



MEDIA MONITORING

Health

FROM 05th TO 11th October 2020

10/05/2020

➤ **Coronavirus cases surpass 1.5M in Africa**

The number of coronavirus cases in Africa surpassed 1.5 million on Monday, the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said. At least 36,787 people have died while 1.2 million patients recovered across the continent,

it said in its latest update. Southern Africa recorded 746,500 cases of which the share of South Africa alone stands at 681,300, making the Rainbow Nation the most affected country with 17,000 deaths.

Source: aa.com.tr ([Article link](#))

➤ **Uganda Reports Blood Shortages Amid Coronavirus Pandemic**

Health authorities in Uganda say the supply of blood has sharply declined since the start of the coronavirus pandemic as fewer people donate and schools remain closed. The consequences are sometimes deadly.

Students, especially those in secondary school, are the largest group of blood donors in the East African country but schools have been closed since March amid efforts to curb the spread of the virus.

Source: voanews.com ([Article link](#))

➤ **COVID-19 disrupting mental health services in most countries, WHO survey**

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted or halted critical mental health services in 93% of countries worldwide while the demand for mental health is increasing, according to a new WHO survey. The survey of 130 countries provides the first global data showing the devastating impact of COVID-19 on access to mental health

services and underscores the urgent need for increased funding. The survey was published ahead of WHO's Big Event for Mental Health—a global online advocacy event on 10 October that will bring together world leaders, celebrities, and advocates to call for increased mental health investments in the wake of COVID-19.

Source: who.int ([Article link](#))

10/06/2020

➤ **African island states launch joint medicines procurement initiative**

Ministers of Health from seven small African island states today signed an agreement to jointly procure drugs and vaccines in a bid to improve quality and access to medicines and other health products. The ministers from Cabo Verde, Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Mauritius, Sao Tome & Principe and

Seychelles that form the Small Island Developing States signed the Pooled Procurement agreement to take advantage of economies of scale and collective bargaining. High cost of drugs and medical supplies is one of the major challenges the small island states face due to their modest populations.

Source: afro.who.int ([Article link](#))

10/07/2020

➤ **Global challenge for movement on mental health kicks off as lack of investment in mental health leaves millions without access to services**

A global social media challenge to get the world moving on mental health is launched today with a call for a massive scale-up in investment in mental health. Ahead of World Mental Health Day on 10 October, the World Health Organization, in collaboration with United for Global Mental Health and the World Federation for Mental Health, are encouraging people from all countries to support a global movement

calling for greater investment in mental health. The #MoveforMentalHealth challenge is asking people around the world to post videos showing what they do in support of their mental well-being – whether it be dancing, walking, doing yoga, cooking, painting or something else entirely, on their favorite social media platforms, using the hashtag #MoveForMentalHealth.

Source: who.int ([Article link](#))

➤ **Covid-19: World Bank seeks \$12bln to help poor countries access vaccine**

World Bank President David Malpass and his team seek to mobilize \$12 billion to help developing countries access a potential covid-19 vaccine. David Malpass revealed yesterday in an interview with Reuters that he is seeking approval from the Bank's Board for the financing plan. The objective is to give poor and middle-

income countries the same chances as rich countries to get the vaccine. The Bank's program would disburse grants or loans (again) to the targeted countries and would then select any vaccine that meets safety criteria, with the endorsement of the relevant institutions.

Source: ecofinagency.com ([Article link](#))

10/08/2020

➤ **What China's speedy COVID vaccine deployment means for the pandemic**

In the race for a coronavirus vaccine, China is making bold promises. A Chinese health official has publicly pledged that an effective coronavirus vaccine will be available by the end of the year. The country has also committed to sharing its vaccines with more than a dozen nations, particularly low-income countries that it

has close ties with. But even if a vaccine is ready soon, some scientists question whether the country will be able to produce enough doses to meet its international commitments, and if deals with individual countries are the best way to ensure equitable vaccine distribution.

Source: nature.com ([Article link](#))

➤ **EU donates 900k COVID-19 testing kits to Africa CDC**

The European Union on Thursday donated 900,000 COVID-19 testing kits to the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, a public health agency. EU Commissioner for External Affairs Josep Borrell and Kwesi Quartey, deputy chairperson at the African

Union, attended the handover ceremony at the Bole International Airport in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital. "The donation will significantly beef up testing campaigns across Africa," Director Africa CDC John Nkengasong told Anadolu Agency.

