Covid worst global health emergency: WHO

**REVIEW**

Committee to meet later this week to discuss the disease's emergency status, six months after it was declared

**HINDUSTAN TIMES, NEW DELHI**

**TUESDAY, JULY 20, 2020**

**VIRUS TRACKER**

**WORST-HIT NATIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Cases</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>4,923,883</td>
<td>149,973</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>2,423,798</td>
<td>87,121</td>
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<td>India</td>
<td>1,480,718</td>
<td>52,419</td>
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<td>Russia</td>
<td>1,018,000</td>
<td>13,264</td>
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<td>S Africa</td>
<td>445,433</td>
<td>6,769</td>
</tr>
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**US NSA is +ve; biggest vaccine trial begins**

Workers disinfect Hagia Sophia after a prayer at the historic Istanbul structure, which was changed from a cathedral into a mosque.

**WASHINGTON:** US National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien has tested positive for Covid-19, making him the most senior US Cabinet member to be hit by the virus.

The White House said on Monday that O'Brien had displayed "mild symptoms and has been self-isolating and working from a secure location offsite."

It added: "There is no risk of exposure to the President or the Vice President. The work of the National Security Council continues unimpaired."

O'Brien typically works from a West Wing office but has at times been teleworking from his home in Maine.

He had travelled to Paris in mid-July for a meeting with counterparts from the UK, France, Germany and Italy.

Two White House staff members had tested positive earlier: Trump's personal valet and the head of Vice-President Mike Pence's communications team.

There's still no guarantee that the experimental vaccine, developed by the National Institutes of Health and Moderna Inc, will really protect. The needed proof: Volunteer won't know if they're getting the real shot or a dummy version. After two doses, scientists will closely track which group experiences more infections as they go about their daily routines, especially in areas where the virus still is spreading unchecked.

**PET CAT IS UK’s FIRST COVID-19 CASE IN ANIMALS**

London: The Covid-19 virus has been detected in a pet cat for the first time in the UK, the country's chief veterinary officer revealed on Monday.

Feline negative Mattimeo is the first animal in the country to test positive for the virus, according to the Animal and Plant Health Agency laboratory in Weybridge.

All available evidence suggests the cat caught the coronavirus from its owner, who had previously tested positive.

The cat and its owner have since made a full recovery and there was no transmission to other animals or people in the household.

That's very rare even with infected animals detected to date only showing mild clinical signs and recovering within a few days.

There is no evidence to suggest that pets directly transmit the virus to humans, officials said.

Yvonne Doyle of Public Health England added: "This is the first case of a domestic cat testing positive in the UK and this shouldn't cause a cause for alarm. The investigation into this case suggests that the infection was spread from an animal to another animal."