

15 May 2020

Army Public Health Weekly Update

Army Public Health Center



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If you wish to be added to the APH Weekly Update mailing list, removed from the mailing list, or if you have comments or questions about the update, please [contact us](#). We welcome your comments. Please feel free to share this update with others who may be interested.



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U.S. MILITARY

Army cancels ROTC Cadet Summer Camp over coronavirus concerns

12 May- Coronavirus has forced the Army to cancel ROTC Cadet Summer Training here, just 12 days before the first of thousands of cadets, soldiers and Army civilians were to arrive at the central Kentucky post. "We will not host this essential element of the cadet training life cycle, and will conduct collective training in the fall and spring in order to meet our objectives, and to try to contain the COVID-19 virus," said Maj. Gen. John Evans, Commanding General for the U.S. Army Cadet Command today. Speaking to reporters from his headquarters by phone, Evans said that all required training "will be decentralized on campus and at military installations throughout the country." "Core skills will be addressed on campus, and at nearby military installations, this fall and next spring," Evans said. To do that, Evans explained that contiguous universities would consolidate resources to train cadets on "basic warrior skills such as rifle marksmanship, treatment of combat casualties, and 'STX' (situational training exercise) lanes." [Army Times](#)

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Military health system prepares for 'second spike' of virus, delays major overhaul

8 May- There could be a second spike of the coronavirus, a top defense health official says, and the military health system is preparing to tackle it. The pandemic also put a pause on the Defense Health Agency's transformation of military health care. Four years ago, Congress directed DHA to manage all Army, Navy and Air Force healthcare facilities, including 59 hospitals and 360 clinics at military installations across the globe. DHA is taking over those hospitals and standing them up as geographic networks in phases. The next phase of those plans has been delayed at least 90 days because of the pandemic, DHA Assistant Director Dr. Barclay Butler said. While the military health system has played a vital role in the federal government response to the pandemic -- including providing millions of supplies, deploying military medical staff and other resources to overwhelmed areas of the country -- Butler said the fight isn't over. DHA reached into its stores to provide more than 10 million masks, along with other supplies such as ventilators, respirators and medications, and now it's working to replenish those supplies. [Connecting Vets](#)

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2019 Health of the Force Report

The health of the individual Soldier is the foundation of the Army's ability to deploy, fight, and win against any adversary. The 2019 Health of the Force report is the Army's 5th annual population health report documenting conditions that influence the health and medical readiness of the U.S. Army Active Component (AC) Soldier population. Leaders can use Health of the Force to optimize health promotion measures and effect culture changes that align with Army modernization efforts to achieve Force dominance.



Military heat injuries down slightly as doctors work to end 'tragedy loop'

11 May- The number of service members stricken with potentially fatal heat injuries declined last year for the first time in at least five years, but military health officials aren't taking any victory laps. More than 2,000 troops were sickened by heat exhaustion last year, a Defense Health Agency report released last month stated. Some 507 were diagnosed with exertional heatstroke, which is life-threatening. That was down from 578 the year before. "The numbers, unfortunately, are still high," Dr. Francis O'Connor, medical director of the Consortium for Health and Military Performance at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, said in a phone interview. At least 17 service members in the last decade have died of heat injuries during training, according to Army data and news reports, despite the injuries being largely preventable and nearly always treatable. The deaths are part of what military experts call the "tragedy loop." When a service member dies from a heat injury, the tragedy brings renewed focus and effectiveness to prevention and treatment, and no one dies for a while, as O'Connor described it. But as experienced leaders and trainers are reassigned and replaced, there's another death and the cycle continues. [Stars and Stripes](#)

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GLOBAL

Act now to get ahead of a mental health crisis, specialists advise U.S.

13 May- Mental health specialists are working now to bolster the resilience of Americans who are suffering from feelings of despair — in hopes of preventing increases in suicides among people who are under increased pressure during the coronavirus pandemic. Time is of the essence, public health researchers say. Experience with past natural disasters, such as earthquakes and hurricanes, shows that a rise in suicide often happens in the months after the immediate physical dangers of the disaster have passed. A report jointly published last week by two foundations that support mental health issues estimates that, unless steps are taken now, the increase in "deaths of despair" from alcohol, drugs and suicide could increase by 75,000 as a result of COVID-19. [NPR](#)

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**APHC 2019 Novel
Coronavirus
Updates**

This site provides Army-specific information and communication resources related to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). The resources and tools available on this site may be shared with, tailored for, and/or used to create informational and educational materials for Army beneficiaries.



