Vaccines and Global Health: The Week in Review
24 October 2020 :: Number 576
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 published as a PDF and scheduled for release each Saturday evening at midnight [0000 GMT-5]. The PDF is posted and the elements of each edition are presented as a set of blog posts at https://centerforvaccineethicsandpolicy.net. This blog allows full-text searching of over 9,000 entries.

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WHO SAGE Meeting

Highlights from the Meeting of the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization 5-7 October 2020

(Full report will be published in the Weekly Epidemiological Record on 4 December 2020, and only the wording of the full report should be considered as final)

Global Report

:: The global report focused on 2019 progress and how COVID-19 impacted immunization programmes globally in 2020. It highlighted how countries have already responded to the current pandemic and how they could continue to respond in the future so that major, purposeful shifts can emerge from this crisis.
:: SAGE underlined the opportunities for integration in the current situation. SAGE further emphasized the importance of taking into considerations gender aspects as enablers and barriers to vaccination.
:: Gavi 5.0 Priorities remain critical and COVID-19 creates a greater need to be agile and innovative. Gavi will prioritize 1) Continuity of immunisation, 2) Reaching zero dose, 3) Pacing breadth of protection, 4) Safeguarding domestic financing, and 5) COVID-19 vaccine access and delivery.

Immunization in context of the COVID-19 pandemic and other disruptive events with regional and country focus

:: SAGE was updated on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on immunization activities. All six regions reported measurable disruptions of immunization activities with notable setbacks for mass vaccination campaigns, outreach services, and surveillance activities. Global and regional surveys revealed that the underlying reasons for disruptions included supply and demand constraints as a result of the pandemic, re-assignment of health workers from immunization activities to COVID-19 response, travel restrictions, shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE), and fear among communities of becoming SARS-CoV-2 infected while seeking services.
:: However, Regions also reported signs of recovery and resumption of immunization activities.
:: SAGE encouraged countries and immunization partners to document and share the rich lessons learned from these pandemic experiences of disruption and recovery.
:: As immunization programmes continue to recover, they will likely primarily be reaching the children with access to services before the pandemic. Communities with unimmunized, or “zero dose” children are likely to continue to be missed despite being more vulnerable and susceptible to outbreaks. Attention to these communities needs to be particularly emphasized during the recovery period as well as beyond.
:: SAGE advised all countries to urgently prioritize implementation of catch-up vaccination strategies, including mass vaccination campaigns, assuring proper planning and adequate financial resources for effective infection prevention control measures to protect health workers and the community. Undertaking catch-up vaccination activities now is particularly critical in anticipation of possible near-term events that may again impact usual immunization services, including the potential introduction of COVID-19 vaccines.
SAGE endorsed the statement ‘Immunization as an Essential Health Service: Guiding principles for immunization activities during times of severe disruption, including during the COVID-19 pandemic’ which supersedes the previous guiding principles issued in March 2020. The statement enhances prior principles regarding the importance of preserving immunization as an essential health service, the necessity of catch-up vaccination policies and strategies, and the importance of prioritization of activities to address outbreak-prone vaccine preventable diseases and to protect vulnerable populations. The statement is newly broadened to be relevant to any major disruption event, to recognize the dynamic nature of such shocks to the immunization system and thus the need for flexibility and constant re-assessment, and to use the disruption as an opportunity to integrate with and strengthen primary health care and attain equity goals.

With much admiration and appreciation, SAGE applauded national immunization programme staff, frontline health workers, and National Immunization Technical Advisory Groups (NITAGs) in their extraordinary efforts during the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic to sustain and restore immunization services on behalf of the children and communities they serve.

COVID-19 vaccines

SAGE was presented with COVID-19 disease epidemiology, the COVID-19 vaccine landscape, the COVAX Facility, modelling efforts to help develop vaccination policies, and a report from the Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety (GACVS).

SAGE has undertaken a three-step process to provide guidance for overall programme strategy as well as vaccine-specific recommendations:

2. A Prioritization Roadmap. To support countries in planning, the Roadmap suggests public health strategies and target priority groups for different levels of vaccine availability and epidemiologic settings.
3. Vaccine-specific recommendations. As licensed vaccines become available, specific recommendations for the use of these vaccines will be issued in the future. Evidence will be retrieved and assessed through a living systematic review.


SAGE recommended that overall public health strategies should be grounded in ethical values as outlined in the Values Framework.

SAGE endorsed the Prioritization Roadmap and recommended that Regional Immunization Technical Advisory Groups (RITAGs) and subsequently countries in consultation with their NITAGs start using this Roadmap. An ongoing dialogue with SAGE, RITAGs and NITAGs should be maintained which will assist SAGE in further adapting the Roadmap once data on vaccine performance data become available. SAGE recommended that the Roadmap be considered a living document and be published as interim guidance.

SAGE highlighted the need for early, comprehensive preparedness planning for post-licensure surveillance of COVID-19 vaccines impact, which should include planning for vaccine safety monitoring and effectiveness studies using different methodologies and in different populations. SAGE also acknowledged the ongoing work of GACVS on pharmacovigilance preparedness.

SAGE strongly endorsed strict adherence to Good Clinical Practice (GCP) with the focus on robust regulatory oversight, careful monitoring of safety by independent data safety monitoring boards in phase III clinical trials of COVID-19 vaccines, and the rights to medical confidentiality of all trial participants.
Influenza and pneumococcal vaccination in the context of COVID-19

:: There are currently limited data on COVID-19 comorbidity with influenza or pneumococcal disease or on benefits of influenza or pneumococcal vaccination in the COVID-19 context.

:: In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, SAGE reconsidered the prioritization of risk groups for influenza vaccination as outlined in the 2012 WHO vaccine position paper. SAGE recommended that during the COVID-19 pandemic, highest priority groups for influenza vaccination are health and care workers and older adults. In no particular order, additional groups for influenza vaccination are pregnant women, individuals with underlying health conditions, and children (6-59 months of age).

:: SAGE noted that evidence is insufficient to support a recommendation to introduce an adult pneumococcal vaccination programme in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, in countries with existing adult pneumococcal vaccination programmes, improving vaccine coverage and thereby reducing pneumococcal disease may be expected to alleviate the related burden on health systems.

Polio

:: SAGE acknowledged the certification of the WHO African Region as wild polio virus-free on 25 August 2020 by the African Regional Certification Committee, however, expressed serious concerns about the eradication effort. Specifically, SAGE expressed concern about continuing circulation of wild poliovirus in Afghanistan and Pakistan and by the inability of the program to effectively control outbreaks of vaccine-derived polioviruses in Africa.

:: SAGE endorsed a second inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV) dose to be introduced into all 94 countries that currently administer one IPV dose and bivalent oral poliovirus vaccine (bOPV) in their routine immunization schedules and provided recommendations regarding preferred and alternative schedules for the two IPV doses. Introduction of the second IPV dose will not reduce the number of bOPV doses used in the routine immunization schedule.

:: SAGE was updated on the progress of the novel oral poliovirus vaccine type 2 (nOPV2) which is currently being submitted for Emergency Use Listing (EUL); nOPV2 is the first vaccine to go through the EUL process.

:: SAGE re-affirmed its April 2020 recommendation on the nOPV2 initial use criteria under EUL and made new recommendations related to nOPV2 assessment and safety monitoring to support decision-making for subsequent phases of nOPV2 use.

:: In principle, SAGE endorsed that nOPV2 becomes the vaccine of choice for response to circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) outbreaks after the interim recommendation for EUL is issued and after review of the initial use period is completed and all requirements for use are met.

:: SAGE does not recommend IPV to be used for poliovirus outbreak response.

Measles

:: SAGE endorsed the Measles and Rubella Strategic Framework, 2021-2030, a document to guide the strategic priorities and programmatic efforts toward measles and rubella elimination. SAGE welcomed this major multi-partner initiative which frames an approach to tackle both immediate challenges, such as the COVID-19 disruption, and medium-term challenges, such as achieving elimination targets.

:: The reported global annual number of measles cases of 872, 872 in 2019 is the highest that it has been in 15 years. Measles vaccine delivers the highest returns on investment in immunization by a large margin, and the benefits of continuing measles vaccination during the
COVID-19 pandemic exceed all other antigens when considering overall child deaths averted through routine immunization. SAGE echoed concern that the COVID-19 pandemic is creating large immunity gaps that will inevitably lead to future outbreaks if not proactively and urgently addressed.

**Rotavirus vaccines**
:: Since SAGE last reviewed rotavirus vaccines in April 2012, global progress with rotavirus vaccination has occurred. Currently, 112 or 58% of countries have introduced rotavirus vaccines. Rotavirus vaccine impact is evident from the 40% reduction in rotavirus prevalence documented by the Global Rotavirus Surveillance Network during 2008-2016 as well as studies in a variety of countries that show reductions in hospitalizations and mortality due to rotavirus. Additional safety and effectiveness data have accrued for Rotarix ™and RotaTeq™ and in 2018, WHO prequalified two more rotavirus vaccines, Rotavac™ and Rotasiil™.
:: As a result of the current updated review, SAGE recommended all four live oral rotavirus vaccines (Rotarix™, RotaTeq™, Rotavac™, and Rotasiil™) for use.
:: SAGE re-affirmed 2013 recommendations that rotavirus vaccines should be included in all national immunization programmes and be considered a priority, particularly in countries with high rotavirus gastroenteritis-associated fatality rates, that use of rotavirus vaccines should be part of a comprehensive strategy to control diarrheal diseases, and that first dose of rotavirus vaccine should be administered as soon as possible after 6 weeks of age.
:: SAGE noted that the considerable rotavirus disease burden during the second year of life supports catch-up vaccination for children not vaccinated on time, particularly in high-mortality and crisis contexts, including recent disruptions to immunization services related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of the typical age distribution of rotavirus gastroenteritis, rotavirus vaccination of children >24 months of age is not recommended.

**Development of the Immunization Agenda 2030 Monitoring, Evaluation, and Action (IA2030 ME&A) Framework and the Ownership and Accountability (OA) Mechanism**
:: SAGE was presented with the IA2030 ME&A Framework as well as with the current development of the OA Mechanism based on the results of country and stakeholder consultations. Different options were reviewed with an emphasis on leveraging existing structures and mechanisms.
:: SAGE commended the progress made so far and raised questions and points to consider while finalising the IA2030 ME&A Framework which will be submitted for the May 2021 World Health Assembly.
:: SAGE discussed the possible targets for the Impact Goal indicators for global and regional vaccine preventable disease control. For the OA Mechanism, SAGE discussed the possibility of using existing national health observatories and how to better integrate and leverage civil society organizations by formalizing and structuring their role, in particular with regards to reaching unreached communities.

**Pneumococcal vaccines**
Considerations for use in national programmes to vaccinate older adults
:: Mature pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) childhood programmes provide indirect protection to older adults for most PCV10 and PCV13 serotypes.
:: Introduction of a childhood PCV programme, ensuring optimal uptake of PCV in children, and sustaining high coverage should be prioritized over initiating an older adult vaccination programme.
For countries that already have mature PCV childhood programmes and would like to provide
direct protection to older adults, general considerations for national vaccine introduction should include:
o Population structure and demographics amongst older adults to guide the age at which
introduction should be considered;
o Operational factors, including cost and cost-effectiveness, to ensure that optimal coverage
can be achieved in the target population.

Use of pneumococcal vaccines in outbreak settings:
:: Sustained (≥ 5 years) high PCV coverage in children is likely to reduce the risk of
pneumococcal outbreaks.
:: While there is insufficient data to recommend a reactive vaccination campaign in response to
Serotype 1 outbreaks, further research needs to be encouraged.

Vaccine Innovation Prioritization Strategy (VIPS)
:: SAGE agreed with the three product innovations prioritized by VIPS, namely, micro-array
patches (MAPs), heat thermostable formulations, including controlled temperature chains (CTC)
and the use of barcodes on both secondary and primary vaccine packaging. If available and
implemented, these innovations could have significant programmatic impact and increase
vaccine acceptability.
:: SAGE recommended that VIPS continue to assess the product innovation landscape in the
context of COVID-19 vaccines to identify potential, additional priorities for VIPS. Additionally,
beyond advancing development and use of ‘supply-side’ product innovations, SAGE noted that
attention to developing ‘demand-side’ innovations is also needed in order to reach the
unreached (e.g., innovations to identify the location of/coverage status of target populations).

COVID-19 Vaccines – Regulatory Milestones

Editor’s Note
Among the critical milestones in the development and regulatory review of candidate COVID-19
vaccines was the meeting earlier this week of the FDA’s ‘Vaccines and Related Biological
Products Advisory Committee. We are not aware that any summary report or notes have been
released on this meeting but the webcast is now available at the link below. While the meeting
runs 08:50 it is critical to appreciating what will come next in the COVID-19 vaccines journey.

FDA – Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee
10/22/2020
The Committee met in open session to discuss, in general, the development, authorization
and/or licensure of vaccines to prevent COVID-19. No specific application was discussed at this
meeting. View webcast

COVID-19 Vaccines – Access/Guiding Principles
Editor’s Note
The “guiding principles” below take their place in a long line of formulations of access principles, various forms of “guidance”, ethical imperatives, and normative frameworks around distribution of and access to COVID-19 vaccines [as they become available] We cannot report seeing an orderly aggregation and analysis of these contributions to a very complex and evolving challenge. Readers are invited to alert us if they have encountered such an analysis or if they are working to development one!

