

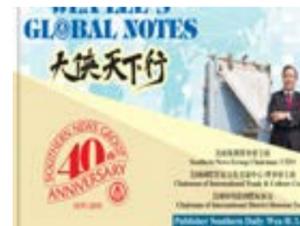


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Retirements, layoffs, labor force flight may leave scars on U.S economy



FILE PHOTO: An Indian fighter plane flies over a mountain range in Leh, in the Ladakh region, September 9, 2020. REUTERS/Stringer

(Reuters) - Judith Ramirez received a letter this month that she'd been dreading: The Honolulu hotel that furloughed her from a housekeeping job in March, during the lockdown triggered by the coronavirus pandemic, made her layoff permanent.

Ramirez, 40, was originally told she might be called back after business picked up. But infections increased in Hawaii over the summer and quarantine restrictions for visitors were extended, a blow to the state's tourism-dependent hotels.

Six months into the pandemic, evidence of longer-term damage to the U.S. labor market is emerging, according to separate analyses of detailed monthly jobs data by labor economists and Reuters.

Retirements are drifting up, women aren't reengaging with the job market quickly, and "temporary" furloughs like Ramirez's are becoming permanent - trends that could weigh on the U.S. economic recovery in the short term as well as the country's prospects in the long term.

Economic growth depends on how many people work. If more retire, or are kept from the job market because of childcare or health and safety issues, growth is slower.

"In the first few months of the recession we were much

more focused on how many jobs could come back, how many jobs could be preserved," said Kathryn Anne Edwards, a labor economist at RAND Corp. "Now the question is really how much damage has this done."

WOMEN, OLDER WORKERS DROP OUT

The U.S. economic drag is falling heavily on two groups, women here and older workers, who fueled here a rise in labor force participation prior to the pandemic. That supported stronger-than-expected economic growth in 2018 and 2019, and showed how a historically low unemployment rate drew people back into jobs.

Those workers may now be getting stranded. Women and workers aged 65 and older make up a disproportionate share of the 3.7 million people no longer working or actively seeking a job since the pandemic hit, Labor Department data show.

People 65 and older made up less than 7% of the workforce in February, but 17% of those who have left the labor market through August. Women previously accounted for 47% of the workforce, but make up 54% of the departed.

Initial evidence of longer-term trouble is starting to show in the monthly Current Population Survey (CPS) that forms the basis of regular government employment reports.

After a spike in women leaving the labor force in the early months of the pandemic, particularly to tend to family responsibilities, there's been slower movement back into jobs compared to the months before the pandemic, according to an analysis of CPS data by Nick Bunker, economic research director for North America at

the Indeed Hiring Lab.

The percentage of women and men who moved from employed to out of the labor force jumped as the pandemic layoffs hit in April. The number of women, however, who cited child care or family responsibilities as the reason, increased 178%, while the number of men citing it less than doubled, Bunker's analysis showed.

The percentage of those women moving in the other direction month to month - from caring for family into a job - meanwhile has dropped, to a low of 5% in April from 6.6% in 2019, though it rose to 5.8% in July. It is lower for men too.

The data "suggests ... that being out of the labor force for family reasons is a 'stickier' state" than prior to the pandemic, Bunker said.

The Center for Retirement Research at Boston College found CPS data shows a rising share of workers 65 and older are calling it quits, a development many economists expected given the risk COVID-19 poses to older people.

Nearly a fifth of that age group working as of July 2019 were retired as of July of this year, compared to 17% for the prior year, the center's research concluded. The percentage of these workers who consider themselves "retired" instead of merely out of work also rose steadily in recent months, from 14.2% in April to 19.5% in June.

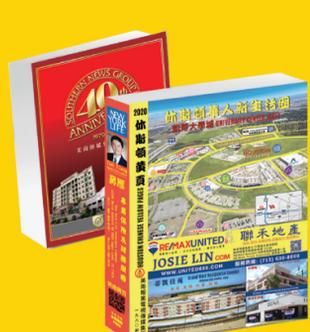
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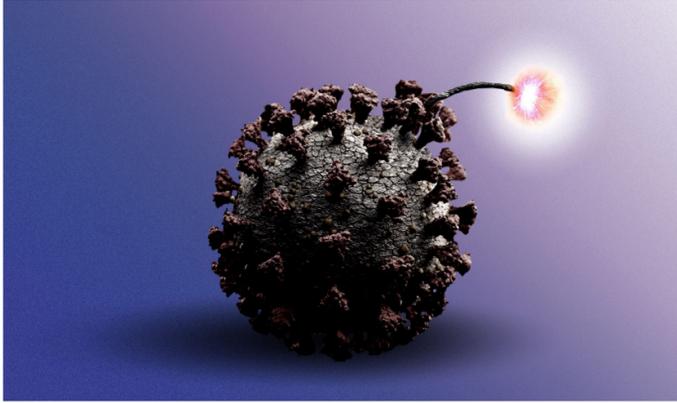
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Coronavirus Dashboard 09/15/20



