



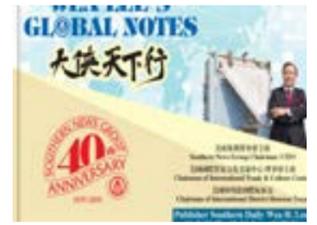
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Meet the Americans 'standing by' for possible election violence



Some of the millions of mail-in election ballots are shown at the Orange County Registrar of voters before being sent to the U.S. Postal Service for delivery to voters in Santa Ana, California, October 5, 2020. REUTERS/Mike Blake

(Reuters) - Some Americans worried about possible violence after the U.S. presidential election are forming community watch groups, others are working on conflict de-escalation and still others are purchasing guns, according to two dozen voters, online groups and data surveyed by Reuters.

Some of the millions of mail-in election ballots are shown at the Orange County Registrar of voters before being sent to the U.S. Postal Service for delivery to voters in Santa Ana, California, October 5, 2020. REUTERS/ Mike Blake

A common fear is that the Nov. 3 contest between President Donald Trump and Democratic challenger Joe Biden remains undecided, leading to protests that could escalate into civil unrest, or even sectarian conflict.

An illustration of those concerns came in Michigan on Thursday, with the announcement that 13 people had been arrested in alleged plots to kidnap the state's governor and attack the state capitol building.

For Americans like financial adviser David Powell, the greatest worry is that they could be forced to take sides to protect civil rights, private property and even lives.

"I'm not part of any group, don't want to be part of a group, I'm your regular guy who is watching the news and is getting really concerned," said Powell, 64, of Raleigh, North Carolina. He said he worries about "antifa thugs," a term U.S. conservatives use to describe left-wing anti-fascist activists. He said he is prepared to "stand guard" in his community, if necessary.

Some people are planning foreign vacations around Election Day or heading to rural retreats. Others have bought guns for defense. Firearm sales hit a monthly record of 3.9 million in June, according to FBI data. Ammunition for AR-15-style rifles is on back order in states like Washington and Colorado "I bought an AK-47," said a Denver-based lawyer who identified himself as Ewing, and asked that his full name not be used. "The ammo is inexpensive and I can still get it."

Some communities and groups are trying to deescalate tensions, often with the knowledge that many people have firearms and are prepared to use them.

In Portland, Oregon, left-wing activist Dre Miller has reached out to leaders of the right-wing Proud Boys to set up an open line of communication to resolve conflicts.

"We need to be able to call a cease fire when things get out of hand," said Miller, 37, an organizer with black rights group J.U.I.C.E. "As a black man I cannot stand back right now. I'm standing up and standing by," echoing words Trump used about the Proud Boys.

The primary "terrorist threat" facing the United States, according to an Oct. 6 Department of Homeland Security report, are lone offenders and small domestic extremist cells who may act out grievances.

An October poll by political scientists including Lee Drutman of the New America think tank published in Politico found around a third of Americans justified violence to advance political goals, double the number in December 2019.

"The most likely outcome is the election happens, there's

no major violence, but the risk of serious or even low-level violence is probably higher than it's been in a very long time," said Drutman.

FACEBOOK VIGILANTES

Would-be vigilantes have organized using Facebook groups and other online platforms, where members share videos of violence and property damage by political opponents alongside misinformation.

Facebook Inc. FB.O expanded its rules to ban militia groups that celebrate violence in August and pulled down 6,500 pages and groups over the next month, but less explicitly militarized communities of hundreds of thousands of people remain online.

"That's what is galvanizing and driving militia groups and other armed individuals to think that they have a role to play in this moment of sweeping social change," said Joan Donovan, a misinformation expert at Harvard.

In Colorado Springs, business owner Michelle Morin has taken self-defense classes and is organizing with fellow conservative neighbors to protect each others' homes and send a message to left-wing "thugs" that they are not welcome in her community.

"There's more to self-defense and more to pushing back than guns," said Morin, 51, a registered Republican and firearm owner.

Stephanie Porta is educating people in Orlando, Florida that an election result is unlikely on Nov. 3 and not to panic. She is teaching poll workers and voter protection workers to defuse confrontations should they occur.

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WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

10/09/2020

CORONAVIRUS DIARY

Hatred Is Not The Solution

Thirteen people were charged yesterday for trying to kidnap Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer. The alleged scheme included a plan to overthrow state government. The people believed that the state government is violating the U.S. Constitution.

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel announced that six people were charged federally with conspiracy to kidnap and seven other people associated with the militia group face other charges.

Governor Whitmer said in a news conference that she knew her job would

be hard, but she said to be honest, she never could have imagined anything like this. She especially blamed President Trump, who has repeatedly declined to condemn far-right groups, for the action.

According to the complaint, the group discussed their members crashing into the Michigan Capitol building in Lansing and taking hostages and murdering "tyrants," including Governor Whitmer.

Recently the FBI became aware of the group's plans through a social media group of individuals that were discussing the violent overthrow of a certain government. Because of the complexity



of the operation and the dangerous suspects involved, the FBI needed to mobilize their resources to execute either search warrants or arrest warrants at a dozen separate sites.

