

14 February 2020

Army Public Health Weekly Update

Army Public Health Center



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Army finalizes incentive plan for companies to fix base housing problems

7 February- After a year of news highlighting the dismal conditions many military families experienced in base housing, the Army has finalized an incentive fee structure with the private companies that manage the units, a service news release said Thursday. The details of the plan were not immediately clear, but it "puts families first and holds companies accountable," according to the release. Military families have reported lead contamination and pest infestation in surveys by the Army and the Military Family Advisory Network. Congress stepped in with hearings about the issues, instituting some change via the fiscal 2020 defense budget. Those 2020 National Defense Authorization Act provisions were also discussed in the latest meeting Wednesday between Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy, other officials and the private housing companies. "We have made significant strides over the last year to provide quality, safe and secure housing, but we have more work to do," said Gen. Gus Perna, head of Army Materiel Command, in a statement. "We are focused on investment and reinvestment strategies to ensure long-term viability and quality of housing." The NDAA directed the Defense Department to develop a dispute-resolution process, move in/move out procedures and a common lease agreement. It is also to make home-maintenance histories publicly available. Attendees also discussed a need to review the Basic Allowance for Housing process to ensure payments are "accurately" reflecting market costs. Military.com

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Internal memo says over 30 military hospitals will soon stop treating families and retirees

8 February- Military families and retirees receiving care through 38 military hospitals nationwide will soon be forced to go off-base instead, and some pharmacies at those hospitals will stop providing drugs to those not on active duty, Military.com has learned. A 12-page memo, reviewed by Military.com, was sent to the commanders of 50 military treatment facilities, or MTFs, targeted for changes. It details for commanders the impacts of a planned MTF restructuring, the subject of an upcoming report to Congress. It also includes a letter to commanders explaining upcoming changes, signed by Lt. Gen. Ronald Pace, who directs the Defense Health Agency, and provides communications guidance to public affairs personnel. Related: [Army Secretary Calls for Slowdown of Military Health Care Merger](#) The changes are a part of a review of military hospital operations and a system consolidation under the Defense Health Agency ordered by Congress in 2016. Aimed at increasing a focus on military readiness, the consolidation includes a plan to cut about 18,000 uniformed medical personnel and increase focus on active-duty support. But to do so, the hospitals must cull the number of family members and retirees to whom they currently offer care. The report to Congress detailed in the memo lays out the Pentagon's

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Novel Coronavirus Outbreak

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Military Health System, and the U.S. Army Public Health Center are closely monitoring an outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a novel (new) coronavirus first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China.



path for those changes. "DoD must adapt the military health system to focus more on readiness of the combined force, while continuing to meet our access to health care obligations for active duty families, retirees and their families," the Feb. 3 memo states. "With a challenging array of threats around the world, we need our military medical facilities to keep combat forces healthy and prepare our medical personnel to support them." The memo does not include the locations of the 50 affected MTFs, or a specific timeline for the changes. It's also unclear how feedback from lawmakers might impact the current transition plan. [Task & Purpose](#)

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GLOBAL

Airborn coronavirus confirmed: MWC 2020 in serious jeopardy

10 February- The deadly coronavirus virus that has plagued humanity has got even worse. Previously thought that you will need to have direct contact or contact transmission is now confirmed that it can be caught by just being near an individual who is infected. Tech giants are pulling out from the MCW 2020 that is worrying this year's lineup. The Shanghai Civil Affairs Bureau deputy head stated over the weekend during the Saturday press briefing that "Aerosol transmission refers to the mixing of the virus with droplets in the air to form aerosols, which causes infection after inhalation, according to medical experts," "As such, we have called on the public to raise their awareness of the prevention and control of the disease caused by family gatherings."

