

6 March 2020

Army Public Health Weekly Update

Army Public Health Center



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USSOUTHCOM

- Brazil: Three confirmed cases of coronavirus in the country- MOH
- Dominican Republic: Reports 1st COVID-19 case, 1st in the Caribbean

U.S. MILITARY

Communities fighting transfers of coronavirus patients from military installations

2 March- As the number of U.S. COVID-19 cases rise and more Americans are being tested for the virus, communities near military installations where travelers are quarantined are asking why suspect patients can't stay on base for testing. San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg and Bexar County, Texas, Judge Nelson Wolff wrote Defense Secretary Mark Esper last week questioning a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention protocol that transfers patients from Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland to San Antonio-area hospitals for testing. The two say the requirement is "counter to prudent management of a contagion in a quarantine environment." "The threat of moving patients to other destinations like hospitals or the Texas Center for Infectious Disease unnecessarily poses risk to Joint Base San Antonio personnel through exposure, in addition to the community at large," they wrote. [Military Times](#)

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Pentagon scrambling to reduce brain injuries after 400K troops wounded since start of Afghan war

3 March- A decade long push by the Pentagon has brought to light the startling frequency of brain injuries within the ranks of the U.S. military, helping to erase the concept that concussions can be simply brushed off. Despite the progress, medical specialists warn that the true depth of the problem remains poorly understood, the symptoms difficult to diagnose and the invisible wounds too often dismissed as insignificant. Iran's ballistic missile attack on the Ain al-Asad air base in Iraq in January put a spotlight on brain injuries and underscored how difficult it is for military doctors to quickly make a diagnosis and determine the extent of the damage. The Pentagon initially said no Americans were injured in the attack but later revealed that scores of men and women serving at the base had suffered traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) as a result of the blasts. [Washington Times](#)

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Storied Army institute developing COVID-19 diagnostic test, vaccine

4 March- It's been all hands on deck since Jan. 10 at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, WRAIR, working to develop a vaccine against the COVID-19 coronavirus, now responsible for 91,000 illnesses and at least 3,000 deaths worldwide. The date marks the first publication of the virus's genetic makeup — its sequence — which gave scientists a better understanding of its makeup and how it causes a potentially deadly disease. At WRAIR, Dr. Kayvon Modjarrad, the institute's director for emerging infectious diseases, immediately put

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Coronavirus Disease
2019 (COVID-19):
Protect Yourself and
Your Family



his team to work, ordering materials needed to develop the design for a potential vaccine and prepare for testing it, starting with mice. “We have been working on this since the beginning of the outbreak. If we hadn’t done that, we’d be a month behind,” Modjarrad said Wednesday during an interview with Military Times. For more than six weeks, WRAIR and U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command personnel have been working on research efforts to control, contain and prevent the virus, to include developing a new diagnostic test. [Military Times](#)

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The Army is working overtime to develop a coronavirus vaccine

2 March- Army researchers are working hard to help find a vaccine for the new strain of coronavirus, COVID-19, that’s sickened tens of thousands of people around the world. Terry Welch, spokesman for the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR), confirmed to Task & Purpose that the institute and U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command (USAMRDC) are coming at the virus from every angle. “Specific competencies being leveraged in support of the COVID-19 outbreak include experts in coronaviruses, rapid medical countermeasure development, containment laboratories to test viral countermeasure product safety and efficacy, bio-production facility to manufacture product for clinical trials, clinical trials center to conduct human safety studies and overseas laboratories conducting surveillance and detection in the impacted region,” Welch said. Col. Robert O’Connell, deputy commander of WRAIR, told Task & Purpose on Monday that WRAIR researchers are working to help detect, prevent, and treat the virus. [Task & Purpose](#)

