Share Your News Now

If you would like to share news or information with our readers, please send the unique stories, business news organization events, and school news to us includinig your name and phone number in case more information is needed.

For news and information consideration, please send to News@scdaily.com
or contact
John Robbins **832-280-5815**
Jun Gai **281-498-4310**

Southern DAILY
Make Today Different
Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group

Publisher: Wea H. Lee
President: Catherine Lee
Editor: John Robbins, Jun Gai
Address: 11122 Bellaire Blvd., Houston, TX 77072
E-mail: News@scdaily.com

Trump: It's my decision when to reopen U.S. economy

Inside C2

Pompeo says U.S. to impose visa curbs on Huawei over rights

FILE PHOTO: U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo speaks during a news conference at the State Department in Washington, U.S., July 1, 2020. Manuel Balce Ceneta/Pool via REUTERS

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Wednesday the United States would impose visa restrictions on Chinese companies like Huawei Technologies Co Ltd, which he accused of facilitating human right violations.

Pompeo also said telecommunications companies around the world "should consider themselves on notice" that if they do business with Huawei, "they are doing business with human rights abusers."

Pompeo told a news conference the State Department would "impose visa restrictions on certain employees of Chinese technology companies like Huawei that provide material support to regimes engaging in human rights violations and abuses globally."

Pompeo also said that "faster is always better" in terms of getting Huawei out of telecoms infrastructure when asked about British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's order that Huawei equipment be purged completely from Britain's 5G network by the end of 2027.

In a separate statement referring to alleged abuses against China's minority Muslim population, Pompeo charged that Huawei was "an arm of the Chinese Communist Party's surveillance state that censors political dissidents and enables mass internment camps in Xinjiang and the indentured servitude of its population shipped all over China."

"Certain Huawei employees provide material support to the CCP regime that commits human rights abuses," the statement said.
Huawei denies it spies for China and says the United States wants to frustrate its growth because no U.S. company offers the same technology at a competitive price.
Asked about Pompeo's remarks, a Huawei spokeswoman said, "We are looking into this and will share the statement once we have one."

Walmart becomes biggest company to mandate customers wear masks

(Reuters) - Shoppers at Walmart Inc stores will have to wear face coverings, the world's largest retailer said on Wednesday, mandating what is widely seen as an effective measure to control the spread of the new coronavirus.

As coronavirus infections spike in many states across the country, face masks have become the leading recommendation from health experts and government officials looking to control the pandemic, while reopening the economy.

Walmart said about 65% of its over 5,000 U.S. stores, including its wholesale Sam's Club outlets, are located in areas where there is already some form of government mandate on face coverings. Its new policy will now apply to all stores starting Monday.
Trade group National Retail Federation (NRF) on Wednesday pushed for retailers to adopt a nationwide policy that requires customers to wear masks, and hoped Walmart's decision would galvanize other companies to take similar action.

Best Buy Co Inc and Starbucks Corp have already mandated face masks at their U.S. outlets.

While many retailers have recommended masks for months, they were hesitant to make it a requirement, for fear of antagonizing shoppers, with numerous videos posted online on confrontations between customers and employees.

WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

07/15/2020 CORONAVIRUS DIARY

Only The Vaccine Can Rescue Us

According to a University of Washington report, coronavirus deaths in the U.S. are projected to reach more than 220, 000 by the beginning of November as many states continue to report a surge in new cases and hospitalizations. Dr. Christopher Murray said we can now see the projected trajectory of the pandemic into the fall and many states are expected to experience significant increases in cases and deaths in September and October. However, if 95% of us wear a mask, the deaths could be reduced by close to 40,000. We all need to recognize that wearing masks can substantially reduce the transmission of the virus.

In Boston, the Moderna company's findings provide more promising data that the vaccine they have developed produced neutralizing antibodies in all 45 patients in its early stage of human trials. These findings provide more promising data that a vaccine may give some protection against the coronavirus.

Summer is almost over and President Trump wants all students to go back to the classroom, but most local school districts are against it simply because of the health issue for the students, teachers and parents.

All of us are suffering enough and we cannot expect too much from the government. But we all are hoping that a vaccine and modern medicine will come to our rescue very soon.