-Direct transmission: breathing in the air close to an infected patient who sneezes or coughs, and Contact transmission: when a person touches an object tainted with the virus before infecting themselves by touching their mouth, nose, or eyes. [Tech Times](#)

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An Alzheimer's treatment fails: We don't have anything now

10 February- The study aimed to show that Alzheimer's disease could be stopped if treatment began before symptoms emerged. The participants were the best candidates that scientists could find: still healthy, but with a rare genetic mutation that guaranteed they would develop dementia. For five years, on average, the volunteers received monthly infusions or injections of one of two experimental drugs, along with annual blood tests, brain scans, spinal taps and cognitive tests. Now, the verdict is in: The drugs did nothing to slow or stop cognitive decline in these subjects, dashing the hopes of scientists. Dr. Randall Bateman, a neurologist at Washington University in St. Louis and principal investigator of the study, said he was "shocked" when he first saw the data: "It was really crushing." The results are a deep disappointment, scientists said — but not a knockout punch. The drugs

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did not work, but the problems may be fixable: perhaps the doses were too low, or they should have been given to patients much younger. Few experts want to give up on the hypothesis that amyloid plaques in the brain are intimately involved in Alzheimer's disease.

[The New York Times](#)

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Diamond Princess coronavirus cases now 136: Japan officials

10 February- The number of people that have tested positive for the new coronavirus on a cruise ship docked at Yokohama Port has increased by 66, according to Japan's health ministry. 136 people onboard Princess Cruises' Diamond Princess have tested positive for 2019-nCoV. The Diamond Princess was placed in quarantine for two weeks upon arriving in Yokohama, south of Tokyo, on Feb. 3, after a man who disembarked in Hong Kong was diagnosed with the virus. More than 3,700 passengers and crewmembers are on board the Diamond Princess. To date, more than 40,000 total confirmed cases have been reported, with 910 fatalities—both mostly in China. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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Expert sees coronavirus over by April in China, WHO still alarmed

11 February- The coronavirus outbreak in China may be over by April, the country's senior medical adviser said on Tuesday, but deaths surpassed 1,000 and the World Health Organization (WHO) warned of a global threat potentially worse than terrorism...China's foremost medical adviser on the outbreak, Zhong Nanshan, told Reuters numbers of new cases were falling in some provinces and forecast the epidemic would peak this month. "I hope this outbreak or this event may be over in something like April," added Zhong, 83, an epidemiologist who won fame for his role in combating an outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome in 2003. The WHO said on Tuesday 1,017 people had died in China where there were 42,708 cases. [Reuters](#)

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New study an eye-opener on how coronavirus is spreading and how little we know

8 February- A study published Friday in the medical journal JAMA found that 41% of the first 138 patients diagnosed at one hospital in Wuhan, China, were presumed to be infected in that hospital. This is big news. In plain English, it means that nearly half of the initial infections in this hospital appear to have been spread within the hospital itself. This is called nosocomial transmission. (Doctors use big words to hide bad things: Nosocomial means caught it in the hospital.) What's more, most spread doesn't appear to have been the result of a so-called "super-spreader event," in which a single patient transmits infection to many

other people. In these events, a procedure such as bronchoscopy -- where a doctor inserts a tube into the patient's lungs -- can result in many infections. This would be a concern, but not nearly as much as what appears to have happened: Many health care workers and many patients got infected in many parts of the hospital. What's more, since there's a broad spectrum of infection and only patients who were sick were tested, it's quite likely that there was even more transmission in the hospital. [CNN](#)

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Taking zinc can shorten your cold: Thank a 91-year-old scientist for the discovery

10 February- The common cold is a top reason for missed work and school days. Most of us have two or three colds per year, each lasting at least a week. There's no real cure, but studies from the last several years show that some supplement containing zinc can help shorten the duration of cold symptoms by up to 40% — depending on the amount of the mineral in each dose and what it's combined with. Zinc has an interesting back story. It wasn't even acknowledged as an essential mineral for human health until the 1970s. But that changed thanks to the work of Dr. Ananda Prasad — a 91-year-old doctor who, decades ago, had a hunch that led to a better understanding of zinc's role in immunity. [NPR](#)

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These 6 jobs are linked to poor heart health for women

7 February- What do female social workers, nurses, health aides, and retail cashiers all have in common? According to new research, they probably have poorer heart health than women working in other jobs. In a study involving more than 65,000 postmenopausal women, researchers found that women working in the above jobs were more likely to experience poor heart health. [Fox News](#)

