



Infectious Disease Update for the HPH Sector – November 2019

Domestic Health Security

[CDC report: 35,000 Americans die of antibiotic-resistant infections each year](#) (STAT) An estimated 35,000 Americans die of antibiotic-resistant infections each year — one every 15 minutes — according to a stark new report from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention that reveals that the problem is substantially greater than previously estimated.

[US flu activity gains more steam](#) (CIDRAP) Flu activity rose again last week, nearly reaching the seasonal baseline, with all three strains circulating and subtypes varying by region and age, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said in its weekly update today.

[Drug Shortages: Root Causes and Potential Solutions](#) (FDA) Drug Shortages: Root Causes and Potential Solutions examines the underlying factors responsible for drug shortages and recommends enduring solutions. The inter-agency Drug Shortage Task Force, which was led by FDA, oversaw the analysis of drug shortage data and development of recommendations in response to a request from 31 U.S. senators and 104 U.S. congressional representatives in June 2018. The report relies on information from stakeholders, published research, and economic analysis of market conditions affecting drug shortages.

Global Health Security

[Pneumonic Plague Is Diagnosed in China](#) (New York Times) Two people in China were diagnosed with plague, setting off a panic on Tuesday about the potential spread of the highly infectious and fatal disease and prompting China's government to warn citizens to take precautions to protect themselves.

[No Country is Fully Prepared for High-Consequence Infectious Disease Outbreaks](#) (Global Health Now) 5 years ago last month, the UN Security Council met in crisis over the growing Ebola epidemic in West Africa. Massive global assistance was needed to stop the outbreak because Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone lacked the capacity to quickly detect and respond to the epidemic. By the time it was over, the epidemic sickened close to 30,000 people, caused upwards of 10,000 deaths, and resulted in \$2.8 billion in lost GDP for the 3 affected countries. The enormous tolls of this epidemic demonstrated that when outbreaks occur in countries that are unprepared, they can spill beyond borders, threatening the peace, health and prosperity of others.

[Scientists say quarter of all pigs could die of swine fever](#) (AP) Around a quarter of the world's pigs are expected to die from African swine fever as authorities grapple with a complex disease spreading rapidly in the globalization era, the World Organization for Animal Health's president said Thursday.



[A new twenty-first century science for effective epidemic response](#) (Nature) With rapidly changing ecology, urbanization, climate change, increased travel and fragile public health systems, epidemics will become more frequent, more complex and harder to prevent and contain. Here we argue that our concept of epidemics must evolve from crisis response during discrete outbreaks to an integrated cycle of preparation, response and recovery. This is an opportunity to combine knowledge and skills from all over the world—especially at-risk and affected communities.

[The Presidential Candidates Are Ignoring One of the World's Biggest Looming Threats](#) (Foreign Policy) Whoever sits in the Oval Office come January 2021, he or she will almost inevitably have to address pandemic disease as a foreign-policy issue. From AIDS and malaria to Ebola and pandemic flu, every president in recent decades has been faced with an international infectious disease outbreak that demanded both the attention of U.S. diplomats and officials and financing from U.S. budgets.

Ebola

[On the Front Lines of the Trump Administration's Ebola Response](#) (Foreign Policy) As three of the United States' senior public health officials, we have helped lead the U.S. response to the ongoing Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo since it began over a year ago. From the first reports of illness, the outbreak has been a top global health priority for the Trump administration.

[300 attacks on Ebola health workers in DR Congo this year: report](#) (Yahoo! News) Health workers battling an Ebola outbreak in the DR Congo have been attacked 300 times, leaving six dead and 70 wounded since the start of the year in three provinces, authorities said on Monday.

[Ebola vaccine approved in Europe in landmark moment in fight against a deadly disease](#) (STAT) After more than two decades of research, the world finally has an approved Ebola vaccine. The European Commission granted marketing authorization to Merck's vaccine, known as Ervebo, on Monday, less than a month after the European Medicines Agency recommended it be licensed. It is currently being used in the Democratic Republic of the Congo under a "compassionate use" or research protocol similar to a clinical trial.

Clinical & Public Health Practice

[Amazon adds new 'Amazon Pharmacy' branding to PillPack and promotes its CEO](#) (CNBC) PillPack, the Internet pharmacy that Amazon acquired in 2018, has updated its logo and other paperwork to include a new "Amazon Pharmacy" brand, and sources say its CEO has been promoted to vice president within Amazon. Specifically, the group's branding has changed from "PillPack, an Amazon company" to "PillPack by Amazon Pharmacy." It's the first public



reference to Amazon Pharmacy, an entity that many analysts expect will eventually do more than mail delivery of medicines through PillPack.

[Non-pharmaceutical public health measures for mitigating the risk and impact of epidemic and pandemic influenza](#) (WHO) Influenza pandemics occur at unpredictable intervals and cause considerable morbidity and mortality. Influenza virus is readily transmissible from person to person, mainly during close contact, and is challenging to control. In the early stage of influenza epidemics and pandemics, there may be delay in the availability of specific vaccines and limited supply of antiviral drugs. Non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) are the only set of pandemic countermeasures that are readily available at all times and in all countries.

Science & Technology

[What makes health systems resilient against infectious disease outbreaks and natural hazards? Results from a scoping review](#) (BMC Public Health) The 2014–2016 Ebola outbreak was a wake-up call regarding the critical importance of resilient health systems. Fragile health systems can become overwhelmed during public health crises, further exacerbating the human, economic, and political toll.

[Phase 3 Efficacy Trial of Modified Vaccinia Ankara as a Vaccine against Smallpox](#) (New England Journal of Medicine) No safety concerns associated with the MVA vaccine were identified. Immune responses and attenuation of the major cutaneous reaction suggest that this MVA vaccine protected against variola infection.

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About the [Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security](#):

The Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security works to protect people from epidemics and disasters and build resilient communities through innovative scholarship, engagement, and research that strengthens the organizations, systems, policies, and programs essential to preventing and responding to public health crises. The Center is part of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and is located in Baltimore, MD.

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