We are very sad that the country has to worry about these criminal activities that could have damaged the coming election and the national security.

Hatred is not the solution for our society.



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BUSINESS

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Is The Coronavirus Weakening? Patients' Viral Loads In Decline, As Well As Death Rates



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

DETROIT, Mich. — While some health experts warn of a possible second wave in the coronavirus pandemic, a new study is pointing to signs that COVID-19's severity may be fading. Researchers at Wayne State University say viral loads from patients are continuing to decrease as the pandemic progresses. This is also showing a connection to a lowering death rate.

Dr. Said El Zein and his team analyzed viral loads of SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing COVID-19, coming from patient nasal swabs over two months. From April 4 to June 5, a downward trend in the amount of virus detected in patients at Detroit Medical Center was discovered.

To estimate the viral loads coming from nasopharyngeal swabs, study authors use a cycle threshold (Ct) value that comes from the tests on these samples. A higher Ct means a sample has less SARS-CoV-2 in it. Their scale rates a high viral load as a Ct of 25 and under, intermediate loads as a Ct between 26-36, and low viral loads as a Ct over 37.

Lower viral loads lead to better out-

comes for COVID patients
During the week of April 4, just under half (49%) of COVID-19 patients had an intermediate viral load (VL). Low and high VL counts both came in at 25.5 percent of the patient samples.



By the fifth week of the study however, 70 percent of positive COVID-19 swabs fall into the low VL category. El Zein adds that this drop in viral production coincides with a decrease in patient deaths. Researchers say 45 percent of patients in the high VL group died from the virus. This number falls to 32 percent for COVID-19 patients with intermediate loads and 14 percent for the low VL group.

"During the April-June 2020 period of

the COVID-19 pandemic, the initial SARS-CoV-2 load steadily declined among hospitalized patients with a corresponding decrease in the percent of deaths over time," the Wayne State team says in a media release. "Though confounding variables have not been evaluated, this suggests an association between initial viral load and mortality." **Face masks, social distancing still the keys**

Dr. El Zein admits the team doesn't know the exact reason why viral loads are dropping over time, but suggests the pandemic's severity is fading since a global crisis was officially declared on March 11. Part of this, he adds, may be due to the public's actions to curb the spread.



"Rapid implementation of social distancing measures, lockdown and widespread use of facemasks may have contributed to a decrease in the exposure to the virus."

The findings were presented at the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases' Conference on Coronavirus Disease. (Courtesy studyfinds.org)

Related

Men 62% more likely to die from COVID, greater inflammation may be why

REGENSBURG, Germany — It's been discussed in vague terms for months that men appear to be more susceptible in general to the coronavirus than women. Now, a new study is providing more exact figures and a possible explanation for this discrepancy between genders.

The research, conducted at University Hospital Regensburg, concludes that men have a 62% higher risk of a COVID-19 associated death in compar-

ison to women. Researchers say it may be due to higher levels of inflammation among male coronavirus patients.



To come to these findings, the authors analyzed 3,129 adults who were treated for COVID-19 between March and July of this year. For each patient, they had access to data pertaining to both socio-demographics and co-morbidities.

Analysis of male COVID patients versus female

The progression of each patient's condition was classified over time according to four phases: uncomplicated (asymptomatic/mild symptoms); complicated (need for oxygen assistance); critical (need for critical care); and recovery. Across each phase, patients' vital signs, symptoms, inflammatory markers, and treatment methods were recorded.

Among the entire patient group, the male-female ratio was 1.48. Moreover, there were more men receiving coronavirus treatments than women across all age groups. That being said, this abundance of male patients over female patients is most obvious among the 65-75 year old age group. More men also showed signs of coronary artery disease (18% vs 10%), and admitted to being smokers (14.5% vs 10.5%).



The study also shows that men have more admissions to ICU care (thus placed in the "critical" phase) than women (30.6%

vs 17.2%). In all, male patients spent more time in the hospital than females (15.4 vs 13.3 days).

When it comes to patients who died, men were more likely to suffer a COVID-related death than women (17.1% vs 10.3%).

Men show higher levels of inflammation 'during all phases of COVID-19'

All in all, even after accounting for other factors, researchers calculate that men have a 62% higher overall chance of passing away from COVID-19-associated causes. Researchers say that male patients shows significantly higher markers of inflammation (IL-6, CRP, PCT, ferritin) during all four aforementioned phases.

"Men are more likely to progress to critical phases of COVID-19. Men have higher death rates as well as more frequent ICU admissions and longer hospital stays, that are all associated with higher inflammatory parameters during all phases of COVID-19. In our cohort, this effect was not explained by differences in comorbidities, age or BMI between male and female patients," researchers conclude in a media release.



"We need further studies on what exactly makes men more vulnerable to COVID-19", study leader Dr. Frank Hanses adds. "We do not yet know which biological or possibly social factors lead to these marked differences."

