

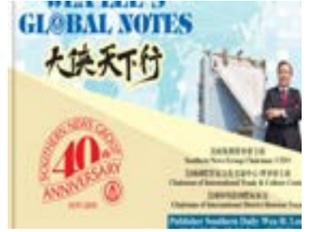


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Mr. Lee's Commentary and Dairy



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# Southern DAILY

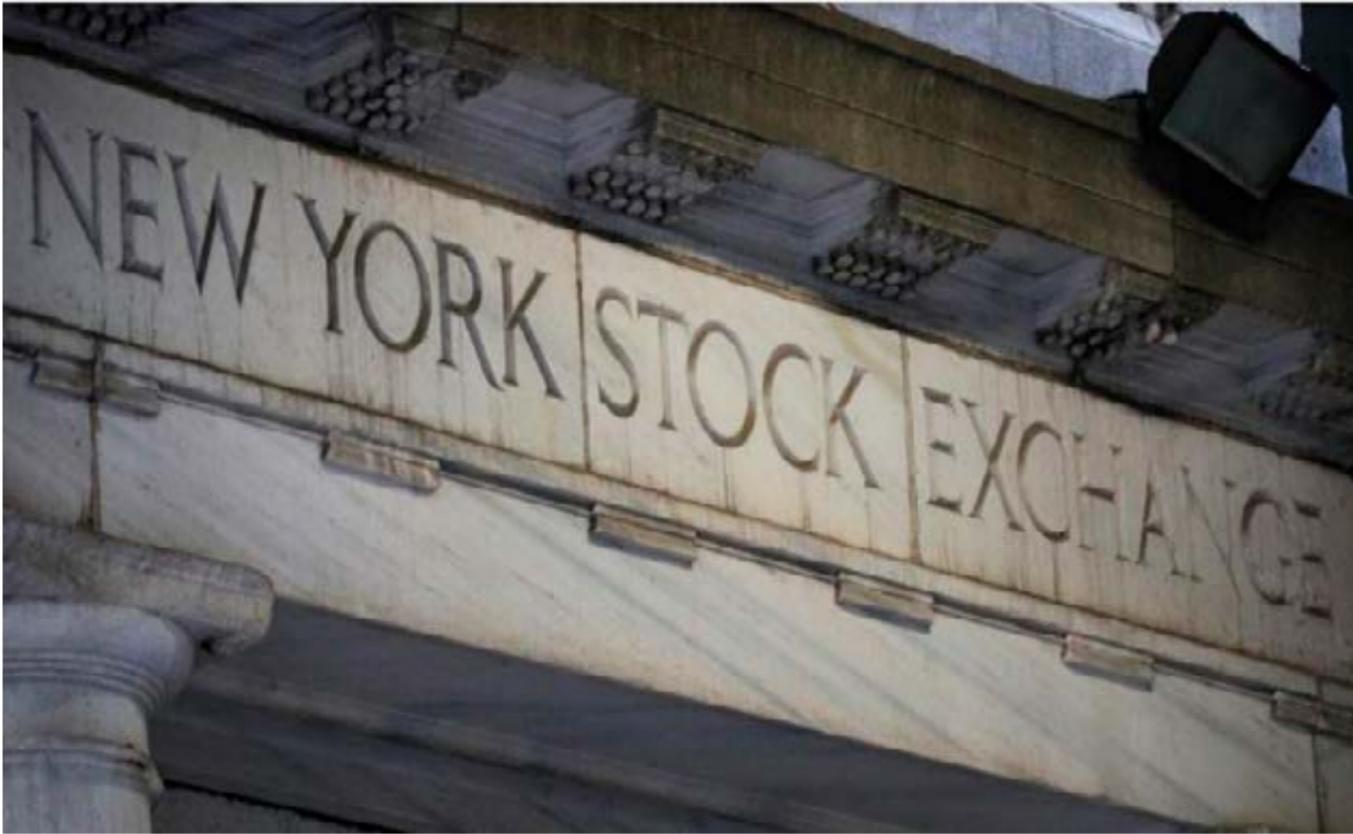
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## S&P, Nasdaq close at new highs as Wall Street rides bull momentum



FILE PHOTO: The 11 Wall St. door of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) is seen in New York City, New York, U.S., June 26, 2020. REUTERS/Brendan McDermid  
The benchmark S&P 500 reclaimed its February closing high last week, confirming a bull market and the fastest recovery from a bear market trough on record.