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GLOBAL

As coronavirus numbers rise, C.D.C. testing comes under fire

2 March- Federal health officials botched an initial diagnostic test and restricted widespread screening. Missteps may have raised the risks to Americans, critics say. The coronavirus has found a crack in the nation’s public health armor, and it is not one that scientists foresaw: diagnostic testing. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention botched its first attempt to mass produce a diagnostic test kit, a discovery made only after officials had shipped hundreds of kits to state laboratories. A promised replacement took several weeks, and still did not permit state and local laboratories to make final diagnoses. And the C.D.C. essentially ensured that Americans would be tested in very few numbers by imposing stringent and narrow criteria, critics say. On Monday, following mounting criticism of the federal response, Trump administration officials promised a rapid expansion of the country’s testing capacities. With the help of private companies and academic centers, as many as a million diagnostic tests could be administered by the end of this week, said Dr. Stephen

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Hahn, commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration. But many scientists wonder if the moves come too late. [The New York Times](#)

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E. coli gut infection linked to bowel cancer

27 February- A common type of gut bacterium may increase a person's chance of developing bowel cancer, according to a study published in the journal Nature. The bacterium is a type of E. coli infection, present in up to one in five people, scientists believe. It releases a toxin which experts say can damage the cells that line the bowel, potentially turning some cells cancerous over time. There are around 42,000 new cases of bowel cancer each year in the UK. Experts do not yet know how many of these might be linked to the E. coli strain that makes the toxin colibactin. [BBC News](#)

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How to cure arthritis? Scorpion venom might be the key to eliminating side effects

5 March- The battle against arthritis has been very uncomfortable. One indeed, as joints start to hurt without any prior reason, and mobile functions start to become limited. There has been a discovery that has yet to be tested that a protein which can be found in scorpion venom--it could help mitigate the negative side effects of the steroids that are usually applied as a treatment for arthritis. Is this the answer for those who seek answers to cure arthritis? If this study becomes successful, the progress regarding the treatment of arthritis would be phenomenal! [Tech Times](#)

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Learning difficulties 'link to brain connections'

28 February- Differences associated with learning difficulties are found less in specific areas of the brain and more in the connections between them, experts say. After scanning 479 children's brains, Cambridge University researchers found they were organised in multiple "hubs". Those with no difficulties - or very specific ones, such as poor listening skills - had well connected hubs. But those with widespread and severe difficulties - 14-30% of all children - were found to have poor connections. It was recently suggested schools were failing to spot ADHD and autism, which could be contributing to a rise in exclusions. Dr. Duncan Astle told BBC News: "We have spent decades searching for the brain areas for different types of developmental difficulty such as ADHD and dyslexia. "Our findings show that something which is far more important is the way a child's brain is organised. "In particular, the role that highly connected 'hub' regions play. "This has not been shown before and its implications for our scientific understanding of developmental difficulties is big. "How do these hubs emerge over developmental time? "What environmental and genetic factors can influence this emergence?" "Another key finding is that the diagnostic labels children had been given were not closely related to their cognitive difficulties - for

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example, two children with ADHD [attention deficit hyperactivity disorder] could be very different from each other. "This has been well known in practice for a long time but poorly documented in the scientific literature." [BBC News](#)

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Preparing for a pandemic: What should I buy? Are there places I should avoid?

28 February- Officials at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have warned that the novel coronavirus will spread in US communities, and a case announced on Wednesday might be the country's first instance of it. Now, health officials say, is the time for people in the United States prepare -- for canceled events, closed schools and interrupted work, and for the potential of widespread illness. No one knows what community spread could look like in the United States -- it could be mild or very severe. In case of an outbreak that spreads within US communities, what can you do to protect yourself and your family? The US Department of Homeland Security recommends on its website that, before a pandemic strikes, to store a two-week supply of water and food, as well as over-the-counter medications you tend to take. "Have any nonprescription drugs and other health supplies on hand, including pain relievers, stomach remedies, cough and cold medicines, fluids with electrolytes, and vitamins," according to the department. "In general for emergency preparedness, we encourage all households to have an emergency response kit," which could be used during any public health or severe weather emergency, said Jennifer Kertanis, president-elect of the National Association of County and City Health Officials. The CDC has released travel warnings and alerts in relation to coronavirus disease. As of Wednesday, the CDC recommends that travelers avoid all nonessential travel to mainland China and South Korea. Travel alerts for older people and people with chronic medical conditions to consider postponing nonessential travel have been issued for Italy, Iran and Japan. Regarding whether there are places to avoid in your community, such as the grocery store or library, health officials recommend to simply be mindful of avoiding close contact with people who may be sick. Also, if you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick too. [CNN](#)

