

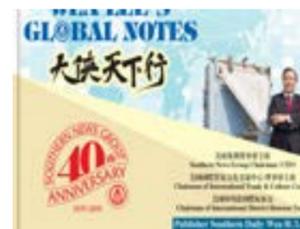


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Mr. Lee's Commentary and Dairy



Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

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## Next big COVID-19 treatment may be manufactured antibodies



FILE PHOTO: A Lab technician works at Sorrento Therapeutics where efforts are underway to develop an antibody, STI-1499, to help in prevention of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in San Diego, California, U.S., May 22, 2020. REUTERS/Mike

(Reuters) - As the world awaits a COVID-19 vaccine, the next big advance in battling the pandemic could come from a class of biotech therapies widely used against cancer and other disorders - antibodies designed specifically to attack this new virus.

Development of monoclonal antibodies to target the virus has been endorsed by leading scientists. Anthony Fauci, the top U.S. infectious diseases expert, called them "almost a sure bet" against COVID-19.

When a virus gets past the body's initial defenses, a more specific response kicks in, triggering production of cells that target the invader. These include antibodies that recognize and lock onto a virus, preventing the infection from spreading.

Monoclonal antibodies - grown in bioreactor vats - are copies of these naturally-occurring proteins.

### RELATED COVERAGE

New Jersey governor retightens restrictions on indoor gatherings after COVID-19 surge  
Scientists are still working out the exact role of neutralizing antibodies in recovery from COVID-19, but drugmakers are confident that the right antibodies or a combination can alter the course of the disease that has claimed more than 675,000 lives globally.

"Antibodies can block infectivity. That is a fact," Re-

generon Pharmaceuticals executive Christos Kyratsous told Reuters.

Regeneron is testing a two-antibody cocktail, which it believes limits the ability of the virus' to escape better than one, with data on its efficacy expected by late summer or early fall. "Protection will wane over time. Dosing is something we don't know yet," said Kyratsous.

The U.S. government in June awarded Regeneron a \$450 million supply contract. The company said it can immediately begin production at its U.S. plant if regulators approve the treatment.

GlaxoSmithKline were cleared by the U.S. government to pool manufacturing resources in order to scale up supplies if any of these drugs prove successful.

Even with that unusual cooperation among rivals, manufacturing these medicines is complex and capacity is limited. There is also a debate over whether a single antibody will be powerful enough to stop COVID-19.

AstraZeneca said it plans to start human trials of its dual-antibody combination within weeks.

Lilly, which began human testing in June of two antibody candidates in separate trials, is focusing on a one-drug approach.

"If you need a higher dosage or more antibodies, fewer people

can be treated," Lilly Chief Scientific Officer Dan Skovronsky said.

### 'INSTANT IMMUNITY'

Unlike vaccines, which activate the body's own immune system, the impact of infused antibodies eventually dissipates. Still, drugmakers say monoclonal antibodies could temporarily prevent infection in at-risk people such as medical workers and the elderly. They could also be used as a therapeutic bridge until vaccines become widely available.

"In a prophylactic setting we think we may achieve coverage for up to six months," said Phil Pang, chief medical officer of Vir Biotechnology, which aims to start testing an antibody in non-hospitalized patients next month with partner GSK.

"The advantage of an antibody is that it is basically instant immunity," said Mark Brunswick, senior vice president at Sorrento Therapeutics, which aims to begin human trials next month of a single antibody candidate.

Safety risks for monoclonal antibodies are considered low, but their cost can be quite high. These type of drugs for cancer can cost over \$100,000 a year.

There is also concern that the coronavirus could become resistant to specific antibodies. Researchers are already at work on second-generation compounds with targets other than the crown-like spikes the virus uses to invade cells.

"We are trying to develop something that is complementary," Amgen research chief David Reese said. Amgen is working with Adaptive Biotechnologies Corp.