Data: CSSE Johns Hopkins University; Photos: Getty; Graphic: Danielle Alberti, Sarah Grillo, Andrew Witherspoon/Axios

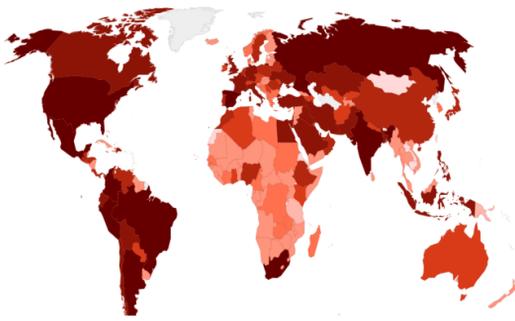


World Coronavirus Updates 09/15/20

Reported cases of COVID-19

As of Sept. 9, 2020, 11pm EDT

Reported cases	Deaths	Recoveries
27,863,733	903,686	18,776,723
+292,991 from yesterday	+6,303	+252,332



Top countries by reported case count

1. U.S.	6.36m	6. Colombia	686k	11. Chile	427k
2. India	4.47m	7. Mexico	647k	12. Iran	393k
3. Brazil	4.20m	8. South Africa	642k	13. France	383k
4. Russia	1.04m	9. Spain	543k	14. U.K.	357k
5. Peru	696k	10. Argentina	512k	15. Bangladesh	331k

Data: The Center for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins; Map: Axios Visuals

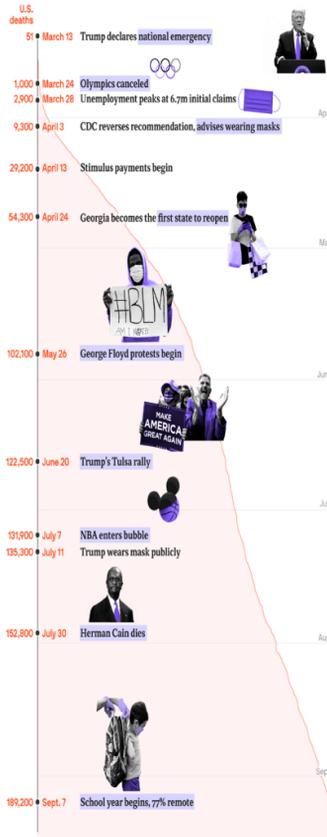
A record 307,930 new coronavirus cases were reported in 24 hours, the World Health Organization said in a statement Sunday.

Driving the news: India reported the most additional cases (94,372), followed by the U.S. (45,523) and Brazil (43,718), according to the WHO. The U.S. and India both reported more than 1,000 deaths in 24 hours from COVID-19, while Brazil confirmed the virus had killed 874, the WHO noted. (Courtesy axios.com)

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

- Global:** Total confirmed cases as of 9:30 a.m. ET: 29,032,938 — Total deaths: 924,831— Total recoveries: 19,649,457 .
- U.S.:** Total confirmed cases as of 9:30 a.m. ET: 6,520,733 — Total deaths: 194,087 — Total recoveries: 2,451,406 — Total tests: 88,819,861 .
- Health:** Kids can and do transmit the virus to their household, CDC says — Timeline: The six months that changed everything.
- Politics:** Bob Woodward says it wasn't Trump's idea to restrict travel from China — Why new stimulus talks are at a "dead end."
- Vaccine:** Pfizer preparing to distribute vaccine by year-end, CEO says.
- Sports:** College football's fall of uncertainty.

to even keep track of. Here's a (partial) timeline to help make sense of these past six months.



Six Months That Changed Everything

Sunday marked six months since President Trump declared a national emergency over the coronavirus. If those six months feel like a blur to you, you're not alone.

