

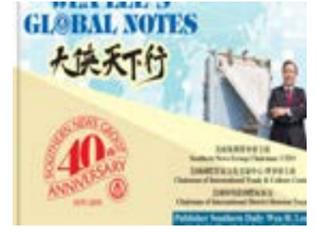


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Southern DAILY

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Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

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E-mail: News@scdaily.com

Thursday August 06, 2020 | www.today-america.com | Southern News Group

New York City to enforce traveler quarantine with COVID-19 checkpoints



FILE PHOTO: New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio speaks during a news conference for the outbreak of Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) at City Hall in the Manhattan borough of New York City, New York, U.S., March 17, 2020. REUTERS/Jeenah Moon

In Illinois, where COVID-19 cases have risen for six weeks in a row, Chicago Public Schools will start the new academic year conducting all classes remotely, school officials said on Wednesday.

Teachers in the district, the country's third largest with 350,000 students, had resisted a plan by city leaders to launch a hybrid model in which parents could choose to have their children attend in-person instruction in pods of 15 pupils twice a week.

Los Angeles and San Diego schools also will go online only.

NEW YORK (Reuters) - New York City will put up COVID-19 quarantine checkpoints at key entry points to ensure that incoming travelers from 35 states with outbreaks comply with the state's 14-day quarantine mandate, Mayor Bill de Blasio said on Wednesday.

The measure underscores the determination in what was once the pandemic's epicenter to prevent a resurgence of cases being seen elsewhere. While cases are down 5% nationally, they soared last week in Oklahoma, Montana, Missouri and 17 other states.

On average, 1,000 people are dying each day nationwide from COVID-19. The U.S. death toll is now over 157,000 with 4.8 million known cases. (Open here in an external browser for a Reuters interactive graphic)

"Travelers coming in from those states will be given information about the quarantine and will be reminded that it is required, not optional," de Blasio told a news briefing. He added that, under certain circumstances, fines for not observing the quarantine order could be as high as \$10,000.

The Sheriff's Office, in coordination with other law enforcement agencies, will begin deploying checkpoints at major bridge and tunnel crossings into New York City on Wednesday.

"This is serious stuff and it's time for everyone to realize that if we're going to hold at this level of health and safety

in this city, and get better, we have to deal with the fact that the quarantine must be applied consistently to anyone who's traveled," de Blasio said.

A fifth of all new cases in New York City are from out-of-state travelers, said Dr. Ted Long, who oversees the city's contact tracing program.

Teams will be deployed at Penn Station in Midtown Manhattan on Thursday, he said, to ensure travelers stop to complete a travel form.

"We're going to offer you things like free food delivery, help with medications, direct connections to doctors by the phone, or even a hotel stay," Long added.

The city, which once had over 800 coronavirus-related deaths in a single day, has reported no COVID-19 fatalities for the past three days. The mayor said the city's infection rate had been under 3% for the past eight weeks.

In March, Rhode Island briefly stopped cars with New York license plates, drawing a rebuke from New York Governor Andrew Cuomo.

Beginning in mid-July, Cuomo deployed enforcement teams to the state's airports to ensure travelers arriving from areas with major outbreaks provided contact information or risk a \$2,000 fine.

CHICAGO SCHOOLS GO ONLINE

President Donald Trump has called for all schools to open for in-person learning, making it a cornerstone of his campaign for re-election in November.

"My view is the schools should open. This thing's going away," Trump told Fox News on Wednesday. "It will go away like things go away and my view is that schools should be open."

Health experts warn the virus is not going away soon and may get worse during the coming flu season.

Florida and Iowa are mandating schools provide at least partial in-person learning, while the governors of South Carolina and Missouri have recommended all classrooms reopen. Texas had initially mandated schools reopen but has since allowed districts to apply for waivers.

Elsewhere governors, mayors and school district officials have proposed a range of ideas for reopening schools in August and September from online only to hybrid models that combine reopening with remote learning.

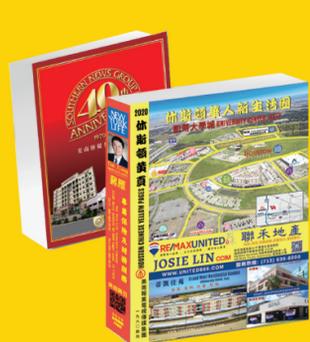
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It is A Horrible Video Picture



communities are getting poorer. On the Native American Indian reservations, even today, one out of three families are still without running water.

We claim that we are the richest country and the most powerful nation in the world. This is so shameful.



In Aurora, Colorado, police ordered a family of four children at gunpoint to lie facedown on the ground in a parking lot while they handcuffed two of them. The black girls, who ranged from 6 to 17 years old, broke down into tears as a group of white police officers hovered over them. Police officials said that the officers may have mixed up the family's license plate number as being a car that was reported stolen, but it had been confused with a motorcycle from Montana.

