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Hurricane Hanna's winds battering south Texas coast, area hit hard by COVID



# Southern DAILY

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## Record numbers of coronavirus cases in every global region: Reuters tally



FILE PHOTO: A nurse works inside a field hospital built on a soccer stadium in Machakos, as the number of confirmed coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases continues to rise in Kenya, July 23, 2020. Picture taken July 23, 2020. REUTERS/Baz Ratner/File Photo

(Reuters) - Almost 40 countries have reported record single-day increases in coronavirus infections over the past week, around double the number that did so the previous week, according to a Reuters tally showing a pick-up in the pandemic in every region of the world.

The rate of cases has been increasing not only in countries like the United States, Brazil and India, which have dominated global headlines with large outbreaks, but in Australia, Japan, Hong Kong, Bolivia, Sudan, Ethiopia, Bulgaria, Belgium, Uzbekistan and Israel, among others.

Many countries, especially those where officials eased earlier social distancing lockdowns, are experiencing a second peak more than a month after recording their first. "We will not be going back to the 'old normal'. The pandemic has already changed the way we live our lives," World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said this week. "We're asking everyone to treat the decisions about where they go, what they do and who they meet with as life-and-death decisions - because they are."

The Reuters data, compiled from official reports, shows a steady rise in the number of countries reporting record daily increases in the virus that causes COVID-19 over the past month. At least seven countries recorded such

increases three weeks ago, rising to at least 13 countries two weeks ago to at least 20 countries last week and to 37 countries this week.

The true numbers of both cases and deaths are almost certainly underreported, particularly in countries with poorer health care systems, health experts and officials say. For this report, the Reuters data was restricted to countries that provide regular daily numbers.

A surge in cases usually precedes a rise in deaths by a couple of weeks.

The United States remains at the top of the case list, this week passing more than 4 million cases and recording more than 1,000 deaths for four consecutive days. Brazil and India - which epidemiologists say is still likely months from hitting its peak - have also exceeded 1 million cases.

### SECOND WAVE

The data reveals a growing number of resurgent cases in countries across all regions.

In Australia, officials enforced a six-week partial lockdown and made face masks mandatory for residents in the country's second-largest city, Melbourne, after a fresh outbreak.

Australia and Japan, which also posted a daily case record this week, both warned of a rise in infections among young people, many of whom celebrated the end of social restrictions at bars and parties.

In Mexico, which also posted a daily record this week and has the fourth-highest death toll of any country, officials warned that a downward trend in case numbers that began in mid-June - about the time the city began relaxing social distancing measures - could reverse.

Based on the rate of hospital admissions over the past week, Mexico City Mayor Claudia Sheinbaum said, hospitalisation levels by October could exceed those registered in June, the height of the pandemic.

"It is important to recognise that if we do not change the trend, there could be exponential growth," she said.

In Europe, where the summer vacation season is in full swing, a new daily record figure in Spain is likely to deter tourists from visiting one of the continent's most popular destinations. In Africa, Kenya recorded a record high daily case number less than two weeks after reopening activity, including domestic passenger flights. President Uhuru Kenyatta, who had announced international flights would resume on Aug. 1, has summoned officials to an emergency meeting on Monday to discuss the surge in cases.



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Stay Home!

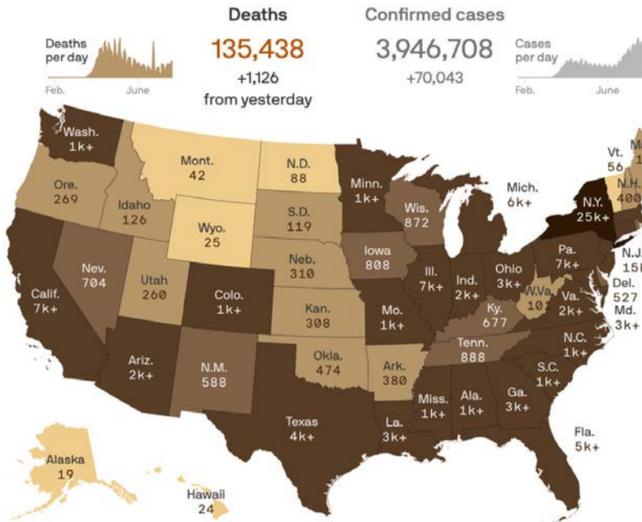
# BUSINESS

Wear Mask!