Pharmaceutical Supply and Payment Chain Coalition Announces Guiding Principles for Safe, Efficacious Access to COVID-19 Vaccine
Washington, D.C. (October 22, 2020) — Today, representative organizations of America’s pharmaceutical supply and payment chain, including prescription and over-the-counter brand and generic manufacturers; pharmacies and pharmacists across all practice settings, including health systems and hospitals, community, specialty, and managed care; supermarkets; wholesalers; pharmaceutical quality standard developers; employers and other health plan sponsors; health insurance providers; and pharmacy benefit managers, released guiding principles for the safe efficacious development, distribution, and allocation of vaccine(s) to achieve mass immunization against the coronavirus (COVID-19)

The guiding principles represent the commitment of the private sector to the efficient, well-coordinated distribution, allocation, and mass immunization against COVID-19 as a necessary countermeasure to the current pandemic.

The strong and ongoing collaboration demonstrated by the pharmaceutical supply and payment chain has been essential for a host of issues important to Americans during the COVID-19 pandemic. The coalition looks forward to continuing to work together in the best interest of the individuals and families that we serve.

Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (https://www.amcp.org/disease-state-resources/COVID-19-resources-managed-care-pharmacy)
America’s Health Insurance Plans (https://www.ahip.org/issues/coronavirus-COVID-19/)
American Pharmacists Association (http://www.pharmacist.com/coronavirus)
ASHP – American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (https://www.ashp.org/COVID-19)
Association for Accessible Medicines (https://accessiblemeds.org/COVID-19-FAQs)
U.S. Chamber of Commerce (https://www.uschamber.com/coronavirus)
FMI – the Food Industry Association (https://www.fmi.org/coronavirus)
Healthcare Distribution Alliance (https://www.hda.org/issues/COVID19-response)
National Association of Specialty Pharmacy (https://nasn.org/COVID-19-resources/)

The efficient, well-coordinated distribution, allocation, and mass vaccination activities against the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) will help ensure vaccination is an effective countermeasure to the current pandemic. High COVID-19 vaccination rates with an effective vaccine are essential to mitigating the pandemic now and protecting against future outbreaks.

The Pharmaceutical Supply and Payment Chain Coalition offers the following guiding principles for the safe and efficacious development, distribution, and allocation of a vaccine(s) to achieve coordinated mass vaccination against COVID-19:

:: COVID-19 vaccine development, approval, and post-marketing surveillance must adhere to transparent and scientifically rigorous processes that engender public trust in the safety and efficacy of these products. The U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) is the global “gold standard” for the safety and efficacy of medical products. In addition to FDA, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has unparalleled experience and expertise in defining use considerations and guidelines for vaccines so they are used safely and effectively by hundreds of millions of people. Widespread confidence in all licensed or authorized COVID-19 vaccines is critical for individuals to choose to be vaccinated and to overcome vaccine hesitancy. In furtherance of this trust, the FDA should continue to facilitate timely access to vaccine pharmacovigilance data and other relevant safety information as the vaccination process unfolds.

:: Equitable allocation of COVID-19 vaccine is paramount, and priority should be given to achieving the greatest public health impact. Decision-making about who should be granted priority access to the initial supply of COVID-19 vaccine(s) must be transparent, comprehensive, inclusive, and adhere to the highest possible ethical standards. Timely national dialogue, through multiple forms of community engagement, will encourage public trust in fair vaccine allocation and distribution strategies.

:: Consistent public engagement and clear communication on initial and subsequent prioritization decisions by ACIP will be needed. Public health officials recognize that initial supply and subsequent availability may be insufficient for the vaccination of all priority groups. Decision-making processes for subsequent prioritization by ACIP must adhere to the same high standards and transparent processes as initial decisions. Vaccine selection and immunization decisions should continue to be made based on updated evidence of vaccine effectiveness, including evidence demonstrating relative effectiveness for specific patient populations (e.g.,
Distribution must be guided by a well-coordinated national strategy that is aligned with existing strategies for the distribution of routine vaccines. Deliberate planning at all levels of government and in collaboration with state and local public health stakeholders, and the private sector, will be necessary for appropriately executing national guidelines to the unique and changing needs of local communities. Distribution should leverage existing mechanisms and infrastructure; this includes ensuring equitable access and availability across the country, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

Vaccination program policies and deployment strategies must account for the readiness of local vaccination infrastructure and safety of the immunizer workforce. Policies and deployment strategies must ensure vaccinations are conducted under safe conditions, with the immunizer workforce and other essential health care workers prepared and protected from associated risk. As front-line health care workers, the immunizer workforce – consisting of pharmacists, physicians, nurses, pharmacy technicians, and other health care professionals – requires priority access to the initial vaccine supply. Those responsible for local vaccine infrastructure will need to adhere to the FDA-approved labeling instructions for each respective vaccine for proper storage and handling of vaccines throughout the supply chain. Strategies must also account for specific instructions for storage, handling, and administration of vaccines, including proper handling of sharps.

Vaccination for the prevention and management of infectious disease, including COVID-19, is a core health service that should be prioritized and promoted. Achieving high COVID-19 vaccinations rates will require minimizing vaccine hesitancy and misinformation and ensuring vaccines are administered properly and in accordance with national clinical guidance. Health care professionals, including pharmacists, will be relied on to provide patient education about vaccine options and safety, and manage patients with complex health care conditions. National clinical guidance for immunization providers should be issued and should include considerations for differing clinical application of various COVID-19 vaccines and where booster doses are needed to maintain efficacy. There also needs to be clear communication regarding how long the vaccine is effective and when individuals may need booster doses. A coordinated vaccine registry approach and record-keeping guidance, particularly to track vaccines requiring booster doses, also may be needed.

Ensuring affordability and access, including by preventing and removing financial barriers, will be critical to a successful public health response to COVID-19. Upon FDA licensure or authorization, and once recommendations are issued by ACIP, manufacturers, payors, physicians, pharmacists, and other critical stakeholders, such as community health centers, should promote broad access and affordability following national clinical guidance. ACIP should ensure that its recommendations are made immediately available so there is not a lag between the licensure or authorization decision and the ACIP recommendation. Reimbursement of immunization providers for reasonable administration fees is essential to maximizing access.
COVID 19 Vaccine Programs Update

Moderna Completes Enrollment of Phase 3 COVE Study of mRNA Vaccine Against COVID-19 (mRNA-1273)
October 22, 2020
:: Moderna to make statement at today’s FDA Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) meeting
:: Moderna thanks PPD, its CRO partner, for the successful execution of COVE Study enrollment

Canada’s Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, Announced Today Precision NanoSystems Will Receive $18.2 Million from the Government of Canada to Develop an RNA Vaccine for COVID-19
:: PNI will use the investment to advance a cost-effective Made-in-Canada COVID-19 vaccine
:: PNI offers expertise in self-amplifying mRNA vectors, lipid-based drug delivery systems and nanomedicine manufacturing
:: PNI will contribute to Canada's ability to secure an effective COVID-19 vaccine and build technologies towards enabling rapid response against future pandemics
Oct 23, 2020, 14:00 ET

EMERGENCIES

Coronavirus [COVID-19]
Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)

Weekly Epidemiological and Operational updates
last update: 8 October 2020, 20:00 GMT-4
Confirmed cases :: 42 055 863 [week ago: 39 023 292] [two weeks ago: 36 754 395]
Confirmed deaths :: 1 141 567 [week ago: 1 099 586] [two weeks ago: 1 064 838]
Countries, areas or territories with cases :: 218

WHO Director-General’s opening remarks at the media briefing on COVID-19 - 23 October 2020
:: We are at a critical juncture in this pandemic, particularly in the northern hemisphere. The next few months are going to be very tough and some countries are on a dangerous track. We urge leaders to take immediate action, to prevent further unnecessary deaths, essential health services from collapsing and schools shutting again.
:: Oxygen is one of the most essential medicines for saving patients with COVID-19, and many other conditions. WHO is committed to working in solidarity with all governments, partners and the private sector to scale up sustainable oxygen supply.
:: Tomorrow marks World Polio Day week, and partners around the world – led in particular by Rotary International – are organising events and raising awareness about the need to eradicate polio.
:: Smallpox eradication is a remarkable achievement, not least because it was completed at the heart of the Cold War. Health did then and should now always come above politics and it is with sadness that this week we lost one of the great titans of smallpox eradication with the passing of Dr Mike Lane. We will continue to honour his legacy.
:: WHO is proud to announce the second Health for All Film Festival, to cultivate visual storytelling about public health.

**Weekly epidemiological update - 20 October 2020**

*Weekly epidemiological situation*

The incidence of new COVID-19 cases has continued to accelerate, while the incidence of new deaths has remained relatively stable (Figure 1). As of 18 October, over 40 million cases and 1.1 million deaths have been reported globally, with over 2.4 million new cases and 36 000 new deaths reported over the past week.

The European Region has continued to report a rapid increase in cases and deaths, with over 927 000 new cases reported this past week – a 25% weekly increase in cases compared to the previous week – contributing 38% of all new cases reported worldwide (Table 1). Similarly, the number of deaths continues to climb with a 29% increase from last week. Increases, although more gradual, were also observed in the African, Eastern-Mediterranean and Western Pacific Regions. Declines continued to be reported in the Region of the Americas and the South-East Asia Region; although the incidence of new infections remains high, and collectively these two regions contribute over half of new cases and deaths observed globally.

The countries reporting the highest number of cases in the past week remain the same as last week: India, the United States of America, France, Brazil and the United Kingdom.

*Key weekly updates*
:: **Therapeutics:** The Solidarity Therapeutics Trial have produced conclusive evidence on whether selected repurposed drugs are effective for COVID-19. Interim results from the Solidarity Therapeutics Trial, coordinated by WHO, indicate that remdesivir, hydroxychloroquine, lopinavir/ritonavir and interferon regimens appear to have little or no effect on 28-day mortality or the in-hospital course of COVID-19 among hospitalised patients.
:: **A call of Solidarity:** Kim Sledge and the World We Want have partnered with WHO Foundation to re-record the unity anthem, "We Are Family", in response to COVID-19 and to bring focus on global public health needs. A special edition cover of Sister Sledge’s hit “We Are Family” will be released in a new and inspiring call for global solidarity to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and to generate proceeds to address the most pressing global health challenges of our time. In support of the song’s release, people worldwide are invited to submit videos of themselves singing We Are Family for inclusion in a compilation video for release on 7 December 2020.
:: **Briefings:** WHO Director-General Dr Tedros, in his regular media briefing on 12 October, expressed concern around the concept of reaching so-called “herd immunity” by the letting the virus spread – “never in the history of public health has herd immunity been used as a strategy for responding to an outbreak, let alone a pandemic. It is scientifically and ethically
problematic”. Furthermore, in a media briefing on 16 October, Dr Tedros highlighted the rising number of cases of COVID-19 globally, especially in Europe where, although the number of deaths reported is much lower than in March, hospitalisations are increasing.

**:: Health System Strengthening:** WHO published a Handbook for public health capacity-building at ground crossings and cross-border collaboration. The objectives of the handbook are to introduce principles of strategic risk assessment for prioritizing preparedness and response capacity building; highlight issues to consider when selecting ground crossings for designation under the International Health Regulations (2005, IHR); and, support the establishment and maintenance of cross-border collaboration to improve coordination and communication.

**:: Food security, public health and livelihoods:** On 13 October, WHO with the International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) released a joint statement on the Impact of COVID-19 on people's livelihoods, their health and our food systems. The pandemic has been affecting the entire food system and has laid bare its fragility. Border closures, trade restrictions and confinement measures have been preventing farmers from accessing markets, including for buying inputs and selling their produce, and agricultural workers from harvesting crops, thus disrupting domestic and international food supply chains and reducing access to healthy, safe and diverse diets. According to the policy brief published by the United Nations, in the long run, we face possible disruptions to the functioning of food systems, with severe consequences for health and nutrition.

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**Emergencies**

**POLIO**

*Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)*

**Polio this week as of 21 October 2020**

:: World Polio Day is around the corner! Observed on the 24 October, the theme for 2020 is “A win against polio is a win for global health.” Mark your calendar to tune in for Rotary International’s World Polio Day Online Global Update, streamed in multiple languages around the world.

:: On 19 September 2019, a polio outbreak was declared in the Philippines after a 3-year-old child and several environmental samples tested positive for polioviruses. Fifteen other children have been paralyzed by polio since the outbreak started. As we approach World Polio Day this year, we are celebrating the heroes who have been working tirelessly to combat polio in the Philippines.

**Summary of new WPV and cVDPV viruses this week** *(AFP cases and environmental samples)*:

:: **Afghanistan:** one WPV1 case, one WPV1 positive environmental sample, 14 cVDPV2 cases and 2 cVDPV2 positive environmental samples
:: **Pakistan:** two WPV1 cases and one WPV1 positive environmental sample
:: **Benin:** one cVDPV2 positive environmental sample
:: **Burkina Faso:** 21 cVDPV2 cases
:: **Côte d’Ivoire:** 15 cVDPV2 cases
:: **Ethiopia:** four cVDPV2 cases
:: **Mali:** six cVDPV2 case
:: **Nigeria:** one cVDPV2 case
:: **Somalia:** five cVDPV2 cases and one cVDPV2 positive environmental sample
:: **Sudan:** 16 cVDPV2 cases
:: **Yemen:** two cVDPV1 cases

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**Statement of the Twenty-Sixth Polio IHR Emergency Committee**

22 October 2020  Statement

The twenty-sixth meeting of the Emergency Committee under the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR) on the international spread of poliovirus was convened and opened by the WHO Deputy Director-General on 14 October 2020 with committee members attending via video conference, supported by the WHO Secretariat. Dr Zsuzsana Jakab in opening remarks on behalf of Dr Tedros congratulated all those involved in eliminating wild polioviruses from the WHO African Region despite some very challenging obstacles. The COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing spread of cVDPV2 were both growing major challenges, which would require strenuous efforts to overcome in order to restart progress toward global polio eradication.