NEW YORK (Reuters) - The S&P 500 and the Nasdaq reached new record closing highs on Monday as optimism over potential medical advances in the war against the coronavirus pandemic pushed all three major U.S. stock indexes higher.

The blue-chip Dow, while leading Monday's gains, remains nearly 4.2% below its all-time high, and down 0.8% year-to-date. The Nasdaq and the S&P have gained 26.8% and 6.2%, respectively, since the final closing bell of 2019.

Of note, the Dow Transports index, often considered a barometer of U.S. economic health, handily outperformed the broader market.

"There's been a broadening in this rally and the what's reflected in the transports," said Chuck Carlson, chief executive officer at Horizon Investment Services in Hammond, Indiana. "(Higher) volume is accompanying this expanding breadth, and those are all bullish things."

Markets worldwide were given a boost by new developments in the global race to battle the coronavirus, including an announcement from the Food and Drug Administration that it had given emergency authorization for the use of plasma from recovered patients as a treatment option.

However, the World Health Organization expressed skepticism about the treatment due to "low quality" data.

The Trump administration is considering fast-tracking an experimental COVID-19 vaccine being developed by AstraZeneca Plc and Oxford University in hopes it could be deployed in the United States before Americans head to the polls in November.

"There's an element of that news helping the 'reopening trade,' which is a euphemism of economically sensitive stocks performing better," Carlson added.

The four-day Republican national convention got under way on Monday, with the party making the case for Trump's re-election.

On Capitol Hill, Democrats and Republicans remained at loggerheads over funding levels and unemployment benefits.

Market participants will pay close attention to U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell's remarks on monetary policy at this week's Kansas City Fed Jackson Hole symposium, which is being held this year in a virtual format.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 378.13 points, or 1.35%, to 28,308.46, the S&P 500 gained 34.12 points, or 1.00%, to 3,431.28 and the Nasdaq Composite added 67.92 points, or 0.6%, to 11,379.72.

Of the 11 major sectors in the S&P 500, all but healthcare ended the session in the black.

Energy and financials enjoyed the largest percentage gains.

Ahead of its 4-to-1 share split on Friday, Apple Inc provided the biggest boost to the S&P 500 and the Nasdaq, its share price closing above \$500 days after becoming the first public U.S. company to top \$2 trillion in market value. The stock gained 1.2%.

Boeing Co gave the Dow its biggest lift, rising 6.4%.

Advancing issues outnumbered declining ones on the NYSE by a 2.52-to-1 ratio; on Nasdaq, a 1.26-to-1 ratio favored advancers.

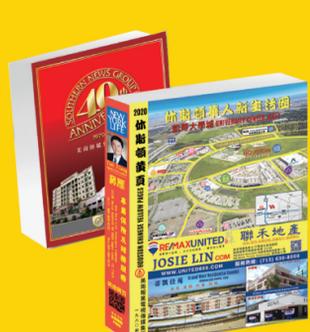
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## Georgia, Texas And Florida Lead The Country In Coronavirus Cases Per Capita



U.S. averaging 1,000 deaths per day from coronavirus

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

(CNN)After adjusting for population, US states in the South and West continue to report the most daily coronavirus cases even after declines over the past few weeks. Per capita, Georgia has reported the most cases per day over a seven-day average of any state, followed by Texas and Florida. The states are led by governors who pushed to reopen during the spring, saw major summer surges of cases and are currently pushing to reopen schools. Texas has issued a mandate requiring face masks, while Florida and Georgia have not. Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp has gone so far as to keep cities from making stricter rules and has sued the city of Atlanta for trying to require face masks. Georgia has allowed restaurants, bars and gyms to open at limited capacity. A White House Coronavirus Task Force report dated August 16 and obtained by The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (AJC) recommends that Georgia do more to fight coronavirus.