The interim police chief later publicly apologized to the family and offered age-appropriate therapy to the children involved in the incident.

When we watched the video of this police brutality case, we were so angry and felt very frustrated.

Just in the last six months there have been so many cases of police mistreatment and abuse against African Americans linked to so many protest demonstrations and so much related violence all over the nation. We very much regret that the government needs to use the army to protect the federal government buildings. This was a very unusual action to take.

In the United States we have very serious social issues. The poor

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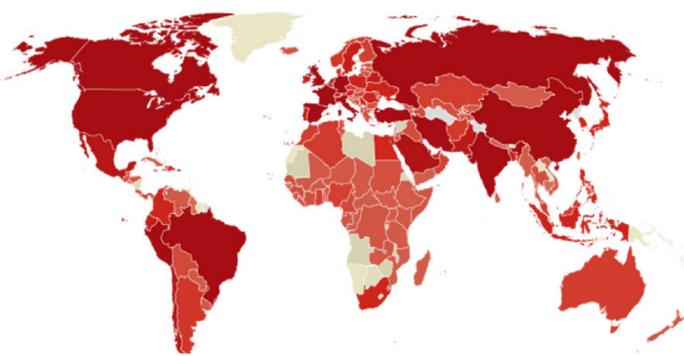
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NPR.ORG Opinion

Countries With The Most COVID-19 Cases Have Much In Common



By Guest Writer Jason Beaubien, NPR.org

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

As the coronavirus pandemic continues to rage around the world, some of the largest outbreaks are in countries that fall into one particular economic category. They're not rich. They're not poor. They're middle income. In fact, of the countries reporting the most cases globally, 6 of 7 are middle-income nations. And they're not just any middle-income countries. They're some of the most influential players in the global south. Brazil, India, Mexico, Peru, Russia and South Africa are not only major emerging market economies, they're regional political powers. Middle-income countries are defined by the World Bank as having annual per capita income between \$1,000 and \$12,000. The U.S., by comparison (the one high-income country in the top 7), has an average annual income of \$66,000.

In mid-July, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa called the pandemic the "gravest crisis in the history of our democracy" as he reimposed strict lockdown measures. South Africa has now reported nearly a half-million cases of the coronavirus. Health pandemic goes far beyond the number of sick or dead. South Africa's borders remain officials project cases to continue to rise at least into September. And the impact of the closed. Nonessential workplaces remain shut. The country's official unemployment rate, which

had been in the mid-20% range, was pushed above 30% by the pandemic. And the strain on countries in the middle-income category is tremendous. And the number of people affected is huge. According to the World Bank, 75% of the world's population live in middle-income countries. Collectively over the past decade, these countries have lifted hundreds of millions out of poverty. Amanda Glassman, the executive vice president of the Center for Global Development, says these countries have a lot to lose in this pandemic. "Most of their populations in this group would fall back into poverty given a shock like this one," she says.

10 WORST-AFFECTED COUNTRIES BY COVID-19

COUNTRIES	CASES	RECOVERIES	DEATHS
US	2,122,766	599,414	116,107
Brazil	888,271	412,252	43,959
Russia	537,210	284,539	7,091
India	332,424	169,797	9,520
UK	296,857	344	41,736
Spain	261,963	150,376	27,136
Italy	237,290	177,010	34,371
Peru	232,992	119,409	6,860
France	194,175	73,044	29,436
Iran	189,876	150,590	8,950

Source: Reuters, As of June 16, 2020, 10:32AM

For instance, Brazil's economy is expected to shrink by as much as 6.5% this year because of the coronavirus crisis. Brazil has the second-highest number of cases after the U.S. Nearly 100,000 people have died. The president and several of his top ministers have been infected. And as the pandemic continues to spread, more and more Brazilians are losing work.

"Even a country like Brazil that was so wealthy, 90% of the country earned less than \$10 a day," Glassman says. "I'm worried that we're setting back the process of economic and social development that has gone so quickly over the past decade," she says. "And it will take us many years to catch back up."

The entrepreneurial spirit that made countries like India, Brazil and South Africa dynamic emerging markets also put them at greater risk of having large outbreaks. These are places with a lot of "hustle," as Glassman puts it. Their economies were global. Business travelers and tourists jetted in and out. They have decent domestic transportation networks offering the coronavirus or other pathogens easy avenues to spread. They have health systems capable of detecting the disease.

"In India, for example, they're doing a lot of testing," says Jonathon Keymer, an intelligence analyst at the global risk management firm WorldAware. "In Russia, they're doing a lot of testing. The more people you test, the more confirmed cases you're going to have."