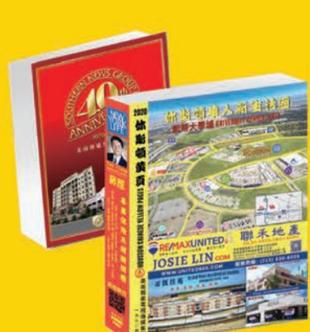
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## More Widespread Cases Being Seen Birx Says U.S. 'In A New Phase' Of COVID-19 Pandemic



Deborah Birx, has served as the Coronavirus Response Coordinator for the White House Coronavirus Task Force since February 2020

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

(CNN)Dr. Deborah Birx on Sunday said the US is in a new phase in its fight against the coronavirus pandemic, saying that the deadly virus is more widespread than when it first took hold in the US earlier this year.

"What we are seeing today is different from March and April. It is extraordinarily widespread. It's into the rural as equal urban areas," Birx, the White House coronavirus task force coordinator, told CNN's Dana Bash on "State of the Union."

Birx stressed that Americans need to follow health recommendations, including wearing a mask and practicing social distancing.

"To everybody who lives in a rural area, you are not immune or protected from this virus," Birx said. "If you're in multi-generational households, and there's an outbreak in your rural area or in your city, you need to really consider wearing a mask at home, assuming that you're positive, if you have individuals in your households with comorbidities."

"This epidemic right now is different and it's more widespread and it's both rural and urban," she added.

the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, projects more than 173,000 American deaths by August 22, and former US Food and Drug Administrator Dr. Scott Gottlieb warned on CNBC last month that the coronavirus death toll could double to 300,000 deaths by the end of the year, if the country doesn't change its trajectory. On Sunday, Birx would not give a projection of how many deaths the US would see by the end of year, but she said a death toll largely depends on southern and western states to maintain and accelerate their mitigation efforts. Those states have become hot spots for the virus.

"It's not super spreading individuals, it's super spreading events and we need to stop those. We definitely need to take more precautions," Birx told Bash.



Birx defends herself as Pelosi accuses Trump administration of spreading

### disinformation on Covid-19.

Asked if it was time to reset the federal government response to the pandemic, Birx said, "I think the federal government reset about five to six weeks ago when we saw this starting to happen across the south."

But roughly six weeks ago, Vice President Mike Pence, who heads the coronavirus task force, declared in a Wall Street Journal op-ed that the US is "winning the fight" and there "isn't a 'second wave.'" Birx did not address those claims on Sunday.

As of Sunday, the US had reported more than 4.6 million cases of Covid-19 and at least 154,449 Americans have died, according to data from the Johns Hopkins University. (Courtesy cnn.com)

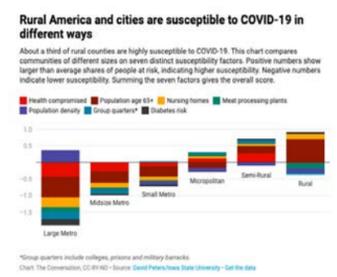
### Related

### Rural America is more vulnerable to COVID-19 than the cities are and they now see increases in illness

Rural areas seemed immune as the coronavirus spread through cities earlier this year. Few rural cases were reported, and attention focused on the surge of illnesses and deaths in the big metro areas. But that false sense of safety is now falling apart as infection rates explode in rural areas across the country.

Of the top 25 COVID-19 hot spots that popped up in the last two weeks, 18 were in non-metropolitan counties. Arkansas, North Carolina and Texas all set records in mid-June for the number of people entering hospitals for COVID-19. Georgia's daily reported death toll from COVID-19 was up 35% compared to three weeks earlier.

### Where the high-risk populations are



About one-third of the most rural coun-

ties have susceptibility scores in the 80th percentile or higher, as do 29% of semi-rural counties and 19% of micropolitan counties, those with a city of 50,000 people or less. A map of these susceptibility scores shows high-risk communities are concentrated in the Great Plains, Midwest, around the Great Lakes and in some parts of the South.

Some counties are at high risk on just one factor, but have low overall susceptibility. Apache County in northeast Arizona, home to the Navajo Nation, is one example. High rates of diabetes mortality make this group highly susceptible to COVID-19. However, the lower percentage of senior citizens and other risk factors lowers the overall score.