Any level of drinking or smoking while pregnant may affect your newborn's brain development, study says

12 May- If you're stressed or wanting to enjoy virtual happy hour with friends while pregnant, having a glass of wine every so often may seem like a relaxing plan. But that behavior runs counter to a study published Tuesday in the journal JAMA Network Open. Researchers found drinking or smoking of any level while pregnant — from low to high, and even if you quit early — influenced the brain development of the mothers' newborns. Negative long-term effects of excessive prenatal alcohol or tobacco exposure (or both), increase the risk for multiple adverse outcomes, researchers observed. Prenatal alcohol exposure is the leading cause of preventable intellectual disability, the study said, and smoking during pregnancy is one of the most modifiable causes of post-birth disease and death. However, public health hasn't yet determined a safe level of alcohol or tobacco use during pregnancy, the study said. So the authors examined the link between prenatal exposure to alcohol and tobacco smoking and brain activity in newborns. They didn't find a safe, conclusive level, but the findings suggested drinking or smoking in early stages and then quitting, or doing so at low, moderate or high levels all impacted newborn brain development. [CNN](#)

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Automatic pill dispenser helping seniors stay safe, independent at home

11 May- Matt Simpson, a 75-year-old combat-disabled Vietnam veteran of Palm Beach County, Fla., juggles 15 different prescription medications each day. His wife, Dee Simpson, often finds pills gone astray when cleaning up kitchen countertops. But a new automatic pill dispenser created by a pharmaceutical-technology company has changed the veteran's daily routine, making it easier for him to ensure he isn't missing any important medications. Medication nonadherence accounts for up to 50 percent of treatment failures, around 125,000 deaths, and up to 25 percent of hospitalizations each year in the U.S, according to a report in the U.S. Pharmacist. [Fox News](#)

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Doctors keep discovering new ways the coronavirus attacks the body

10 May- Deborah Coughlin was neither short of breath nor coughing. In those first days after she contracted the novel coronavirus, her fever never spiked above 100 degrees. It was vomiting and diarrhea that brought her to a Hartford, Conn., emergency room on May 1. "You would have thought it was a stomach virus," said her daughter, Catherina Coleman. "She was talking and walking and completely coherent." But even as Coughlin, 67, chatted with her daughters on her cellphone, the oxygen level in her blood dropped so low that most patients would be near death. She is on a ventilator and in critical condition at St.

The Surgeon General Weekly Read Book

The Surgeon General Weekly Read Book is available with articles classified up to the **SECRET** level on the APHC SIPRNet site:

<https://intelshare.intelink.sgov.gov/sites/medcom-g2/SitePages/Home.aspx>

To access this version, you will need a **SECRET** clearance and a SIPRNet account.

Francis Hospital, one more patient with an increasingly diverse constellation of symptoms physicians are racing to recognize, explain and treat. "At the beginning, we didn't know what we were dealing with," said Valentin Fuster, physician-in-chief at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City, the epicenter of the U.S. outbreak. "We were seeing patients dying in front of us. It was all of a sudden, you're in a different ballgame, and you don't know why." [The Washington Post](#)

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Doctors say inflammation might be the root of COVID-19 along with other diseases such as cancer and dementia

11 May- Studies show that COVID-19, cancer, Alzheimer's, heart disease, and diabetes have one common factor and root: inflammation. This is now a key factor in many other diseases that have been emerging recently, and it's a process that everybody needs to understand and study more if we want to try and reduce risks. This root has been identified as a major problem in COVID-19 cases, which explains why older people and those who have lifestyle diseases are most at high risk. For scientists and medical experts, inflammation is a huge clue to what lies beneath the huge number of coronavirus deaths in the United Kingdom now total 32,065 compared to Spain's 26,744, and Italy's 30,560. These numbers reflect the seriousness of the underlying chronic disease. However, doctors are hopeful that knowledge gained from studying COVID-19 will help us further understand inflammatory processes and suggest different ways to approach this pandemic that has plagued millions of people all over the world. When we talk about inflammation, this is a sign of the human body's natural response to an infection. When the immune system is mobilized, activity by the defensive cells causes by-products like skin redness and heat or even a fever to occur when the entire system is involved. [Tech Times](#)