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U.S. agency investigating production of faulty coronavirus test kits

1 March- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services confirmed on Sunday that it is investigating a manufacturing defect in some initial coronavirus test kits that prompted some states to seek emergency approval to use their own test kits. On Saturday, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo said his state would immediately begin using its own test kit developed in-state after asking the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Friday for permission to do so. The FDA said on Saturday it would allow some laboratories to immediately use tests they have developed and validated to achieve more rapid testing

capacity for the coronavirus. On Sunday, New York confirmed its first case of coronavirus. FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn said in a statement on Sunday that “upon learning about the test issue from CDC (the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), FDA worked with CDC to determine that problems with certain test components were due to a manufacturing issue. We worked hand in hand with CDC to resolve the issues with manufacturing.” Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Alex Azar told ABC’s “This Week” on Sunday the United States has 75,000 test kits on hand “and over the next week that will expand radically.” He said over 3,600 people in the United States have been tested to date. Hahn added that the “FDA has confidence in the design and current manufacturing of the test that already have and are continuing to be distributed. These tests have passed extensive quality control procedures.” Reuters reported Friday that New York health officials had sought to get their own coronavirus testing kits up and running after getting stuck with faulty tests from the federal government that they said left them unable to diagnose people quickly in the nation’s most populous city. HHS confirmed Sunday it had “launched an investigation and is assembling a team of non-CDC scientists to better understand the nature and source of the manufacturing defect in the first batch of COVID-19 test kits that were distributed to state health departments and others.” The HHS investigation was reported earlier by Axios. [Reuters](#)

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INFLUENZA

AFHSB: DoD Seasonal Influenza Surveillance Summary

DoD Consolidated Influenza Surveillance Report: Week 08 (16 February 2020— 22 February 2020)

NORTHCOM- ILI activity remained high. Influenza A and B each continued to account for roughly half of the positive specimens. Among subtyped influenza A specimens, A(H1N1) has predominated.

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

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

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

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

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APHC: U.S. Army Influenza Activity Report

Week ending 22 February 2020 (week 8): During week 8, 5,705 specimens were submitted for testing, which represents a 22% decrease from week 7. Influenza A represented the majority (71%) of positive specimens submitted for testing. At 26%, PHC-E had the highest percentage of positive specimens for influenza A compared to other regions. However, PHC-C accounted for the greatest number of positive influenza A specimens (n=385). Seventy-six percent of positive influenza A specimens were from non-AD beneficiaries. Beneficiaries younger than 18 years old comprised the majority (n=600) of total positive respiratory specimens, and was followed by individuals 18 to 29 years of age (n=158). Nine influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported in week 8. [APHC](#)

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

Key Updates for Week 8, ending February 22, 2020: Key indicators that track flu activity remain high but decreased for the second week in a row. Severity indicators (hospitalizations and deaths) remain moderate to low overall, but hospitalization rates differ by age group, with high rates among children and young adults. [CDC](#)

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WHO: Influenza Update

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

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

American countries, influenza activity remained low.

-In tropical Africa, influenza detections were low across reporting countries.

-In Southern Asia, influenza activity was low overall, though remained elevated in Afghanistan.

-In South East Asia, influenza activity continued to be reported in some countries.