Publisher Southern Daily Wea H. Lee

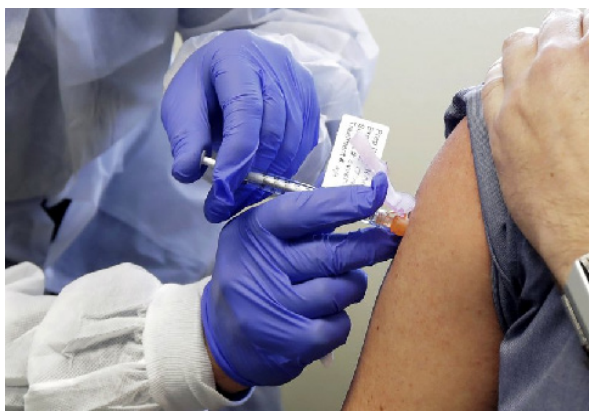
Southern News Group Chairman / CEO
Chairman of International Trade & Culture Center
Chairman of International District Houston Texas

Stay Home! **BUSINESS** *Wear Mask!*

CORONAVIRUS

FRONTLINE

US Bets On Untested Company To Deliver COVID-19 Vaccine



A patient receives a shot in the first-stage safety study clinical trial of a potential vaccine for COVID-19, the disease caused by the new coronavirus, at the Kaiser Permanente Washington Health Research Institute in Seattle. (AP Photo/Ted S.

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

When precious vats of COVID-19 vaccine are finally ready, jabbing the lifesaving solution into the arms of Americans will require hundreds of millions of injections. As part of its strategy to administer the vaccine as quickly as possible, the Trump administration has agreed to invest more than half a billion in tax dollars in ApiJect Systems America, a young company. Its injector is not approved by federal health authorities and the company hasn't yet set up a factory to manufacture the devices.

The commitment to ApiJect dwarfs the other needle orders the government has placed with a major manufacturer and two other small companies.

"The fact of this matter is, it would be crazy for people to just rely on us. I would be the first to say it," said ApiJect CEO Jay Walker. "We should be America's backup at this point, but probably not its primary."

Trump administration officials would not say why they are investing so heavily in ApiJect's technology. The company has made only about 1,000 prototypes to date, and it's not clear whether those devices can deliver the vaccines that are currently in development. So far, the leading candidates are using traditional vials to hold the vaccine, and needles and syringes in their clinical trials.

Undated image provided by ApiJect Systems America in July 2020 shows a prototype of their "BFS" prefilled syringe. The devices are self-contained: the soft plastic blister is squeezed to push a dosage through the attached needle to inject into a patient. It also includes a computer chip that can transmit information about the drug, dose, location and time of administration. When precious vats of COVID-19 vaccine are finally ready, the ability to jab the lifesaving solution into the arms of Americans will require hundreds of millions of injections. (ApiJect Systems America via AP)ire hundreds of millions of injections. (AP Photo/Ted S. Warren, File)

RELUCTANT SUPPLIER

ApiJect founder Marc Koska never intended to vaccinate the United States. For the past five years, he's been working on his lifetime mission of creating an ultra low-cost prefilled syringe that would reduce the need to reuse needles in the developing world. Instead, the company's biggest customer has become the U.S. government.

ApiJect received a no-bid contract earlier this year from the Defense Department under an exception for "unusual and compelling urgency." Authorities said the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, tasked with buying the necessary supplies, "does not have the resources or capacity to conduct procurements necessary to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic," according to a June 5 military document.

The government promised ApiJect $138 million to produce 100 million of its devices by the end of the year, which will require the company to retrofit new manufacturing lines in existing factories. And it's offered another $456 million as part of a public-private partnership contract to bring online several new factories to make another 500 million devices to "contain the pandemic spread to minimize the loss of life and impact to the United States economy," said the document.

These amounts are more than double the per-syringe cost the government is paying other companies for the work. ApiJect first appeared on the U.S. government's radar almost two years ago when the company piqued the interest of Admiral Brett P. Giroir, HHS's assistant secretary for health, at the World Health Organization's Global Conference on Primary Health Care in Astana, Kazakhstan.

Koska said Giroir was "blown away" by their technology and told them that if a pandemic hit, the strategic national stockpile was going to need a very fast way to get injections filled with vaccines or therapeutics and ready to deliver.

According to Walker, the CEO, ApiJect wasn't interested in a federal contract — they were aiming to change the developing world with quick, inexpensive injection devices that could save millions of lives. But at the conference, Walker found himself at a table with Giroir at a luncheon, just two seats apart. The admiral was fascinated by the low-cost injection technology, Walker said, and when Walker showed him the prototype that he always carries in his pocket, Giroir asked how they plan to do this in the U.S.

Walker said he told the admiral that the company wasn't planning to operate in the U.S. but was struck by Giroir's enthusiasm.

