencemag.org/>

[Reviewed earlier]

Social Science & Medicine

Volume 251 April 2020

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/social-science-and-medicine/vol/249/suppl/C>

[Reviewed earlier]

Systematic Reviews

<https://systematicreviewsjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles>

[Accessed 18 Apr 2020]

[No new digest content identified]

Travel Medicine and Infectious Diseases

Volume 33 January–February 2020

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/travel-medicine-and-infectious-disease/vol/33/suppl/C>

[Reviewed earlier]

Tropical Medicine & International Health

Volume 25, Issue 3 Pages: i-iv, 277-386 March 2020

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/13653156/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Vaccine

Volume 38, Issue 18 Pages 3405-3514 (16 April 2020)

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/vaccine/vol/38/issue/18>

Research article Abstract only

[Immunogenicity and safety of the RTS,S/AS01 malaria vaccine co-administered with measles, rubella and yellow fever vaccines in Ghanaian children: A phase IIIb, multi-center, non-inferiority, randomized, open, controlled trial](#)

Kwaku Poku Asante, Daniel Ansong, Seyram Kaali, Samuel Adjei, ... Opokua Ofori-Anyinam
Pages 3411-3421

Research article Abstract only

[Development of a cumulative metric of vaccination adherence behavior and its application among a cohort of 12-month-olds in western Kenya](#)

Casey L. Benzaken, Joshua D. Miller, Maricianah Onono, Sera L. Young
Pages 3429-3435

Research article Open access

[Determinants of geographical inequalities for DTP3 vaccine coverage in sub-Saharan Africa](#)

Gloria Ikilezi, Orvalho J Augusto, Alyssa Sbarra, Kenneth Sherr, ... Stephen S Lim
Pages 3447-3454

Research article Abstract only

[Impact of media reports regarding influenza vaccine on obstetricians' vaccination practices](#)

Sean T. O'Leary, Jessica R. Cataldi, Megan C. Lindley, Laura P. Hurley, ... Allison Kempe
Pages 3474-3479

Research article Abstract only

[Large-scale influenza vaccination promotion on a mobile app platform: A randomized controlled trial](#)

Wei-Nchih Lee, David Stück, Kevin Konty, Caitlin Rivers, ... Luca Foschini
Pages 3508-3514

Vaccines — Open Access Journal

<http://www.mdpi.com/journal/vaccines>

(Accessed 18 Apr 2020)

Open Access Article

[Health Care Professionals' Perspectives on Life-Course Immunization: A Qualitative Survey from a European Conference](#)

by [Roy K. Philip](#) and [Alberta Di Pasquale](#)

Vaccines 2020, 8(2), 185; <https://doi.org/10.3390/vaccines8020185> - 14 Apr 2020

Abstract

Today, fewer children die each year from vaccine-preventable diseases than older adults. Health systems need new immunization strategies to tackle the burden of vaccine-preventable disease

in an aging society. A life-course immunization (LCI) approach—which entails vaccination throughout an individual’s lifespan—enables adults to age with reduced risk to disease, thereby enabling healthy, active and productive aging. We conducted an audience response system (ARS)-based survey to investigate HCP perspectives on LCI in an opportunistic sample of 222 health care professionals (HCPs) from around the world who attended a European infectious diseases conference. Survey results show that LCI is a priority for HCPs (77.4%–88.6%), with most of them stating the need to frame it as a part of a healthy lifestyle (91.0%–100.0%). Insufficient LCI recommendations by vaccine providers (12.9%–33.3%) and governments (15.2%–41.9%) and insufficient targeted budget allocation (6.1%–21.7%) were indicated as the main barriers to implement LCI, ahead of vaccine hesitancy (9.7%–15.2%). HCPs were willing to make LCI a gateway to healthy aging but need support to work together with other stakeholders involved in the vaccination journey. This could be a step towards equitable health care for all of society

Value in Health

March 2020 Volume 23, Issue 3, p277-408

[https://www.valueinhealthjournal.com/issue/S1098-3015\(20\)X0004-0](https://www.valueinhealthjournal.com/issue/S1098-3015(20)X0004-0)

[Reviewed earlier]

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From Google Scholar & other sources: Selected Journal Articles, Newsletters, Dissertations, Theses, Commentary

No new digest content identified.