Source: aa.com.tr ([Article link](#))

➤ **Coping with mental health impact of COVID-19**

an Bukenya felt beleaguered by anguish. He lost sleep most nights and was often testy. He tried to self-medicate to no avail. Only when he agreed to be treated at a hospital did he find relief. “They gave me medicines and I could finally sleep.” Three weeks earlier, the 32-year-old father of one had been diagnosed with COVID-19 but was unwilling to seek medical help. The days that followed grew more

distressful. He would work long hours to try to forget his diagnosis. But the agony persisted. “I would want to fight everyone. I was so angry all the time,” says Bukenya, who became too dispirited to preach the gospel – something he was fond of doing when not selling phones and other electronics at his shop in Nakasero Market in Kampala.

Source: afro.who.int ([Article link](#))

➤ **Dozens of COVID-19 vaccines are in development. Here are the ones to follow.: UN, WHO call for polio surveillance in Africa**

More than 150 coronavirus vaccines are in development across the world—and hopes are high to bring one to market in record time to ease the global crisis. Several efforts are underway to help make that possible, including the U.S. government’s Operation Warp Speed initiative, which has pledged \$10 billion and

aims to develop and deliver 300 million doses of a safe, effective coronavirus vaccine by January 2021. The World Health Organization is also coordinating global efforts to develop a vaccine, with an eye toward delivering two billion doses by the end of 2021.

Source: nationalgeographic.com ([Article link](#))

➤ **One stillbirth occurs every 16 seconds, according to first ever joint UN estimates**

Almost 2 million babies are stillborn every year – or 1 every 16 seconds – according to the first ever joint stillbirth estimates released by UNICEF, WHO, the World Bank Group and the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The vast majority of stillbirths, 84 per cent, occur in

low- and lower-middle-income countries, according to the new report, A Neglected Tragedy: The Global Burden of Stillbirths. In 2019, 3 in 4 stillbirths occurred in sub-Saharan Africa or Southern Asia. A stillbirth is defined in the report as a baby born with no signs of life at 28 weeks of pregnancy or more.

Source: who.int ([Article link](#))

10/10/2020

➤ **A coronavirus vaccine is coming, so who gets it first?**

After eight months of chaos and more than 1 million deaths worldwide, we might soon have a vaccine for the novel coronavirus. With as many as 150 vaccines in development — nearly 40 in late-stage clinical trials — it could come by the end of this year, although most experts see 2021 as more likely. Getting a vaccine is one thing, but distributing it is another. There won’t be enough

doses for everyone, at least early on, raising the delicate matter of who should get the vaccine first. Even if we agree on the goal — say, saving as many lives as possible — there may be no obvious answer. Vaccinating the most vulnerable probably makes sense for this virus, as nearly all fatalities occur in the 65-and-over age group.

Source: japantimes.co.jp ([Article link](#))

10/11/2020

➤ **BCG: Can a vaccine from 1921 save lives from Covid-19?**

Scientists in the UK have begun testing the BCG vaccine, developed in 1921, to see if it can save lives from Covid. The vaccine was designed to stop tuberculosis, but there is some evidence it can protect against other infections as well. Around 1,000 people will take part in the trial at the University of Exeter.

But while millions of people in the UK will have had the BCG jab as a child, it is thought they would need to be vaccinated again to benefit. Vaccines are designed to train the immune system in a highly targeted way that leaves lasting protection against one particular infection.

Source: [bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com) ([Article link](#))

➤ **Global COVID Count is More Than 37 Million**

Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center reported early Sunday there are more than 37.2 million global COVID-19 cases and more than a million deaths. The U.S. with more than 7.7 million coronavirus cases is leading the world in the COVID caseload. Public health experts,

however, expect India's COVID cases to pass the U.S. count. India reported a total of more than 7 million cases Sunday. India's Health Ministry said Sunday 74,383 COVID cases had been recorded in the previous 24 hours.

Source : [voanews.com](https://www.voanews.com) ([Article link](#))



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