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

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

VETERINARY/FOOD SAFETY

Experts say coronavirus likely not spread by foodborne routes

4 March- Public health officials and academics agree that the coronavirus poses little danger from a foodborne illness perspective, right now, but some are maintaining a slight level of vagueness about the situation. "While it is theoretically possible the virus could be transmitted via food, based on everything we know, the risk of foodborne transmission is dramatically smaller — perhaps by millions of times — than the risk by airborne droplets," Donald W. Schaffner, extension specialist in food science and Distinguished Professor at Rutgers University, told Food Safety News. Schaffner has done extensive research in quantitative microbial risk assessment, predictive food microbiology, handwashing and cross-contamination. He frequently works with Ben Chapman, professor and food safety specialist with the Department of Agricultural and Human Sciences at North Carolina State University. Chapman agrees that the risk of foodborne transmission of the coronavirus — now sometimes being called COVID-19 — is low. It hasn't been documented at all yet. But there are cross-contamination concerns. "Since coronavirus is a respiratory virus we believe that it is contracted only by inhalation or similar mechanism (such as) sticking your finger in your nose, when your finger has a virus on it. If it was in food it would be destroyed by proper cooking," Chapman told Food Safety News. [Food Safety News](#)

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Norovirus infections reported; recall underway for oysters

28 February- A Canadian company is recalling oysters because of test results and reports of infections among consumers who ate the shellfish. Certain Union Bay Seafood Ltd. brand Pacific oysters are implicated in the recall notice posted by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). The agency reports that foodborne illnesses have been linked to the recalled oysters. "This recall was triggered by findings by the CFIA during its investigation into a

foodborne illness outbreak. The CFIA is conducting a food safety investigation, which may lead to the recall of other products. If other high-risk products are recalled, the CFIA will notify the public through updated food recall warnings,” according to the notice. Public health officials are urging consumers and retailers to check to see if they have the oysters on hand. Anyone who has the recalled oysters should discard them or return them to the place of purchase. The company reports it may have distributed its Union Bay oysters nationwide in Canada, but is sure that they went to the provinces of Alberta, British Columbia and Manitoba. Norovirus is highly contagious. In addition to foodborne transmission it can live on hard surfaces such as counters and doorknobs for long periods of time. It can also be transmitted person-to-person, so it is very easy for many people to become infected quickly. People with norovirus illness usually develop symptoms of gastroenteritis within 24 to 48 hours, but symptoms can start as early as 12 hours after exposure, according to the CFIA recall notice. The illness often begins suddenly. Even after having the illness, you can still become re-infected by norovirus. The main symptoms of norovirus illness are diarrhea, vomiting, nausea and stomach cramps. Other symptoms may include low-grade fever, headache, chills, muscle aches and a general sense of tiredness.

[Food Safety News](#)

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WELLNESS

How exercise may affect your immunity

4 March- Does exercise help or hinder our bodies’ ability to fight off infections? In the context of the novel coronavirus outbreak, that question has gained urgency and also, thanks to recent research, emergent answers. The latest science suggests that being fit boosts our immune systems, and that even a single workout can amplify and improve our ability to fight off germs. But some studies also indicate that the types and amount of exercise may influence how exercise affects our immune responses. More is not necessarily better. And the location of the exercise could matter, too. [The New York Times](#)

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USAFRICOM

COVID-19 in Africa: 1st case reported in Senegal

3 March- UN officials reported a coronavirus disease 2019 case (COVID-19) case in Senegal, the latest country to report a case on the African continent. The case-patient is a 33-year-old French national who has been a resident in Senegal for the past two years but travelled to Nimes and Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region, France from 13-25 February 2020 and returned to Senegal on 26 February 2020 and developed a flu-like illness on 27 February 2020. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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Nigeria: Reports 1st COVID-19 in Lagos

28 February- Nigerian health officials are reporting the first COVID-19 case in the country in Lagos, a city of some 21 million people. The Federal Ministry of Health says the case is an Italian citizen who works in Nigeria and returned from Milan, Italy to Lagos, Nigeria on the 25th of February 2020. He was confirmed by the Virology Laboratory of the Lagos University Teaching Hospital, part of the Laboratory Network of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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USCENTCOM