Colleges are quickly learning it may be

### next to impossible to create a coronavirus-free environment on campus.

The report comes as colleges are quickly learning it may be next to impossible to create a coronavirus-free environment on campus. Across the US, the virus continues to spread at high rates. The seven-day average of daily new coronavirus cases in the US declined on Monday to 49,000, the first time it's been below 50,000 since July 6. Still, worldwide, that average daily total is surpassed only by India, which has four times the number of people.

The US's seven-day average of new deaths has been over 1,000 per day for the past 23 days. In Florida, officials reported deaths of more than 200 people in a day Tuesday -- for at least the 10th time in the past month. More than 5.5 million Americans have been infected since the start of the pandemic and at least 172,000 have died. Georgia leads the pack in per capita cases

### Georgia teacher resigns over back-to-school plan

Though conditions in some areas have improved modestly in recent weeks, the task force said Georgia remains in the red zone for severity of the outbreak as measured by rate of case growth and test positivity, the AJC reported.

"Georgia's small gains are fragile and statewide progress will require continued, expanded, and stronger mitigation efforts, including in all open schools," according to the White House report obtained by the AJC.



The AJC reported that the White House Coronavirus Task Force continues to recommend that Georgia close bars and gyms, restrict indoor dining at restaurants to one-quarter capacity in the highest risk counties, and limit social gatherings to 10 or fewer people, even within families.

In a statement to CNN, Kemp's office said the governor and Georgia Department of Health "Urge Georgians to wear a mask, watch their distance, wash their hands, and follow public health guidelines."

"Georgia continues to make strong progress in the fight against COVID-19," according to the statement emailed to CNN by Kemp press secretary Cody Hall. "Our 7-day average of new cases is down 26%, our hospitalizations are down 19%, and the 7-day average of positive tests is down to 9.4%. Georgia's transmission rate is 0.85 and testing capacity remains high but underutilized. This data is encouraging, but we cannot take our foot off the gas."

### Massachusetts to require flu vaccines all students

Health officials in Massachusetts announced Wednesday that influenza vaccines will become mandatory in the state for the majority of students 6 months and older who attend day care, pre-school, K-12 schools or higher education institutions.

"It is more important now than ever to get a flu vaccine because flu symptoms are very similar to those of COVID-19 and preventing the flu will save lives and preserve healthcare resources," Dr. Larry Madoff, medical director of the Massa-

chusetts Public Health's bureau of infectious disease and laboratory sciences, said in a statement.



Students are expected to receive the vaccine by December 31, with the exemption of those with medical or religious reasons, homeschooled children or higher education students who are "completely off-campus and engaged in remote learning only," the health department said.

Massachusetts is the first state to require flu shots for children over the age of 5. All 50 states require vaccines for children to attend public schools, but according to the Immunization Action Coalition, none before now have required flu vaccines for children in kindergarten or above.

Connecticut, New Jersey, New York City, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island require flu vaccines for children in daycare or preschool but not for older children.

Health officials have been urging Americans to get vaccinated against flu in an effort to avoid complicating the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

### Universities scramble with coronavirus outbreaks

Young people have been returning to schools and college campuses across the country, seeding new coronavirus outbreaks.

"It's just extremely difficult to consider yourself to be in a bubble when there is a very high level of community spread around you or when people are coming from all over the country and congregating on college campuses," said Dr. Leana Wen, the former Baltimore City Health Commissioner. "You can't keep coronavirus out." About a dozen colleges have reported cases on campus, with more than 100 students testing positive at University of Notre Dame, Iowa State

University, UNC-Chapel Hill and the University of Kentucky.

Outbreaks have been traced to off-campus gatherings, sororities, fraternities and dorms, leaving schools to reassess how to proceed with the fall semester.

North Carolina State University, Oklahoma State University, Northeast Mississippi Community College, Western Kentucky University and East Carolina University have all reported significant numbers of cases as well.

In Mississippi, nearly 2,000 K-12 students and more than 300 employees have been quarantined due to possible exposure, Dr. Thomas Dobbs with the Mississippi Department of Health said at a briefing.