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The worse is just about to come: New technology predicts coronavirus to peak in mid-to-late February this year

12 February- The new coronavirus could infect at least 500,000 people in Wuhan, the epicenter of the outbreak, by the point it peaks in the coming weeks. But most of those humans won't realize it. The typically bustling Chinese megacity, where the so-called 2019-nCoV virus emerged, has been in lockdown since Jan. 23 - limiting the movement of 11 million human beings. Recent developments in notable cases in Wuhan broadly help the initial formula the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine is using to calculate the epidemic's transmission dynamics. Adam Kucharski, an associate professor of infectious disease epidemiology, told Bloomberg Sunday that they see a mid-to-late-February peak on virus cases in Wuhan, assuming that current trends continue. Kucharski's explanation would mean that at least 1 in 20 people would have been infected in the city by the epidemic

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peaks, Kucharski said. He added the exchange if transmission patterns slow in the coming days. The prediction doesn't indicate an anticipated surge in cases in Wuhan, but that the current cumulative total doesn't replicate all infections, especially minor ones, which have occurred. The team led by Kucharski has developed an online tool to help us explore scenarios further. Health government in China and around the arena are anxiously ready to recognize whether the sector's most massive regarded quarantine attempt has been effective in slowing the spread of the pneumonia-inflicting virus in Wuhan and throughout different towns in Hubei province, a landlocked place of 60 million people. Benjamin Cowling, head of epidemiology and biostatistics at the University of Hong Kong, said the next two weeks are important to understand what's been happening. The variety of instances mentioned in Wuhan and across Hubei province has been tracking downward during the last several days. Mike Ryan, executive director of the WHO's Health Emergencies Program, said Saturday there has been a stabilization in the number of instances suggested from Hubei. He added they recorded a four-day stable period where the number of reported cases hasn't advanced. "That's good information and can replicate the impact of the control measures that have been installed place," he said. Ryan added there had been a "low, but regular incidence" of infections in places outside Hubei. It's unclear which of those provinces may control the sickness or wherein it'd escalate, Ryan said. The health agency hoped that the identical stabilization that looks to be occurring in Wuhan also takes place outside. "But, once more, it's too early to make any predictions about numbers," Ryan said. Ryan added there is still a completely severe disease outbreak in Wuhan and Hubei. He said everyone had to wait and see as there are still great risks in practically all of the other provinces. [Tech Times](#)

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INFLUENZA

CDC: Flu View - Weekly U.S. Influenza Surveillance Report

Key Updates for Week 5, ending February 1, 2020: Key indicators that track flu activity remain high and, after falling during the first two weeks of the year, increased over the last three weeks. Indicators that track overall severity (hospitalizations and deaths) are not high at this point in the season. [CDC](#)

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WHO: Influenza update

03 February 2020 - Update number 360, based on data up to 19 January 2020:

- In the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere, respiratory illness indicators and influenza activity remained elevated overall.
- In North America, influenza activity remained elevated influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and B viruses co-circulating.
- In Europe, influenza activity continued to increase across the region but appeared to decrease in some countries of Northern Europe.
- In Central Asia, influenza activity increased with influenza B viruses predominant.
- In Northern Africa, influenza activity appeared to decrease in Egypt after peaking in recent weeks.
- In Western Asia, influenza activity remained elevated overall and continued to increase in Lebanon and Turkey.
- In East Asia, influenza-like illness (ILI) and influenza activity remained elevated overall.
- In the Caribbean and Central American countries, influenza activity was low across reporting countries, except for Mexico with increased activity of influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses. In tropical South American countries, increased influenza activity was reported in Peru.
- In tropical Africa, influenza activity was low across most reporting countries.
- In Southern Asia, influenza activity was low in most reporting countries, but increased in Afghanistan.
- In South East Asia, influenza activity continued to be reported in Lao People's Democratic Republic and Malaysia and increased in Singapore.
- In the temperate zones of the southern hemisphere, influenza activity remained at inter-seasonal levels.
- Worldwide, seasonal influenza A viruses accounted for the majority of detections. [WHO top of page...](#)