India: Making efforts to stave off coronavirus

4 March- Government officials in India shared the efforts being made to contain the spread of Coronavirus. The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi himself is leading the efforts from the front and monitoring the situation daily. Principal Secretary to Prime Minister and the Cabinet Secretary are holding meetings with the Chief Secretaries and other concerned officials of all the State and UTs through video conferencing on day to day basis. Health Ministry, under the leadership of Dr. Harsh Vardhan is also maintaining a close watch on the situation, especially in setting up of Isolation Wards across the country and screening of the people coming to India from abroad. An Isolation Camp has already been set up in the ITBP Campus at Manesar which is functioning 24/7. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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Iran: COVID-19 outbreak nears 600 cases, CDC raises travel alert

29 February- The Director of the Public Relations and Information Centre in the Iranian Ministry of Health, Dr. Kianoosh Jahanpour reported today on 205 additional COVID-19 cases in the country. According to Jahanpour, the new cases were distributed as follows: 52 were from Tehran, 21 were from Qom, 17 were from Gilan, 22 were from Golestan, 12 were from Isfahan, 18 were from Central, 12 were from Mazandaran, 8 were from Fars, 6 were from East Azerbaijan, one was from Ilam, A case was related to Southern Khorasan Eight individuals were from the Alborz Department, 4 from Semnan, five from Kurdistan Province, 6 from Qazvin, 4 from Khuzestan, one from Sistan and Baluchistan, and four from Yazd Province. Additionally, nine additional deaths were reported. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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Germany: COVID-19 outbreak- 129 cases, Travel and PPE procurement

1 March- The crisis team of the Federal Ministry of Health and the Ministry of the Interior made further decisions on health security against coronavirus infections in its second meeting. The measures in cross-border traffic to Germany are intensified on all traffic routes and principles for risk assessment of major events are adopted. "The structure of the crisis team shows that we take the outbreak of the coronavirus seriously and respond to the fact that the epidemic has now reached Germany," said Federal Health Minister Jens Spahn. So far, it has been possible to isolate and treat infected people in Germany and to provide close contact to the contact persons. However, it is now unclear whether the infection chains can still be broken. The crisis team has therefore taken its first decisions. Air travelers from infection areas will in future have to fill out exit cards and provide information about their whereabouts. This no longer only affects air travelers from China, but also from Italy, Japan, South Korea and Iran. In future, travelers will also receive information not only on airplanes and airports, but also on trains and buses about how they can recognize the respiratory disease and how they can protect themselves against it. The day before, the Minister of Health had met with representatives of doctors, pharmacists, health insurers, hospitals and nursing staff to discuss possible reactions to the outbreak of the virus. Professional associations and organizations promised to provide their members and the public with even better information about the new type of respiratory disease in the future. Medical staff should also ask patients about suspected cases of travel to infection areas or contact with infected people. And for the population, the advice is: don't go to the emergency room every time you cough, but call the doctor if you get infected after a stay in infected areas or get in contact with the infected, flu, respiratory problems or fever.

[Outbreak News Today](#)

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Iceland: Reports 10 additional COVID-19 cases, brings total to 26

5 March- Iceland health authorities reported ten additional COVID-19 cases Wednesday. The total number of confirmed infections is now 26. Those who are diagnosed yesterday are in good health but still exhibit symptoms (cough, fever, bone pain). All of these individuals, including the 10 who were diagnosed with the virus Wednesday, were traveling in Northern Italy or Austria, and had therefore been advised to be quarantined. The Icelandic government has taken targeted precautions to prevent the widespread spread of the COVID-19 virus. No infections have been identified that can be traced to domestic pathways. There are now about 380 people in quarantine in Iceland. Efforts are being made to increase the capacity in the diagnosis of infectious diseases at the Department of Bacteria and Virology at Landspítali. In the light of numerous inquiries, the National Defense Police