Keymer specializes in Russia and the former Soviet bloc countries for WorldAware and has also been modeling the impact of COVID-19 in these nations. He says some middle-income countries globally look worse than others in this pandemic simply because they are open, dynamic societies and their case numbers are being reported. But that's not true everywhere. He points out that both Kazakhstan and Uz-

bekistan, two middle-income former Soviet states, have reintroduced nationwide lockdowns in the past couple of weeks despite reported case numbers remaining relatively low.

"And then in Turkmenistan, which is a much more difficult place to get information about, they've closed the borders and I don't think they've officially got a single case of COVID," Keymer says. "But you can bet your bottom dollar that they've got COVID." The World Health Organization has raised alarms about Turkmenistan despite its continued insistence that it has no cases. But on paper at least Turkmenistan looks like it has far less of a COVID-19 problem than Peru, which has tested aggressively and openly reported results. Peru has a testing rate of roughly 70,000 tests per 1 million people — a rate more than five times the global average.

Tanzania is another middle-income country reporting remarkably few infections. The east African nation actually hasn't officially reported any cases to WHO since April, when the president declared that the virus had been driven out of his country by prayer.



Even with the marked differences in middle income countries — everything from governance to public sentiment to economic structure — there are certain commonalities. It is clear that middle-income countries face similar risks as wealthier nations for coronavirus outbreaks but have far fewer resources to deal with them.

Interestingly, the relative wealth of a middle-income country appears to have little to do with how many infections it has. Deborah Barros Leal Farias, a lecturer at the University of New South Wales, says the experience of middle-income countries shows that a nation's economic status doesn't determine its success in battling this pandemic. "If you take the U.S., the U.K. and Sweden, they are also having horrible numbers," Farias says. "And then you can take a country like

Vietnam or Thailand and they're having phenomenal numbers."

She says the real issue in keeping case counts down — even more than resources — appears to be leadership. Of the four countries with the most cases globally — the U.S. and three middle-income nations: Brazil, India and Russia — all have conservative or right-wing leaders who espouse populist or anti-science views.

In Brazil, President Jair Bolsonaro downplayed the seriousness of the disease as tens of thousands of Brazilians died from COVID. Even when he tested positive for it himself, Bolsonaro continued to tout the anti-malarial drug hydrochloroquine as a cure despite studies showing it wasn't effective against the virus.



Ester Sabino, a virologist at the University of Sao Paulo, says Brazil never had a cohesive national plan for how to address the outbreak and she says Bolsonaro has been a distraction. "In April and May, the main discussion [in Brazil] was whether we should or should not use chloroquine instead of saying how do we stop this," Sabino says. "There was not a good plan. That's my opinion. A lot of time was spent on things that were not the key things for the control of the disease."

Research by Sabino and her colleagues shows there were more than 100 different introductions of the virus into Brazil in the early days of the pandemic, mostly from travelers who had been in Europe. Then the virus spread to every corner of the vast country. Lockdowns managed to slow the initial explosive spread, but Sabino says there needs to be more focus to contain the ongoing outbreak.

"There is no magic. There is no free lunch. If you want to control epidemic, it's hard," she says. "And you have to work a lot. We can't think about politics."

And that appears to hold true regardless of whether a country is rich, poor or somewhere in the middle. (Courtesy npr.org)

Editor's Choice



Smoke rises from the site of an explosion in Beirut, Lebanon August 4, 2020. REUTERS/Mohamed Azakir



A woman takes a selfie in a lavender field at Hitchin Lavender farm in Ickleford, Britain, August 4. REUTERS/Peter Cziborra



An injured man is transported on a stretcher following an explosion in Beirut, Lebanon August 4. REUTERS/Mohamed Azakir

.MORE



An Australian Army ARH-90 Tiger Helicopter lands on Pikelot Island in the Federated States of Micronesia where three men were found safe and healthy after missing for three days, August 2. AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE/Handout via REUTERS



A Texas Guerrillas member who calls himself, "Apex," third from right and others carry weapons at a Black Lives Matter rally in Austin, Texas, August 1. Members of the armed groups said they were there to protect BLM protesters



Firefighters spray water at a fire after an explosion was heard in Beirut, Lebanon August 4. REUTERS/Mohamed Azakir



People run for cover following an explosion in Beirut's port area, Lebanon August 4. REUTERS/Mohamed Azakir



A boy dressed as a holy cow wears a facemask as he participates in a parade to mark Gajatra Festival, also known as the festival of cows, amid the coronavirus pandemic in Kathmandu, Nepal August 4. Hindus in Nepal celebrate the festival to ask for salvation and peace for their departed loved ones. Cows are regarded as holy animals in Nepal that help departed souls reach heaven. REUTERS/Navesh Chitrakar

Llama Antibodies Might Bring Us Closer To Neutralizing COVID-19

Llama Antibodies May Be Useful For Treating COVID-19, Study From UT Austin Finds



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

Antibodies found in llamas could prove to be useful in the treatment of COVID-19, an international team of scientists has said. According to a peer-reviewed study, due to be published in Cell on May 5, llama blood might hold the key to unlocking new treatments for COVID-19 -- and lessen the stress the coronavirus pandemic has placed on the world.

