

A roundup of COVID-19 developments for Thursday Sept. 3, 2020[Clique aqui para ver a notícia no site](#)

I'm always interested in what it takes for Canada to make headlines internationally beyond something to do with hockey.

Today, I got another answer to that question from a Washington Post mailing that's part of my daily COVID content consumption.

To wit, this headline that had a certain clickbait quality to it: Consider wearing a mask during sex, Canada's chief public health officer says.

Since it's too early for Halloween, I did indeed click on the headline to see exactly how the Washington Post had unmasked Dr. Theresa Tam's advice about the birds and the bees.

Apparently, the pandemic has made sex "complicated."

"Like other activities during COVID-19 that involve physical closeness, there are some things you can do to minimize the risk of getting infected and spreading the virus," Tam said.

So kissing is out. Masks are in. Alcohol is problematic. And the least risky sexual activity during the pandemic, according to Tam, involves yourself alone.

At this point in the Washington Post's coverage, I was hoping there was more coming that would arouse something in its readers, even if it was only curiosity about our country.

Alas, the story quickly shifted to the number of fatalities Canada had seen so far linked to COVID and a passing reference to an outbreak at a Quebec karaoke bar. And that was that.

I worry that after all that buildup, all those American readers and others around the globe were left wanting.

But at least there was no mention of hockey.

— Paul Samyn, Winnipeg Free Press editor

THE LATEST IN MANITOBA

- Manitobas largest COVID-19 outbreak at a personal care home has claimed two more lives, bringing the provincial death toll from the novel coronavirus to 16. Thirteen cases — six residents and seven staff — have now been identified at Bethesda Place in Steinbach since Aug. 16. Four of the care homes 59 residents have died of the virus. The two latest deaths were women: one in her 80s and one in her 90s.

- Twenty new COVID-19 cases were announced in Manitoba on Thursday, including 13 in Winnipeg, six in the Prairie Mountain health region, which includes Brandon, and one case in the Interlake-Eastern health region. Public health officials say people who used ABC Taxi Cabs and Limousine Service in Brandon may have been exposed to the virus between Aug. 19 and Aug. 21. Sixteen Manitobans have died of COVID-19 as of Thursday. There are 457 active cases, including 12 people in hospital and one person in intensive care. So far, 791 Manitobans have recovered from the virus.

- A majority of parents across the province are worried about Manitobas back-to-school plan and worry the risks of virus transmission will increase as kids return to the classroom, a new poll from Leger and the Free Press found. According to data from Legers online poll, which received responses from more than 200 parents, 70 per cent of Manitoba parents are worried about their kids going back to school next week. Parents in Winnipeg tend to be more concerned about the return to school — with 79 per cent saying they feel worried — compared to 59 per cent in the rest of Manitoba.

THE LATEST ELSEWHERE

- Brazil, which at four million cases is the second-hardest-hit country in the world has handed out so much pandemic relief cash that poverty is approaching historic lows. About 66 million people have been receiving 600 reais (US\$110) a month, making it the most ambitious social program the country has ever undertaken. It represents a shocking shift considering President Jair Bolsonaro has railed against welfare and aggressively dismissed COVID-19, at least until he caught the disease. Numbers from the Getulio Vargas Foundation, one of Brazils top universities, show that those living on less than \$1.90 a day fell to 3.3 per cent in June from eight per cent last year, and those below the poverty line were at 21.7 per cent compared with 25.6 per cent. After his recovery, Bolsonaro apologized for his position dismissing the pandemic.

- Confidence in the Canadian economy took a dramatic dive over the summer in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic — a whipsaw pivot seen around the world but sharper in Canada than any other country surveyed in a new global public opinion poll. Sixty-one per cent of Canadians who took part in the Pew Research Center survey released Thursday described the countrys current economic situation as bad, more than twice the 27 per cent who said the same thing last year.

- Come for the biker rally, stay for the COVID-19 treatment. South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem ordered the state to buy ad time on Fox News during and after her appearance at the Republican National Convention. The ads tout tourism to the state — known for such attractions as the

Badlands, the Needles, the Crazy Horse monument and Mount Rushmore — saying its open for business despite the pandemic. Meanwhile, the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, which filled bars and restaurants with thousands of unmasked patrons in the western South Dakota city in early August, has been linked to 290 cases across 12 states and one confirmed death. South Dakota, which instituted no lockdown, has recorded 14,337 cases and 169 deaths.

- Thailand's 100-day streak is snapped. An inmate at a Bangkok prison is the first person since May diagnosed with COVID-19. Officials said there was no threat of an outbreak at the prison since the virus was detected within the mandatory 14-day quarantine for new prisoners. The source of the transmission wasn't found, so officials believe the virus is spreading via community transmission. Thailand, with a population of 70 million, has had just 3,427 cases of COVID-19 and 58 deaths.

- New Mexico is loosening quarantine requirements for interstate travellers ahead of the Labor Day weekend, exempting a 14-day quarantine for visitors who can show a negative COVID-19 test 72 hours before arrival or later and relaxing occupancy limits for hotels that can demonstrate safe COVID-19 certification. There have been 25,612 cases and 790 deaths in the state.

QUOTE, UNQUOTE

"We think that the Olympics will be held with the coronavirus still around, so for us the biggest task is to explore and come up with necessary and effective measures to combat the coronavirus."

— Toshiro Muto, CEO of Tokyo 2020, the local organizing committee for the Olympic Games