### COVID-19 susceptibility by county

Rural areas stand out in a county-level assessment of major risk factors for COVID-19. The vulnerabilities measured include the population density, age and health status, and presence of nursing and elder care facilities, meatpacking plants and group facilities such as prisons.



### Trends that stand out:

- Rural counties are primarily susceptible due to their large senior populations. COVID-19 outbreaks are likely to originate in care facilities for the elderly, posing risks for residents and workers alike.
- In semi-rural places, institutions like prisons and military bases add to the risk, as do high numbers of residents who are older or whose health is already compromised.
- Micropolitans are at above average susceptibility due to residents' health issues, large numbers of meat processing plant workers and care facilities. Semi-rural and micropolitan counties typically provide employment and social services for a region, likely attracting higher-risk populations.
- By contrast, the populations of metropolitan counties have lower susceptibility, though the largest ones face a risk of community spread of the virus because of their high population densities. Cities have lower percentages of older resi-

dents and people living in institutional settings. However, a small number of cases in densely populated cities can trigger large outbreaks, driving national cases and deaths.



Researchers at Princeton came to similar conclusions about the high susceptibility of rural counties in a study published June 16 that modeled the impact if 20% of the population in every U.S. county became infected.

### Tailoring responses to a pandemic

By knowing how populations are susceptible to severe outbreaks, communities can tailor their responses. In large metropolitan cities, susceptibility is clearly driven by high population densities, making business closures and shelter-in-place orders essential to slow community spread of COVID-19. But since rural areas are more sparsely populated, general shelter-in-place orders may be less effective. Instead, rural and micropolitan communities will need to isolate members of specific vulnerable populations quickly. This includes people in poor health, older residents, people living in institutional settings and workers in large meat processing facilities. (Courtesy the conversation.com)



# WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

08/03/2020

CORONAVIRUS DIARY

## International Asian Community Legal Assistance Center

In the last one-half year, because of the coronavirus pandemic, our community is facing a lot of discrimination and the people are so anxious and really feel unsafe.

Most of the international immigrants and Asians came to America looking for liberty and freedom. I have traveled all over America from the east coast to New York, Boston, Washington DC, to the west coast and Los Angeles, San Francisco and the northwest to Seattle, Portland and to the midwest to Chicago, St. Louis and other cities. We have witnessed these newcomers to America and they are working so hard and they are making big contributions in the business, medical and many professional fields.

In the last several decades our civil rights leaders have already laid the groundwork for all of us. This nation was built on equity and freedom. We all as citizens need protection for our U. S. constitutional rights.

Now this is the time we need to act. We are working with fifteen to twenty prominent lawyers to serve on the board of the International Asian Community Legal Assistance Center. We really need your support and comments.

This legal assistance center will be open for service in the very near future.

Our organizing team is being lead by Daniel Lee and Jessica Chen. This assistance advisory group will make an announcement soon.

If you have any comments, please send to me at Wealee@aol.com.



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Publisher Southern Daily Wea H. Lee

# Editor's Choice



A protestor in a Grim Reaper costume holds up a sign with the number 152K to represent the number of victims of the coronavirus in the U.S., as President Donald Trump's motorcade heads into his Trump National golf course, in Washington



NASA astronauts Robert Behnken, left, and Douglas Hurley are seen inside the SpaceX Crew Dragon Endeavour spacecraft onboard the SpaceX GO Navigator recovery ship shortly after having landed in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Pensacola,