Corinthian Foods recalls fish nuggets mislabeled as chicken nuggets

10 February- Corinthian Foods is recalling "Uncooked Sweet Potato Crusted Alaska Pollack Nuggets" because the bags contain chicken nuggets instead of fish nuggets. The products were distributed to retail stores in Michigan. The company recall says, "The problem was discovered when cases were opened to put out for retail sale, and the label on the retail package did not match the label and description of the master case. Subsequent investigation indicates the problem was caused during the packaging process. The incorrect labels were applied to the product causing the product to be mislabeled." Recalled Product: 5-pound retail bags of Uncooked Sweet Potato Crusted Alaska Pollack Nuggets 1 oz. with date code CF35319. The product is packaged in clear 5-pound bags with a white label with black writing. The company says that they have received no reports of illness associated with the recalled product. Consumers who purchased products listed are urged to return them to their place of purchase. For any questions, consumers may contact Corinthian Trading, Inc. /DBA Corinthian Foods at 912-634-0240. [Food Safety News](#)

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Nearly 200 ill in UK after eating oysters

8 February- Almost 200 people have fallen ill after eating oysters in the United Kingdom in recent months. Since November 2019 there have been at least 180 reported cases of gastroenteritis associated with oyster consumption linked to multiple food outlets and oyster producers. A Public Health England spokeswoman told Food Safety News that norovirus had been identified as the cause of a number of these outbreaks. "Public Health England is working with the Food Standards Agency and Food Standards Scotland, and affected local authorities, to investigate outbreaks of gastrointestinal illness reported since November 2019 associated with consumption of oysters." Officials say there is no connection to the norovirus outbreaks from oysters in Europe. In Sweden, 70 people fell sick after eating oysters, some of which came from domestic production and others from France. In Denmark, 180 people were ill after eating oysters from France. In France, 1,033 people have been sickened and 21 needed hospital treatment. Italy and Netherlands also reported outbreaks linked to live oysters from France. Products were also recalled due to potential norovirus contamination in Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Hong Kong and Singapore.

[Food Safety News](#)

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Positive Listeria test results spur international recall of peanut spread

7 February- Nuts 'N More of East Providence, RI, has initiated an international recall for some of its plain "Peanut Spread" because tests showed a sample of the finished product was contaminated with Listeria. The company reports distributing the product to eight U.S. states as well as Canada and the United Kingdom, according to a recall notice posted on the Food and Drug Administration website. The eight states are Virginia, Arizona, Maryland, Rhode Island, Maine, Alabama, Indiana and Florida. A total of 4,143 jars are implicated. No illnesses had been reported in relation to the product as of the posting of the recall notice today. Consumers can determine whether they have the recalled peanut spread by looking for the following label information on 16-ounce plastic jars of the product:

-Nuts 'N More – Plain Peanut Spread

-LOT PB91 (Lot and Exp. Located on the lid)

-EXP 03/04/2021 [Food Safety News](#)

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Walmart, Aldi, others fail recall litmus test; Kroger, Target earn higher marks

12 February- Independent researchers say 22 out of the country's top 26 grocery chains fail when it comes to warning the public about food recalls. Among those on the fail list are Walmart and Aldi. Consumers have to struggle to stay updated on food recalls with the lack of effort on the part of retailers proving to be a big reason the public is in the dark, according to a report released today by officials with the U.S. PIRG (Public Interest Research Group) Education Fund. The epic fail on the part of the grocery industry is particularly unacceptable because of all of the technology and data processing in place. "Supermarkets should be our best recall notification system, but instead, we found that shoppers must go on a nearly impossible scavenger hunt to learn if they've purchased contaminated food," according to a statement from Adam Garber of the said U.S. PIRG Education Fund. "Stores already use modern technology to track customers, place products, and target us with ads. There's no reason why they can't also keep us healthy." The non-profit, non-partisan research organization assessed supermarkets on publicly available information about whether they tell customers about recall policies, in-store notification, and direct customer notification. Findings in the 29-page report include:

-22 out of 26 stores failed to adequately inform the public about recall notification efforts, how to sign up for direct notifications, or where to find in-store postings. Only Harris Teeter, Kroger, Smith's and Target received a passing grade.

