



## Infectious Disease Update for the HPH Sector – August 2019

### Domestic Health Security

[America's hospitals must collaborate to be prepared for the worst situations](#) (Modern Healthcare) Whether a stand-alone facility or part of a larger system, every hospital should take steps to be in the best possible position to respond to its community's needs. This starts with the right mindset. Caring for the victims of a tragedy is an essential community responsibility that hospitals and their physicians and nurses bear alongside emergency responders, public health officials and political leaders. Hospitals must contemplate threats and prepare. These threats could be man-made intentional events (shootings), man-made unintentional events (car accidents), natural events (hurricanes), or even technological events (cyber events). A unified or "all-hazards" process brings the best response to the worst situations.

[The Desperate Race to Neutralize a Lethal Superbug Yeast](#) (WIRED) The *C. auris* story is complex, but here are the basics. (We untangled its full early history here a year ago.) Over a period of about five years, physicians in Japan, Korea, India, South Africa, and the Middle East simultaneously diagnosed patients with infections caused by a strain of yeast that had not been recorded before 2009. This yeast was extraordinarily unlike any other: It caused grave wound and bloodstream infections, it spread easily from person to person, it survived without difficulty on cool inorganic surfaces—and because of those qualities, it sparked ferocious hospital outbreaks.

### Global Health Security

[The 2019 Flunami was more than just increased testing](#) (Virology Down Under) The number of people admitted to hospital with flu is also up in 2019. In fact, it's at the second-highest total in the past 6 years according to data from a collection of "sentinel" hospitals reporting data from across Australia via the FluCAN network.

[The UK has lost its World Health Organization 'measles-free' status](#) (NewScientist) Three years after the measles virus was eliminated from the UK, the country has lost its "measles-free" status with the World Health Organization, following 231 confirmed cases of the infection in the first quarter of 2019.

[Could the world see a resurgence of polio? Experts fear a cautionary tale in measles](#) (STAT) s measles case counts have exploded around the globe this year, public health officials doggedly trying to rid the world of another disease scourge have watched the numbers rise with some concern.

### Ebola



[A Cure for Ebola? Two New Treatments Prove Highly Effective in Congo](#) (New York Times) In a development that transforms the fight against Ebola, two experimental treatments are working so well that they will now be offered to all patients in the Democratic Republic of Congo, scientists announced on Monday.

[Ebola spreads in DRC provinces as cases approach 2,900](#) (CIDRAP) Over the weekend, two remote regions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) recorded cases of Ebola, suggesting previously unknown transmission chains in both North and South Kivu provinces.

See also: [Ebola spreads to remote, militia-run Congo territory](#) (Reuters)

[Ebola in eastern DRC](#) (Lancet: Infectious Diseases) When the current Ebola outbreak was declared on Aug 1, 2018, in North Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), confidence was high that the hundreds of experienced responders and the new therapeutics and vaccines would be able to quickly stop this tenth outbreak in DRC. As of July 28, 2019, 2671 probable and confirmed cases and 1790 probable and confirmed deaths have been reported. Leadership and coordination shortfalls, increased insecurity, mistrust, and denial from both the community and the responders are now hallmarks of the response.

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