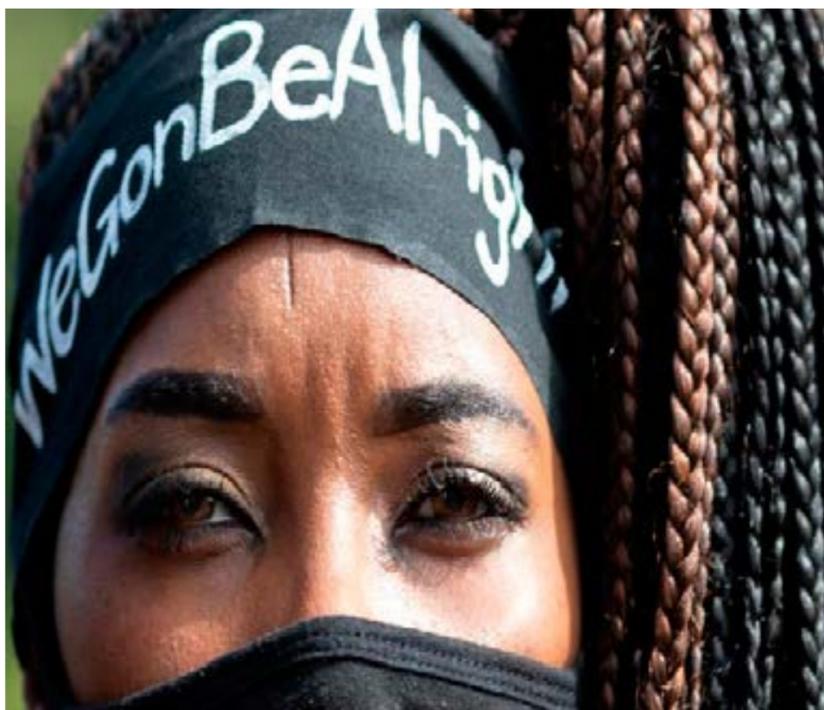
A general view shows a protest near the Brandenburg Gate against the government's restrictions amid the coronavirus outbreak, in Berlin, Germany, August 1. REUTERS/Fabrizio Bensch



Belarusian paratroopers perform during celebrations marking the 90th anniversary of the airborne troops in Minsk, Belarus August 1. REUTERS/Vasily Fedosenko



The SpaceX Crew Dragon Endeavour spacecraft is seen as it lands with NASA astronauts Robert Behnken and Douglas Hurley on board in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Pensacola, Florida, August 2. NASA/Bill Ingalls/Handout via REUTERS



A protester marches for justice system reform and equity in education in Portland, Oregon, August 1. REUTERS/Caitlin Ochs



President Donald Trump participates in a "COVID-19 Response and Storm Preparedness" event with Florida Governor Ron DeSantis at the Pelican Golf Club in Belleair, Florida, July 31. REUTERS/Tom Brenner



A couple is seen with their newborn baby inside a sanitized cabin called "Baby Cabin Parade" to show the newborn to relatives as a social distancing solution during the coronavirus outbreak in Monterrey, Mexico July 31. REUTERS/Daniel Becerril

Houston Mayor Announces New Campaign To Educate Houstonians On Coronavirus



Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner is expected to announce a new campaign aimed at better informing people about coronavirus. This is another effort by the mayor and the HoustonHealth Department to control the spread in the city.

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

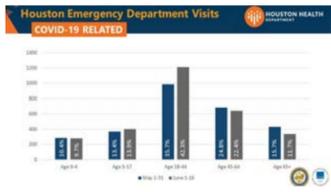
During his COVID-19 briefing from city hall last Thursday, Mayor Turner pressed his city to make personal habits out of the necessary acts being recommended to lower the key virus indicator.

Turner is also hoping that his "Better. Together." multilingual health education campaign will bolster that message.

"Thousands of our family and friends have been sickened and hundreds of Houstonians have died because of the virus," said Turner. "Better. Together." means it will take Houstonians working together for our city to get better. It also reminds us the proven behaviors of wearing a mask, social distancing, washing hands and getting tested work better together to slow the spread."

Turner had the virus' devastating impact on the Hispanic community in mind with the push.

According to the city, Hispanic Houstonians account for about 40% of cases and 45% of deaths. As of Thursday, the city has reported 45,415 cases of COVID-19 and 432 associated deaths.



Turner announced 15 new deaths on Thursday, which is the second-highest number of new deaths in a day in Houston.

Turner added the new campaign is important because the virus continues to spread out of control. He added that they're going to continue to ramp up testing in the city's most at-risk neighborhoods.