## U.S. Coronavirus Updates 07/26/20

### COVID-19 deaths in the U.S.

As of July 22, 2020, 6pm EDT



Data: The COVID Tracking Project; Map: Andrew Witherspoon/Axios

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

**By the numbers:** Over 3.9 million people have tested positive for the virus from more than 47 million tests in the U.S. More than 142,000 people have died of COVID-19, with over 1.1 million recovered. Over 1,000 coronavirus-related deaths were reported on Tuesday for the first time since May 29. Officials in North Dakota announced 160 new cases on Wednesday, a single-day record.

**What's happening:** Parents are turning to pandemic "pods" — hiring private instructors as a way to secure child care and make up for some of the gaps on-line-only classes will leave in their kids' educations.

- Coronavirus testing capacity could crumble under the combined demand of the pandemic and the fall flu season, Quest's executive vice president James Davis told the Financial Times.
- United Airlines announced Wednesday that it will require customers to wear face masks in all airport spaces, warning

that those who do not comply could face a ban as long as mask requirements remain in place.



- The Trump administration has agreed to pay Pfizer \$1.95 billion for 100 million doses of the experimental coronavirus vaccine the company is developing along with German biotech company BioNTech. The deal also gives the government the right to buy another 500 million doses.
- Yoshiro Mori, president of the organizing committee for the Tokyo Olympics, said Wednesday that the summer games

rescheduled for next July won't be possible if the coronavirus pandemic continues in its current state, AP reports.

- 59 NFL players tested positive for the coronavirus as of Tuesday.
- Trump admitted Tuesday at his first coronavirus press briefing since April that the outbreak in the U.S. will "probably, unfortunately get worse before it gets better."

**Ongoing:** Debates over face-covering mandates and school reopening plans have escalated throughout the country.

**Trends to watch:**

- **Vaccine:** Nations around the world and the global economy are desperately waiting for a coronavirus vaccine, and experts say there is a chance one will become available in record time.
- **New risk factors:** The CDC included more demographic groups at risk for the coronavirus such as younger people who are obese and who have underlying health problems.



- **When to wear a mask:** Scientific evidence shows face masks can help control the spread of the coronavirus, but nuances and changes in messaging about their use are complicating public health efforts.

- **Elections:** States need to determine how to hold safe elections by this fall. And state governments are facing budget shortfalls that threaten layoffs for public sector employees.

**Related**

**Anthony Fauci: COVID-19 Is "Almost Your Worst Nightmare"**

The unique characteristics of this pandemic may not allow people to completely eradicate it, but public health measures and good vaccines should bring "very good control," NIAID director Anthony Fauci said Wednesday.

"We are living, right now, through a historic pandemic outbreak. And, we are, right now, in a situation where we do not see any particular end in sight," Fauci told a panel hosted by the not-for-profit TB Alliance.



**Anthony Fauci, using a baseball analogy for the fight against COVID-19, warns the U.S. may not be halfway through and "certainly we're not winning the game right now." (Photo/AFP via Getty Images)**

"It's the perfect storm," Fauci says. "We often talk about outbreaks and pandemics, be they influenza or other pathogens, that have to have a few characteristics that make them particularly formidable. Well, this particular virus has that."

- For a public health official, this is "almost your worst nightmare," Fauci adds.
- He points out that SARS-CoV-2 jumps species, is a new pathogen with no known innate human immunity, and is a respiratory-borne virus that is "spectacularly efficient" at spreading from human to human and has a "substantial degree of morbidity and mortality, particularly in certain populations of people." Plus, "the spectrum of involvement with the same pathogen is very unique," Fauci says.

- "I've never seen an infection in which you have such a broad range — of literally nothing, namely no symptoms at all, in a substantial proportion of the population; to some who get ill with minor symptoms; to some who get ill enough to be in bed for weeks and have post-viral syndromes; [to] others [who] get hospitalized, require oxygen, intensive care, ventilation and death."