The Emergency Committee reviewed the data on wild poliovirus (WPV1) and circulating vaccine derived polioviruses (cVDPV). The following IHR States Parties provided an update at the video conference or in writing on the current situation in their respective countries: Afghanistan, Chad, Egypt, Guinea, Pakistan, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Yemen.

**Wild poliovirus**

The higher incidence of global WPV1 cases seen during 2020 continues, with 121 cases reported between 1 January – 5 October 2020 compared to 85 for the same period in 2019, a 42% increase. Last year there were 176 WPV1 cases, the highest number reported since the PHEIC was declared in 2014, when there were 359 cases in nine countries. The lowest number of WPV1 cases was reported in 2017, when only 22 cases were found. No wild polio cases have been detected outside of Pakistan and Afghanistan since the last cases in Nigeria in 2016 four years ago. The number of positive environmental samples has increased 70% to 375 compared to 221 for the same time last year. Since the last meeting, exportation of WPV1 from Pakistan to Afghanistan has been documented.

The Committee noted that based on results from sequencing of WPV1 since the last committee meeting in June, there were further instances of international spread of viruses from Pakistan to Afghanistan. The ongoing frequency of WPV1 international spread between the two countries and the increased vulnerability in other countries where routine immunization and polio prevention activities have both been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic are two major factors that suggest the risk of international spread may be at the highest level since 2014. While border closures and lockdowns may mitigate the risk in the short term while in force, this would be outweighed in the longer term by falling population immunity through disruption of vaccination and the resumption of normal population movements.

On the other hand the certification of the WHO African Region as wild polio free in August 2020 indicated a lessening of the global risk from this previous source.
**Vaccine derived poliovirus (VDPV)**

The committee was very concerned that the international spread of cVDPV2 continues, causing new outbreaks in Guinea, South Sudan and Sudan, the latter two due to importation of a cVDPV2 lineage that emerged in Chad in 2019. The same virus has also been detected in sewage in Cairo, Egypt but with no evidence of local circulation. The number of cases in 2020 is 409 as at 5 October 2020, already exceeding the 378 cases reported for the whole of 2019. As in all other years after 2016 when OPV2 was withdrawn, the number of cVDPV2 cases has been greater than the number of WPV1 cases in 2020. However, the number of sub-types / lineages detected so far in 2020 is 27, compared to 42 for the whole of 2019, and the number of newly emerged viruses is only seven so far this year, compared to 38 during 2019.

Cross border spread of cVDPV2 is now occurring regularly. Based on analysis by the US CDC of isolates, in the three months from April to June 2020, there has been evidence of exportation of cVDPV2 from:
· Pakistan to Afghanistan
· Côte d’Ivoire to Mali
· Guinea to Mali
· Côte d’Ivoire to Ghana, and Ghana to Côte d’Ivoire
· CAR to Cameroon
· Chad to Sudan and South Sudan
· Ghana to Burkina Faso

**COVID-19**

The committee heard that nearly all countries (90%) have experienced disruption to health services especially in low and middle income countries, according to a survey of 105 countries conducted March – June 2020. Routine immunization particularly outreach services was the area most frequently reported as disrupted.

The committee was very concerned that most of the current outbreak countries have had to delay immunization responses in recent months, meaning that transmission is likely continuing unchecked. Furthermore, there appear to be significant falls in surveillance indicators in many of the outbreak countries, such as drops in AFP reporting rates, and lesser drops in environmental sampling. Vaccine management and supply has been significantly impacted. More than 60 campaigns in 28 countries have been postponed since late February and early March. Vaccine supplies have been disrupted in many ways, with some quantities already in-country at risk of exceeding their expiry data and therefore unusable. Some suppliers are reaching storage capacity and may well be forced to stop production.

Although the resumption of Supplementary Immunization Activities (SIAs) is now occurring, the waves of the pandemic are expected to fluctuate considerably from country to country and across the WHO Regions, so the program will need to adjust according to the COVID-19 situation for the foreseeable future.

Although in general surveillance processes are continuing, there are clear signs of a significant drop in AFP case reporting, including in endemic countries, some outbreak countries and some other non-infected high risk countries.
The committee noted that GPEI modeling indicated there is a risk of an exponential rise in the number of cVDPV2 infected districts in the African Region, leading to a 200% increase if response SIAs had not resumed. In addition to the risk of WPV1 geographical spread and intensification, cVDPV2 cases could rise exponentially in Pakistan and Afghanistan potentially reaching more the 3,500 cases without a resumption of immunization response. Consequently, both Pakistan and Afghanistan are now implementing large scale mOPV2 campaigns and will continue with tOPV/mOPV2 until controlled. While there has been rapid spread, particularly in Afghanistan, expected exponential rise has been curtailed by the resumption of campaigns in July.

**Conclusion**
The Committee unanimously agreed that the risk of international spread of poliovirus remains a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) and recommended the extension of Temporary Recommendations for a further three months. The Committee recognizes the concerns regarding the lengthy duration of the polio PHEIC, but concludes that the current situation is extraordinary, with clear ongoing and increasing risk of international spread and ongoing need for coordinated international response...

...Based on the current situation regarding WPV1 and cVDPV, and the reports provided by affected countries, the Director-General accepted the Committee’s assessment and on 19 October 2020 determined that the situation relating to poliovirus continues to constitute a PHEIC, with respect to WPV1 and cVDPV. The Director-General endorsed the Committee’s recommendations for countries meeting the definition for ‘States infected with WPV1, cVDPV1 or cVDPV3 with potential risk for international spread’, ‘States infected with cVDPV2 with potential risk for international spread’ and for ‘States no longer infected by WPV1 or cVDPV, but which remain vulnerable to re-infection by WPV or cVDPV’ and extended the Temporary Recommendations under the IHR to reduce the risk of the international spread of poliovirus, effective 19 October 2020.

::::::

WHO Grade 3 Emergencies  [to 24 Oct 2020]
Democratic Republic of the Congo - No new digest announcements identified
Mozambique floods - No new digest announcements identified
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

::::::

WHO Grade 2 Emergencies  [to 24 Oct 2020]
Burkina Faso
::: Burkina Faso : les tradipraticiens de santé de la région du Sud-Ouest à l'école de ... 21 octobre 2020
Afghanistan - No new digest announcements identified
Angola - 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
Iran floods 2019 - No new digest announcements identified
Iraq - No new digest announcements identified
Libya - No new digest announcements identified
Malawi floods - No new digest announcements identified
Measles in Europe - No new digest announcements identified
MERS-CoV - No new digest announcements identified
Mozambique - 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
HIV in Pakistan - No new digest announcements identified
Sao Tome and Principe Necrotizing Cellulitis (2017) - No new digest announcements identified
Sudan - No new digest announcements identified
Ukraine - No new digest announcements identified
Zimbabwe - No new digest announcements identified

WHO Grade 1 Emergencies [to 24 Oct 2020]
Chad - No new digest announcements identified
Djibouti - Page not responding at inquiry
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

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. 21 - As of 20 October 2020
Yemen - No new digest announcements identified

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.

COVID-19

East Africa Locust Infestation
:: Desert Locust situation update - 19 October 2020

WHO & Regional Offices [to 24 Oct 2020]
23 October 2020 Departmental news
New book calls on world leaders to unite in response to health threats

23 October 2020 News release
Steroids boost survival of preterm babies in low-resource settings, new study finds

22 October 2020 News release
The World Health Organization and Wikimedia Foundation expand access to trusted information about COVID-19 on Wikipedia

22 October 2020 Statement
Statement of the Twenty-Sixth Polio IHR Emergency Committee

22 October 2020 Departmental news
New Study 31/A5349 on the treatment of drug-susceptible TB

21 October 2020 Departmental news
INFOSAN Quarterly Summary, 2020 #3

21 October 2020 News release
Call for entries: 2nd WHO Health for All Film Festival

20 October 2020 Departmental news
WHO 2020 Global TB Report app – now available in English, French and Russian

19 October 2020 News release
Kim Sledge and the World We Want partner with WHO Foundation to re-record unity anthem “We Are Family” in response to COVID-19 and to focus on global public health needs

16 October 2020 Departmental news
Strategic exchange with representatives from civil society and communities

:::::::
WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on immunization (SAGE) : Request for nominations
16 October 2020
WHO is soliciting proposals for nominations of two new experts to serve on its Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on immunization. Deadline for applications: 22 November 2020
The new SAGE members’ appointment, for an initial period of three years, is scheduled for the first quarter of 2021.
WHO is seeking nominations particularly from the WHO South-East Asia and Western-Pacific Regions. Nominations of women and persons from low- and middle-income countries are specifically encouraged. A track record of achievements on implementation research and social sciences would be of particular relevance...

Weekly Epidemiological Record, 23 October 2020, vol. 95, 43 (pp. 509–524)
Global programme to eliminate lymphatic filariasis: progress report, 2019

WHO Regional Offices
Selected Press Releases, Announcements

WHO African Region AFRO
:: Benin boosts COVID-19 response with increased testing 23 October 2020
:: Testing at the core of Gabon’s COVID-19 battle 23 October 2020

WHO Region of the Americas PAHO
No new digest content identified

WHO South-East Asia Region SEARO
:: 19 October 2020 News release
 Need to continue extreme caution against COVID-19: WHO
The World Health Organization today cautioned against any relaxation of response actions following the recent slight decline in COVID-19 cases in South-East Asia Region...

WHO European Region EURO
:: Epidemiologist Sergiu Sîngeorzan: “COVID-19 has taught people to wash their hands” 23-10-2020
:: United Nations at 75: bringing humanity together for a better tomorrow 23-10-2020
:: World Polio Day: walking the last mile together towards polio eradication 23-10-2020
:: Obesity significantly increases chances of severe outcomes for COVID-19 patients 22-10-2020
:: Statement by the WHO Regional Director for Europe on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict 22-10-2020

WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region EMRO
:: Dr Farima is unstoppable 22 October 2020

WHO Western Pacific Region
WHO: COVID-19 must not derail tobacco cessation efforts

Many smokers in the Western Pacific Region have been prompted by coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) to kick the habit, but the pandemic has also brought fresh challenges for the fight against tobacco.

CDC/ACIP [to 24 Oct 2020]
http://www.cdc.gov/media/index.html
https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/index.html

Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)
Webcast October 28-30, 2020
Meeting is a virtual meeting. No registration is required.
Meeting time, 10:00am – 5:30pm EDT (times subject to change).
Webcast Link external icon
Meeting Agenda pdf icon [No COVID agenda items]

Latest News Releases, Announcements
CDC Media Telebriefing Transcript on Operation Warp Speed
Friday, October 23, 2020

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
Selected Resources
:: Excess Deaths Associated with COVID-19, by Age and Race and Ethnicity - United States, January 26-October 3, 2020 Thursday, October 22, 2020
:: COVID-19 Case Investigation and Contact Tracing among Refugee, Immigrant, and Migrant (RIM) Populations: Important Considerations for Health Departments Thursday, October 22, 2020
:: Interim Guidance on Management of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Correctional and Detention Facilities Wednesday, October 21, 2020
:: Interim Operational Considerations for Public Health Management of Healthcare Workers Exposed to or Infected with COVID-19: non-US Healthcare Settings Wednesday, October 21, 2020
:: Interim Considerations for K-12 School Administrators for SARS-CoV-2 Testing Wednesday, October 21, 2020
:: Travel during the COVID-19 Pandemic Wednesday, October 21, 2020
:: Considerations for Monitoring and Evaluation of Mitigation Strategies Implemented in K-12 Schools Wednesday, October 21, 2020

MMWR News Synopsis Friday, October 23, 2020
Africa CDC  [to 24 Oct 2020]
http://www.africacdc.org/
Press Releases
No new digest content identified.

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
Oct 24: Daily briefing on novel coronavirus cases in China
  On Oct 23, 31 provincial-level regions and the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps on the Chinese mainland reported 28 new cases of confirmed infections.

China joining COVAX for equitable global access to COVID-19 vaccines: FM spokesperson
2020-10-22
  BEIJING -- China's joining of COVAX is an important measure to uphold the concept of a shared community of health for all and fulfill its commitment on turning COVID-19 vaccines into a global public good, a foreign ministry spokesperson said on Oct 21.
  "China is the largest economy supporting COVAX," Zhao Lijian said at a daily press briefing, expressing the hope that China's joining will motivate enterprises to increase their production capacity, ensure the output of vaccines, and promote the accessibility and affordability of vaccines in developing countries.
  A total of 184 countries and economies have now joined COVAX, an international initiative aimed at ensuring equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines across the world, according to the World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. China signed an agreement with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, officially joining COVAX on Oct. 8...

Trials of China's vaccines make major progress
2020-10-21
No severe adverse effects reported in 60,000 recipients, science official says
No recipient of China’s COVID-19 vaccine approved for emergency use has reported severe adverse effects, and no vaccine recipient who went to work in countries where the pandemic is still ongoing has been infected, officials said on Oct 20.

China currently has 13 vaccine candidates in clinical trials, of which three inactivated vaccines and one adenovirus vector vaccine are in phase three trials overseas, said Tian Baoguo, deputy head of the Department of Science and Technology for Social Development of the Ministry of Science and Technology.

About 60,000 volunteers have been inoculated with the four vaccine candidates currently in phase three trials, Tian said at a news briefing held by the Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism of the State Council...

Announcements

**Paul G. Allen Frontiers Group**  [to 24 Oct 2020]

*News*

**Mouse study uncovers links between unsung brain cells and Huntington’s disease — and possible path for human therapies**
October 21, 2020

Astrocytes, once thought of as inert ‘brain glue,’ may turn out to be key players in Huntington’s and other neurodegenerative diseases.