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F.D.A. approves first antigen test for detecting the coronavirus

9 May- The Food and Drug Administration has approved the first antigen test that can rapidly detect whether a person has been infected by the coronavirus, a significant advancement that promises to greatly expand the nation's testing capacity. The test, by the Quidel Corporation of San Diego, was given emergency use authorization late Friday by the F.D.A., according to a notice on the agency's website. Unlike commonly available coronavirus tests that use polymerase chain reaction, or PCR, antigen diagnostics work by quickly detecting fragments of virus in a sample. The newly approved Quidel test will rely on specimens collected from nasal swabs, according to the F.D.A., and they can only be processed by the company's lab instruments. "Diagnostic testing is one of the pillars of our nation's response to Covid-19, and the F.D.A. continues to take actions to help make these critical products available," the agency said in a statement on Saturday. "One of the main advantages of an antigen test is the speed of the test, which can provide results in minutes."

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The F.D.A. said it expects to grant emergency clearance for other antigen tests in the near future. [The New York Times](#)

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New coronavirus test is imperfect step toward mass screening

11 May- A new type of coronavirus test offers a cheaper, quicker way to screen for infections, moving the U.S. toward the kind of mass screening that experts say is essential to returning millions of Americans to school and work. But the first so-called antigen test — announced Saturday by the Food and Drug Administration — is not quite the kind sought by top government health officials. It is less accurate than the current gold standard for testing and can only be run on specialized equipment. "It is too early to tell," said lab researcher Patricia Simner of Johns Hopkins University, assessing the test's impact. "It certainly has the potential to aid in more widespread testing." Some questions and answers about the new test: What's different about this test? The new test screens for new infections but in a different way. The test from Quidel Corp. looks for protein traces of the virus — known as antigens. The same approach is used in rapid tests for flu, strep throat and other infections that are run at the hospital or doctor's office. They represent a trade-off, sacrificing some of the accuracy of more rigorous tests for quicker results at a lower cost. "They allow you to dramatically expand testing and they're very cheap," said Dr. Scott Gottlieb, the former FDA commissioner, in an interview Sunday with CBS. But he acknowledged antigen testing's reduced accuracy: "They're going to miss some patients who have COVID." [NBC](#)

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Routine vaccinations for U.S. children have plummeted during the COVID-19 pandemic

8 May- Routine vaccination of children in the United States appeared to have declined dramatically in March and April, in the weeks after Covid-19 was declared a pandemic and the United States government declared a national emergency, a new study published Friday shows. The authors, from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other institutions, used vaccine ordering data from pediatricians who administer vaccines through the Vaccines for Children Program, which provides government-purchased vaccines to about half of the children in the United States. The study, published by the CDC in its Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, compared orders for the period from Jan. 7 through April 21 this year to the same period last year. The findings suggest childhood vaccination efforts nearly ground to a halt between March 13 — when the national emergency was declared — and April 19. There was a 2.5 million-dose decline in orders of regular childhood vaccines — not counting influenza vaccines — and a 250,000-dose decline in vaccines containing measles protection in that period, the authors reported. Doctors and public health experts have worried that a vast number of regular health care needs — including

preventive care interventions like vaccinations — have gone unmet in the past few months as people shy away from interacting with a health system that has, at least in some places, been overwhelmed by caring for Covid-19 patients. Pediatricians in particular have been concerned that children may be missing critical vaccinations, which the new data confirm has happened. [STAT News](#)

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The next coronavirus crisis could be a wave of suicides, new study warns

8 May- The isolation, grief and economic hardship related to covid-19 are creating a mental health crisis in the U.S. that researchers warn could make the already-rising suicide rate worse. A study released Friday tried to quantify the toll. The paper, which was not peer-reviewed, found that over the next decade as many as 75,000 additional people could die from “deaths of despair” as a result of the coronavirus crisis, a term that refers to suicides and substance-abuse-related deaths. The research was done by the Well Being Trust and researchers affiliated with the American Academy of Family Physicians. “I hope in 10 years people look back and say, ‘Wow, they way overestimated it,’” said John Westfall, director of the Robert Graham Center for Policy Studies in Family Medicine and Primary Care, who co-wrote the report. Even as the American economy rebounded after the last recession, suicides and overdoses cut into Americans’ life expectancy. Mental health experts worry that the economic uncertainty and social isolation of the pandemic will make things worse at a time when the health care system is already overwhelmed. The suicide rate in the U.S. has been rising for two decades, and in 2018 hit its highest level since 1941, according to a viewpoint piece in JAMA Psychiatry in April called “Suicide Mortality and Coronavirus Disease 2019 – A Perfect Storm?” Author Mark Reger argued social distancing could hamper suicide prevention efforts and said ensuring that doesn’t happen is a “national public health priority.” [Seattle Times](#)

