

# Global Health Newsletter

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## Americas

### Denial Order for JUUL Labs

E-cigarettes appeared in the US in 2007 and were originally intended for adults to help them quit smoking. However, the addition of flavors and eye-catching marketing campaigns attracted teenagers leading to an increase in teen nicotine use. According to the 2021 National Youth Tobacco Survey from the FDA, two million middle school and high school students use e-cigarettes and 85 percent of those use flavored products (<https://www.valemedicine.org/news/juul-e-cigarette-ban>). The FDA blames these companies for the increase in teen nicotine use.



<https://hobi.med.ufl.edu/2021/03/10/straight-talk-about-vaping-for-parents/>

On July 5, 2022, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a market denial order for JUUL Labs Inc. for all products currently marketed in the United States. As a result, the company will be unable to sell and distribute these products. Products that are currently on the market must be removed. This act only pertains to commercial distribution and sale, not to individual consumer possession or use. The FDA created this mandate so all e-cigarette/nicotine delivery system products meet specific public health standards.

### Further Reading

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-denies-authorization-market-juul-products>

## Middle East and Northern Africa

### Thousands Stranded Without Aid in Sudan's Blue Nile

In July, violence broke out due to a land dispute between Berta and Hausa ethnic groups forcing over 15,000 thousand people to flee their homes. Over 100 people have been killed so far. The Blue Nile region is a state within Sudan that borders South Sudan and Ethiopia. Due to the increase in violence humanitarian aid has stopped as it has become too dangerous to deliver aid.

Violence broke out after a Hausa man was killed over a land dispute on July 14<sup>th</sup>. A Berta member denied a Hausa request to establish a “civil authority to supervise access to land.” The government implemented a curfew to limit violence.



<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/7/22/clashes-in-sudans-blue-nile-leave-thousands-stranded-with-no-aid>

Background on the conflict:

The Berta are original inhabitants of south-eastern Sudan and the Hausa people have ethnic roots in Nigeria. The Hausa have lived in Sudan for centuries and there are currently about 10 million Hausas in Sudan out of a population of about 44 million. They originally settled in the Blue Nile region on their way to Mecca. In 1903, after the British defeated the defiant sultan of the Sokoto Caliphate the British moved the Hausas into this region. When the British abolished slavery in the region in 1924 they gave land in the Blue Nile region to 3,000 Hausas, displacing the local groups. Last month the governor of the Blue Nile region granted the Hausa their own emirate within the state which angered the Berta community. This decision led to calls on social media to strip the Hausa people of their land and citizenship which led to the murder of a land owner inciting the current violence.

Further reading

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-62175714>

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/7/22/clashes-in-sudans-blue-nile-leave-thousands-stranded-with-no-aid>

## Asia/Pacific

### Sri Lanka Economic Crisis

Timeline of events

- 2009: civil war ends
- 2019: income tax cuts and government revenue decreases.
- 2020: COVID decreases tourism, an economic activity that normally contributes to 5 percent of GDP, dropping to 0.08 percent.
- 2021: Sri Lankan government bans foreign-made chemical fertilizers and switches to local organic products to help the foreign currency reserves. However, it leads to a decrease in fertilizer availability and causes a massive crop failure and increasing dependency on foreign imports.
- April 2022: protests for President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's resignation begin.
- May 2022: food inflation increases more than 57 percent. Sri Lanka defaults on its debt.
- June 2022: Government shortens the work week to 4 days so people have an extra day to grow food.
- July 15, 2022: President Gotabaya Rajapaksa resigns.
- July 21, 2022: Six-time Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe becomes president.



GETTY IMAGES  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-61111405>

This economic crisis impacts all aspects of society. To save fuel and energy there have been widespread power outages leading to school closures and shortages of cooking gas, food, supplies, and medicine. Sri Lanka imports approximately 80 percent of its medical supplies and with this crisis equipment and medical supplies are in short supply or unavailable. Surgeries have been restricted to emergent medical procedures only. Sri Lanka is now depending on foreign donations.

Prior to this, Sri Lanka has done well in the healthcare sector. Their infant mortality rate is just under 7 per 1,000 births (the US is 5 per 1,000). Life expectancy according to 2016 data is 75 years. It has also done well with infectious diseases eliminating malaria, polio, leprosy, elephantiasis and other infectious diseases. However, this crisis places a threat to these healthcare improvements as well as threatening public trust in healthcare capabilities.