*News*

**New cell line lets researchers use CRISPR to reversibly switch off genes**
October 20, 2020

‘CRISPR interference’ technique enables study of basic cell biology and disease in human stem cells

**BARDA – U.S. Department of HHS**  [to 24 Oct 2020]
https://www.phe.gov/about/barda/Pages/default.aspx

*BARDA News*

No new digest content identified.

**BMGF - Gates Foundation**  [to 24 Oct 2020]
http://www.gatesfoundation.org/Media-Center/Press-Releases

*Press Releases and Statements*

**At 2020 Grand Challenges Annual Meeting, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Grand Challenges Partners Announce New Initiatives to Advance Global Health Innovation**

Researchers and scientists from around the world convene to accelerate R&D to address COVID-19 and other global health challenges
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.

No new digest content identified.

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**CARB-X** [to 24 Oct 2020]

https://carb-x.org/

*News*

10.21.2020 | **CARB-X is funding Cellics Therapeutics to develop a novel macrophage nanosponge to prevent and treat sepsis**

CARB-X is awarding up to US$3.94 million to Cellics Therapeutics, based in San Diego, CA, USA, to develop a new treatment for sepsis caused by drug-resistant Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria.

10.20.2020 | **CARB-X 2019-20 Annual Report: Record high awards and funding during its fiscal year in the race against drug-resistant bacteria**

CARB-X closed out its 2019-20 fiscal year with a record number of awards and a list of solid achievements, ramping up its efforts to accelerate innovation to combat the spread of antibiotic resistant bacteria. During the fiscal year which ended July 31, 2020, CARB-X granted $127.5 million to product developers and issued 23 new awards to support the early development of novel antibacterial products – the highest number of new awards in any single year since CARB-X was launched in 2016. The achievement is just one of the highlights in CARB-X's 2019-2020 Annual Report published today.

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**CEPI – Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations** [to 24 Oct 2020]

http://cepi.net/

*Latest News*

USA joins CEPI to support the development of epidemic vaccines

A total of US$20 million will be provided to CEPI through USAID to support programmes advancing vaccines against emerging infectious diseases

Blog 23 Oct 2020

CEPI expands global manufacturing network, reserving manufacturing capacity for more than 1 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines

CEPI has signed agreements with Biofabri (Spain) and GC Pharma (Republic of Korea) to reserve vaccine manufacturing capacity for more than 1 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines designated by CEPI.

COVAX 21 Oct 2020
Two more laboratories join CEPI’s centralised network to standardise assessment of COVID-19 vaccines

The NIBSC and Q2 Solutions will work alongside five other laboratories, using the same testing reagents and following common protocols, for uniform evaluation and direct comparisons of COVID-19...

Blog 20 Oct 2020

EDCTP [to 24 Oct 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 24 Oct 2020]
http://www.vaccines.emory.edu/
Vaccine Center News
No new digest content identified.

European Medicines Agency [to 24 Oct 2020]
News & Press Releases
News: Strengthening global collaboration on COVID-19 real-world evidence and observational studies
Last updated: 23/10/2020

Medicines regulators from around the world discussed their experiences with supporting and assessing real-world evidence to facilitate regulatory decision-making on COVID-19 treatments and vaccines during a workshop convened under the umbrella of the International Coalition of Medicines Regulatory Authorities (ICMRA). The workshop was co-chaired by Health Canada and the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and took place on 13 October 2020. Participants discussed the progress made in building international patient cohorts, pregnancy research, and vaccines surveillance and vigilance during the pandemic. The outcomes of the discussions are highlighted in the summary report, which has been published today.

Observational research can complement the knowledge gained through clinical trials to support the evaluation of potential therapeutics and vaccines against COVID-19. Real-world evidence generated by observational studies is fundamental to understanding the benefits and risks of medicines when used in clinical practice for the prevention and treatment of COVID-19. Workshop participants shared their lessons learnt from ongoing COVID-19 observational studies based on real-world data in various countries and regions around the world. Studies derived from such data can provide information that is critical to understanding the benefits and risks of medicines in real-life use by patients and healthcare professionals. Closer collaboration between international regulators and information sharing in this area will benefit patients globally...
European Vaccine Initiative  [to 24 Oct 2020]
http://www.euvaccine.eu/
Latest News
No new digest content identified.

FDA  [to 24 Oct 2020]
https://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/default.htm
Press Announcements | Selected Details
October 23, 2020 - Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: Daily Roundup October 23, 2020
:: On Thursday, the FDA approved Veklury (remdesivir), the first drug approved to treat COVID-19, for use in adults and pediatric patients (12 years of age and older and weighing at least 40 kg) for the treatment of COVID-19 requiring hospitalization.
:: The FDA consolidated existing resources for stakeholders to easily access information about drug and biologics development and manufacturing, including for products to diagnose, cure, mitigate, treat or prevent COVID-19 and for other critically needed products to treat symptoms of COVID-19 or to provide supportive care to those with COVID-19.
:: The FDA issued an updated FDA COVID-19 Response At-A-Glance Summary which provides a quick look at facts, figures and highlights of the agency’s response efforts.

October 22, 2020 - FDA Approves First Treatment for COVID-19
Today, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the antiviral drug Veklury (remdesivir) for use in adult and pediatric patients 12 years of age and older and weighing at least 40 kilograms (about 88 pounds) for the treatment of COVID-19 requiring hospitalization. Veklury should only be administered in a hospital or in a healthcare setting capable of providing acute care comparable to inpatient hospital care. Veklury is the first treatment for COVID-19 to receive FDA approval...

October 20, 2020 - Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: Daily Roundup October 20, 2020

October 19, 2020 - Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: Daily Roundup October 19, 2020

FDA - COVID-19 Vaccines  [to 24 Oct 2020]
www.fda.gov/covid19vaccines
Upcoming Events
10/22/2020
Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee
The Committee will meet in open session, to discuss, in general, the development, authorization and/or licensure of vaccines to prevent COVID-19. No specific application will be discussed at this meeting. View webcast

10/20/2020
Advisory Committee on COVID-19 Vaccines
Dr. Peter Marks provides an update on COVID-19 vaccines and discusses the upcoming Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee meeting.

**Fondation Merieux** [to 24 Oct 2020]
http://www.fondation-merieux.org/
News, Events
No new digest content identified.

**Gavi** [to 24 Oct 2020]
https://www.gavi.org/
News releases
No new digest content identified.

**GHIT Fund** [to 24 Oct 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 24 Oct 2020]
News/Updates
No new digest content identified.

**Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness [GloPID-R]** [to 24 Oct 2020]
https://www.glopid-r.org/news/
News
UKCDR seeks supplier for online, mixed-media platform to support COVID-19 researchers in low resource settings
21/10/2020
The UK Collaborative on Development Research (UKCDR) is seeking to commission a supplier to develop an online, mixed-media platform which will support coordination of researchers funded by the COVID-19 Research Coordination and Learning Initiative (COVID CIRCLE) partners, undertaking COVID-19 research relevant to low resource settings.

The platform will enable researchers to connect, identify synergies and opportunities for collaboration, facilitate information sharing and host an online resource hub.

This platform will support COVID CIRCLE’s broader ambitions to improve coordination and efficiency of research funding and practice, to increase the impact of research response to COVID-19 with a focus on low and middle-income countries. GloPID-R is partnering UKCDR for COVID CIRCLE.

The deadline for electronic copies of proposals is 23:30 GMT on November 1, 2020.
IAVI [to 24 Oct 2020]
https://www.iavi.org/newsroom
October 22, 2020
IAVI, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, and Serum Institute of India Join Forces to Develop Monoclonal Antibodies for COVID-19 and Ensure Prompt and Equitable Global Access
:: Promising COVID-19 treatment being developed with equitable global access as a central goal.
:: Approach that is complementary to future COVID-19 vaccines.
:: Leverages each partner’s significant expertise, geographic footprint, and infrastructure.
:: Unique among ongoing partnerships for COVID-19 monoclonal antibodies, aims to ensure access to a class of innovative therapies that have, to date, been out of reach in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

PUNE, INDIA, and NEW YORK — OCTOBER 22, 2020 — Today, IAVI, a nonprofit scientific research organization dedicated to addressing urgent, unmet global health challenges, and Serum Institute of India Pvt. Ltd., a leading manufacturer of vaccines and biologics, announced an agreement with Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, a leading science and technology company, to develop SARS-CoV-2 neutralizing monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) co-invented by IAVI and Scripps Research as innovative interventions to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

The agreement builds on the advanced antibody discovery and optimization expertise of IAVI and Scripps Research, gained from years of experience in HIV broadly neutralizing antibody research and development, and on Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany’s and Serum Institute’s significant capabilities in design and scale up of accelerated manufacturing processes for mAb production. The global development plan is being led by the three organizations in partnership.

The two companies have broad networks across complementary geographic areas that will be crucial to reach given the worldwide spread of COVID-19. If the highly potent and broadly cross-reactive SARS-CoV-2 neutralizing antibody candidates being advanced through this partnership are shown to be efficacious in clinical trials, either as a single antibody or a potential combination of both candidates, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany will lead commercialization in developed countries. Serum Institute has a proven track record of more than 50 years in developing affordable medicines and is the world’s largest producer of vaccines. Serum Institute will lead global manufacturing as well as commercialization in low- and middle-low-income countries, including India...
International Coalition of Medicines Regulatory Authorities [ICMRA]
Selected Statements, Press Releases, Research
No new digest content identified.

International Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association [IGBA]
https://www.igbamedicines.org/
News
Following its first peer-reviewed scientific paper on biosimilar medicines development: the Path Towards Tailored Clinical Biosimilar Development (Biodrugs), the International Generic and Biosimilar medicines Association (IGBA), which represents global manufacturers of generic and biosimilar medicines, today released a new policy...

IFFIm
http://www.iffim.org/
Announcements
No new digest content identified.

IFRC [to 24 Oct 2020]
Selected Press Releases, Announcements
Europe
Red Cross warns: Vigilance needed as Europe’s intensive care beds fill up
IFRC has warned people not to take their foot off the brake as hospital intensive care units in many cities across Europe near capacity.
22 October 2020

Vietnam
Five million swamped by catastrophic floods in Vietnam
Kuala Lumpur/Hanoi/Geneva, October 20, 2020 – Red Cross is ramping up relief as catastrophic floods have affected five million people in central Vietnam. At least 178,000 homes have been submerged in floodwaters that h ...
20 October 2020

IRC International Rescue Committee [to 24 Oct 2020]
Media highlights [Selected]
Press Release
As COVID-19 increases global food insecurity, less children are receiving nutrition support across conflict-affected states
October 22, 2020
Press Release
Civilian deaths in Sahel states increase 1,870 percent as military response fails to stop violence and humanitarian needs spike, warns IRC
October 20, 2020

IVAC  [to 24 Oct 2020]
https://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/ivac/index.html
Updates; Events
World Pneumonia Day Panel Discussion
October 2020
On November 13th from 10am to 11:30am EST, join us for a panel discussion on “Maintaining Progress on Childhood Pneumonia in the COVID-19 Era.” Pneumonia claims the lives of more young children than any other disease – over 800,000 children under 5 each year worldwide are lost to this largely preventable infectious disease. The COVID-19 [...] 

IVI  [to 24 Oct 2020]
http://www.ivi.int/
Selected IVI News, Announcements, Events
No new digest content identified.

JEE Alliance  [to 24 Oct 2020]
https://www.jeealliance.org/
Selected News and Events
No new digest content identified.

MSF/Médecins Sans Frontières  [to 24 Oct 2020]
http://www.msf.org/
Latest [Selected Announcements]
Mediterranean migration
Lives on the line as legal appeal lodged to free the Sea-Watch 4
Press Release 23 Oct 2020

South Sudan
Worsening flooding increases health risks
Project Update 22 Oct 2020

Iraq
Humanitarians behind the scenes in Iraq
Voices from the Field 20 Oct 2020

National Vaccine Program Office - U.S. HHS  [to 24 Oct 2020]
https://www.hhs.gov/vaccines/about/index.html
No new digest content identified.
PATH  [to 24 Oct 2020]
https://www.path.org/media-center/
Press Releases
PATH at the 51st Union World Conference on Lung Health
October 20, 2020 by PATH
Tuberculosis (TB) continues to be the leading cause of death from an infectious agent, more than 25 years after the World Health Organization declared it a global emergency. COVID-19 has rightly drawn the world’s attention, but the pandemic will likely increase the number of deaths from TB due to interruptions in services, particularly detection and treatment.
Join PATH at this year’s virtual Union Conference as we discuss our work in TB control and our vision for reimagining TB care to be more patient-centered and resilient, even amidst a pandemic.

Sabin Vaccine Institute  [to 24 Oct 2020]
http://www.sabin.org/updates/pressreleases
Statements and Press Releases
No new digest content identified.

UNAIDS  [to 24 Oct 2020]
http://www.unaids.org/en
Selected Press Releases/Reports/Statements
21 October 2020
Community-led campaign encourages people living with HIV to start treatment
A new community-led public information campaign, It is in Your Power to, aimed at encouraging people living with HIV to start antiretroviral therapy has been launched in the four largest areas of the Russian Federation.

20 October 2020
51st Union World Conference on Lung Health opens today as gains in reducing TB deaths risk being set back by COVID-19
The 51st Union World Conference on Lung Health opened today under the theme “Advancing Prevention”. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the conference is taking place virtually for the first time in its 100-year history.

