

NEWS ON THE FLY

with Spurwing

Edition: 18 May – 19 May

Welcome to News on the Fly, your essential bi-weekly news update! Here's this week's top stories so far:

Word of the Day

“R0”

Pronounced “R naught”, is a mathematical term indicating how contagious a disease is, measuring the number of new infections caused, on average, by an infected individual. This value assumes a worst-case scenario where no precautions have been taken to curb the spread of the virus and an entire population is susceptible. [The R0 of COVID-19](#) is estimated between 1.5 to 3.5. As an indicator, any value less than 1 means each existing infection will result in less than one new infection, with the disease eventually dying out.

COVID-19: Local news

[Coronavirus: Many of the current restrictions to continue even after circuit breaker ends, says Lawrence Wong](#)

18 May 2020 | [The Straits Times](#)

June 1 marks the last day of the circuit breaker. Nonetheless, life back to the new normal will be done progressively with many existing restrictions and precautions set to continue.

[About 6,000 pre-school staff have undergone precautionary COVID-19 swab tests](#)

18 May 2020 | [The Straits Times](#)

MSF is assessing if kindergarten services will resume on June 2. In preparation, kindergarten staff are undergoing mass testing for COVID-19 with some 30,000 expected to be tested by May 26.

COVID-19: Global news

[Doctors are tweeting about coronavirus to make facts go viral](#)

15 May 2020 | [Wall Street Journal](#)

Doctors and health professionals have committed to a war against fake news surrounding the pandemic. Many have taken to social media to correct misinformation and engage worrying trends like antivaxxers – poised to escalate in number in the next decade.

[After sneak peak at early data, Operation Warp Speed head Slaoui 'confident' in COVID-19 vaccine by year's end](#)

15 May 2020 | [Fierce Pharma](#)

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Former GSK Vaccine Head Moncef Slaoui is confident of a vaccine against COVID-19 by the end of 2019. Slaoui has been appointed by the US government as one of two leaders of “Operation Warp Speed”, a task force for COVID19 vaccines.

[Silicon Valley's next big office idea: work from anywhere](#)

17 May 2020 | [The Wall Street Journal](#)

For many, work from home has been the new norm. Tech companies, once known to woo talent through its flashy campuses, are now encouraging workers to embrace the flexibility in choosing work venue options.

Food

[\\$930M invested in alternative proteins in Q1 2020 tops record-setting 2019 totals](#)

14 May 2020 | [Food Dive](#)

Alternative meats and proteins have seen a surge in popularity beyond predicted market forecasts. Funding in research for these products have also swelled at \$189 million since 2019 – the highest that has ever been invested in the cell-based meat segment in its history.

Healthcare

[Time for healthcare to make better use of data](#)

18 May 2020 | [Financial Times](#)

The healthcare sector is known for adopting the latest tech objects – a contrast from its conservative stance in the adoption of AI. Experts point that there is much to be improved in AI technology with mistakes in prediction proving deadly.

Spurwing Picks of the Week

What has Spurwing been up to?

Music heals and can bring people together. Lately, we have been indulging in [digital broadcasts](#) of past concerts put up by the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. One of our favourites is Yo-Yo Ma's [rendition](#) of Dvořák's Cello Concerto.



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