Department reiterates that a ban on assembly has not been declared by the authorities in this country. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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Italy: Coronavirus outbreak eclipses 2,000 cases

2 March- The Italy Ministry of Health reports in the field of health monitoring related to the spread of Coronavirus on the national territory, at the moment 1835 are the people who test positive for the virus. (Italian officials subtract those that recovered (149) and fatalities (52) from the cumulative total=2036). The number of people infected in the individual regions is as follows: 1254 in Lombardy, 335 in Emilia-Romagna, 273 in Veneto, 51 in Piedmont, 35 Marche, 22 in Liguria, 17 in Campania, 13 in Tuscany, 9 in Friuli Venezia Giulia, 7 in Lazio, 7 in Sicily, 5 in Abruzzo, 4 in Puglia, 2 in Umbria, 1 in Calabria and 1 in the Autonomous Province of Bolzano. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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USINDOPACOM

Malaysia: COVID-19 cases reach 50

4 March- The Malaysia Ministry of Health reports today there are there are 14 newly reported COVID-19 cases. As previously announced, the first wave of Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) outbreaks in Malaysia that accounted for 22 positive cases of COVID-19. After 11 days of no recent reports, the second wave began on February 27, 2020. For the second wave to Mar. 4, there were as many as 28 positive COVID-19 cases that were reported. This makes the number of positive cases of COVID-19 in Malaysia a total of 50 cases. Concerning the second wave, there is one COVID-19 cluster that is well known. This cluster involves the 26th positive case. Based on the conditions and ordering of contacts that have been carried out so that now, there are 215 meeting contacts that are known. Rather than the number of contact meetings, 16 contacts were positive for COVID-19, 19 were negative and 180 awaited decision. It was found that five cases were meeting contacts to several positive cases among the 16 cases (contact meeting of the 26th cases). This makes the number of positive cases for this cluster a total of 21 cases (ie the 30th case to the 50th case). [Outbreak News Today](#)

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Thailand: Records 1st COVID-19 death

1 March- Thailand has reported the first COVID-19 death, according to director-general of the Department of Disease Control Suwanjai Wattanayingcharoen. In the announcement today, the 35-year-old male retail worker had dengue fever and the new disease known as Covid-19. The patient had been hospitalized since Feb 16 at a private hospital and transferred to Bamrasnardura Infectious Diseases Institute and died on Saturday after multiple organ failure, the Bangkok Post reports. "After nearly a month of treatment, his

lungs had already deteriorated and his heart and other internal organs had worked hard. That resulted in multi-organ failure and caused his death," Suwanchai added. The cause of death will be further examined by the National Communicable Disease Committee.

[Outbreak News Today](#)

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USNORTHCOM

U.S.: California- Placer County reports 1st COVID-19 death outside Washington

4 March- Placer County Public Health is reporting that a resident has died of COVID-19. The person, an elderly adult with underlying health conditions, was the second confirmed case of COVID-19 in the county and is now the first to die from the illness in California. "We extend our deepest condolences to the loved ones of this patient," said Placer County Health Officer Dr. Aimee Sisson. "While we have expected more cases, this death is an unfortunate milestone in our efforts to fight this disease, and one that we never wanted to see. "While most cases of COVID-19 exhibit mild or moderate symptoms, this tragic death underscores the urgent need for us to take extra steps to protect residents who are particularly vulnerable to developing more serious illness, including elderly persons and those with underlying health conditions." The patient tested presumptively positive on Tuesday at a California lab and was likely exposed during international travel from Feb. 11-21 on a Princess cruise ship that departed from San Francisco to Mexico. The patient was in isolation at Kaiser Permanente Roseville. Preliminary understanding from the contact investigation is that this patient had minimal community exposure between returning from the cruise and arriving at the hospital by ambulance on Feb. 27. Contacts to this case include ten Kaiser Permanente healthcare workers and five emergency responders who were exposed prior to the patient being put in isolation, and are now in quarantine. They are not exhibiting symptoms but are being quarantined and monitored. Other cruise passengers may have also been exposed. Placer County Public Health is working closely with Sacramento County Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to identify and contact other cruise passengers. This is the 10th COVID-19 fatality in the US, the other nine were reported in Washington State. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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U.S.: New York- Reports 1st COVID-19 case in traveler to Iran