American Indian and Alaskan Natives hit harder by Covid-19

The rate of coronavirus among American Indian and Alaskan Native people is 3.5 times higher than among White people, according to a new report by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



### Researchers found that cases among American Indians and Alaska Natives tended to be younger in age.

The report analyzed more than 340,000 confirmed cases across 23 states between late January and early July. There were 594 Covid-19 cases per 100,000 people among American Indians and Alaska Natives, compared to 169 cases per 100,000 Whites, the report released Wednesday shows.

Researchers found that cases among American Indians and Alaska Natives tended to be younger in age.

The report indicates that the virus incidence among American Indian and Alaskan Native people might reflect on the limited access to running water, household size and other factors that might facilitate Covid-19 community transmission. (Courtesy www.cnn.com)

# WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

08/24/2020

CORONAVIRUS DIARY

## The 2020 Republican Convention Opens Today

The 2020 Republican National Convention will get underway today with four days of events that will see the party formally renominate President Donald Trump while navigating a mix of virtual and in-person events due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Trump senior advisor Jason Miller said in an interview that the RNC will rely heavily on Trump's accomplishments

over his first four years and will lay out the vision of the administration for the next term.

South Carolina Senator Tim Scott and former UN ambassador Nikki Haley and other politicians are scheduled to make speeches tonight.

Trump will accept the Republican nomination at the White House after



scrapping his plan to deliver his speech in Charlotte, North Carolina. 336 RNC delegates will get together and will formally nominate the 2020 Republican presidential and vice presidential nominees.

The coronavirus pandemic attacked us almost one-half year ago and we still cannot see how we can control the virus. Many people are still losing their lives

every day and the students still can't go back to school safely. Many businesses have closed down and many have lost their lifetime savings.

We are very happy to see that both political parties are having their conventions right on schedule. The election is coming and as for the people who will vote for the candidates, it will be a turning point for our nation.



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# Editor's Choice



U.S. President Donald Trump gives a thumbs up as Vice President Mike Pence waves, following the President's address on the first day of the Republican National Convention after delegates voted to confirm him as the Republican 2020 presidential



Alan Swinney points a gun during clashes between groups like Proud Boys and Patriot Prayer, and protesters against police brutality and racial injustice in Portland, Oregon. REUTERS/Maranie Staab



A woman dressed as an elf poses for a photo with attendees of the Ministry of Fun Santa School outside Southwark Cathedral, in London, Britain. REUTERS/John Sibley



A chimney stands at the site of a burned house from the LNU Lightning Complex Fire in Napa, California. REUTERS/Adrees Latif



A man removes the debris after a five-storey building collapsed in Raigad in the western state of Maharashtra, India. REUTERS/Stringer



Pro-democracy protesters attend a rally to demand the government to resign, to dissolve the parliament and to hold new elections under a revised constitution, near the Democracy Monument in Bangkok, Thailand. REUTERS/Soe Zeya Tun



A parrot stands on a girl's shoulder on the first day of reopening the Giza zoo on the outskirts of Cairo, Egypt. REUTERS/Mohamed Abd El Ghany



U.S. Postmaster General Louis DeJoy testifies before a House Oversight and Reform Committee hearing on slowdowns at the Postal Service ahead of the November elections on Capitol Hill in Washington. Tom Williams/Pool via REUTERS

F.D.A. OK's Expanded Use of Blood Plasma to Treat Coronavirus Patients



President Trump on Sunday described the blood plasma treatment as "a powerful therapy" made possible "by marshaling the full power of the federal government."

OVERVIEW

The Food and Drug Administration on Sunday gave emergency approval for expanded use of antibody-rich blood plasma, drawn from people who have recovered from Covid-19.

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

The Food and Drug Administration on Sunday gave emergency approval for expanded use of antibody-rich blood plasma to help hospitalized coronavirus patients, allowing President Trump, who has been pressuring the agency to move faster to address the pandemic, to claim progress on the eve of the Republican convention.

At a news briefing, he described the treatment as "a powerful therapy" made possible "by marshaling the full power of the federal government."

The decision will broaden use of a treatment that has already been administered to

more than 70,000 patients. But the F.D.A. cited benefits for only some patients. And, unlike a new drug, plasma cannot be manufactured in millions of doses; its availability is limited by blood donations.