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Media/Policy Watch

This watch section is intended to alert readers to substantive news, analysis and opinion from the general media and selected think tanks and similar organizations on vaccines, immunization, global public health and related themes. *Media Watch* is not intended to be exhaustive, but indicative of themes and issues CVEP is actively tracking. This section will grow from an initial base of newspapers, magazines and blog sources, and is segregated from *Journal Watch* above which scans the peer-reviewed journal ecology.

We acknowledge the Western/Northern bias in this initial selection of titles and invite suggestions for expanded coverage. We are conservative in our outlook in adding news sources which largely report on primary content we are already covering above. Many electronic media sources have tiered, fee-based subscription models for access. We will provide full-text where content is published without restriction, but most publications require registration and some subscription level.

The Atlantic

<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/>

Accessed 18 Apr 2020

Ideas

America's COVID-19 Disaster Is a Setback for Democracy

If the country's institutions cannot function effectively during a crisis, and especially if a view takes hold that authoritarian regimes are managing the crisis more decisively, a grim future lies ahead.

April 16, 2020 , Larry Diamond

Senior fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University

BBC

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

Accessed 18 Apr 2020

[No new, unique, relevant content]

The Economist

<http://www.economist.com/>

Accessed 18 Apr 2020

[No new, unique, relevant content]

Financial Times

<http://www.ft.com/home/uk>

Accessed 18 Apr 2020

[No new, unique, relevant content]

Forbes

<http://www.forbes.com/>

Apr 15, 2020

Optum CEO Witty To Take Leave To Join WHO's COVID-19 Vaccine Effort

UnitedHealth Group's Sir Andrew Witty will take a leave of absence running Optum to "co-lead a global effort of the World Health Organization" to develop a vaccine for the Coronavirus strain COVID-19.

By Bruce Japsen, Senior Contributor

Foreign Affairs

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/>

Accessed 18 Apr 2020

World Apr 17, 2020 Snapshot

Mass Consumption Is What Ails Us

Pandemics are not arbitrary calamities, but instead probabilistic events made more likely by human agency. This means that averting future pandemics requires a...

Sonia Shah

United States Apr 17, 2020 *Snapshot*

Technology Can Help Solve the Coronavirus Crisis If Government Steps Up

Washington has already missed the opportunity to use digital tools that could have saved lives in the early months of the crisis. Now it stands poised to miss a chance...

Mira Rapp-Hooper and Samm Sacks

Foreign Policy

<http://foreignpolicy.com/>

Accessed 18 Apr 2020 |

Pentagon Considers Extending Enlistments During Pandemic

Senior defense official expects to see more impacts to war readiness as the coronavirus outbreak hampers recruiting and halts travel.

Q&A | Jack Detsch

The Remaking of Big Pharma in a Post-Pandemic World

COVID-19 has bucked conventional wisdom on how the industry must operate.

Argument | Ethan Guillén, Melissa Chan

How Globalization Will Look After the Coronavirus Pandemic

New barriers are going up at breathtaking speed. The pandemic will accelerate not the demise of globalization, but its transformation.

Argument | Richard Fontaine

The Guardian

<http://www.guardiannews.com/>

Accessed 18 Apr 2020

Opinion Coronavirus outbreak

Africans facing coronavirus must not suffer the injustices they saw with AIDS

Sat 18 Apr 2020 Lydia Namubiru

Opinion Technology

When Covid-19 has done with us, what will be the new normal?

From online GPs and home working to smartphone tracking, the speed at which we are embracing technology is unprecedented – but can we trust it?

Sat 18 Apr 2020 John Naughton

New Yorker

<http://www.newyorker.com/>

Accessed 18 Apr 2020

Dispatch

Seoul's Radical Experiment in Digital Contact Tracing

In South Korea, the government is disseminating detailed tracking data on people with COVID-19.

By Max S. Kim

Q. & A.

Gordon Brown's Case for Global Coöperation During COVID-19

By Isaac Chotiner

News Desk

How Spain's Coronavirus-Infection Rate Became One of the World's Highest

By Stephania Taladrid

Dispatch

Will the Coronavirus Spare the World's Most Remote Places?

Villages in Alaska are sealing themselves off from the outside world to prevent infection; if the pandemic arrives, it will be devastating.