UNICEF  [to 24 Oct 2020]
https://www.unicef.org/media/press-releases
Selected Press releases, Statements
Press release
10/22/2020
**Over 1.5 million children at risk due to floods in central Viet Nam – UNICEF**
The children’s agency is allocating an immediate $100,000 for emergency relief

Statement
10/22/2020
**UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore's remarks at the Conference on Sustaining Support for the Rohingya Refugee Response**
Checked against delivery

Statement
10/20/2020
**'Toxic brew' of instability, armed violence, extreme poverty, hunger and COVID-19 putting the future of an entire generation of children and young people in the Central Sahel at risk**
UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore's remarks at the Ministerial Roundtable Meeting on the humanitarian situation in the Central Sahel Region

Press release
10/19/2020
**1 in 6 children lives in extreme poverty, World Bank-UNICEF analysis shows**
The pre-COVID-19 analysis reveals that 356 million children struggle to survive on less than $1.90 a day, two-thirds of them in sub-Saharan Africa

Press release
10/19/2020
**UNICEF to stockpile over half a billion syringes by year end, as part of efforts to prepare for eventual COVID-19 vaccinations**
Initial preparatory work – in partnership with Gavi and WHO – will include purchasing boxes for the safe disposal of syringes and mapping out cold chain equipment to ensure delivery of effective vaccines

NEW YORK, 19 October 2020 – As the world awaits a COVID-19 vaccine, UNICEF has begun laying the groundwork for the rapid, safe and efficient delivery of the eventual vaccine by purchasing and pre-positioning syringes and other necessary equipment.

As soon as COVID-19 vaccines successfully emerge from trials and are licensed and recommended for use, the world will need as many syringes as doses of vaccine. To begin preparations, this year, UNICEF will stockpile 520 million syringes in its warehouses, part of a larger plan of 1 billion syringes by 2021, to guarantee initial supply and help ensure that syringes arrive in countries before the COVID-19 vaccines.

During 2021, assuming there are enough doses of COVID-19 vaccines, UNICEF anticipates delivering over 1 billion syringes to support COVID-19 vaccination efforts on top of the 620 million syringes that UNICEF will purchase for other vaccination programmes against other diseases such as measles, typhoid and more.

“Vaccinating the world against COVID-19 will be one of the largest mass undertakings in human history, and we will need to move as quickly as the vaccines can be produced,” said Henrietta Fore, UNICEF Executive Director. “In order to move fast later, we must move fast now. By the end of the year, we will already
have over half a billion syringes pre-positioned where they can be deployed quickly and cost effectively. That’s enough syringes to wrap around the world one and a half times.”

In line with the longstanding collaboration between the two partners, Gavi will reimburse UNICEF for the procurement of the syringes and safety boxes, which shall then be used for the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility (COVAX Facility) and for other Gavi-funded immunization programmes if necessary...

Unitaid  [to 24 Oct 2020]
https://unitaid.org/
Featured News
No new digest content identified.

Vaccination Acceptance Research Network (VARN)  [to 24 Oct 2020]
https://vaccineacceptance.org/news.html#header1-2
Announcements
No new digest content identified.

Vaccine Confidence Project  [to 24 Oct 2020]
http://www.vaccineconfidence.org/
Research and Reports
No new digest content identified.

Vaccine Education Center – Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia  [to 24 Oct 2020]
http://www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center
Vaccine Update for Providers
October 2020
:: December 2020 event  Registration is now open for the Dec. 9, 2020, Current Issues in Vaccines webinar. Dr. Offit’s presentation will be an Update on SARS-CoV-2 vaccines
The event will start at noon ET, and free continuing education credits will be offered for the live and archived event (CME, CEU, and CPE).

Wellcome Trust  [to 24 Oct 2020]
https://wellcome.ac.uk/news
Opinion | 20 October 2020
Wellcome’s bold ambitions to improve health through our new strategy
Jeremy Farrar, Director, Wellcome
Today, I’m delighted to introduce a new vision and strategy for Wellcome that I hope will have significant positive impacts on the course of human health over the next two decades.

The Wistar Institute  [to 24 Oct 2020]
Press Releases
No new digest content identified.

WFPHA: World Federation of Public Health Associations [to 24 Oct 2020]
https://www.wfpha.org/
Latest News
No new digest content identified.

World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) [to 24 Oct 2020]
Press Releases
No new digest content identified.

::::::::::

ARM [Alliance for Regenerative Medicine] [to 24 Oct 2020]
https://alliancercrm.org/press-releases/
Press Releases
The Alliance for Regenerative Medicine Announces Election of 2021 Officers, Executive Committee, and Board of Directors
October 21, 2020

BIO [to 24 Oct 2020]
Press Releases
No new digest content identified.

DCVMN – Developing Country Vaccine Manufacturers Network [to 24 Oct 2020]
http://www.dcvmn.org/
News; Upcoming events
No new digest content identified.

ICBA – International Council of Biotechnology Associations [to 24 Oct 2020]
https://internationalbiotech.org/
News
No new digest content identified.

IFPMA [to 24 Oct 2020]
http://www.ifpma.org/resources/news-releases/
Selected Press Releases, Statements, Publications
IFPMA launches Note for Guidance to help those acting on behalf of biopharmaceutical companies live
GENEVA, 22 October 2020: The International Association of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations (IFPMA) published today a Note for Guidance on how to foster ethical relationships with third party intermediaries in the biopharmaceutical sector. IFPMA’s mission rests on the establishment and promotion of ethical principles for the industry as a whole and anyone acting on its behalf, in line with societal expectations.

Third party intermediaries play an important role in supporting the activity of biopharmaceutical companies and in improving ongoing access for patients and healthcare professionals to innovative, reliable and effective medicines and vaccines. They can operate as clinical research organizations, distributors, wholesalers, distribution or sales agents, consultants, brokers, commission agents, and/or independent sales representatives. They serve an integral role in the biopharmaceutical sector and health systems and therefore hold a critical mission to act with fairness and foster patient trust.

The Note for Guidance aims to complement the 2019 IFPMA Code of Practice and provides best practices for companies when working with third party intermediaries, such as adopting a dedicated risk management program as part of their overall compliance program and code of ethics. This would include, among others, identifying whether there is a particular risk profile for corruption, based on a review of the intermediary’s internal policies and controls for bribery or all types of corruption. This should cover common business activities such as travel/accommodation, gifts, hospitality, sponsorship or grants, sales and marketing, procurement processes, and many more...

22 October 2020

PhRMA [to 24 Oct 2020]
http://www.phrma.org/
Selected Press Releases, Statements
Press Release
Pharmaceutical Supply and Payment Chain Coalition Announces Guiding Principles for Safe, Efficacious Access to COVID-19 Vaccine
October 22, 2020
[See COVID-19 Vaccines above for detail]

* * * * *

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

AJOB Empirical Bioethics
Volume 11, 2020 Issue 4
https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/uabr21/current
[Reviewed earlier]

AMA Journal of Ethics
Volume 22, Number 10: E831-905  October 2020
https://journalofethics.ama-assn.org/issue/caring-native-americans
[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Infection Control
October 2020 Volume 48, Issue 10, p1133-1286
http://www.ajicjournal.org/current
[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Preventive Medicine
October 2020 Volume 59, Issue 4, p469-620
http://www.ajpmonline.org/current
[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Public Health
October 2020  110(S3) Supplement 3 2020
http://ajph.aphapublications.org/toc/ajph/current
[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
Volume 103, Issue 4, October 2020
http://www.ajtmh.org/content/journals/14761645/103/4

Editorial
oa It Ain't Over Till It's Over: The Triple Threat of COVID-19, TB, and HIV
Alexander W. Kay, Tara E. Ness, Leonardo Martinez and Anna M. Mandalakas
Pages: 1348–1349

Perspective Piece
oa Accelerating Clinical Evaluation of Repurposed Combination Therapies for COVID-19
Craig R. Rayner, Louis Dron, Jay J. H. Park, Eric H. Decloedt, Mark F. Cotton, Vis Niranjan, Patrick F. Smith, Michael G. Dodds, Fran Brown, Gilmar Reis, David Wesche and Edward J. Mills
Pages: 1364–1366
Polio in Afghanistan: The Current Situation amid COVID-19
Attaullah Ahmadi, Mohammad Yasir Essar, Xu Lin, Yusuff Adebayo Adebisi and Don Eliseo Lucero-Prisno III
Pages: 1367–1369
https://doi.org/10.4269/ajtmh.20-0995

How Do We Combat Bogus Medicines in the Age of the COVID-19 Pandemic?
Wubshet Tesfaye, Solomon Abhra, Mahipal Sinnolareddy, Bruce Arnold, Andrew Brown, Cynthia Matthew, Victor M. Oguoma, Gregory M. Peterson and Jackson Thomas
Pages: 1360–1363
https://doi.org/10.4269/ajtmh.20-0903

Maternal Influenza A(H1N1) Immunization During Pregnancy and Risk for Autism Spectrum Disorder in Offspring - A Cohort Study
Jonas F. Ludvigsson, MD, PhD, Henric Winell, MSc, Sven Sandin, PhD, Sven Cnattingius, MD, hD, ... et al.
Influenza vaccination during pregnancy benefits maternal health. This analysis of Swedish national health registry data examined the risks for autism spectrum disorder among offspring of mothers who received influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 vaccination during pregnancy.

Research and Reporting Methods
How to Quantify and Interpret Treatment Effects in Comparative Clinical Studies of COVID-19
FREE
Zachary R. McCaw, PhD, Lu Tian, ScD, Jason L. Vassy, MD, MPH, Christine Seel Ritchie, MD, MSPH, ... et al.
Trials evaluating treatments for COVID-19 often use the time to a positive outcome as a key end point. In the presence of death as a competing risk, commonly used survival analysis techniques may not be appropriate. This article discusses issues with the current practice and presents alternative, more clinically interpretable approaches.

Ideas and Opinions
COVID-19 Clinical Trials: A Teachable Moment for Improving Our Research Infrastructure and Relevance
FREE
Stephen E. Kimmel, MD, MSCE, Robert M. Califf, MD, MACC, Natalie E. Dean, PhD, ... et al.
This commentary posits the need for rapid evaluation of COVID-19 therapies as an inflection point spurring a much-needed rethinking of our research enterprise.

Editorials
Vaccine Safety in Pregnancy: Going Beyond the Perinatal Period
Anders Hviid, MSc, DrMedSci
Ludvigsson and colleagues looked for an association between influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 vaccination during pregnancy and autism in offspring. The editorialist discusses how this study contributes to vaccine safety evaluation.

Influenza Vaccine: Routine Secondary Prevention for Patients With Cardiovascular Disease?
Chandini Raina MacIntyre, MBBS Hons 1, PhD
Chow and colleagues confirmed that cardiovascular events contribute to influenza-associated morbidity and mortality. The editorialist discusses why clinicians should consider influenza vaccination routine secondary prevention for cardiovascular morbidity and mortality.

Artificial Intelligence – An International Journal
Volume 288  November 2020
[Reviewed earlier]

BMC Cost Effectiveness and Resource Allocation
http://resource-allocation.biomedcentral.com/
(Accessed 24 Oct 2020)
[No new digest content identified]

BMJ Global Health
October 2020 - Volume 5 - 10
https://gh.bmj.com/content/5/10
[Reviewed earlier]

BMC Health Services Research
http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmchealthservres/content
(Accessed 24 Oct 2020)
[No new digest content identified]

BMC Infectious Diseases
http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcinfectdis/content
(Accessed 24 Oct 2020)
[No new digest content identified]

BMC Medical Ethics
http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcmedethics/content
(Accessed 24 Oct 2020)
[No new digest content identified]
Pneumococcal vaccine coverage among individuals aged 18 to 64 years old with underlying medical conditions in the UK: a retrospective database analysis

In the UK certain groups with pre-disposing conditions are eligible for vaccination with the pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPV23). Uptake of the vaccine in these individuals has not been reported for 10...

Authors: Ian Matthews, Xiaoyan Lu, Qian Xia, Wynona Black and Bayad Nozad
Citation: BMC Public Health 2020 20:1584
Content type: Research article
Published on: 21 October 2020

Identifying interventions with Gypsies, Roma and Travellers to promote immunisation uptake: methodological approach and findings

In the UK, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) communities are generally considered to be at risk of low or variable immunisation uptake. Many strategies to increase uptake for the general population are relevant ...

Authors: Lisa Dyson, Helen Bedford, Louise Condon, Carol Emslie, Lana Ireland, Julie Mytton, Karen Overend, Sarah Redsell, Zoe Richardson and Cath Jackson
Citation: BMC Public Health 2020 20:1574
Content type: Research article
Published on: 20 October 2020

Parental concerns and uptake of childhood vaccines in rural Tanzania – a mixed methods study

Vaccine hesitancy has been recognized as an important barrier to timely vaccinations around the world, including in sub-Saharan Africa. In Tanzania, 1 in 4 children is not fully vaccinated. The objective of th...