Mr. Trump has portrayed his demands to cut red tape and speed approval of treatments and vaccines as a necessary response to a public health emergency. But Sunday's announcement came a day after he repeated his unfounded claim that the F.D.A. was deliberately holding up decision-making until after the election, this time citing a "deep state."

regulatory process, hurt public confidence in safety and introduce a different kind of public health risk.



Patient Javier Alvarez donating plasma at Houston Methodist Hospital last month. (Photo/The New York Times)

No randomized trials of the sort researchers consider most robust have yet shown benefit from convalescent plasma. But the F.D.A. said the data it had so far, including more than a dozen published studies, showed that "it is reasonable to believe" that the treatment "may be effective in lessening the severity or shortening the length of Covid-19 illness in some hospitalized patients," in particular those who receive it early.

Patients less than 80 years old who received plasma with a high level of virus-fighting antibodies within three days of diagnosis, and who were not on a respirator, were about 35 percent more likely to be alive a month later compared with those who received plasma with a low level of the antibodies, according to Dr. Peter Marks, the director of F.D.A.'s center for biologics, evaluation and research.

Mr. Trump stripped away the agency's nuanced language during his appearance before reporters at the White House, saying that convalescent plasma has been "proven to reduce mortality by 35 percent."

The F.D.A., which is responsible for approving new medicines, delayed the authorization for about a week after top health officials, including Dr. Francis S. Collins, the director of the National Institutes of Health, and Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, the top infectious disease specialist, questioned whether the data was sufficient.



Mr. Trump complained in a tweet on Saturday, claiming without any evidence that

officials were "hoping to delay the answer until after November 3rd" — Election Day — and urging the F.D.A. to "focus on speed, and saving lives!"

Mark Meadows, the White House chief of staff, also accused government regulators over the weekend of slow-walking the approval, calling it "a fumble."

At his news conference, Mr. Trump struck a more positive note, saying the agency had "really stepped up," especially "over the last few days."

Related

COVID-19 Blood-Transfusion Therapy Finding Success In Houston Nation's First Experimental Plasma Treatment Against COVID-19 Is Currently Being Tested At Houston Methodist



Houston Methodist's physician-scientists have been readying the nation's first experimental COVID-19 plasma treatment.

The experimental blood plasma treatment transfuses vital antibodies found in the plasma of recovered COVID-19 patients into a critically ill patient, in the hopes of providing that patient with lifesaving treatment. One of the major advantages of this treatment approach is that it can be tested and used right now, while vaccines and antiviral drugs can take from months to years to develop.

From Bench to Bedside — Fast The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) classifies this experimental treatment as an emergency investigational new drug protocol (eIND) that requires FDA approval for each patient infused with donated convalescent serum. Houston Methodist physician-scientists

began recruiting blood plasma donors from across the Greater Houston area who have recovered after testing positive for the COVID-19 virus. We immediately identified willing donors, who each give a quart of blood plasma in a procedure much like donating whole blood.



The physician-scientists at Methodist are seeking additional FDA approval for follow-up experimental studies, and possibly a multicenter national trial on the effectiveness of convalescent serum therapy against the COVID-19 virus.

Beating COVID-19 — Using Antibodies Made to Fight It Plasma from someone who has recovered from COVID-19 contains antibodies made by the immune system that potentially could be used to destroy the virus. Transfusing this antibody-rich plasma into a COVID-19 patient — a patient still fighting the virus — may transfer the benefits of the antibodies into a healing, possibly life-saving therapy.

What Is Donating Plasma Like? The process for donating plasma is similar to donating blood and takes about an hour. Plasma donors are hooked up to a small device that removes plasma while simultaneously returning red blood cells to their bodies. Unlike regular blood donation in which donors have to wait for red blood cells to replenish between donations, plasma can be donated more frequently, as often as twice a week.

Your Plasma Donation Is Vital We are hoping that this can be a viable, scalable treatment that helps in this crisis. If you have had COVID-19 and are interested in helping others by donating your plasma, please call 346.238.4360. Please note: You do not have to be a Houston Methodist patient to donate, but you must have a verified, positive COVID-19 test. (Courtesy https://www.houstonmethodist.org/)

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