- From what doctors can tell right now, Fauci says the pathogenesis of the disease indicates "you want to block the virus and keep the immune systems intact early on. But, you want to block inflammation later on, because that assumes a much greater role."

**What to watch:** Several vaccines are in or will soon be entering phase 3 clinical testing, Fauci says. While the FDA gave a 50% efficacy benchmark for the vaccine, "they're shooting" for a vaccine with 70% or higher effectiveness. One safety concern they're watching for during phase 3 trials are for possible "vaccine-induced immune enhancement" that can sometimes occur if there's suboptimal antibodies in a vaccine that actually enhance the infection once you're exposed later. While there is no "particular reason" to believe this will happen with COVID-19 vaccines, there had been issues before with animals tested with the SARS vaccine, so "we want to pay attention to it."

**Fauci says he's "cautiously optimistic"** a good vaccine will be available soon. "I don't really see us eradicating it. I think with a combination of good public health measures, a degree of global herd immunity, and a good vaccine ... I think we'll get very good control of this. Whether it's this year or next year, I'm not certain," Fauci says. (Courtesy axios.com)



# WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

07/25/2020

## CORONAVIRUS DIARY

### Doctors Send Patients Home To Die

In a U.S.-Mexico border town, a local doctor can decide to send coronavirus patients home to die beside their loved ones.

At the Starr County Memorial Hospital in Rio Grande City, at least 50% of the patients in the emergency room have tested positive for COVID-19. Dr. Jose Vasquez said the situation is desperate in this rural south Texas county.

They began seeing an increase in positive cases about one month ago.

Even other states have sent them 33 medical personnel to assist the hospital. Unfortunately, the hospital has limited resources and the doctors are going to have to decide who should receive treatment and who will be sent home to die beside their loved ones.

Today, America has already confirmed over four million infected cases of the coronavirus. We don't see any sign of control coming in the near future. Those people living in the border towns are mostly poor and severely lack medical

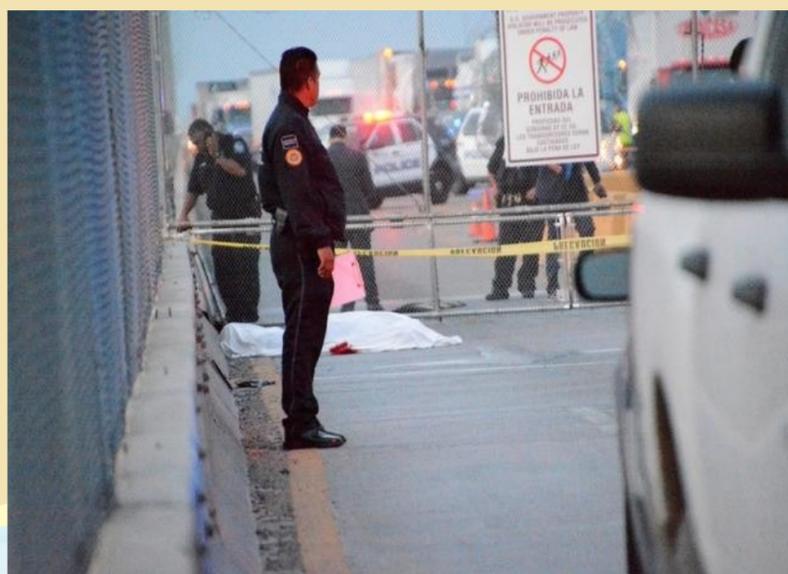


services. When the President started building the wall on the border, we didn't see any big improvements on the illegal aliens issue.

We feel very sad for the people who need the help the most in such a critical time. The federal and state governments

don't give them enough help. Finally, the patients have to go back home and just wait to die.

We all live in the same nation. We are all citizens of the most powerful country. Why do some of our people just not get equal treatment?