Authors: Lavanya Vasudevan, Joy Noel Baumgartner, Sara Moses, Esther Ngadaya, Sayoki Godfrey Mfinanga and Jan Ostermann
Citation: BMC Public Health 2020 20:1573
Content type: Research article
Published on: 20 October 2020
BMC Research Notes
http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcresearchnotes/content
(Accessed 24 Oct 2020)
[No new digest content identified]

BMJ Open
October 2020 - Volume 10 - 10
https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/10/10
[Reviewed earlier]

Bulletin of the World Health Organization
Volume 98, Number 10, October 2020, 645-724
https://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/98/10/en/
[Reviewed earlier]

Child Care, Health and Development
Volume 46, Issue 6  Pages: 651-750  November 2020
https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/13652214/current
[New issue; No digest content identified]

Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics
https://ascpt.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/15326535/current
[Reviewed earlier]

Clinical Therapeutics
September 2020  Volume 42  Issue 9  p1625-1846, e161-e208
[Reviewed earlier]

Clinical Trials
Volume 17 Issue 5, October 2020
https://journals.sagepub.com/toc/ctja/17/5
[Reviewed earlier]

Conflict and Health
http://www.conflictandhealth.com/
[Accessed 24 Oct 2020]
[No new digest content identified]
Contemporary Clinical Trials
Volume 96  September 2020
https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/contemporary-clinical-trials/vol/96/suppl/C
[Reviewed earlier]

The CRISPR Journal
Volume 3, Issue 5 / October 2020
https://www.liebertpub.com/toc/crispr/3/5
Editorials
Commissions, Consensus, and CRISPR
Rodolphe Barrangou
Pages:316–317
Published Online:20 October 2020

Nobel Dreams Come True for Doudna and Charpentier
Rodolphe Barrangou
Pages:317–318
Published Online:20 October 2020

Perspective
Reactions to the National Academies/Royal Society Report on Heritable Human Genome Editing
Misha Angrist, et al.... See all authors
Pages:332–349
Published Online:20 October 2020
https://doi.org/10.1089/crispr.2020.29106.man
In September 2020, a detailed report on Heritable Human Genome Editing was published. The report offers a translational pathway for the limited approval of germline editing under limited circumstances and assuming various criteria have been met.

Research Articles
Human Germ Line and Heritable Genome Editing: The Global Policy Landscape
Françoise Baylis, Marcy Darnovsky, Katie Hasson, and Timothy M. Krahn
Pages:365–377
Published Online:20 October 2020
https://doi.org/10.1089/crispr.2020.0082
Discussions and debates about the governance of human germline and heritable genome editing should be informed by a clear and accurate understanding of the global policy landscape. This policy survey of 106 countries yields significant new data. A large...

Current Genetic Medicine Reports
Volume 8, issue 3, September 2020
[Reviewed earlier]
Current Opinion in Infectious Diseases
October 2020 - Volume 33 - Issue 5
https://journals.lww.com/co-infectiousdiseases/pages/currenttoc.aspx
[Reviewed earlier]

Developing World Bioethics
Volume 20, Issue 3 Pages: 115-171 September 2020
https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/14718847/current
[Reviewed earlier]

Development in Practice
Volume 30, Issue 6, 2020
http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/cdip20/current
New sectoral perspectives on international NGOs: scale, dynamics and influences. Guest Editors: Nicola Banks, Lau Schulpen, and Dan Brockington
[Reviewed earlier]

Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness
Volume 14 - Issue 2 - April 2020
https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/disaster-medicine-and-public-health-preparedness/latest-issue
[Reviewed earlier]

Disasters
Volume 44, Issue 4 Pages: 619-752 October 2020
https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/14677717/current
[Reviewed earlier]

EMBO Reports
Volume 21 Issue 10 5 October 2020
https://www.embopress.org/toc/14693178/current
[Reviewed earlier]

Emerging Infectious Diseases
Volume 26, Number 10—October 2020
http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/
[Reviewed earlier]

Epidemics
Volume 32 September 2020
Estimating the power to detect a change caused by a vaccine from time series data
[version 2; peer review: 2 approved]
Daniel M. Weinberger, Joshua L. Warren
Peer Reviewers Christian Bottomley; Naim Ouldali and Corinne Levy
Funders: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
LATEST VERSION PUBLISHED 19 Oct 2020
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. 3 October 01, 2020
http://www.ghspjournal.org/content/current
[Reviewed earlier]

Global Public Health
Volume 15, 2020 Issue 11
http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rgph20/current
[Reviewed earlier]

Globalization and Health
http://www.globalizationandhealth.com/
[New issue; No digest content identified]

Health Affairs
Vol. 39, No. 10 October 2020
https://www.healthaffairs.org/toc/hlthaff/current

Children's Health

Health and Human Rights
Volume 22, Issue 1, June 2020
Special Section: Mental Health and Human Rights
[Reviewed earlier]

Health Economics, Policy and Law
Volume 15 - Issue 4 - October 2020
https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/health-economics-policy-and-law/latest-issue
[Reviewed earlier]

Health Policy and Planning
Volume 35, Issue 8, October 2020
https://academic.oup.com/heapol/issue/35/8
[Reviewed earlier]
Humanitarian Exchange Magazine
Number 78, October 2020

**Disability inclusion in humanitarian action**
by HPN October 2020

The theme of this edition of Humanitarian Exchange, co-edited with Sherin Alsheikh Ahmed from Islamic Relief Worldwide, is disability inclusion in humanitarian action. Persons with disabilities are not only disproportionately impacted by conflicts, disasters and other emergencies, but also face barriers to accessing humanitarian assistance. At the same time, global commitments and standards and the IASC Guidelines on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action all emphasise how persons with disabilities are also active agents of change. Disability and age-focused organisations have led on testing and demonstrating how inclusion can be done better. Yet despite this progress, challenges to effective inclusion remain.

As Kirstin Lange notes in the lead article, chief among these challenges is humanitarian agencies’ lack of engagement with organisations of persons with disabilities. Simione Bula, Elizabeth Morgan and Teresa Thomson look at disability inclusion in humanitarian response in the Pacific, and Kathy Al Jubeh and Alradi Abdalla argue for a ‘participation revolution’, building on learning from the gender movement. Tchaurea Fleury and Sulayman AbdulMumuni Ujah outline how the Bridge Article 11 training initiative is encouraging constructive exchange between humanitarian and disability actors. The lack of good, disaggregated data is highlighted by Sarah Collinson; Frances Hill, Jim Cranshaw and Carys Hughes emphasise the need for training resources in local languages and accessible formats; and Sophie Van Eetvelt and colleagues report on a review of the evidence on inclusion of people with disabilities and older people.

Rebecca Molyneux and co-authors analyse the findings of a review of a DFID programme in north-east Nigeria, while Carolin Funke highlights the importance of strategic partnerships between disability-focused organisations, drawing on her research in Cox’s Bazar. Sherin Alsheikh Ahmed describes Islamic Relief Worldwide’s approach to mainstreaming protection and inclusion, while Pauline Thivillier and Valentina Shafina outline IRC’s Client Responsive Programming. The edition ends with reflections by Mirela Turcanu and Yves Ngunzi Kahashi on CAFOD’s SADI approach.
Human Vaccines & Immunotherapeutics (formerly Human Vaccines)
Volume 16, Issue 9, 2020
http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/khvi20/current

Article
Vaccines from the Spanish Influenza as a firm foundation for new developments
John S. Oxford & Douglas Gill
Pages: 2051-2055
Published online: 12 Aug 2020

Article
How health care providers should address vaccine hesitancy in the clinical setting: Evidence for presumptive language in making a strong recommendation
Robert M. Jacobson, Jennifer L. St. Sauver, Joan M. Griffin, Kathy L. MacLaughlin & Lila J. Finney Rutten
Pages: 2131-2135
Published online: 03 Apr 2020

Article
Vaccination coverage of recommended vaccines and determinants of vaccination in at-risk groups
Lise Boey, Eline Bosmans, Liane Braz Ferreira, Nathalie Heyvaert, Melissa Nelen, Lisa Smans, Hanne Tuerlinckx, Mathieu Roelants, Kathleen Claes, Inge Derdelinckx, Wim Janssens, Chantal Mathieu, Johan Van Cleemput, Robin Vos & Corinne Vandermeulen
Pages: 2136-2143
Published online: 02 Jul 2020

Article
The use of the health belief model to assess predictors of intent to receive the COVID-19 vaccine and willingness to pay
Li Ping Wong, Haridah Alias, Pooi-Fong Wong, Hai Yen Lee & Sazaly AbuBakar
Pages: 2204-2214
Published online: 30 Jul 2020

Infectious Agents and Cancer
http://www.infectagentscancer.com/content
[Accessed 24 Oct 2020]
[No new digest content identified]

Infectious Diseases of Poverty
http://www.idpjournal.com/content
[Accessed 24 Oct 2020]
[No new digest content identified]
International Health
Volume 12, Issue 5, September 2020
https://academic.oup.com/inthealth/issue/12/5
[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Community Medicine and Public Health
Vol 7, No 10 (2020) October 2020
[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Epidemiology
Volume 49, Issue 3, June 2020
https://academic.oup.com/ije/issue/49/3
[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Human Rights in Healthcare
Volume 13 Issue 4  2020
https://www.emerald.com/insight/publication/issn/2056-4902/vol/13/iss/4
Table of Contents
[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Infectious Diseases
September 2020 Volume 98, p1-502
[Reviewed earlier]

JAMA
October 20, 2020, Vol 324, No. 15, Pages 1483-1580
https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/currentissue
Original Investigation
Lifetime Prevalence of Cervical Cancer Screening in 55 Low- and Middle-Income Countries
Julia M. Lemp, MSc; Jan-Walter De Neve, ScD; Hermann Bussmann, MD; et al.
has active quiz
This cancer epidemiology study characterizes lifetime cervical cancer screening prevalence in low- and middle-income countries overall and by region; per capita gross domestic product; and patient rurality, education, and household wealth.

Viewpoint
The COVID-19 Pandemic and the $16 Trillion Virus
David M. Cutler, PhD; Lawrence H. Summers, PhD
free access has active quiz has multimedia has audio
In this Viewpoint, 2 Harvard economists estimate the cumulative financial costs of the COVID-19 pandemic in the US to date from lost domestic output and health reduction at more than $16 trillion, as a way to put the lesser costs of public health measures, such as population testing, contact tracing, and isolation, in perspective.

The 2020 Lasker Awards and the COVID-19 Pandemic
Joseph L. Goldstein, MD

In this Viewpoint, the chair of the 2020 Lasker Medical Research Awards reflects on the history of the award program and its recipients as a stand-in for the 2020 awards, which are not being given because of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, and anticipates the most important research leading to COVID-19 treatment and control will be candidates for future recognition.

JAMA Network
COVID-19 Update  October 24, 2020
These articles on COVID-19 were published across the JAMA Network in the last week.

JAMA Pediatrics
October 2020, Vol 174, No. 10, Pages 919-1012
http://archpedi.jamanetwork.com/issue.aspx
[Reviewed earlier]

JBI Database of Systematic Review and Implementation Reports
October 2020 - Volume 18 - Issue 10
https://journals.lww.com/jbisrir/Pages/currenttoc.aspx
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Adolescent Health
October 2020 Volume 67, Issue 4, p461-622
https://www.jahonline.org/issue/S1054-139X(20)X0008-5
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research
Vol. 69 (2020)
https://www.jair.org/index.php/jair
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Community Health
Volume 45, issue 5, October 2020
Beyond the prevention of illness and death, vaccination may provide additional benefits such as improved educational outcomes. However, there is currently little evidence on this question. Our objective was to estimate the effect of childhood vaccination on learning achievements among primary school children in India.

Catherine Arsenault, Sam Harper, Arijit Nandi
Prevention, Detection and Response to incidences of substandard and falsified medical products in the Member States of the Southern African Development Community
Authors: Stanislav Kniazkov, Sakhile Dube-Mwedzi and Jean-Baptiste Nikiema
Content type: Review
20 October 2020
Journal of Public Health Policy
Volume 41, Issue 3, September 2020
https://link.springer.com/journal/41271/41/3
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Refugee & Global Health
Volume 3, Issue 1 (2020)
https://ir.library.louisville.edu/rgh/
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of the Royal Society – Interface
October 2020 Volume 17 Issue 171
https://royalsocietypublishing.org/toc/rsif/current
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Travel Medicine
Volume 27, Issue 6, August 2020
https://academic.oup.com/jtm/issue/27/6
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Virology
November 2020; Volume 94, Issue 21
http://jvi.asm.org/content/current
[New issue; No digest content identified]

The Lancet
Oct 24, 2020 Volume 396 Number 10259 p1307-1372, e57-e63
https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/issue/current
[New issue; No digest content identified]

The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health
Oct 2020 Volume 4 Number 10 p709-794, e36-e39
https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanchi/issue/current
[Reviewed earlier]

Lancet Digital Health
Lancet Global Health
Oct 2020 Volume 8 Number 10 e1242-e1351
http://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/issue/current
[Reviewed earlier]

Lancet Infectious Diseases
Oct 2020 Volume 20 Number 10 p1101-1216, e250-e283
http://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/issue/current
[Reviewed earlier]

Lancet Public Health
Oct 2020 Volume 5 Number 10 e512-e567
https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpub/issue/current
[Reviewed earlier]

Lancet Respiratory Medicine
Oct 2020 Volume 8 Number 10 p935-1060, e73-e77
http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanres/issue/current
[Reviewed earlier]

Maternal and Child Health Journal
Volume 24, issue 10, October 2020
https://link.springer.com/journal/10995/volumes-and-issues/24-10
[Reviewed earlier]

Medical Decision Making (MDM)
Volume 40 Issue 7, October 2020
http://mdm.sagepub.com/content/current
[New issue; No digest content identified]

The Milbank Quarterly
A Multidisciplinary Journal of Population Health and Health Policy
Volume 98, Issue 3 Pages: 619-1020 September 2020
https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/14680009/current
[Reviewed earlier]
Vaccine design
The cover image draws on aspects of Bauhaus artist Paul Klee’s famous notebooks to reimagine the quest for a vaccine against SARS-CoV-2. The drive to create an effective vaccine to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic has seen researchers move from genetic sequence of the virus to clinical trials at unprecedented speed. This week’s issue features a number of papers that probe design strategies and clinical trial results for vaccine candidates to combat the virus. In addition, a Review presents a round-up of vaccines in development, noting that signs so far suggest that a safe and effective vaccine could be realized on a timescale of months rather than years.

