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U.S. Fire Administration
Working for a fire-safe America

Weekly Update of Infectious Diseases and Related Information

June 5, 2023

Policy

June 4, 2023

[How Covid made it nearly impossible to pass new vaccine rules \(POLITICO\)](#)

The HPV vaccine has been around for almost 2 decades and could spare thousands of people from developing cervical and oral cancer — so mandating it for schoolchildren once seemed an easy call for Democrats in deep-blue California.

June 1, 2023

[The Debt Ceiling Deal Takes a Bite Out of Health Programs. It Could Have Been Much Worse. \(KFF Health News\)](#)

Policy analysts, Democrats and Republicans dissatisfied with the deal agree: Federal health programs have dodged a budgetary bullet in the Washington showdown over raising the nation's debt ceiling.

May 31, 2023

[WHO urges member states to ensure access to medical oxygen in poor countries \(umn.edu\)](#)

The 76th World Health Assembly late last week resolved to recognize the critical role of medical oxygen in the treatment of low blood oxygen levels in surgery, trauma and many diseases, including pneumonia and tuberculosis—especially for older people and vulnerable populations.

May 31, 2023

[House Republicans demand scientist explain pathogen research \(statnews.com\)](#)

House Republicans are ratcheting up pressure on federal agencies' pandemic response with an unprecedented move: interrogating a career poxvirus scientist's infectious disease work.



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COVID-19

June 4, 2023

[Most US adults are declining COVID boosters as CDC warns of health risks: 'Relatively little protection' \(Fox News\)](#)

Adults who aren't current on their COVID-19 vaccine booster doses may have "relatively little remaining protection" against hospitalization compared to those who haven't been vaccinated at all, suggests a new study from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

June 2, 2023

[More than 70% of US household COVID spread started with a child, study suggests \(umn.edu\)](#)

A study published yesterday in JAMA Network Open suggests that 70.4% of nearly 850,000 U.S. household COVID-19 transmissions originated with a child.

June 1, 2023

[More than 1 in 6 unvaccinated COVID survivors report symptoms for up to 2 years \(umn.edu\)](#)

Up to 18% of unvaccinated COVID-19 survivors have persistent symptoms as long as 2 years after infection.

June 1, 2023

[Global COVID-19 activity remains mixed \(umn.edu\)](#)

Cases and death continued to decline globally over the past 4 weeks, with hot spots reported in a few countries as XBB omicron variant proportions continue to shift.

June 1, 2023

[COVID survivors with depressive, cognitive symptoms show signs of brain inflammation \(umn.edu\)](#)

Patients with persistent symptoms of depression and cognitive impairment after a mild to moderate COVID-19 infection had elevated levels of a protein indicating inflammation of the brain.

May 31, 2023

[Study: Higher veteran COVID death rate at community hospitals than at VA centers \(umn.edu\)](#)

Most U.S. Veterans Health Administration (VHA) enrollees aged 65 and older were treated for COVID-19 at community hospitals, which reported higher death rates for this group than VHA hospitals in 2020 and 2021



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May 31, 2023

[Analysis: Mother-to-newborn COVID-19 transmission infrequent \(umn.edu\)](#)

A meta-analysis of 26 studies involving mother-to-child COVID-19 transmission in the first 30 days after birth reveals an overall estimate of SARS-CoV-2 infection among infants of 2.3%.

May 31, 2023

[Kidney transplants from COVID-19-positive donors appear safe \(umn.edu\)](#)

JAMA Network Open published a study yesterday on the safety of donors with COVID-19 donating a kidney, showing that the use of kidneys from donors with either active or resolved COVID-19 infections yields excellent outcomes.

May 30, 2023

[Night shift work, binge drinking linked to increased COVID risk in nurses \(umn.edu\)](#)

Working the night shift or binge drinking may double the risk of COVID-19 infection.

Mpox

June 4, 2023

[Vaccination and awareness could help keep mpox in check this summer \(NPR\)](#)

A dozen people came down with mpox in Chicago around early May, prompting the CDC to warn doctors of a potential mpox resurgence.

June 2, 2023

[Chicago's mpox control strategy is tested as cases return before Pride \(The Washington Post\)](#)

The purple sandwich boards scattered throughout the historic hotel hosting the annual International Mr. Leather convention bore a stark warning: "MPOX ISN'T GONE."

Influenza

June 2, 2023

[96% of US blood donors had SARS-CoV-2 antibodies in 2022, CDC reports \(umn.edu\)](#)

By third quarter 2022, an estimated 96.4% of U.S. blood donors had antibodies against COVID-19 from a previous infection or vaccination.



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June 2, 2023

[COVID 'runner-up': What to know about under-the-radar virus HMPV \(sfchronicle.com\)](#)

Following wave upon wave of COVID-19 outbreaks during the pandemic, this winter brought a triple whammy of the highly transmissible SARS-CoV-2 variant, along with influenza and respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV.

Vaccines/Antivirals

June 1, 2023

[Combination antibiotic shows promise in two phase 3 trials against superbugs \(umn.edu\)](#)

Pfizer today announced positive findings from 2 phase 3 trials evaluating an investigational antibiotic combination in treating multidrug-resistant bacterial infections.

June 1, 2023

[FDA approves Pfizer's RSV vaccine for older adults \(umn.edu\)](#)

Pfizer yesterday announced that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved its respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine—called Abrysvo—for use in adults ages 60 and older.

May 31, 2023

[New Pfizer RSV Vaccine Rolls Out Into Headwinds of Hesitancy \(WSJ\)](#)

Vaccine makers are confronting a post-COVID-19 conundrum: New shots are taming a widening range of diseases, but people are more skeptical of them than ever.