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# Editor's Choice



A healthcare worker conducts a coronavirus test to a patient while going house to house to test people for COVID-19 in the municipality of Tlahuac, one highly contagious zone of Mexico City, Mexico July 20, 2020. Mexico has reported more than 360,000...



American tourist boat Maid Of The Mist, limited to 50% occupancy under New York states rules, glides past a Canadian vessel limited under Ontario's rules to just six passengers, in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada July 21, 2020...



Queen Elizabeth awards Captain Tom Moore with the insignia of Knight Bachelor at Windsor Castle, in Windsor, Britain July 17, 2020. The queen knighted Moore, recognizing the 100-year-old for lifting Britain's spirits



An image of the late Rep. John Lewis is projected on the statue of Confederate General Robert E. Lee in Richmond, Virginia, July 19, 2020. Lewis, a pioneer of the civil rights movement and long-time member of the U.S. House of Representatives



A mannequin with a protective face mask is seen at a shop after further cases of coronavirus were confirmed in Barcelona



Students protest in support of a Black Groves High School student, who was in juvenile detention after not completing schoolwork during remote learning this past semester, in front of the Oakland County Circuit Court and Prosecutors Office



Colombian Migration office staff wear protective face masks to avoid contracting coronavirus, at El Dorado international airport in Bogota



Woman looks at an image of Mona Lisa with a face mask after further cases of coronavirus were confirmed in Barcelona

U.S. Passes 4 Million Coronavirus Infections



(Photo/© Getty Images)

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

The United States surpassed 4 million confirmed coronavirus infections on Thursday, according to data from Johns Hopkins University...

Hospitalizations are spiking, the positivity rate is rising and multiple states are reporting daily records on the number of cases and deaths.

According to the Covid Tracking Project, 59,628 people were being treated at hospitals on Wednesday...

New York area.



California on Wednesday passed New York in the number of total confirmed coronavirus cases, although the state's number of deaths and cases per 100,000 people are still much lower than New York's.

The president on Tuesday cautioned that the virus would get "worse before it gets better" while on Wednesday once again said testing was "overrated" and "makes us look bad."

Americans to wear face masks, wash their hands and practice physical distancing to help stem the spread of the disease.

"Our Hospitals Look Like War Zones": Texas Battling Influx Of COVID-19 Cases



An eye-opening study from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said coronavirus cases are a lot higher than the numbers reported in some parts of the country — up to 13 times higher — because so many who were infected didn't know it and unwittingly spread the virus.

Confirmed cases in the U.S. are edging toward 4 million. The virus has killed more than 141,000 Americans. Texas recorded a thousand deaths in just 10 days.

At hospitals in the Rio Grande Valley, state health officials say 37 ICU beds are available. Hidalgo County is the epicenter.

Cortez issued a shelter-at-home order late Monday. Although, Texas Governor Greg Abbott argues that it's unenforceable.



Refrigerator trucks are now being used as temporary morgues in south Texas due to lack of space at funeral homes.

While cities like Dallas and Houston are now seeing a decrease in positive cases and hospitalizations, virus-related deaths in the state are up 33% over the last 10 days.

This comes as new data from the CDC published on Tuesday estimates that COVID infections were as much as 13 times higher in parts of the country than actually reported.

"What was interesting about this study is that even given the fact that so many people have likely had COVID-19 without having any symptoms or without having any diagnosis officially made. Still, it implies that the vast majority of Americans have still not been infected."



A vendor wearing a mask to protect against COVID-19 arranges merchandise at his business in San Antonio on Monday, July 20, 2020.

And while a new study found effective social distancing with masks and handwashing could stop 90% of large outbreaks, Big Pharma companies continue their race toward a vaccine.

of Los Angeles is bracing for the possibility of another stay-at-home order. In Florida, at least five counties have no ICU beds available at this time.

Related The States Where Face Coverings Are Mandatory



Data: Compiled by Axios; Map: Danielle Alberti/Axios

States/territories that are mandating facial coverings in public include the following: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Virginia, Washington and West Virginia.

Note: Some city and local governments such as Phoenix and Jacksonville have enacted mandates as well. Other states have rules for people in certain situations, such as taking public transit or entering grocery stores.

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