Editorial | 21 October 2020
Why decoding the immune response to COVID matters for vaccines
Nature’s second progress report on the pandemic looks at the key factors to making vaccines safe, effective and welcomed by the public.

... Trust and verify
COVID-19 vaccines will be considered for approval by the World Health Organization (WHO) under its emergency-use listing — in which a vaccine is approved for use while trials are still taking place. The WHO and national regulators are working under tremendous pressure from governments and the pharmaceutical industry, but all sides must realize that there can be no short cuts to regulatory approval. Public trust in vaccines is essential, which is why regulators must be allowed to complete their work without interference.

Vaccine hesitancy presents further challenges. Any new vaccine must be carefully monitored for adverse effects, especially in vulnerable populations. As we have written before, overcoming vaccine hesitancy will also require radical transparency from drug companies and their academic partners.

Much of the coronavirus vaccine effort is an example of just what can be achieved when researchers, clinicians, funders, regulators, corporations — in short, people — come together to act in the common good. A working vaccine is essential, but it must be safe and effective, and it needs to be distributed equitably and to those who need it most. Until it arrives, and probably for a long time afterwards, people must stick to solutions that work — rigorous testing, tracing and isolating — and change their behaviour to help curb the virus’s spread.
World View | 20 October 2020
COVID-19 vaccines: time to talk about the uncertainties
Plan now for decisions on which vaccines should go to whom, when and how often.
Kanta Subbarao

Review Article | 23 September 2020
SARS-CoV-2 vaccines in development
The development of vaccines against SARS-CoV-2 is reviewed, including an overview of the development process, the different types of vaccine candidate, and data from animal studies as well as phase I and II clinical trials in humans.
Florian Krammer

Article | 05 August 2020
SARS-CoV-2 mRNA vaccine design enabled by prototype pathogen preparedness
mRNA-1273, an mRNA vaccine that encodes a stabilized prefusion-state severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) spike protein, elicits robust immune responses and protects mice against replication of SARS-CoV-2 in the upper and lower airways.
Kizzmekia S. Corbett, Darin K. Edwards [...] & Barney S. Graham

Article | 29 July 2020
A vaccine targeting the RBD of the S protein of SARS-CoV-2 induces protective immunity
A recombinant vaccine that targets the receptor-binding domain of the spike protein of SARS-CoV-2 induces a potent antibody response in immunized mice, rabbits and non-human primates, and protects primates from infection with the virus.
Jingyun Yang, Wei Wang [...] & Xiawei Wei

Nature Biotechnology
Volume 38 Issue 10, October 2020
https://www.nature.com/nbt/volumes/38/issues/10
SARS-CoV-2 detection
[Reviewed earlier]

Nature Communications
https://www.nature.com/subjects/health-sciences/ncomms
(Accessed 24 Oct 2020)
[No new digest content identified]

Nature Genetics
Volume 52 Issue 10, October 2020
https://www.nature.com/ng/volumes/52/issues/10
[Reviewed earlier]
**Nature Medicine**  
Volume 26 Issue 10, October 2020  
https://www.nature.com/nm/volumes/26/issues/10  

**Patient-partnered clinical research**  
The path to productive collaboration between researchers and patients is not always easy, with language differences, knowledge gaps and power dynamics setting considerable barriers along the way. In this issue, we explore how patient- and community-led research is achievable if both sides make it a priority. The cover, designed by illustrator Sarah Lippett, a person living with a rare disease who explores her diagnostic odyssey in her work, shows how effective and equitable patient–researcher collaboration can be transformative to research.  
[Reviewed earlier]  

**Nature Reviews Genetics**  
Volume 21 Issue 10, October 2020  
https://www.nature.com/nrg/volumes/21/issues/9  
[Reviewed earlier]  

**Nature Reviews Immunology**  
Volume 20 Issue 10, October 2020  
https://www.nature.com/nri/volumes/20/issues/10  
[Reviewed earlier]  

**Nature Reviews Drug Discovery**  
Volume 19 Issue 10, October 2020  
https://www.nature.com/nrd/volumes/19/issues/10  
[Reviewed earlier]  

**New England Journal of Medicine**  
October 22, 2020 Vol. 383 No. 17  
http://www.nejm.org/toc/nejm/medical-journal  

**Medicine and Society**  
**Tribal Truce — How Can We Bridge the Partisan Divide and Conquer Covid?**  
Lisa Rosenbaum, M.D.  

**Pediatrics**  
Vol. 146, Issue 4 1 Oct 2020  
https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/  
[Reviewed earlier]  

**Pharmaceutics**  
Volume 12, Issue 7 (July 2020) – 97 articles  
https://www.mdpi.com/1999-4923/12/7
PharmacoEconomics
Volume 38, issue 10, October 2020
https://link.springer.com/journal/40273/volumes-and-issues/38-10

PLoS Genetics
https://journals.plos.org/plosgenetics/
(Accessed 24 Oct 2020)
[No new digest content identified]

PLoS Medicine
http://www.plosmedicine.org/
(Accessed 24 Oct 2020)
Research Article
Effectiveness of the 23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine against vaccine serotype pneumococcal pneumonia in adults: A case-control test-negative design study
Hannah Lawrence, Harry Pick, Vadsala Baskaran, Priya Daniel, Chamira Rodrigo, Deborah Ashton, Rochelle C. Edwards-Pritchard, Carmen Sheppard, Seyi D. Eletu, David Litt, Norman K. Fry, Samuel Rose, Caroline Trotter, Tricia M. McKeever, Wei Shen Lim
Research Article | published 23 Oct 2020 PLOS Medicine
https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1003326

Tuberculosis, human rights, and law reform: Addressing the lack of progress in the global tuberculosis response
Matthew M. Kavanagh, Lawrence O. Gostin, John Stephens
Policy Forum | published 23 Oct 2020 PLOS Medicine
https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1003324

PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases
http://www.plosntds.org/
(Accessed 24 Oct 2020)
The economic impact and cost-effectiveness of combined vector-control and dengue vaccination strategies in Thailand: results from a dynamic transmission model
Gerhart Knerer, Christine S. M. Currie, Sally C. Brailsford
Research Article | published 23 Oct 2020 PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases
https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pntd.0008805

The neglected challenge: Vaccination against rickettsiae
Anke Osterloh
Review | published 22 Oct 2020 PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases
https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pntd.0008704
Global impact of environmental temperature and BCG vaccination coverage on the transmissibility and fatality rate of COVID-19
Amit Kumar, Shubham Misra, Vivek Verma, Ramesh K. Vishwakarma, Vineet Kumar Kamal, Manabesh Nath, Kiran Prakash, Ashish Datt Upadhyay, Jitendra Kumar Sahu
Research Article | published 22 Oct 2020 PLOS ONE
https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0240710

Psychological impact of mass quarantine on population during pandemics—The COVID-19 Lock-Down (COLD) study
Deeksha Pandey, Suvari Bansal, Shubham Goyal, Akanksha Garg, Nikita Sethi, Dan Isaac Pothiyill, Edavana Santhosh Sreelakshmi, Mehmood Gulab Sayyad, Rishi Sethi
Research Article | published 22 Oct 2020 PLOS ONE
https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0240501

Evaluation of the acceptability in France of the vaccine against papillomavirus (HPV) among middle and high school students and their parents
Jean-François Huon, Antoine Grégoire, Anita Meireles, Maëva Lefebvre, Morgane Péré, Julie Coutherut, Charlotte Biron, François Raffi, Valérie Briend-Godet
Research Article | published 22 Oct 2020 PLOS ONE
https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0234693

Measles vaccination among children in border areas of Yunnan Province, Southwest China
Jiangrong Li, Wenzhou Yu, Zhixian Zhao, Lei Zhang, Qiongyu Gong
Research Article | published 21 Oct 2020 PLOS ONE
https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0240733

PLOS Pathogens
http://journals.plos.org/plospathogens/
[Accessed 24 Oct 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/
Front Matter
Core Concept: The pandemic is prompting widespread use—and misuse—of real-world data
Elie Dolgin
... But harnessing this type of real-world data is a tricky business. It requires high-quality data collection and proper methodological considerations. There are established guidelines on how best to plan, execute, and report observational studies in a way that ensures the validity and relevance of the evidence gathered (1). Yet researchers and clinicians can sometimes neglect those guidelines, especially during a health crisis in which the rush to publish has spawned some suspect research practices, according to some observers.

The pandemic thus presents an unprecedented opportunity to leverage diverse, real-world data sources to inform medical and regulatory responses to the public health emergency. Yet, at the same time, says Almut Winterstein, a pharmacoepidemiologist from the University of Florida in Gainesville, the need for speed should not come at the expense of methodological rigor and detail.

“That’s [the] balance that needs to be maintained,” says Winterstein, who served as president of the International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology until this past August. "On the one hand, you need real-world data in order to have complete evidence for decision making. But at the same token, you have to follow proper epidemiological methods and consider and address the biases in the data before making any causal inferences.”

Opinion: A risk–benefit framework for human research during the COVID-19 pandemic
Front Matter
Julie C. Lumeng, Tabbye M. Chavous, Anna S. Lok, Srijan Sen, Nicholas S. Wigginton, and Rebecca M. Cunningham

Prehospital & Disaster Medicine
Volume 35 - Issue 5 - October 2020
https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/prehospital-and-disaster-medicine/latest-issue
[Reviewed earlier]

Preventive Medicine
Volume 139  October 2020
[Reviewed earlier]

Proceedings of the Royal Society B
14 October 2020  Volume 287  Issue 1936
https://royalsocietypublishing.org/toc/rspb/current
[New issue; No digest content identified]

Public Health
Volume 187  Pages A1-A2, 1-190 (October 2020)
Research article  Open access
Identifying research questions for HIV, tuberculosis, tuberculosis-HIV, malaria, and neglected tropical diseases through the World Health Organization guideline development process: a retrospective analysis, 2008–2018
S. Hargreaves, J. Himmels, L.B. Nellums, G. Biswas, ... D. Maher
Pages 19-23

Public Health Ethics
IN PROGRESS
Volume 13, Issue 1, April 2020
http://phe.oxfordjournals.org/content/current
[Reviewed earlier]

Public Health Reports
Volume 135 Issue 5, September/October 2020
https://journals.sagepub.com/toc/phrg/135/5
[Reviewed earlier]

Qualitative Health Research
Volume 30 Issue 12, October 2020
http://qhr.sagepub.com/content/current
[Reviewed earlier]

Research Ethics
Volume 16 Issue 3-4, July-October 2020
http://journals.sagepub.com/toc/reab/current
[Reviewed earlier]

Reproductive Health
http://www.reproductive-health-journal.com/content
[Accessed 24 Oct 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
20 Oct 2020
A renewed framework for the essential public health functions in the Americas
Special report | English | https://iris.paho.org/handle/10665.2/52801
This report presents the results of a consensus decision making process conducted to elaborate a renewed conceptual framework of the essential public health functions for the Americas. The emerging framework consists of four pillars encompassing action-oriented
components relating to the new scope and concerns of public health. The four pillars call for adopting a human rights approach to public health, addressing the social determinants of health, ensuring access to both individuals and population-based services, and expanding the stewardship role of health authorities through a collaborative implementation of public health functions. Public health functions were conceptualized as a set of capacities that are part of an integrated policy cycle the encompasses four stages: assessment, policy development, allocation of resources, and access. The framework provides a road map for evaluation and development by health authorities of integrated enabling public health policies through intersectoral collaboration. The application of the framework would require engaging countries working to improve public health through national assessments and systematic incorporation of these findings into quality improvement efforts and sectoral and intersectoral decision-making processes around policy and investments priorities promoted by governments. Work is ongoing in the definition of a list of public health functions that gives operational clarity to each dimension of this framework and guides performance evaluation.

**Risk Analysis**
Volume 40, Issue 9  Pages: 1691-1886  September 2020
https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/15396924/current
[Reviewed earlier]

**Risk Management and Healthcare Policy**
[Accessed 24 Oct 2020]

*Original Research*

**Pharmacists’ Perspectives on Providing the Influenza Vaccine in Community Pharmacies: A Qualitative Study**
Nusair MB, Arabyat R, Mukattash TL, Alhamad H, Abu Ghaida MT, Momani MY
Published Date: 16 October 2020

**Science**
23 October 2020  Vol 370, Issue 6515
http://www.sciencemag.org/current.dtl

*Editorial*

**Saving the poor and vulnerable**
By Ian L. Boyd
Science23 Oct 2020 : 383

**Summary**
Right now, warm surface water is moving into the western Pacific Ocean in the form of a “La Niña.” It is a sentinel for a complex set of connections that drive weather patterns from the Horn of Africa to Botswana and normally presages drought in East Africa. This event soon will be ringing alarm bells within the World Food Programme (WFP). Even as this United Nations-led agency celebrates its well-deserved award of the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize, the relentless challenge of preventing hunger marches on.
Science, politics, and public health
By William Roper
Science23 Oct 2020 : 385
Summary
There is an idea on the part of scientists that politics is dirty, and a companion idea on the part of politicians that science, by its continual qualifications and revisions, is, if not irrelevant, then at least out of touch with the constraints of a democracy: What seems optimal from the perspective of science may be impossible to implement in the political arena.