-58 percent of stores reported some program to directly notify consumers about recalls through email or phone. Of those 15 stores, only eight made it clear how customers could participate, how the system works, or what information is included in warnings.

-Not a single store provided information online about whether recall notices are posted at customer service desks, checkout counters, or store shelves.

The researchers say they know there might be programs in place that are not described in the public arena, but they also say retailers would not respond to requests for information about food safety recall measures. [Food Safety News](#)

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WELLNESS

Is allulose safe?

12 February- MOVE OVER STEVIA, there's another natural plant-based alternative to sugar on the block, and its name is allulose. Unlike many other low-calorie sweeteners, allulose, also known as D-psicose, is technically classified as a rare sugar because it can naturally be found in just a few foods, such as kiwi, raisins and figs. Chemically, it's similar to fructose, the type of natural sugar found in fruit. However, your body doesn't process it the same way. And this is where it gets interesting. It's virtually calorie free. And it has absolutely no effect on your blood sugar due to the way our body metabolizes it, which may be good news for people with diabetes...In the animal studies to date, high amounts of allulose were provided and no side effects noted. There was one human study with 30 participants whose goal was to determine if there would be any gastrointestinal side effects, as none were noted elsewhere. The study found that for adults with a mean body weight of 132 pounds, up to 54 grams can be consumed daily without any side effects. For reference: One packet of sugar is 4 grams. Consuming more than 54 grams of allulose per day may cause digestive issues, such as bloating, gas and abdominal pain. As more and more individuals look to lower their total sugar intake, especially those following a keto or low-carb diet, you can expect to see more and more companies including allulose in their products. At the moment, it does appear to be a healthy alternative to table sugar; however, more research is needed to conclusively confirm any health benefits. [U.S. News](#)

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USAFRICOM

Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever: 7 deaths in Mali village

7 February- Government officials in the governorate of Mopti are reporting seven human Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF) deaths, according to Swiss Info report. In the village of Samoa, 14 cases were detected and 7 people died. Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever is a widespread disease caused by a tick-borne virus (Nairovirus) of the Bunyaviridae family. The CCHF virus causes severe viral hemorrhagic fever outbreaks, with a case fatality rate of 10–40%. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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Ebola outbreak remains a public health emergency of international concern

12 February- Today, the Emergency Committee convened by the WHO Director-General under the International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005) met to review the current Ebola virus disease (EVD) outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). To date, 3,432 confirmed and probable EVD cases, including 2,249 cumulative deaths have been recorded since the outbreak began in mid-2018. While a great deal of progress in the situation has happened since the last meeting, officials say a number of challenges remain to include strengthening of community acceptance for full commitment to response measures; protection of personnel at strategic health checkpoints; improvement of infection prevention and control practices in health facilities; strengthening of the local health system; and comprehensive treatment and support for patients in recovery. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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USCENTCOM

Polio: Pakistan reports 8 additional WPV1 cases, cVDPV case reported in Kinshasa

6 February- Eight additional wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) cases were reported last week—five for 2019 and three for 2020—in Pakistan. The cases were reported from Punjab province (2), Sindh province (4) and one each from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. This brings the number of cases in 2020 to 7 and 144 for 2019 in Pakistan. A number of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV) cases were reported from Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Eight cases of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) were reported this week: four from Bié province, one each from Malanje and Cuanza Norte provinces and two from Luanda. There were 111 cVDPV2 cases from seven outbreaks reported in 2019. Five cases of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2

(cVDPV2) were reported this week in DRC: one each from Kwilu, Kongo Central and Kinshasa provinces and two from Sankuru, bringing the total number of 2019 cases to 82. The isolated virus in Kinshasa is linked to a strain currently circulating in neighboring Angola. The case in Kinshasa, a city of nearly 12 million people, is the first in the city.