By Caroline Lester

April 17, 2020

New York Times

<http://www.nytimes.com/>

Accessed 18 Apr 2020

Asia Pacific

UK Scientists to Make a Million Potential COVID-19 Vaccines Before Proof

A million doses of a potential COVID-19 vaccine being developed by British scientists are already being manufactured and will be available by September, even before trials prove whether the shot is effective, the team said on Friday.

By Reuters

Apr 17

Africa

Congo Records Five New Ebola Cases, Shelves Declaration of End to Epidemic

Five new Ebola infections have been recorded in eastern Congo since last week in a new flare-up just as the government was about to declare an end to the deadly epidemic, the World Health Organization said on Friday.

By Reuters

Apr 17

World

Draft UN Resolution Urges Global Access to COVID-19 Material

The U.N. General Assembly has until Monday to consider a draft resolution calling for global action to rapidly scale up development, manufacturing and access to medicine, vaccines and medical equipment to confront the coronavirus pandemic.

By The Associated Press

April 17

Washington Post

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/>

Accessed 18 Apr 2020

[No new, unique, relevant content]

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Think Tanks et al

Brookings

<http://www.brookings.edu/>

Accessed 18 Apr 2020

Future Development

How Congress can address the international dimensions of the COVID-19 response

George Ingram and Jeffrey L. Sturchio
Wednesday, April 15, 2020

Center for Global Development [to 18 Apr 2020]

<http://www.cgdev.org/page/press-center>

Selected Publications, News and Events

April 17, 2020

[The Risks Posed by Covid-19 Are Gendered. Our Response Should Be as Well.](#)

In a webcast event hosted by CGD, Megan O'Donnell spoke with researchers, practitioners, and advocates to highlight and contextualize data on how this global crisis presents specific gendered risks, and how, in turn, a gender-sensitive response can help us tackle new and worsening inequalities

Shelby Bourgault

April 17, 2020

[As Outcomes Are Uncertain, Pick No-Regret Policies](#)

With so much uncertainty around COVID-19, it helps to focus on decisions that no one will regret later on, that are right whether the crisis is short or long, the recession deep or shallow. These are "no-regret policies."

Stefan Dercon

[No-Regret Policies for the COVID-19 Crisis in Developing Countries](#)

Publication

4/17/20

Given the massive uncertainty surrounding how COVID-19 will play out in terms of health outcomes as well as economic and social outcomes, policymaking is as hard as it can possibly be. No-regret policies are those that are worth doing now regardless of which scenario actually plays out.

CSIS

<https://www.csis.org/>

Accessed 18 Apr 2020

Commentary

[Public Surveillance to Keep Us Healthy and Protect Our Privacy](#)

April 16, 2020 | By Glenn S. Gerstell

Commentary

[Find My Friends in a Pandemic: The Future of Contact Tracing in America](#)

April 16, 2020 | By Anna Carroll, Samantha Stroman

Council on Foreign Relations

<http://www.cfr.org/>

Accessed 18 Apr 2020

[No new relevant content]

Kaiser Family Foundation

https://www.kff.org/search/?post_type=press-release

Accessed 18 Apr 2020

[No new relevant content]

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Vaccines and Global Health: The Week in Review is a service of the Center for Vaccine Ethics and Policy (CVEP)/GE2P2 Global, which is solely responsible for its content, and is an open access publication, subject to the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/3.0/>). Copyright is retained by CVEP.

CVEP is a program of the GE2P2 Global Foundation – whose purpose and mission is to advance ethical and scientific rigor in research and evidence generation for governance, policy and practice in health, human rights action, humanitarian response, heritage stewardship, education and sustainable development. The Foundation serves governments, international agencies, INGOs, civil society organizations (CSOs), commercial entities, consortia and alliances. CVEP maintains an academic affiliation with the Division of Medical Ethics, NYU School of Medicine, and an operating affiliation with the Vaccine Education Center of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia [CHOP].

Support for this service is provided by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; PATH, and industry resource members Janssen/J&J, Pfizer, Sanofi Pasteur U.S., Takeda, Moderna Therapeutics (list in formation).

Support is also provided by a growing list of individuals who use this membership service to support their roles in public health, clinical practice, government, NGOs and other international institutions, academia and research organizations, and industry.

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