The big picture: The sheer scale of what the U.S. has been through since March — a death toll equivalent to 65 Sept. 11 attacks, millions out of work, everyday life upended, with roiling protests and a presidential election to top it all off — can not only be hard to process, but hard

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WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

09/14/2020

CORONAVIRUS DIARY

Orange Skies Hang Over Western States

Wildfires are burning millions of acres and destroying homes and entire towns in Oregon, California and Washington states. The fires have killed at least 33 people and dozens more are missing.

Governor Brown of Oregon said he is preparing for a mass fatality event and has declared a state of emergency. More than 40,000 residents have fled their homes.

The fires have blanketed the west coast with smoke and have created air pollution in some cities that is now among the worst in the world.

In California more than three million

acres have burned which is a record in the state's history.

Governor Newsom said that what we're experiencing right here is coming to communities all across the United States of America unless we get out and act together on climate change.

President Trump will visit California again today. He has previously questioned the idea that humans cause climate change, and backing up his claim, he pulled the U.S. out of the Paris Climate Accord.

Washington state Governor Jay Inslee said we should called the fires "climate fires" and not "wild fires."



Texas Governor Greg Abbott has all ready sent 50 fire trucks and 190 additional firefighters to California.

This is a real tragedy for the people on the west coast, especially because we are still facing the coronavirus pandemic. Today, if you look at the sky in the San Francisco Bay and Golden Gate Bridge

area, it is all under an orange haze from the wildfire smoke. People say that when they wake up in the morning, they can't tell whether it is still night or daybreak.

It's happening all over California — the golden state is either burning or baking in the middle of a plague and social unrest. There has never been a summer like this.



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Editor's Choice



Dominic Thiem of Austria celebrates with the championship trophy after his match against Alexander Zverev of Germany in the men's singles final match on day fourteen of the 2020 U.S. Open tennis tournament. Danielle Parhizkaran-USA TODAY Sports



A supporter calms his baby at the back of the hall as he waits to rally with U.S. President Donald Trump at a campaign event in Henderson, Nevada. REUTERS/Jonathan Ernst



Models present creations by Custo Barcelona during the Mercedes Benz Fashion Week in Madrid, Spain. REUTERS/Juan Medina



People pray during a prayer vigil following the ambush shooting of two Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) deputies in Compton, outside St. Francis Medical Center hospital in Lynwood, California. REUTERS/Patrick T. Fallon



Bryan Alvarez holds a sign for oncoming traffic as utility workers repair power lines in the aftermath of the Obenchain Fire in Eagle Point, Oregon. REUTERS/Adrees Latif



Refugees and migrants from the destroyed Moria camp sleep on the side of a road, on the island of Lesbos, Greece. REUTERS/Alkis Konstantinidis



New York City Fire Department firefighters salute outside Ladder Co. 10, Engine Co. 10 on the 19th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks. REUTERS/Shannon Stapleton



Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga, former Defense Minister Shigeru Ishiba and former Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida celebrate after Suga was elected as new head of the ruling party at the Liberal Democrat...

Insect Wings Tear Apart Bacteria, May Hold Key To Fighting Superbugs

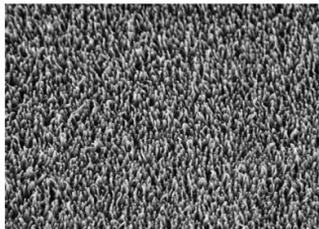


Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

MELBOURNE, Australia — Before you hit that bug with your fly swatter, hold up! Scientists say that insect may hold the key to killing drug-resistant germs. A new study finds the microscopic material that makes up insect wings have special properties which destroy bacteria.

The report in *Nature Reviews Microbiology* says cicada and dragonfly wings are natural bacteria killers. Their wings are covered in tiny nanopillars which stretch, slice, and tear germs apart. Instead of using medications, this material physically ruptures the cell membranes of bacteria which eventually kills them.

“Bacterial resistance to antibiotics is one of the greatest threats to global health and routine treatment of infection is becoming increasingly difficult,” Professor Elena Ivanova of Australia’s RMIT University says in a release. “When we look to nature for ideas, we find insects have evolved highly effective anti-bacterial systems.”



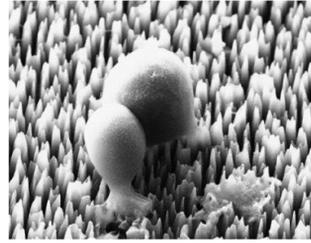
Nanopillars on a dragonfly’s wing, magnified 20,000 times. (Credit: RMIT University)

Making bug-inspired surfaces Researchers are now working on new anti-bacterial surfaces, inspired by these bug nanopillars. They are engineering sheets and wires using nanoshapes which damage germs just like a dragonfly wing. The study is the first to break down the different ways these surfaces use mechanical force against cell membranes. Ivanova says these man-made germ killers have a long way to go before they catch up with their insect inspirations.