2 March- New York Governor Andrew Cuomo announced the first COVID-19 case in the state. The patient, a woman in her late thirties, contracted the virus while traveling abroad in Iran, and is currently isolated in her home. The patient has respiratory symptoms, but is not in serious condition and has been in a controlled situation since arriving to New York. "The positive test was confirmed by New York's Wadsworth Lab in Albany, underscoring the importance of the ability for our state to ensure efficient and rapid turnaround, and is exactly why I advocated for the approval from Vice President Pence that New York was granted just yesterday. "There is no cause for surprise — this was expected. As I said from the beginning, it was a matter of when, not if there would be a positive case of novel coronavirus in New York. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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U.S.: New York- Second patient confirmed in New York State

3 March- A New York man tested positive for the novel coronavirus, bringing the total confirmed cases in the state to two, officials said on Tuesday, as the number of infections in the United States topped 100 and the central bank acted to protect the economy. The 50-year-old man who lives in a New York suburb and works in Manhattan had an underlying respiratory illness and is hospitalized, Governor Andrew Cuomo said at a news conference. He said the patient had not traveled to countries hardest hit in the worldwide coronavirus outbreak but that he had visited Miami recently. As of Monday evening, six people in the United States had died of the illness associated with the virus, all of them in Washington state, health officials said. More than 100 people nationwide have tested positive for the virus, including the two in New York, according to health officials. [Reuters](#)

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U.S.: Washington- COVID-19 4 additional cases, 1 death in King County

2 March- In a follow-up on the COVID-19 outbreak in King County, Washington, Public Health – Seattle & King County reports four additional cases of COVID-19 in King County residents. With these four new results, the total number of cases in King County is ten. In addition, an additional death has been reported, bringing the total number of deaths in King County from COVID-19 to two. The four new cases are in:

-A female in her 80s, hospitalized at EvergreenHealth in Kirkland. The woman has underlying health conditions, and is in critical condition

-A female in her 90s, hospitalized at EvergreenHealth in Kirkland. The woman has underlying health conditions, and is in critical condition

-A male in his 70s, hospitalized at EvergreenHealth in Kirkland. The man has underlying health conditions, and is in critical condition

-A male in his 70s was hospitalized at EvergreenHealth. He had underlying health conditions and died on 2/29/20.

All of these newly identified cases are among residents of LifeCare, the skilled nursing facility in Kirkland that was previously identified to have two associated cases. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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USSOUTHCOM

Brazil: Three confirmed cases of coronavirus in the country- MOH

4 March- The Brazil Ministry of Health (MOH) reported today that there are three confirmed cases of coronavirus in the country. Officials say they have no relationship between them, although they are residents of the municipality of São Paulo. The cases are imported and, therefore, there is no change in the national situation, as there is no evidence of sustained circulation of the virus in Brazilian territory. Through Mar 4, 315 suspected cases are monitored by the Ministry of Health. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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Dominican Republic: Reports 1st COVID-19 case, 1st in the Caribbean

1 March- The Dominican Republic Ministry of Health has confirmed the first imported case of COVID-19. They report that in the Dominican Republic, an Italian citizen, 62 years old, who entered the country on February 22 without symptoms, the patient is stable, at Ramón de Lara hospital, located at the air base of St. Isidro. We also require the entire Dominican population to avoid overreactions and panic to the reported event. More than 80 % of cases go as mild flu processes similar to those known in the country. We guide those citizens who are especially with chronic diseases to take forecasts of hygiene, contacts and controls of their basic disease. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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