The researchers have engineered a new antibody, a type of protein produced by animal immune systems that defends against foreign invaders, which binds tightly to a key protein on the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, according to a study accepted for publication in the journal Cell.

The team, led by Jason McLellan from the Department of Molecular Biosciences at The University of Texas at Austin (UTA,) created the novel antibody by linking together two copies of a special kind of antibody found in llamas.

Coronaviruses are covered in distinctive

“spikes,” special proteins that enable the virus to break into host cells. In initial laboratory experiments, the scientists found that the novel antibody was effective in stopping a “pseudotyped” version of the SARS-CoV-2 virus from infecting cells in a culture.

This pseudotyped virus is a virus particle that has been engineered to display copies of the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein on its surface.



Winter is four years old and still

living on a farm in the Belgian countryside.

The study details how special antibodies within llama blood can be joined together to create a new antibody with the capacity to bind the spike protein the coronavirus uses to infect cells. By binding onto the spike protein, the antibody can prevent the coronavirus, known as SARS-CoV-2, from infecting other cells in culture.

“This is one of the first antibodies known to neutralize SARS-CoV-2,” McLellan said in a statement.

The inspiration for the latest study came from tests conducted on a 4-year-old llama named “Winter” that is currently living on a farm in the Belgian countryside.

This was discovered, in part, thanks to the efforts of a 4-year-old Belgian llama named Winter. In 2016, Winter helped scientists to study the coronaviruses which cause SARS and MERS by receiving injections of active spike proteins over the course of weeks.

In 2016, before the pandemic began, the researchers were conducting research into two other coronaviruses, SARS-CoV-1 and MERS-CoV, which cause the diseases severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS) and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) respectively.

During this research, the team injected Winter with pseudo-typed versions of both SARS-CoV-1 and MERS-CoV over a period of six weeks, inducing an immune response in the llama’s body.



Llamas may play a key role in neutralizing the Coronavirus.

Llamas and other camelids, such as alpacas, produce a special kind of antibody known collectively as “single-domain” antibodies. After taking blood samples from Winter, the team, found that one of these single-domain antibodies, known as VHH-72, bound tightly to the spike proteins on SARS-CoV-1 and prevented it from infecting cells in a culture.

As a result, the scientists joined together two copies of the antibody, in an attempt to help it bind more effectively to the SARS-CoV-2 spikes. According to the team, the newly engineered antibody is the first known to neutralize both SARS-CoV-1 and SARS-CoV-2.

“That was exciting to me because I’d been working on this

for years,” Daniel Wrapp, a co-first-author of the paper from UTA, said in the statement. “But there wasn’t a big need for a coronavirus treatment then. This was just basic research. Now, this can potentially have some translational implications, too.” After the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the team wondered whether VHH-72 would also be effective against SARS-CoV-2. Initial tests revealed that it did bind to the spike proteins of the virus, however, only weakly.

Regardless of the study’s early successes -- and Winter the llama’s positive demeanor -- this doesn’t mean the antibodies are immediately viable as a preventative or cure.

The team from the University of Texas in Austin are now setting their sights on preclinical studies in animals such as hamsters or nonhuman primates, with an eventual goal of developing a treatment for humans.



The next step, the researchers say, is to conduct studies in animals in order to further assess the impact of these antibodies on SARS-CoV-2. Eventually, they hope to be able to develop a treatment based on these antibodies that could be administered soon after infection.

“With antibody therapies, you’re directly giving somebody the protective antibodies and so, immediately after treatment, they should be protected. The antibodies could also be used to treat somebody who is already sick to lessen the severity of the disease,” McLellan said.

Nevertheless, it is important to note that this approach is still at a very early stage of development and must be tested extensively in animals and humans before it can be established whether or not it will be effective in the treatment of COVID-19.

Regardless of the study’s early successes -- and Winter the llama’s positive demeanor -- this doesn’t mean the antibodies are immediately viable as a preventative or cure.

The team from the University of Texas in Austin are now setting their sights on preclinical studies in animals such as hamsters or nonhuman primates, with an eventual goal of developing a treatment for humans. (Courtesy <https://www.msn.com/> and <https://www.cnet.com/>)

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