"He was the first person, if not the only person at the event, who understood the revolutionary nature of this platform," Walker recalled in an interview with AP. "And he said, 'Wow this is amazing. You need to do this in the U.S.'"

Walker continued to resist, he said, but Giroir — who is also a doctor specializing in pediatric critical care — "wasn't big on taking no for an answer," Walker said. At Giroir's urging they presented the prototype injector to U.S. officials. HHS declined to make agency officials available for interviews.

It wasn't until later, when Walker was introduced by a friend to Col. Matthew Hepburn at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, that a plan for ApiJect to work in the United States began to take shape, he said. HHS Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response Robert Kadlec approved a $10 million contract for ApiJect for research and development in January 2020, according to a document in the federal procurement data system. The company was responsible for securing private investments to create new production lines where the devices would be made over three to five years. When the pandemic emerged weeks later, officials sounded the alarm about a potential shortage of needles and syringes to deliver a vaccine if and when one became available.

The federal Strategic National Stockpile of medical supplies had only 15 million syringes, according to Rick Bright, who later left his position at Health and Human Services and filed a whistleblower complaint. Bright warned White House trade adviser Peter Navarro and his HHS colleagues of a looming needle shortfall, according to a series of emails disclosed in his complaint.

"We are hearing rumblings about the US inventory of needles and syringes … heading to other countries," wrote Bright. "There is limited inventory in the supply chain, it could take 2+ years to make enough to satisfy the U.S. vaccine needs." Navarro said the U.S. would need 850 million needles.

"We may find ourselves in a situation where we have enough vaccine but no way to deliver all of it," he said in a February memo to the White House coronavirus task force.

He recommended the task force "direct HHS BARDA to initiate a program to identify all alternate vaccine delivery methods and ramp up production." BARDA is the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority within HHS.

Suddenly ApiJect's 5-year plan to mass produce its devices became a sprint measured in months with a new $138 million contract, announced in May, to produce 100 million devices by year's end.

The company said they have started discussions with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to review the device on a priority basis while the company moves ahead fitting factories to make their injectors. The agency wouldn't confirm this, citing its policy against discussing products involved in clinical trials. Testing different vaccine candidates in the ApiJect devices will be critical before injecting the public.

Plastic could interact differently with the liquid than the glass vials currently used in trials, experts say. And there are strict temperature requirements. ApiJect's planned process is to pour vaccine doses into the warm plastic blisters as they come off the production line, the company says. ApiJect says they can instantly cool the devices as they are made. (Courtesy https://apnews.com/)