Further reading

<https://thediplomat.com/2022/07/the-deep-roots-of-sri-lankas-economic-crisis/>

<https://apnews.com/article/covid-health-asia-south-5217195484ef4c8d858d86bbfb79d35c>

## Sub-Saharan Africa

### Ghana and Marburg disease

Marburg virus is a hemorrhagic virus that causes viral hemorrhagic fever. The first recorded case was in 1967 in Europe. The largest outbreak was in Angola and was estimated to have killed 200 people. Humans are exposed by a type of fruit bat. Once Marburg virus is in the human population, community spread occurs via body fluids (unprotected sex and broken skin). The incubation period varies from 2-21 days. Symptoms are similar to Ebola and include bleeding, malaise, headache, muscle aches, diarrhea, abdominal pain and fever. In fatal cases death often occurs around day 8-9 after symptom onset and cause of death is due to severe blood loss and shock. There are no vaccines or antiviral treatments. Average case fatality rate is about 50 percent but the fatality rate for past outbreaks has been anywhere from 24-88 percent depending on the strain.



<https://www.gettyimages.com/photos/marburg-virus>

Ghana confirmed the first two cases of Marburg virus in the Ashanti region. The tests came back positive on July 10<sup>th</sup> and were confirmed by a lab in Senegal and it was officially declared an outbreak on July 17<sup>th</sup>. The first case was a 26 year old male who presented to the hospital on June 26<sup>th</sup> and died on June 27<sup>th</sup> and the second was a 51 year old male who presented to the same hospital on June 28<sup>th</sup> and died the same day. This is the first time Ghana has ever had an outbreak of Marburg virus and only the second time it has been recorded in West Africa. There was one case confirmed in Guinea last year but it was an isolated case. There are currently 98 people who are under quarantine as suspected contact cases.

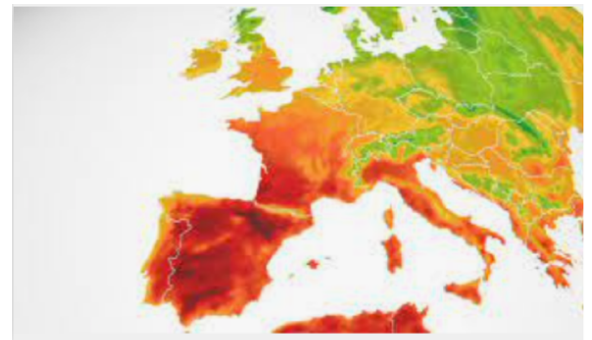
Further reading

<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/marburg-virus-disease>

## Europe

### Heat Wave Hits Europe

This July was the hottest summer for Europe in history. The UK temperatures reached 104.5 degrees Fahrenheit, the highest ever recorded temperature in the UK. As a result of this extreme heat, wildfires have erupted in France, Portugal, Spain and Greece, forcing thousands of people to evacuate and decreasing air quality and negatively impacting health, particularly for those who suffer from lung disease. Spain and Portugal have reported over 1,000 deaths due to the heat.



<https://www.cnn.com/2022/07/12/world/heat-wave-rare-alerts-europe-intl/index.html>

The built environment also affects the heat impact. Many buildings in these regions were built to retain heat to better withstand cold temperatures. Infrastructure to combat extreme heat such as air circulating systems or air conditioning is not common. Only 20 percent of homes have air conditioning in Europe compared to 88 percent in the U.S. Urban communities commonly include dark impervious surfaces on roofs that absorb rather than reflect sun rays leading to the urban heat island effect. Urban heat island effect is the phenomena that urban communities are hotter than their rural counterparts due to human influence. This is even more detrimental in low income communities to the high density of the population and large apartment building structures. This is especially prominent in low income communities who live in large complexes.

Further reading

<https://thehill.com/opinion/energy-environment/3573621-thousands-of-heat-related-deaths-europes-clarion-call-for-climate-action/>

## Upcoming Lectures/Conferences

### **Menstruation in a Global Context: Addressing Policy and Practice Course**

Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health has FREE online course

Led by Dr. Marni Sommer, Maggie Schmitt and Caitlin Gruer.

This EdX course reviews menstrual health and hygiene research, programming, & policies from around the world, utilizing a range of learning methods: video lectures, case studies, independent reading, discussion forums, and multiple-choice question assessments. There are 7 independent modules expected to take roughly 14 weeks, averaging 2-3 hours per week. Option to audit the course for free or to select the verified track to earn a certificate for a small fee.

Registration: <https://hopkinshumanitarianhealth.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8861d1b14ebeab609c47010cb&id=e99a65c453&e=0fc91dccb4>