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INFLUENZA

AFHSB: DoD Seasonal Influenza Surveillance Summary

Week 18 (26 April 2020 — 02 May 2020):

NORTHCOM- ILI activity remained minimal. Influenza B predominated during the first half of the season and then Influenza A became the predominating strain for the remainder of the season, specifically A(H1N1).

EUCOM- ILI activity remained minimal. Among positive influenza specimens, the majority have been influenza A this season.

INDOPACOM- ILI activity remained minimal. The majority of positive influenza specimens have been influenza A this season. Among subtyped influenza A specimens, the majority

were A(H1N1).

SOUTHCOC- ILI activity remained minimal. The majority of influenza specimens have been influenza A this season.

CENTCOM- ILI activity remained minimal. [DHA -Armed Forces Health Surveillance Branch top of page...](#)

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

Key Updates for Week 18, ending May 2, 2020: Laboratory confirmed flu activity as reported by clinical laboratories remains low. Influenza-like illness activity continues to decrease and is below the national baseline. The percent of deaths due to pneumonia or influenza (P&I) is decreasing but remains elevated, primarily due to COVID-19, not influenza. Reported pediatric flu deaths for the season are high at 174. [CDC](#)

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WHO: Influenza Update

11 May 2020 - Update number 367, based on data up to 26 April 2020:

-The current influenza surveillance data should be interpreted with caution as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic might have influenced to varying extents health seeking behaviors, staffing/routines in sentinel sites, as well as testing priorities and capacities in Member States. The various hygiene and physical distancing measures implemented by Member States to reduce SARS-CoV2 virus transmission might also have played a role in interrupting influenza virus transmission.

-Globally, influenza activity appeared to be at lower levels than expected for this time of the year. In the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere a sharp decline of influenza activity was observed in recent weeks while in the temperate zones of the southern hemisphere, the influenza season has not started yet.

-In the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere, influenza activity was low overall. A marked overall increase in excess all-cause mortality was seen across the countries of the EuroMOMO network.

-In the Caribbean and Central American countries, severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) activity continued to be reported though decreased in most of the countries. Influenza virus detections remained low.

-In tropical South American countries, influenza detections were low.

-In tropical Africa, there were no or low influenza detections across most reporting countries.

-In Southern Asia, influenza like illness (ILI) and SARI activity decreased in Bhutan and Nepal.

-In South East Asia, low influenza detections were reported in Thailand.

-In the temperate zones of the southern hemisphere, influenza activity remained at inter-seasonal levels overall.

-Worldwide, seasonal influenza A viruses accounted for the majority of detections. [WHO top of page...](#)

VETERINARY/FOOD SAFETY

Hospital Listeria cases linked to cheese in Switzerland; one death reported

12 May- Four patients have been infected by Listeria and one has died after eating potentially contaminated cheese at a hospital in Switzerland. During an internal check, Käserei Vogel AG, based in Steinerberg, found Listeria in semi-hard cheese and at its production site. The company issued a recall and informed its buyers to remove the products from shelves. One of the buyers is a supplier to the Center Hospitalier du Valais Romand (CHVR). This supplier told the CHVR purchasing manager on April 30 about the problem. He instructed the immediate withdrawal of implicated cheeses. The last delivery was April 8, but it has not been ruled out that previous lots were also contaminated. From March 30 to May 2, a diagnosis of invasive listeriosis infection was made in four CHVR patients who could have contracted illness from eating these cheeses during their hospital stays. According to information from meal cards, the infected patients did consume cheese during their hospitalization but it is not possible to be certain that it was the cheeses in question. Three of the people have recovered but one person with underlying health conditions has died. Käserei Vogel informed the Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO) in Switzerland about the contamination. FSVO, also known by its French acronym OSAV, Italian name USAV and under the German name BLV, told people not to consume the products concerned by the recall as they may pose a health hazard. More than 20 items including sheep and goat cheese, brie and organic cheese sold across Switzerland have been recalled by the company. Cheeses can be identified as they have number CH-5707 on the packaging. Distribution also includes Belgium and Germany, according to the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) portal. Denner, a supermarket in Switzerland, has recalled all expiration dates of "Denner Fromage de montagne de la Suisse centrale" because of detection of Listeria at the site of the dairy producer. Migros, another retailer in the country, recalled all batches of five cheese products sold at different stores because of the problem. [Food Safety News](#)

