

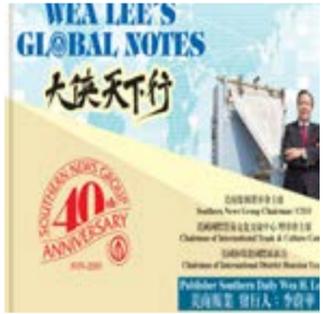


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Southern DAILY

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Oregon says federal agents to pull back from Portland after clashes



Federal law enforcement officers close a street downtown as they move towards protesters during a demonstration against police violence and racial inequality in Portland, Oregon, U.S., July 29, 2020. REUTERS/Caitlin Ochs

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Oregon's governor on Wednesday said the federal government has agreed to withdraw agents from Portland, a step toward ending a standoff with U.S. President Donald Trump over the use of federal force, although the U.S. Department of Homeland Security said it would maintain its presence until conditions improved.

Governor Kate Brown said that after discussions with Vice President Mike Pence and others, the government had agreed to end the "occupying force" stationed at a federal courthouse in Portland after weeks of clashes between activists and agents.

Brown said that all agents from Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement would exit the area on Thursday, drawing down a federal presence that has included the use of unmarked vans to apprehend protesters, raising questions over possible civil rights violations.

"They have acted as an occupying force & brought violence," Brown, a Democrat who has clashed with Trump, wrote on Twitter.

"Our local Oregon State Police officers will be downtown to protect Oregonians' right to free speech and keep the peace."

The Oregon withdrawal dovetailed with the announcement

of a deployment of federal agents to Cleveland, Milwaukee and Detroit, expanding a separate program aimed at curtailing a surge of violent crime in some cities. Some mayors said they were willing to accept the help, while others expressed worries over the Republican president's potential political motives in an election year.

Regarding Oregon, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said it had agreed on a joint plan to end the violence in which state and local law enforcement would begin to secure areas around the Hatfield Federal Courthouse and other federal properties in Portland.

On a call with reporters on Wednesday, DHS Acting Secretary Chad Wolf declined to provide a timeline for federal officers to leave the city, saying they will remain "until we see that the plan is working." He said that DHS's Federal Protective Service, which provides security for federal buildings, would remain the lead agency responsible for protecting the courthouse.

Wolf suggested that Oregon State Police could secure a second perimeter outside the courthouse fence to prevent "violent individuals" from approaching the building, which has been at the center of the unrest, but said that some of the state officers would likely be positioned on the courthouse grounds, as well.

Trump, seeking re-election in November, has sought to crack down on protests to highlight his focus on law and order amid

protests and unrest across the country after the May 25 killing of a Black man, George Floyd, by Minneapolis police. The federal government deployed teams of tactical agents to Portland in early July to defend the Portland courthouse, drawing criticism from Democrats and civil liberties groups who alleged excessive force and federal overreach by Trump. Brown and Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler, both Democrats, complained they never asked for the federal officers and their presence was worsening the situation with protesters. "We would do well to remember that this movement is not about the legal right of federal law enforcement to operate in our cities. It's about the urgent and necessary work of criminal justice, racial justice and policing reform," Wheeler told a briefing on Wednesday with other Democratic mayors. Solidarity protests spread over the weekend to other U.S. cities, prompting complaints by Democratic mayors that illegal federal deployments were escalating tensions across the country. Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan on Tuesday said U.S. Border Patrol Tactical Unit officers had withdrawn from her city. Separately, the Justice Department said it would send dozens of law enforcement officials to Cleveland, Milwaukee and Detroit, following similar deployments to Chicago, Kansas City, Missouri; and Albuquerque, New Mexico earlier this month. Distinct from the operation in Portland to secure the federal courthouse, these deployments are being made under what is known as Operation Legend, an initiative launched to address spikes in violent crimes like murders, which have risen by nearly 31 percent in Detroit compared with 2019.

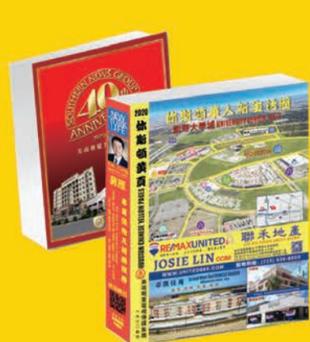
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WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

07/29/2020

CORONAVIRUS DIARY

More Stimulus Money Is On The Way

Senate Republicans presented an outline for another stimulus package to help businesses, schools, health care facilities and everyday Americans amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

and a moratorium on outstanding evictions among other types of aid. A second round of stimulus checks would put \$1,200 into the hands of more than 150 million Americans.

