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WEEKLY EU HEALTHCARE NEWS UPDATE

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WHO: TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION, THE HEALTH OF REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN EUROPE NEED TO BE DE-POLITICISED

In his interview for EURACTIV, director of the WHO's Health and Migration Programme Santino Severoni indicated that there are significant gaps between the health of refugees and migrants and the health of host country populations in Europe.

According to Mr. Severoni, refugees and migrants commonly experience significant disparities compared to the permanent resident population with regard to a broad scope of health-related issues in the European Region of WHO, consisting of 53 countries. As the main reason behind this problem, he pointed out factors, such as lack of preventive services, health promotion, and awareness about the risk for chronic diseases.

“[Until now] we've believed that the risk of chronic disease was only high upon arrival at the destination in high-income countries, but we've discovered that this is not true,” the WHO director underlined. However, he explained that the gaps exist not only when it comes to chronic conditions. This is visible in the [WHO World Report on the health of refugees and migrants](#).

One of the major problems in improving the health of refugees and migrants is the „political sensitivity” of this topic. Since 2015, many EU countries could not properly handle refugees and migrants, which resulted in a wide range of different approaches. Nevertheless, the WHO director of the Health and Migration Programme claims that many positive changes have already been introduced, meaning that the health sector “understands that they have an important role.” As a good practice example, he mentioned the reception of Ukrainian refugees in the European health system.

Source: <https://www.euractiv.com/section/health-consumers/news/refugee-and-migrant-health-in-europe-needs-de-politicising-to-improve-says-who/>

THE WAVE OF THE COVID PANDEMIC IS DIMINISHING IN EUROPE BUT INCREASING ON OTHER CONTINENTS

The number of infections from the seventh wave of the coronavirus pandemic is decreasing in Europe, but the incidence rates in other continents are on the rise. According to World Health Organisation, the number of deaths from COVID-19 has also been growing for the past five weeks.

Our World in Data reports that in terms of absolute numbers, the highest incidence is now in Japan (197,000), the United States (130,000), South Korea (80,000), and Germany (75,000).

The Omicron variant of coronavirus continues to be dominant worldwide, accounting for 90% of the sequences reported to the GISAID global coronavirus genome data collection database in the past month. The share of the two infectious subvariants BA.5 and BA.4 remains high, with the former accounting for 52 % of all sequences in GISAID in the second week of July, while BA.4 represented 11 %.

Approximately 12.3 billion doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered worldwide, including more than two billion booster doses. Two-thirds of the world's population has received at least one dose of the vaccine, with 7.75 million currently being administered each day. Less than a quarter of people in low-income countries have got at least one jab.

Source: <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/covid-cases-drop-globally-week-deaths-stable-87881052>

EMA AND HMA DETERMINE THE EVOLUTION OF THE DARWIN EU REAL-WORLD DATABASE (RWD)

The European Medicines Agency (EMA), together with the 27 Heads of Medicines Agencies (HMA), plan to launch a new pioneering database to collect real-world data (RWD) from a diversity of studies that reviewers can refer to for their regulatory decision-making.

The timeline for developing the Data Analysis and Real-World Interrogation Network (DARWIN EU) is indicated in the recently published third joint Big Data Steering Group workplan. It envisages that the research database will initiate 4 studies with the help of 10 research partners to collect real-world evidence (RWE) by the end of 2022. It is then expected to grow rapidly by the end of 2025, which will result in the collection of 40 studies with the assistance of 40 partners.

Moreover, the plan focuses on onboarding diverse research partners and launching studies to start aggregating real-world databases. Finally, the pilot activities listed in the project principles aim to support the bodies responsible for Health Technology Assessment (HTA), European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), and the payers.

In the meantime, the Big Data Steering Group continues to work. It will organize topic-specific workshops and hold an annual forum, as well as biannual industry meetings to process real-world evidence data.

Source: https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/documents/work-programme/workplan-2022-2025-hma/ema-joint-big-data-steering-group_en.pdf

Thank you for your attention!

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