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Natural foods company recalls organic fresh basil because of parasite concerns

12 May- Certain fresh basil grown in Colombia and distributed by a Minnesota company, United Natural Foods Inc., has tested positive for a microscopic parasite. The recall covers a variety of sizes of packages of the fresh basil, all of which carries a label with 112 and "Product of Colombia, according to the company's recall notice posted by the Food and Drug Administration. There is concern consumers may still have unused portions of the fresh herb in their homes because the implicated product was sold by retailers through May 8. No parasitic infections or other illnesses had been confirmed in relation to the recalled basil as of the posting of the recall notice. "Consumers who believe that they are in possession of any of the above products affected by this recall should dispose of the product in an appropriate waste container. For any inquiries, consumers may call 888-256-2800," according to the recall notice. The food company reported it distributed the recalled basil to grocery stores in Minnesota. It was sold from April 18 through May 8. It can take more than two weeks for the parasite to develop to the point that an infected person can spread the microbe to others, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This recall includes Wild Harvest Organic Fresh Basil products sold in .25-ounce, .75-ounce, 2-ounce, and 4-ounce plastic clam shell containers with the UPC numbers of: 0071153550450, 0071153550322, 0071153550762, and 0071153550323. [Food Safety News top of page...](#)

Salmonella prompts recall of more than half a million eggs

13 May- A number of supermarkets in France have recalled eggs sold under different brand names due to possible Salmonella contamination. According to the French magazine 60 Millions de Consommateurs the recall covers more than 500,000 eggs but there have been no official communications from authorities and no reported illnesses. Carrefour has issued three recalls. The first involved the company Arradoy and the other two the firm Matines. The Arradoy recall was for packages of 20 large standard eggs with dates on the boxes of April 27 to May 18. The implicated eggs are marked with lot number 3FRMDB678 and lot 06 on the box. The Matines recalls involve packs of 10 and 30 medium sized shell eggs with recommended use-by dates from April 26 to May 14. The code on the eggs is 3FRMDB08 and FR 32 066 020 is on the boxes. All the affected egg lots have been removed from sale but some of them were marketed before the withdrawal measure, according to the Carrefour recall notice. Another retailer, Systeme U, also made three egg recalls from Matines. Boxes of six, 10 and 12 with the same code on the eggs and dates as listed above from Carrefour are affected. The recall notice advised consumers who have eggs with the code 3FRMDB08 stamped on the shell to not consume them and to either destroy them or get a refund. The supermarket, Auchan, issued one recall for shell eggs from Matines in boxes of six, 10 and 12 and trays of 20 with the same dates and codes as above. Netto also recalled eggs of the same sizes and with the above dates and codes under the makes of

Matines, Netto and with no branding for the same reason. [Food Safety News](#)

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WELLNESS

Colon cancer diet: Foods to eat and avoid

11 May- Every year, colorectal cancer claims tens of thousands of lives in the U.S. The American Cancer Society estimates that more than 104,000 cases of colon cancer and about 43,300 rectal cancers will be diagnosed in 2020. Overall, more than 53,000 people in the U.S. will die of these cancers, the group estimates. While there's no surefire way of preventing colorectal cancer, there are foods you can eat – and avoid – to lower your risk of contracting the disease. "Having a healthy diet is one of the most important things you can do to prevent colorectal cancer," says Marji McCullough, senior scientific director of epidemiology research at the American Cancer Society. "Individual components of your diet can contribute to an overall healthy diet pattern to lower the risk of colorectal cancer or increase it." [U.S. News](#)