The fourth stimulus package proposed by the Congress calls for more forgiveness loans for small business and federal unemployment insurance at \$200 per week instead of \$600 per week. Money to help schools reopen, personal protection gear for healthcare workers

We are so glad the fourth stimulus bill is working in Congress for those people and businesses that need it the most. Not many countries in the world can do something like this, but this kind of economic aid is not the final resolution.



Up until this date there are sixteen million, four hundred thousand confirmed cases in the world of the coronavirus and six hundred and fifty thousand people have lost their lives. In America alone, we have had one hundred and fifty thousand deaths. This is more than double what we had originally estimated.

more dramatic measures to coordinate with local governments and let the medical professionals take over the stage. They are the ones who can make the right decisions -- not the politicians.

After almost five months now, we think the federal government needs to take

President Trump will be in west Texas today to meet with his supporters. We really want him to visit the U.S.-Mexico border towns to witness how the local poor people are suffering now.



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Publisher Southern Daily Wea H. Lee

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BUSINESS

Wear Mask!

The Health Agency Warns That The Number Of Global Cases Has Hit 16 Million - A Staggering Rise Of One Million In Only Four Days

Covid-19 Is 'The Most Severe' Emergency WHO Has Declared



The Generalitat of Valencia postponed the celebration of Las Fallas Festival 2020 traditionally celebrated in March over coronavirus prevention. Spain, 12 March 2020.

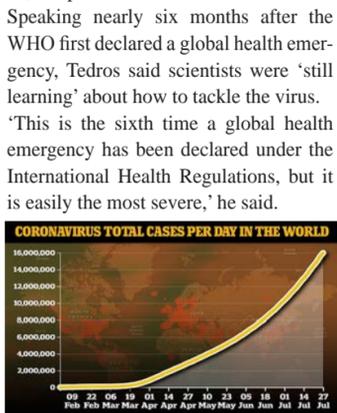
KEY POINTS

- Huge outbreaks in the US, India and Brazil are leading the global surge in cases
- WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said cases had doubled in six weeks
- Spain, Belgium and Hong Kong are facing second waves of the disease
- But global deaths have remained stagnant at around 30 to 40,000 per week

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

The coronavirus pandemic is 'easily the most severe' emergency that the WHO has ever declared, the agency said today as global cases surged past 16million. The global tally has risen by a million in just four days, led by massive outbreaks in the United States, India and Brazil which are each piling up tens of thousands of new cases per day. South Africa is also seeing more than 10,000 new cases a day while places such as Spain, Belgium and Hong Kong are facing second waves of the disease. WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the number of cases had doubled in just six weeks as he warned today that 'the pandemic continues to accelerate'. However, while cases have been surging in record levels, global deaths have

remained stagnant at around 30,000 to 40,000 per week. Speaking nearly six months after the WHO first declared a global health emergency, Tedros said scientists were 'still learning' about how to tackle the virus. 'This is the sixth time a global health emergency has been declared under the International Health Regulations, but it is easily the most severe,' he said.



The global tally of coronavirus cases

has reached 16million after rising by one million in just four days, led by massive outbreaks in the United States, India and Brazil.

'Almost 16 million cases have now been reported to WHO, and more than 640,000 deaths,' he said before cases did cross the 16million threshold.

'And the pandemic continues to accelerate. In the past six weeks, the total number of cases has roughly doubled.'

When the health emergency was declared on January 30 there were fewer than 100 cases outside China, Tedros said.

According to WHO figures, the world passed one million confirmed cases on April 4, by which time much of the West was in lockdown.

The world reached five million cases on May 23 - 114 days after the declaration of the health emergency - but the next five million took only 36 days until June 28.

The jump from 10 million to 15 million took only 26 days until July 23, and the latest million cases have been recorded in the space of only four days.

The United States, India and Brazil - the three countries with more than a million confirmed cases by themselves - are taking the brunt of the latest surge.

India today set a new record of 49,931 cases in 24 hours, while Brazil has averaged nearly 46,000 cases per day over the last week.



WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (pictured) warned today that the global number of coronavirus cases had doubled in just six weeks

Elsewhere in Latin America, countries including Mexico, Colombia and Argentina are all piling up thousands of new cases per day, with Mexico's death toll now nearly as high as Britain's.

Tedros praised countries such as Germany and South Korea for keeping their outbreaks

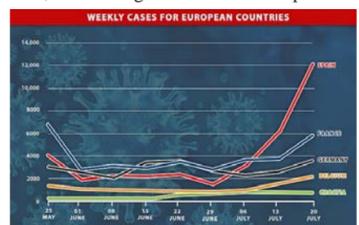
under control because social distancing measures were followed - but warned that 'where they are not, cases go up'.