[Outbreak News Today](#)

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USEUCOM

UK: 1st coronavirus case in London, China numbers skyrocket with ‘new category’

13 February- Health officials in England are reporting the 9th COVID-19 case in the country and the first in London. According to Chief Medical Officer Professor Chris Whitty: “One further patient in England has tested positive for novel coronavirus (COVID-19), bringing the total number of cases in the UK to nine. “This virus was passed on in China and the patient has now been transferred to a specialist NHS centre at Guy’s and St Thomas’ in London.” Officials say seeing a case in a city the size of London with several international airports is not surprising and both London and the rest of the UK could expect to see more cases. Michael Head, a global health expert from the University of Southampton said that of the 1,750 tests carried out so far in the UK, more than 99 per cent had turned out to be negative. Risks to Londoners and other UK residents remained low. In related news, Chinese officials added new category of “cases confirmed by clinical diagnosis” to the case diagnosis classification in Hubei Province, so that patients can receive standardized treatment according to confirmed cases as early as possible to further improve the success rate of treatment. According to the plan, Hubei Province has recently conducted investigations on suspected cases and revised the diagnosis results, and newly diagnosed patients were diagnosed according to the new diagnosis classification. In order to be consistent with the classification of case diagnosis issued by other provinces across the country, starting today, Hubei Province will include the number of clinically diagnosed cases into the number of confirmed cases for publication. On Wednesday, with this new category, Hubei Province newly added 14,840 new cases of pneumonia (including 13332 clinically diagnosed cases) and 248 deaths. Globally, the case tally has surpassed 60,000 cases and nearly 1400 deaths.

[Outbreak News Today](#)

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UK: Coronavirus cases rise to 8 in England, Diagnostic test rolls out today to 12 labs

10 February- In a follow-up on the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) situation in the United Kingdom, the Chief Medical Officer for England, Professor Chris Whitty said today that four additional patients in England have tested positive for novel coronavirus, bringing the total number of cases in the UK to eight. The new cases are all known contacts of a previously confirmed UK case, and the virus was passed on in France. The patients have been transferred to specialist NHS centres at Guy's and St Thomas' and The Royal Free hospitals, and we are now using robust infection control measures to prevent further spread of the virus, Whitty noted. In related news, Public Health England (PHE) announced today that the novel coronavirus diagnostic test they developed will be rolled out to laboratories across the UK starting today. The increase in diagnostic capacity from one laboratory in London to 12 labs over the coming weeks, will accelerate the country's testing capabilities. The laboratories are in the following locations: Scotland (2 laboratories), Northern Ireland, Wales, London, Cambridge, Birmingham, Bristol, Manchester, Leeds, Newcastle and Southampton. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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USINDOPACOM

Australia: 2 additional measles cases reported in travelers to Melbourne

5 February- Victoria Health Chief Health Officer, Dr. Brett Sutton announced two additional imported measles cases in the southeast Australian state. The latest cases are in travelers from Nepal and the Philippines. These are the second and third cases reported in Victoria in 2020 to date. These cases were infectious on their return flights to Australia. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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Thailand: Records seven additional coronavirus cases

9 February- The Ministry of Public Health of Thailand announced seven more laboratory-confirmed 2019-nCoV cases on Saturday– three are Thai nationals and four are visitors from China to Thailand. This puts the total to 32 confirmed cases– 23 Chinese visitors and 9 Thai nationals. One of the Thai cases is a man who was among the 138 Thai nationals brought back to Thailand from Wuhan, Hubei Province, China on last Tuesday and who were immediately placed in quarantine at Thai Navy guesthouses. He tested negative for novel coronavirus for two days running, but displayed mild flu-like symptoms on 7 February, yesterday, whereupon tests confirmed 2019-nCoV infection. The Ministry reports that the man is doing well today. The Ministry of Public Health says that 375 persons are currently under investigation, while 279 have been treated for symptoms and discharged. [Outbreak](#)

[News Today](#)

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USNORTHCOM

Canada: Measles case confirmed in Edmonton

7 February- A lab-confirmed measles has been reported in Alberta, Canada. The individual has been in public settings in St. Albert and Edmonton while infectious. Individuals who were in the below noted locations during the specified dates and times, may have been exposed to measles:

January 31:

Exposure Location: Real Canadian Superstore

101 St Albert Trail, St. Albert, Alberta

Exposure Time Period: 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Exposure Location: Chapters