"One of the things that we are very much focused on doing is ramping up our testing and educational programs in areas that are dominated with those heavy Hispanic populations, because that community is getting even more disproportionately impacted because of COVID-19," Turner said. "So there's a strong emphasis on trying to expand our resources into areas that are heavily concentrated by Hispanics."

In addition to television, radio, print and digital advertisements, "Better. Together." will include direct outreach into the city's most vulnerable communities through neighborhood canvassing, signage in public places, toolkits for businesses and organizations, and virtual education sessions.

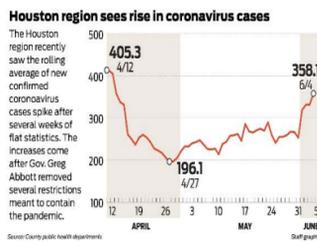
"In order to bring our positivity rate down, we must continue to go directly into communities," said Dr. Faith Foreman-Hays, chief of the health department's Office of Chronic Disease, Health Education and Wellness. "This means we must educate people in their homes, schools, parks, businesses, houses of worship, restaurants and other places." (Courtesy msn.com)

Related Mayor Sylvester Turner calls face masks 'critically important' as Houston's COVID-19 cases rise

HOUSTON — As cases of the novel coronavirus continue to rise, local leaders are weighing options on how to combat the troubling trend.

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo said she's speaking with the county attorney on the legality of a face covering order, similar to that issued in Bexar County on Tuesday.

Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff, whose county includes San Antonio, issued an executive order directing all businesses to enforce face coverings for employees and customers when social distancing isn't possible. Texas Gov. Greg Abbott has signed off on the order—a surprise to some local authorities who feel the governor's directives have stripped away their local enforcement rights.



COVID-19 cases spiking in the Houston region.

Nine Texas mayors, including Houston

Mayor Sylvester Turner, sent a letter to Abbott on Tuesday asking him to give them the power to make masks mandatory in their cities.

Hidalgo's office said in a statement Wednesday that while they're exploring their own avenues, in the meantime "we strongly urge residents exercise personal responsibility and to wear face coverings to protect themselves and others from this virus. We are not safer today than we were in March."

Turner said he spoke briefly to Hidalgo today and doesn't anticipate any immediate order on face coverings.

The Greater Houston Partnership passed a resolution this morning supporting regulations about face masks in public venues.

Harris County announced 261 new COVID-19 cases today, the second most cases reported in a single day. Houston, meanwhile, reported 189 new cases and seven new deaths related to the virus.

Dr. David Persse, the medical director for the Houston Health Department, said he's concerned with the recent uptick in emergency room visits in Houston.

Houston Health Authority Dr. David Persse says in just the first two weeks of June, as many people reported to emergency departments in Houston with COVID-19 related symptoms as did for the entire month of May.

There's been an 8 percent increase from the entire month of May to the first two weeks in June of people between the ages of 18-44 who have visited emergency rooms with COVID-19 symptoms. (Courtesy khou.com)

It's also the largest increase of any age group.

Persse and Turner attributed the increase to people spending more time in public, not wearing face coverings or social distancing. People ages 65 and older saw the lowest increase of ER visits. Persse said that's because the city has been working closely with

nursing homes and "elder folks are paying attention to advice; perhaps younger people, not so much," he said.



Total confirmed cases of COVID in Texas as of July 15 2020.

Turner continued to stress the importance of wearing face coverings and social distancing when in public. The mayor, wearing a black face mask throughout his entire afternoon news conference, said if not for you, then for the people around you.

"Now is not the time to go out and behave as if life has returned to normal," Turner said. "It has not and it won't anytime soon."

The city accepted a donation of 500,000 reusable masks today from the Ismaili Council for the Southwestern US and Focus Humanitarian USA. The mayor said the masks will be mainly made available to at-risk populations.

When asked if he could see the potential for a mask mandate in the future, Turner said it wouldn't surprise him.

"If the numbers continue to rise," he said, "I do see us getting to that point." (Courtesy khou.com)

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Website screenshot for Southern News Group featuring COVID-19 risk assessment, news headlines, and a QR code for their new website www.scdaily.com.