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

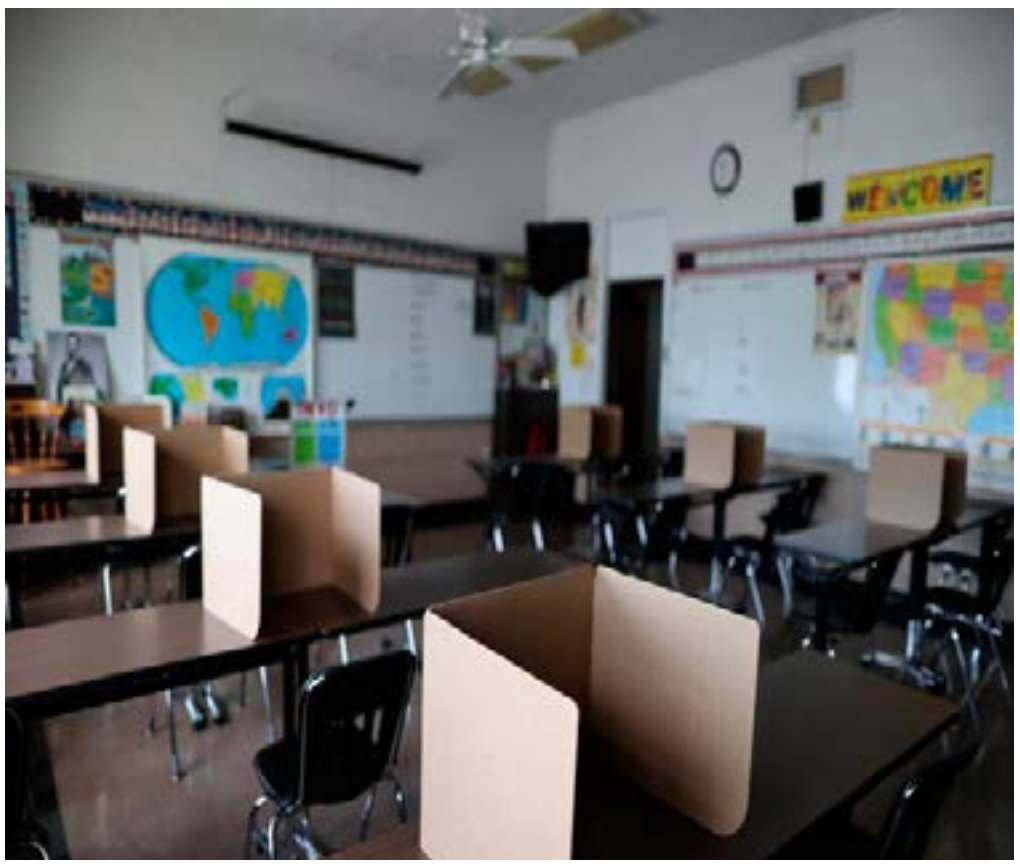
Editor's Choice

Fireworks explode near the Eiffel Tower, in a picture taken from the Montparnasse Tower Observation Deck, at the end of Bastille Day celebrations in Paris, France. REUTERS/Charles Platia

Reporters sit as Joe Biden speaks about his plans for tackling climate change during a campaign event in Wilmington, Delaware. REUTERS/Leah Millis

A male 12-day-old sea lion cub is seen with its mother Peaches in their enclosure at Schoenbrunner Tiergarten zoo in Vienna, Austria. REUTERS/Lisi Niesner

A male 12-day-old sea lion cub is seen with its mother Peaches in their enclosure at Schoenbrunner Tiergarten zoo in Vienna, Austria. REUTERS/Lisi Niesner



Social distancing dividers for students are seen in a classroom at St. Benedict School in Montebello, near Los Angeles, California. REUTERS/Lucy Nicholson

A volunteer delivers food rations at a so-called 'Olla comun', a communal kitchen set up to provide hot food for those with dwindling incomes or nothing, during the spread of the coronavirus in Valparaiso, Chile. REUTERS/Rodrigo Garrido

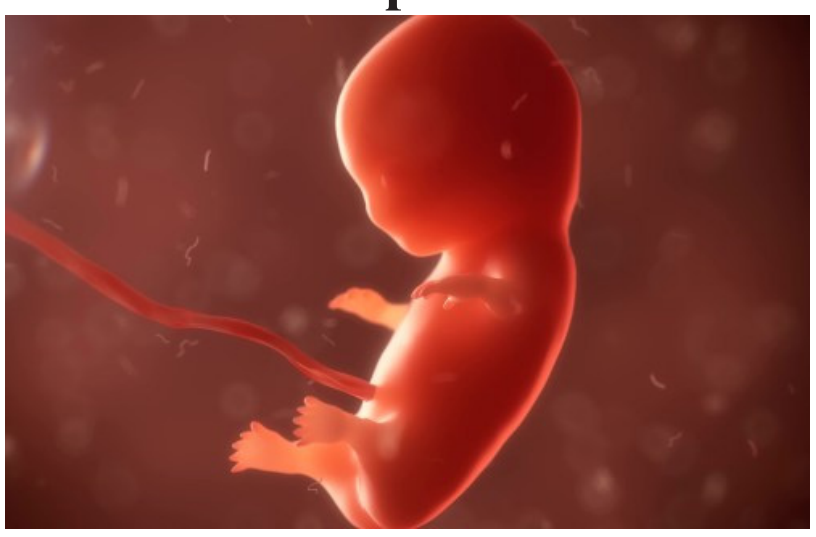
A protester stands as police use a water cannon during a protest against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his government's response to the financial fallout of the coronavirus crisis near Netanyahu's residence in Jerusalem

Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro is seen at the Alvorada Palace, amid the coronavirus outbreak, in Brasilia, Brazil. REUTERS/Ueslei Marcelino

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

COMMUNITY

First Documented Case Of Baby Infected With COVID-19 In Womb Reported In Texas



(Photo/© unlimit3d- stock.adobe.com)

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

DALLAS — Previous research shows the chance of pregnant women infecting their newborns with COVID-19 is very low. A new report from Texas, however, is sparking fresh concerns for expecting mothers. Doctors say a baby was infected with the coronavirus while still inside the womb.

A team from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center believe the baby girl is the first case of "in utero transmission" during the pandemic.

The study in *The Pediatric Infectious Disease Journal* reports the child was born prematurely to a mother who tested positive for COVID-19. The child began to display symptoms of the virus within two days of her birth.