“Our synthetic biomimetic nanostructures vary substantially in their

anti-bacterial performance and it’s not always clear why,” RMIT University’s distinguished professor explains. “We have also struggled to work out the optimal shape and dimensions of a particular nanopattern, to maximize its lethal power.”

The study adds, when examining dragonflies even further, some species have better bacteria-killing wings



than others.

Golden staph bacteria being ruptured by black silicon nanoneedles, an engineered surface and magnified 30,000 times. (Credit: RMIT University)

“When we examine the wings at the nanoscale, we see differences in the density, height and diameter of the nanopillars that cover the surfaces of these wings, so we know that getting the nanostructures right is key,” says Ivanova.

Destroying superbugs may be expensive Ivanova adds finding a way to avoid using drugs against antibiotic-resistant infections is crucial.

The Centers for Disease Control and Researchers say one of the key challenges they face is making nanostructure surfaces which are inexpensive so they can be widely distributed to the public and medical facilities. Luckily, the report says nanofabrication technology is advancing, providing hope that more anti-bacterial surfaces are on the horizon. Prevention estimates over 2.8 million people in the United States suffer a drug-resistant infection each year. More than 700,000 people die worldwide due to these bacterial strains. (Courtesy <https://www.studyfinds.org/>)

Related

From The CDC

About Antibiotic Resistance

Antibiotic resistance happens when germs like bacteria and fungi develop the ability to defeat the drugs designed to kill them. That means the germs are not killed and continue to grow. Infections caused by antibiotic-resistant germs are difficult, and sometimes impossible, to treat. In most cases, antibiotic-resistant infections require extended hospital stays, additional follow-up doctor visits, and costly and toxic alternatives. Antibiotic resistance does not mean the body is becoming resistant to antibiotics; it is that bacteria have become resistant to the antibiotics designed to kill them.

Antibiotic Resistance

Threatens Everyone Antibiotic resistance has the potential to affect people at any stage of life, as well as the healthcare, veterinary, and agriculture industries, making it one of the world’s most urgent public health problems. Each year in the U.S., at least 2.8 million people are infected with antibiotic-resistant bacteria or fungi, and more than 35,000 people die as a result. No one can completely avoid the risk of resistant infections, but some people are at greater risk than others (for example, people with chronic illnesses). If antibiotics lose their effectiveness, then we lose the ability to treat infections and control public health threats. Many medical advances are dependent on the ability to fight infections using antibiotics, including joint replacements, organ transplants, cancer therapy, and treatment of chronic diseases like diabetes, asthma, and rheumatoid arthritis.

Antibiotic-Resistant Infections Threaten Modern Medicine

Millions of people in the United States receive care that can be complicated by bacterial and fungal infections. Without antibiotics, we are not able to safely offer some life-saving medical advances.

Sepsis Treatment
Anyone can get an infection and almost any infection can lead to sepsis — the body’s extreme response to an infection. Without timely treatment with antibiotics, sepsis can rapidly lead to tissue damage, organ failure, and death.

AT LEAST 1.7M adults develop sepsis each year.

Surgery
Patients who have surgery are at risk for surgical site infections. Without effective antibiotics to prevent and treat surgical infections, many surgeries would not be possible today.

1.2M women had a cesarean section (C-section) in 2017. Antibiotics are recommended to help prevent infection.

Antibiotic-Resistant Infections Threaten Modern Medicine

Organ Transplants
Organ transplant recipients are more vulnerable to infections because they undergo complex surgery. Recipients also receive medicine to suppress (weaken) the immune system, increasing risk of infection.

MORE THAN 33,000 organ transplants were performed in 2016. Antibiotics help organ transplants remain possible.

Dialysis for Advanced Kidney Disease
Patients who receive dialysis treatment have a higher risk of infection, the second leading cause of death in dialysis patients.

MORE THAN 500,000 patients received dialysis treatment in 2016. Antibiotics are critical to treat infections in patients receiving life-saving dialysis treatment.

Cancer Care
People receiving chemotherapy for cancer are often at risk for developing an infection during treatment. Infection can quickly become serious for these patients.

AROUND 650,000 people receive outpatient chemotherapy each year. Antibiotics are necessary to protect these patients.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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