445 St. Albert Trail, St. Albert, Alberta

Exposure Time Period: 3:15 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

February 2:

Exposure Location: Italian Bakery's Mercato

120 Bellerose Drive, St. Albert, Alberta

Exposure Time Period: 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

February 3:

Exposure Location: University of Alberta Hospital, Main Floor

8440 112 Street NW, Edmonton, Alberta

Exposure Time Period: 5:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Individuals who were exposed on February 2 and February 3, 2020, in the locations and timeframes noted above, AND who have either no history of receiving any measles-containing vaccine, or who are pregnant, immune compromised or under one year of age are advised to call Health Link at 811 for assessment. These individuals may be offered post-exposure prophylaxis, as a preventative measure. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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U.S.: 14th case of COVID-19

13 February- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported Wednesday evening on an additional infection with 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in the United States in California. The patient is among a group of people under a federal quarantine order because of their recent return to the U.S. on a State Department-chartered flight that arrived on February 7, 2020. This is the second person at this base who has tested positive for COVID-19. The first and second patients arrived on different planes and were housed in separate facilities; there are no epidemiologic links between them. According to CDC on-site team lead Dr. Chris Braden, "At this time there is no indication of person-to-person spread of this virus at the quarantine facility, but CDC will carry out a thorough contact investigation as part of its current response strategy to detect and contain any cases of infection with this virus." According to UC San Diego Health, they report caring for three patients who were transferred from federal quarantine at MCAS Miramar. Two have tested positive for COVID-19; a third is considered a patient under investigation (PUI) who has developed symptoms that warrant further observation and testing. All three patients are doing well. This brings the total of number of COVID-19 cases in the United States to 14. There are likely to be additional cases in the coming days and weeks, including among other people recently returned from Wuhan. While 195 people were discharged from quarantine yesterday, more than 600 people who returned on chartered flights from Wuhan remain under federal quarantine. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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Brazil: Reports 28 percent increase in syphilis cases in 2018

10 February- According to the latest edition of the Epidemiological Bulletin of Syphilis (computer translated) of the Department of Chronic Conditions and Sexually Transmitted Infections (DCCI), of the Health Surveillance Secretariat (SVS), of the Ministry of Health (MS), 158,051 cases of syphilis were reported across the country in 2018, an increase of 28.3 percent over the previous year. In addition, there were 62,599 cases in pregnant women – an increase of 25.7 percent of cases compared to 2017. The states of Rio de Janeiro, Acre, Mato Grosso do Sul, Espírito Santo, Rio Grande do Sul, Tocantins, Santa Catarina and Pernambuco have highest rates in Brazil. 26,219 cases congenital syphilis (incidence rate of 9.0 / 1,000 live births); and 241 deaths from congenital syphilis (rate mortality rate of 8.2 / 100,000 live births) were reported in 2018. States with higher rates than the national average are Rio de Janeiro, Espírito Santo, Rio Grande do Sul, Tocantins, Pernambuco, Amazonas, Sergipe, Minas Gerais, Rio Grande do Norte, Ceará and Piauí. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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Colombia: Dengue health alert issued in Huila

10 February- The Department of Health in Huila department in southern Colombia has issued a health alert due to a dengue fever outbreak, according to a La Voz de la Region report. According to epidemiological bulletin No. 5, health officials 1,628 cases, 814 with alarm signs and 26 cases of severe dengue as of Feb. 10. Five deaths have been reported. This declaration obliges municipalities to carry out a survey of all installed capacity, have the vehicles, contracted environmental sanitation technicians and the machinery necessary to attend critical areas with fumigation to eliminate mosquitoes that are in different environments. Likewise, a patient monitoring system by area is set up, where medical personnel will be available for surveillance and control in the provision of services, for the training of medical and assistance personnel in the early identification of alarm signs. Public and private hospitals will be authorized to generate areas of expansion so that they can treat all patients with probable dengue symptoms, with opportunity, quality and efficiency.

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The *Army Public Health Weekly Update* is published by the Public Health Communication Directorate, Army Public Health Center.