COVID-19 in the womb

Researchers say the majority of women with coronavirus have their babies without passing on the illness before, during, or after delivery. In this case, the study finds evidence that virus cells can infect the placenta — the organ that provides oxygen and nutrients to a developing fetus.

"Our study is the first to document intrauterine transmission of the infection during pregnancy," says Dr. Amanda Evans in a release.

The researcher adds there are signs of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, in the fetal cells of the mother's placenta. Further tests reveal there is inflammation in the tissue and proteins specific to COVID-19 present that confirms the infection occurring in the womb.

A difficult delivery

The report also details the many difficulties for the mother and child during this pregnancy. The Dallas team reports the mother not only has COVID-19, but is diabetic too. The baby was born after just 34 weeks, after the mother experienced a rupture of the membranes.

The study says the infant is "large for gestational age," which is a critical complication among babies with diabetic mothers. The baby was placed in the neonatal ICU and was healthy for the first 24 hours. On her second day however, she developed multiple symptoms of COVID-19 including a fever and breathing problems.

"It is unlikely that the respiratory distress observed in this infant was due to prematurity since it did not start until the second day of life," researchers explain.

The baby then tested positive for the virus but fortunately did not need a ventilator. Doctors say both the mother and newborn were released in good condition three weeks later.

'A rare event'

Doctors emphasize that this incident appears to be uncommon. Still, they are recommending more research on the link between SARS-CoV-2 transmission and pregnancy.

"Intrauterine transmission of SARS-CoV-2 appears to be a rare event," says Dr. Julide Sisman. "We wanted to be very careful of our interpretation of this data, but now is an even more important time for pregnant women to protect themselves from COVID-19," Dr. Evans adds.

The researchers recommend expectant mothers to follow the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention during their pregnancies. (Courtesy https://www.studyfinds.org/)

Related

New Study Latest To Suggest Remdesivir Is Viable Coronavirus Treatment Option

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — A new trial involving the anti-viral drug remdesivir produces some good news regarding its potential as an effective COVID-19 treatment option. When exposed to samples of SARS-CoV-2 within human lung cell cultures, remdesivir "potently inhibited" the coronavirus. Furthermore, when remdesivir was given to lab mice infected with COVID-19, the rodents' lung functioning started to improve.

(Photo/(© Feydzhet Shabanov - stock.adobe.com)

This research was conducted by the Vanderbilt University Medical Center, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Gilead Sciences.

While these results are still pre-clinical, they nonetheless go a long way toward validating remdesivir's positive effect thus far among many COVID-19 patients. Administration of the drug to COVID-19 patients in the U.S. on a compassionate use basis is ongoing since late January. Clinical trials started up in February.

Fast forward to April of this year, and a preliminary report on remdesivir found that many coronavirus patients given the drug recovered at a faster pace than others.

"All of the results with remdesivir have been very encouraging, even more so than we would have hoped, but it is still investigational, so it was important to directly demonstrate its activity against SARS-CoV-2 in the lab and in an animal model of disease," says co-study author VUMC's Andrea Pruijssers, PhD, in a release.

Remdesivir successful against several viruses

Remdesivir isn't a new medication to the research team. Their studies on the drug date back to 2014. They were also the first to document that the drug shows "broad and highly potent activity" against coronaviruses. Remdesivir was first developed by Gilead Sciences to treat hepatitis C and respiratory syncytial virus, but it has also been used to treat the Ebola virus.

These new findings provide "the first rigorous demonstration of potent inhibition of SARS-CoV-2 in continuous and primary human lung cultures."

This research is also the first to discover remdesivir is capable of blocking the coronavirus in mice.

Of course, there is still a lot of work to be done. Additional trials can ultimately determine just how effective the drug is against the various stages of a COVID-19 infection.

"We also are focusing on how to use remdesivir and other drugs in combinations to increase their effectiveness during COVID-19 and to be able to treat at different times of infection," Pruijssers comments.

Looking to the future

This isn't the first time an animal-based coronavirus has made the jump to humans. Researchers say it likely won't be the last.

"Broad-spectrum antiviral drugs, antibodies, and vaccines are needed to combat the current pandemic and those that will emerge in the future," the study reads.

Remdesivir has also proved capable of fighting other bat coronaviruses, which bodes well for the future in the event another coronavirus jumps to humans.

"We hope that will never happen, but just as we were working to characterize remdesivir over the past six years to be ready for a virus like SARS-CoV-2, we are working and investing now to prepare for any future coronavirus," Denison concludes. "We want remdesivir and other drugs to be useful both now and in the future." (Courtesy https://www.studyfinds.org/)