He added: 'Covid-19 has changed our world. It has brought people, communities and nations together, and driven them apart. It has shown what humans are capable of - both positively and negatively. We have learned an enormous amount, and we're still learning.'

'But although our world has changed, the fundamental pillars of the response have not: political leadership, and informing, engaging and listening to communities. And nor have the basic measures needed to suppress transmission and save lives: find, isolate, test and care for cases; and trace and quarantine their contacts.'

'Keep your distance from others, clean your hands, avoid crowded and enclosed areas, and wear a mask where recommended. Where these measures are followed, cases go down. Where they're not, cases go up.'

Among the places suffering a new wave of coronavirus cases is Hong Kong, with more than 1,000 new infections since early July. New cases have been above 100 for the last five days and the city of 7.5 million now has more than 2,700 infections with 20 fatalities, threatening to overwhelm hospitals.



Some European countries have seen a rise in cases in recent days, including Spain which has seen Britain, France and Norway impose new travel restrictions towards it

Tough new measures include mandatory masks, a ban on more than two people gathering in public and restaurants only being allowed to serve takeaway meals.

The government has already shut a number of businesses including bars, nightclubs and gyms, and rules have been tightened for freight vessels and air crews.

In Europe, Spain, France and Germany have all seen week-on-week increases in their numbers of new cases.

Spain has seen Britain, France and Norway impose new travel restrictions after adding 12,166 new cases to its tally last week, up from 6,347 the week before.

In Germany, which has been widely praised for its handling of the crisis, officials say the rising numbers are 'very concerning'.

Tougher rules on wearing masks came into force on Saturday amid growing fears of a second wave of the pandemic. (Courtesy <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/>)



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Editor's Choice



Muslim pilgrims maintain social distancing as they circle the Kaaba at the Grand mosque during the annual Hajj pilgrimage amid the coronavirus pandemic, in the holy city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia July 29. Saudi Ministry of Media/Handout via REUTERS



A demonstrator reacts during a protest against racial inequality and police violence in Portland, Oregon, July 28, 2020. REUTERS/Caitlin Ochs



People line up to get a gas canister due to a shortage caused by YPFB (Yacimientos Petroliferos Fiscales Bolivianos) workers infected by the coronavirus in Senkata, El Alto outskirts of La Paz, Bolivia, July 28. REUTERS/Manuel Claire



Attorney General William Barr appears before the House Judiciary Committee on Capitol Hill, in Washington, July 28. Matt McClain/Pool via REUTERS



An aerial view of tents prepared for Muslim pilgrims during the Hajj pilgrimage, amid the coronavirus outbreak, in the holy city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia July 28. Saudi Press Agency/Handout via REUTERS



Actor Amber Heard delivers a statement as she leaves the High Court in London, Britain July 28. REUTERS/Toby Melville



A family watches the funeral of a relative under the coronavirus protocols at La Bermeja cemetery in San Salvador, El Salvador July 27. REUTERS/Jose Cabezas



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Conservative MP for Broxtowe Darren Henry ride their bikes at the Canal Side Heritage Centre, after the government announced a new plan to get Britain cycling in Beeston near Nottingham, Britain, July 28.

As the number of positive COVID-19 cases continues to surge and the Texas Department of Health is reporting an average of 9,358 new cases per day over the past week, testing sites are increasingly overwhelmed and processing backlogs are causing delays in providing patients their results. To respond to the urgent need for effective testing to help stop the spread, Houston-based GMED Global, LLC has announced the launch of its first rapid COVID-19 testing operation. GMED's Rapid COVID Clinic has opened a drive-through testing site at 5556 Gasmer Drive in Houston. COVID testing is available by appointment or for drop-ins, with results available in under an hour.



A rapid nasal swab antigen test that detects the virus in as little as 15 minutes. Get your result back the same day.

At the center Houstonians can be tested for COVID-19 in the comfort of their own cars, by simply driving through the center. The center also has the capacity to serve those who wish to drop-in and have no prior appointments. While individuals wait in the center's parking lot, the results will be available to them in under 30 minutes. The goal of this initiative is to make testing fast, anxiety free, and highly efficient, so anyone with positive results can act quickly and appropriately, before the disease reaches an acute stage and requires hospitalization. This unique test, manufactured by Quidel, is one of the few rapid antigen tests in the country. It provides a pain-free nasal swab that can be self-administered - minimiz-

GMED Global Opens Rapid COVID-19 Drive Thru Testing Center In Houston

ing the exposure between test takers and health care providers. This highly accurate test directly detects the presence of COVID-19 and offers results in approximately 30 minutes to one hour.