Feature
Undermining CDC
By Charles Piller
Science23 Oct 2020 : 394-399 Restricted Access
Deborah Birx, President Donald Trump’s COVID-19 coordinator, helped shake the foundation of a premier public health agency.
Summary
When Deborah Birx, a physician with a background in HIV/AIDS research, was named coordinator of the White House Coronavirus Task Force in February, she was widely praised as a tough, indefatigable manager and a voice of data-driven reason. But a Science investigation found that some of her actions have undermined the effectiveness of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Interviews with nine current CDC employees, including senior agency leaders, and 20 former agency leaders and public health experts—and a review of more than 100 official emails, memos, and other documents—suggest Birx’s privatization of CDC’s system for gathering COVID-19 hospital data fits a pattern in which she sometimes promoted President Donald Trump’s policies or views against scientific consensus. In the process, she helped create an existential crisis at the world’s preeminent public health agency.

How CDC foundered
By Charles Piller
Science23 Oct 2020 : 396 Restricted Access
The agency’s missteps were multiplied by political interference.
Summary
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has created some of its own problems during the COVID-19 pandemic, such as issuing flawed tests in February and confusing guidance on aerosol transmission. But the agency’s compromised standing derives mostly from attacks by President Donald Trump and his surrogates, often including Deborah Birx, coordinator of the White House Coronavirus Task Force. Trump and his appointees have prevented CDC leaders from speaking basic truths and replaced its widely praised guidelines for reopening schools and the economy with weaker ones. The result has been an agency that has lost its moorings during a public health crisis.

Science Translational Medicine
21 October 2020 Vol 12, Issue 566
https://stm.sciencemag.org/
Editorial
Achieving healthy human longevity: A global grand challenge
With continued advances in science and technology, there is great potential to extend our healthspan as we age.

A systematic literature review of researchers’ and healthcare professionals’ attitudes towards the secondary use and sharing of health administrative and clinical trial data

Authors: Elizabeth Hutchings, Max Loomes, Phyllis Butow and Frances M. Boyle
Citation: Systematic Reviews 2020 9:240
Content type: Research
Published on: 12 October 2020

Abstract
A systematic literature review of researchers and healthcare professionals’ attitudes towards the secondary use and sharing of health administrative and clinical trial data was conducted using electronic data searching. Eligible articles included those reporting qualitative or quantitative original research and published in English. No restrictions were placed on publication dates, study design, or disease setting. Two authors were involved in all stages of the review process; conflicts were resolved by consensus. Data was extracted independently using a pre-piloted data extraction template. Quality and bias were assessed using the QualSyst criteria for qualitative studies. Eighteen eligible articles were identified, and articles were categorised into four key themes: barriers, facilitators, access, and ownership; 14 subthemes were identified. While respondents were generally supportive of data sharing, concerns were expressed about access to data, data storage infrastructure, and consent. Perceptions of data ownership and acknowledgement, trust, and policy frameworks influenced sharing practice, as did age, discipline, professional focus, and world region. Young researchers were less willing to share data; they were willing to share in circumstances where they were acknowledged. While there is a general consensus that increased data sharing in health is beneficial to the wider scientific community, substantial barriers remain.
**Tropical Medicine & International Health**  
Volume 25, Issue 10  
Pages: i-iv, 1167-1305  
October 2020  
https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/13653156/current  
[Reviewed earlier]

**Vaccine**  
Volume 38, Issue 46  
Pages 7183-7408 (27 October 2020)  
https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/vaccine/vol/38/issue/46  
[Reviewed earlier]

**Vaccines — Open Access Journal**  
http://www.mdpi.com/journal/vaccines  
(Accessed 24 Oct 2020)  
*Open Access*  
*Perspective*  
**The Strange Case of BCG and COVID-19: The Verdict Is Still up in the Air**  
by Radha Gopalaswamy, Natarajan Ganesan, Kalamani Velmurugan, Vivekanandhan Aravindhan and Selvakumar Subbian  
Vaccines 2020, 8(4), 612; https://doi.org/10.3390/vaccines8040612 - 16 Oct 2020  
*Abstract*  
COVID-19, caused by a novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, contributes significantly to the morbidity and mortality in humans worldwide. In the absence of specific vaccines or therapeutics available, COVID-19 cases are managed empirically with the passive immunity approach and repurposing of drugs used for other [...] Read more.

**Value in Health**  
October 2020 Volume 23, Issue 10, p1281-1402  
https://www.valueinhealthjournal.com/issue/S1098-3015(20)X0012-X  
[Reviewed earlier]

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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**
*Accessed 24 Oct 2020*
[No new, unique, relevant content]

**BBC**
[http://www.bbc.co.uk/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)
*Accessed 24 Oct 2020*
[No new, unique, relevant content]

**The Economist**
*Accessed 24 Oct 2020*
**Controlling the pandemic**
*Should covid be left to spread among the young and healthy*
Two petitions by scientists clash on the matter
*Oct 21st 2020 edition*

**Financial Times**
[https://www.ft.com/](https://www.ft.com/)
*Accessed 24 Oct 2020*
**Coronavirus treatment**
*Vaccine deal allows AstraZeneca to take up to 20% on top of costs*
*Drugmaker says non-manufacturing expenses will exceed $1bn in Oxford virus project*
*23 Oct 2020*

AstraZeneca’s confidential coronavirus vaccine deal with Oxford university allows it to make as much as 20 per cent on top of the cost of goods for manufacturing the jab, according to people with knowledge of the contract.

UK-headquartered AstraZeneca has pledged to sell the vaccine “at cost” during the pandemic, eschewing profits. It has declined to say how much the vaccine costs to make.

Observers have expressed fears over a lack of transparency around the global deals involving the supply of potential vaccines.

AstraZeneca insisted it treated the development of a vaccine as a public health emergency and not a profitmaking opportunity, saying more than $1bn of its costs incurred in the project, for example regulatory submissions and distribution, were not related to manufacturing...

**Forbes**
*Accessed 24 Oct 2020*
**Breaking**  | Oct 23, 2020
*Trump Hasn’t Shown Up To Covid Task Force In Months, Fauci Says*
Controversial advisor Dr. Scott Atlas apparently has the president’s ear more than Dr. Anthony Fauci.
By **Joe Walsh** Forbes Staff

*Coronavirus**  | Oct 23, 2020
**Three Takeaways From Major FDA Advisory Meeting On Covid-19 Vaccines**
One thing became clear over the course of the seven-hour meeting — that a hastily expedited vaccine might benefit some people, but fail those who need protection most.

By William A. Haseltine Contributor

Coronavirus  |  Oct 22, 2020
Vaccine Transporters Feel Unprepared For The Distributive Effort Ahead
As pharmaceutical companies conduct phase 3 vaccine trials, air cargo transporters are cautious about the logistics involved in the mass distribution of a Covid-19 vaccine.
By William A. Haseltine Contributor

Breaking  |  Oct 21, 2020
Bolsonaro Clashes With His Own Government Over Chinese Coronavirus Vaccine
“For sure, we will not buy the Chinese vaccine,” Bolsonaro said.
By Carlie Porterfield Forbes Staff

Foreign Affairs
http://www.foreignaffairs.com/
Accessed 24 Oct 2020
Fighting a Pandemic Requires Trust
Governments Have to Earn It
Thomas J. Bollyky, Sawyer Crosby, and Samantha Kiernan
October 23, 2020

Foreign Policy
http://foreignpolicy.com/
Accessed 24 Oct 2020
[No new, unique, relevant content]

The Guardian
http://www.theguardian.com/
Accessed 24 Oct 2020
[No new, unique, relevant content]

New Yorker
http://www.newyorker.com/
Accessed 24 Oct 2020
Medical Dispatch
How Trump Became the Pro-Infection Candidate
By embracing the Great Barrington Declaration—a fringe document advocating mass transmission of the coronavirus—the White House has achieved a new, lunatic level of denial.
By Dhruv Khullar
October 23, 2020

New York Times
http://www.nytimes.com/
Accessed 24 Oct 2020
World
After pausing for safety concerns, AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson have resumed their U.S. vaccine trials.
Oct. 23  By Katherine J. Wu and Carl Zimmer

Health
The Trump Administration Shut a Vaccine Safety Office Last Year. What’s the Plan Now?
The office was dedicated to the long-term safety of vaccines. Experts say plans to track coronavirus vaccines are fragmented and “behind the eight ball.”
Oct. 23  By Carl Zimmer

Washington Post
https://www.washingtonpost.com/
Accessed 24 Oct 2020
Stressing freedom, vaccine opponents rebranding in virus era
Oct 22, 2020

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Think Tanks et al

Brookings
http://www.brookings.edu/
Accessed 24 Oct 2020
[No new relevant content]

Center for Global Development  [to 24 Oct 2020]
http://www.cgdev.org/page/press-center
[No new relevant content]

Chatham House  [to 24 Oct 2020]
https://www.chathamhouse.org/
Expert Comment
A Dose of Realism on a COVID-19 Vaccine Strategy
A targeted immunisation programme may offer some protection, but it will not deliver ‘life as normal’.
Professor David Salisbury
Associate Fellow, Global Health Programme

22 October 2020
For those holding on to hope of an imminent COVID-19 vaccine, news this weekend that the first could be rolled-out as early as ‘just after Christmas’ will have likely lifted spirits.

UK deputy chief medical officer Professor Jonathan Van-Tam reportedly told MPs a vaccine developed by Oxford University and AstraZeneca could be ready for deployment in January, while Sir Jeremy Farrar, Sage scientific advisory group member and a director of the Wellcome Trust, has said at least one of a portfolio of UK vaccines could be ready by spring.
Much has been written and said about how the world will return to normal when a vaccine is widely available. But that really won’t be true. It is important that we are realistic about what vaccines can and can’t do.

Vaccines protect individuals against disease and hopefully also against infection, but no vaccine is 100% effective.

To know what proportion of a community would be immune after a vaccination programme is a numbers game – we must multiply the proportion of a population vaccinated by how effective the vaccine is.

The UK currently has amongst the highest national coverage of flu vaccine in the world, vaccinating around 75 per cent of the over 65s against flu every year; most countries either do worse or have no vaccination programmes for older people. It is reasonable to expect that this level of coverage could be achieved for COVID-19 vaccine in that age group in the UK.

If the COVID-19 vaccine is 75 per cent effective – meaning 75 per cent of those vaccinated become immune – then we would actually only protect 56% of that target population (75 per cent x 75 per cent). This would not be enough to stop the virus circulating.

Half of our highest risk group would remain susceptible, and we won’t know who they are. Relaxing social distancing rules when facing those risks seems a bit like Russian roulette.

Now let’s look at people younger than 65 in medical risk groups. In a good year, the UK vaccinates 50 per cent of them against flu. That means just over a third of them are going to be protected (50 per cent x 75 per cent).

Just to make matters worse, regulators such as the US Food and Drug Administration and the European Medicines Agency have said that they would accept a 50 per cent lower level for efficacy for candidate COVID-19 vaccines. If that efficacy level is fulfilled, we have to multiply coverage by 50 per cent efficacy, not 75 per cent, and suddenly it all gets more concerning.

As well as protecting individuals, vaccines can protect communities, through the interruption of transmission. One of the best examples comes from the UK meningitis C vaccination campaign of the late 1990s.

There was a 67 per cent reduction in the number of cases in the unvaccinated children and young people because they were being protected by their contacts who had been vaccinated and were no longer transmitting infection.

If we want to see population protection from COVID-19 vaccination, we are going to need high levels of protection (coverage x efficacy) across all ages, vaccinating not just the at-risk groups, as is being planned.

To stop transmission, we must vaccinate anyone who can transmit infection. Anything less means that our goal is only individual protection and not the interruption of transmission.
A recent announcement from the head of the UK Vaccine Task Force that the strategy will be targeted vaccination makes it abundantly clear that the UK vaccine strategy at the moment is not to try to interrupt transmission, despite having hundreds of millions of COVID-19 vaccine doses on contract. With less than 10 per cent of the population showing evidence of having been infected, targeted vaccination will not allow ‘life as previously usual’ to come about.

If countries do decide to switch from a personal protection policy to a transmission-interruption strategy, obstacles remain. Much will depend on the successful vaccination (probably with two doses) of people who have not previously seen themselves to be at elevated risk. The challenge will be persuading the young, for example, to be vaccinated, not for their own benefit, but for others.

The situation for developing countries will be even further away from achieving population immunity. The COVAX initiative (a global risk sharing and pooling vaccine arrangement) – proposes vaccines for just 3 per cent of population initially (for essential workers); followed by up to 20 per cent for the older and vulnerable.

Again, these quantities of vaccine will be seriously insufficient to have impacts on transmission. Even as industrialised nations struggle to interrupt transmission - ongoing transmission in any country threatens all countries.

Adherence to recommendations for any COVID-19 interventions – social distancing, lockdowns, home working, cancelled holidays or vaccinations, depend on trust. If politicians are telling us that the present impositions in our lives are only going to last until we have vaccines, then the reality is that a false hope is being promulgated.

Vaccines are probably the most powerful public health intervention available to us. But unless their benefits are communicated with realism, confidence in all recommendations will be put at risk.

While hope and optimism are much needed in these dark times, it is important to be transparent. We need to communicate the clear message that although targeted vaccination may offer some protection, it will not simply deliver ‘life as we used to know.’

This is a version of an article originally published in The Guardian.
Vaccines are a major public health success story, but the COVID-19 pandemic underscores the many challenges involved in getting a vaccine to everyone who needs it.

In Brief by Claire Felt

Kaiser Family Foundation
https://www.kff.org/search/?post_type=press-release
Accessed 24 Oct 2020
October 20, 2020
News Release
Distributing a COVID-19 Vaccine Across the U.S. – A Look at Key Issues

Government officials hope to identify one or more safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines over the next few months as part of a multi-agency effort known as Operation Warp Speed. If and when they succeed, their focus will shift to making sure people across the country can access the vaccine.

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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.

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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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