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USAFRICOM

Nigeria: 5 Lassa fever cases reported last week

10 May- Nigerian health officials reported five additional confirmed Lassa fever cases the week ending May 3, including two deaths a week after the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) declared the emergency phase of the 2020 Lassa fever outbreak over. Lassa fever cases have dropped dramatically from the weekly high of 115 cases in mid-February. Since the beginning of the year, Nigeria has seen 991 confirmed cases, including 191 deaths among the confirmed cases (19.3% CFR). The 5 cases reported last week were reported from 4 States (Ondo, Plateau, Nasarawa and Kogi). [Outbreak News Today](#)

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USCENTCOM

Pakistan: Human rabies in Karachi, 7 cases to date

9 May- Health officials in Karachi, Pakistan report two human rabies cases in the past three days, bringing the total to seven this year. The most recent fatal case was in a 40-year-old man from Umerkot district with serious facial injuries inflicted by a rabid dog. Earlier, a nine-year-old boy, also attacked on the face by a dog, was brought from Larkana district to the hospital. He was diagnosed with rabies and died the same day at the health facility. Neither case received post exposure rabies prophylaxis. Last year, 24 human rabies deaths occurred in Sindh province. Dogs are the main source of human rabies and experts suggest 'one-health' approach to eliminate the disease. This includes mass dog vaccination and sterilization to contain rabies in animals and control their population and establishing a proper solid waste management system to discourage dog breeding. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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USEUCOM

Germany: Coronavirus infection rate rises as lockdown eases

10 May- Coronavirus infections are rising in Germany, official data shows, just days after the country eased its lockdown restrictions. According to the Robert Koch Institute (RKI), the reproduction rate - the estimated number of people a confirmed patient infects - is now above 1. This means the number of infections is now rising in the country. The report came as thousands of Germans gathered on Saturday calling for a total end to the lockdown. [BBC News](#)

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Russia: COVID-19 cases surpass 200,000, a look at the counting of deaths

11 May- Russian health officials are currently reporting the second fastest growing COVID-19 outbreak in the world after the United States seeing more than 10,000 cases daily for days in a row. As of today, the total case count is 209,688, including only 1915 deaths. With a case fatality of less than one percent, some are asking why this number is so low. The official numbers on cases and deaths don't seem to line up with coronavirus trends seen elsewhere. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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China: Six new COVID-19 cases surprise Wuhan; mass - testing to follow

12 May- As six new COVID-19 cases are reported over the weekend in Wuhan, China, millions of people will be tested for the coronavirus. This was after going through a strict 76-day lockdown within the Chinese city. These cases were the first after 35 days, and none of the patients were from abroad, as reported by CNN. This triggers concern over the re-emergence of the virus from where it is thought to have originated. In response to this, authorities will conduct a nucleic acid testing across Wuhan over 10 days, according to an emergency notice issued by local authorities and circulated by state-run media outlet The Paper. [Tech Times](#)

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Malaysia: COVID-19- Officials report lowest daily case count ever

13 May- The Malaysia Ministry of Health (MOH) reported 16 COVID-19 cases on Tuesday, making it the lowest daily count recorded to date. The cumulative number of COVID-19 positive cases in Malaysia is 6,742 cases, while the number of active cases with COVID-19 infection is 1,410 cases. From the latest information reported to the National Crisis Preparedness and Response Center (CPRC), it has been reported that no COVID-19 related deaths have been reported so far. Thus, the cumulative number of COVID-19 deaths in Malaysia remains 109 (1.62 percent of the total). Surveillance activity acts as early warning system and early detection for COVID-19 infection in Malaysia.

These activities include: Clinical Surveys are detection and sampling of Influenza Like Illness (ILI) cases at sentinel locations (ie MOH Health Clinics) nationwide and Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) cases in all MOH hospitals.

As of the week of the 18th epidemic, 9,010 samples were taken from ILI / Sick patients. Of the total, 81 samples were COVID-19 positive (0.9 percent):

ILI Case: 14 COVID-19 positive cases out of 1,594 samples (0.88 percent)

SARI cases: 67 COVID-19 positive cases out of 7,416 samples (0.9 percent)

Overall, there was a decrease in the COVID-19 positive cases detected by SARI. By contrast, in the 13th week of the week, the positive rate was 8.7 percent (25 cases detected from 288 SARI samples). Meanwhile, during the 18th week of the week, the positive rate was 0.13 percent (ie one (1) case detected out of 772 SARI samples). This suggests that the detection of serious and moderate serious SAR cases in COVID-19 patients is decreasing. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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Canada: The burden of Lyme disease, other tick-borne diseases in Manitoba continues to increase