Rapid COVID-19 Testing Unit
"We're proud to offer access to rapid COVID testing to the Houston community," said Dr. Ramin Ahmadi, Co-founder and Chief Operating Officer of GMED. "Our goal is to make the entire process fast, anxiety-free, and highly efficient, so anyone with positive results can act quickly to isolate and seek treatment before the disease reaches an acute stage and requires hospitalization. By helping to identify COVID-positive individuals in our community we're also hoping to support contact tracing efforts to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus and save lives."

"Our goal is to make the entire process fast, anxiety-free, and highly efficient, so anyone with positive results can act quickly to isolate and seek treatment before the disease reaches an acute stage and requires hospitalization."

In addition to confirming the virus in both symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals, negative test results can also be used to return to work and travel safely. GMED also offers on-site COVID-19 screening to area businesses, federal health clinics, and schools.

The test does not require a doctor's referral. Individuals can simply make an online appointment or drive to the testing site. The cost of each test is \$135, payable by credit card. Appointments can be made via email at contact@rapidcovidclinic.com or online at www.rapidcovidclinic.com. Tel: (832) 713-2967. Additional contact: Dr. Ramin Ahmadi at 281-336-1331.

Related
Long Waits For Results Render COVID-19 Tests 'Useless,' As States Seek Workarounds



A wait of a week or more for results can deem the tests moot, since few people, especially those without symptoms, are likely to remain quarantined that long — and if the test comes back positive, they may already be over the disease. (Getty/RossHelen)

States frustrated by private laboratories' increasingly long turnarounds for COVID-19 test results are scrambling to find ways to salvage their testing programs.

The State of Montana said Wednesday that it is dropping Quest Diagnostics, one of the nation's largest diagnostic testing companies. The Secaucus, New Jersey-based company had done all the state's surveillance COVID-19 testing—drive-thru testing that moves from community to community to help track COVID-19's spread. But it told state officials last week that it was at capacity and would be unable to accommodate more tests for two or three weeks.

"We don't want to be left high and dry again in the event that the national demand for testing puts a state like ours onto the back burner," Democratic Gov. Steve Bullock said.

California, Florida and other states that work with Quest have started experimenting with separate, expedited lines for people who have symptoms of the disease. Some states are contracting with other private labs. And CVS, which uses Quest for COVID-19 tests at many of its sites nationwide, said it is looking for more lab partners to reduce wait times for results.

Quest, LabCorp and other private labs have

struggled to expand quickly enough to meet demand as states expand their testing and cases soar across the nation. Officials for Quest, which handles about 130,000 tests daily in 20 laboratories, said its ability to expand has been limited by a global shortage of the machines and chemical reagents needed to perform COVID-19 testing. Monday, Quest announced that turnaround times had slowed to a week or more, up from three or four days in June. It also said some patients may face wait times of up to two weeks. Quest officials warned this week that could get worse as flu season starts this fall.

A wait of a week or more for results can make the tests moot, since few people, especially those without symptoms, are likely to remain quarantined that long — and if the test comes back positive, they may already be over the disease.

"We are working with a number of different organizations to provide as much testing as possible, but some of these constraints are out of our control," Quest spokesperson Wendy Bost said. "We've taken the step of asking our clients to modulate the testing demand by focusing on patients who are most in need at this time."

The Trump administration is also trying to speed up turnaround times by allowing some labs to use an approach known as pooled testing, which combines samples from multiple people and then screens the individual samples only if the batch comes back positive for the virus. But public health experts worry it may be too late to try pool testing, as the percentage of positive results has doubled or tripled in many parts of the country.



States grappling with rising caseloads amid the testing slowdown have grown exasperated. Colorado Gov. Jared Polis, a Democrat, told NBC's "Meet the Press" on Sunday that

it can take up to nine days to get test results from

Quest and LabCorp. "Almost useless from an epidemiological or even diagnostic perspective," Polis said. LabCorp officials say turnaround times are improving.

Those who worry they have COVID-19 are also frustrated. In San Francisco, Mark Mackler, a 71-year-old retired law librarian, went with his husband to get a free test at the Bernal Heights Recreation Center on June 28 for peace of mind. He expected results after five days, but the test, processed by Quest, took 16 days—it came back negative for COVID-19.

In California, Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom acknowledged Quest's slow turnaround times at a press conference Wednesday.

"It's rather preposterous that you get a test and 13, 14 days later you get the results," Newsom said, adding that the results in those cases are "utterly meaningless." But, he added, "We're not going to abandon Quest. We need them as one of our partners." (Courtesy <https://www.fiercebiotech.com/> via Kaiser Health News)



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