9 May- Health officials in Manitoba, Canada report during this Lyme Disease Awareness Month that the burden of Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases in Manitoba continues to increase. According to Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living, the 2019 season was the most active to date with 64 confirmed and probable Lyme disease cases reported. Since 2015, nearly 90 per cent of anaplasmosis and Lyme disease cases reported in Manitoba had likely local exposure. Most anaplasmosis and Lyme disease cases were exposed between May and July, and less than 40 per cent recalled a tick bite. This low recall likely reflects exposure to smaller blacklegged tick nymphs, whose activity also peaks between May and July. This has prompted officials to advise the public that limiting exposure to potentially infected blacklegged ticks, particularly the smaller nymphs who are active during the late spring and summer months, is the key to tick-borne disease prevention. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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U.S.: Michigan- COVID-19- Expanding contact tracing, Governor Whitmer extends Stay Home, Stay Safe Order, Prisoners deaths

9 May- Through May 9, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services have reported 46,756 total confirmed COVID-19 cases, including 4,526 deaths. In the City of Detroit, 9709 cases and 1181 deaths have been reported. On Thursday, Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed Executive Order 2020-77 to extend Michigan's Stay Home, Stay Safe order to May 28. The governor's order will allow manufacturing workers, including those at Michigan's Big 3 auto companies, to resume work on Monday, May 11 as part of her MI Safe Start Plan. Today, the State of Michigan has approved contracts to rapidly expand Michigan's contact tracing efforts, a critical next step in its COVID-19 response. The state is partnering with Rock Connections, LLC for volunteer management and Deloitte for technology integration in support of the COVID-19 contact tracing. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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Brazil: COVID-19- ‘The next epicenter’? Jair Bolsonaro the ‘biggest threat’

10 May- Through Sunday, May 10, Brazil health officials have reported 162,699 total COVID-19 cases, a nearly 7,000 case increase from Saturday, and 11,123 deaths. São Paulo continues to concentrate most of the notifications, with about 45,000 cases and 3,608 deaths, followed by Rio de Janeiro, which has some 17,000 confirmations and 1,653 deaths. While ground zero for the pandemic has gone from China to Italy to the United States, will Brazil be the next epicenter? According to a report in the Atlantic, São Paulo physician Luciano Cesar Azevedo said, “Brazil is probably the next epicenter of the pandemic in the world—I think Brazil is going to get close to 100,000 deaths.” Tom Inglesby of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health has seen the COVID-19 cases rise dramatically in recent week and notes—The developments in Brazil “are really concerning.” To make things worse, the President of Brazil, Jair Bolsonaro has been dubbed “the biggest threat to Brazil’s COVID-19 response” in a recent editorial in The Lancet. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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Peru: COVID-19- Health workers, police heavily affected by the virus

12 May- Health officials in Peru have reported more than 68,000 COVID-19 cases to date, second to Brazil in South America. More than 1,900 deaths have been recorded. Lima continues to be the region with the highest number of infected by COVID-19 to date reporting some 40,000 cases. Other regions reporting high numbers of cases include Callao (4968), Lambayeque (3479), Piura (2258) and Loreto (1704). Last week, Pilar Mazzetti, head of the COVID-19 National Command told local media that between 1,500 to 1,600 members of the health system have been affected by COVID-19. “We are calculating within the records that we have, because of a privacy matter, those details are not put, but what we have been able to collect, through our professional associations, is that we are around 1,500 to 1,600 people who are affected within the health system,” he said. Mazzetti also stated that a similar number of personnel have been affected within the Peruvian National Police and the Armed Forces. “Throughout this tough battle, we are going to have really more and more people in health who are going to be affected, and we know that,” he said. In addition to health workers, another media report says forty-six Peruvian police officers have been killed by COVID-19, among 3,873 officers who caught the disease while patrolling the streets to enforce the national confinement order, the government reported recently. Interior Minister Gastón Rodríguez also stated “We have 360 hospitalized police officers and 17 in intensive care.” Among those infected are 942 cadets from the Police School in the Puente Piedra district, north of Lima. The high number of infections responds to the exposure that police officers have when controlling people who violate the measures issued

to contain the spread of the coronavirus. [Outbreak News Today](#)
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The *Army Public Health Weekly Update* is published by the Public Health Communication Directorate, Army Public Health Center.