This research is being presented at the ESCMID Conference on Coronavirus Disease. (Courtesy studyfinds.org)

Editor's Choice



Traffic moves bumper to bumper along I-10 west as residents evacuate before the arrival of Hurricane Delta in Westlake, Louisiana. REUTERS/Adrees Latif



A mixed-use high-rise residential building is engulfed by a fire in Ulsan, South Korea. Yonhap via REUTERS



Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden speaks to reporters as he departs Wilmington, Delaware. REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque



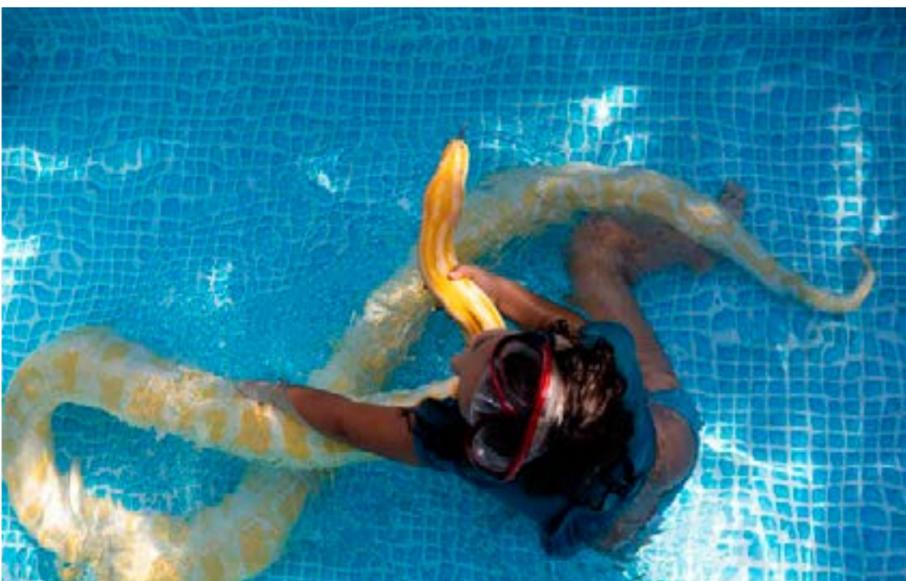
A man delivers flowers, after American poet Louise Gluck won the 2020 Nobel Prize for Literature, at her home in Cambridge, Massachusetts. REUTERS/Katherine Taylor



Spain's Rafael Nadal celebrates after winning his semi final match against Argentina's Diego Schwartzman at the French Open. REUTERS/Christian Hartmann



An Azerbaijani woman is seen in a secondary school gym, where she has been settled after fleeing Terter during the military conflict over the breakaway region of Nagorno-Karabakh, in the town of Barda, Azerbaijan. REUTERS/Umit Bektas



Inbar Regev, an eight-year-old Israeli girl, touches her pet python while swimming in her backyard pool in Ge'a, southern Israel. REUTERS/Amir Cohen



Demonstrators set a police station on fire during a protest against the government's proposed labor reforms near the Presidential Palace in Jakarta, Indonesia. REUTERS/Willy Kurniawan

Global Coronavirus Vaccine Development Heading For The Final Stretch



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

We are inching closer to having a coronavirus vaccine ready and if reports are true, the first doses could arrive by early 2021. India's Prime Minister Modi's recent statement at the UN general assembly also attested to the fact that vaccine development is going on at full swing.

since it would be a randomized trial. Necessary observations and checks would be made after a gap of four days, seven days and so forth.



According to the scientists responsible for monitoring the trials, the job has been studied to deliver a strong immune response and spiked antibody levels in the body 14 days post inoculation.

has so far, enrolled 25,000 of the planned 30,000 volunteers and experimental inoculation is underway. According to company reports, the earliest study from the wide-scale trials is expected by last week of October or early November, making way for a review in the last months of the year.



Amid news of rolling out a vaccine for the masses, China, which was the epicentre of the disease outbreak has reportedly inoculated at least a lakh people across the country with doses of experimental vaccines being developed by Chinese scientists.

China and the World Health Organisation (WHO) downplaying the COVID-19 risk has been doing the rounds of late, after a whistleblower, Chinese virologist Dr Li-Meng Yan spoke in an interview about the same, reportedly suggesting that the virus has been engineered in a lab by Chinese scientists.



Amid controversies and news of expedited trials abroad, the latest report surrounding Sputnik V suggests that the vaccine is able to live up to its promised aim, and delivers tolerable immunity after the first shot. Alexander Gintsburg, the head of Moscow's state-run Gamaleya research institute, heading the trials said that enough samples have been observed to conclude the safe workings of the vaccine.

Dr Reddy's all set to bring the vaccine to India, produce ample doses for the public after it goes through phase III trials, clearances and required nods from the DGCI. As per reports, the administration could start as early as January next year.



Bharat Biotech, ICMR and National Institute of Virology, Pune (NIV) backed Covaxin is making steady progress and winning praise from proud Indians. According to chief investigators monitoring the phase II trials of the vaccine, the candidate is able to deliver strong immunogenicity response and delivers low, or no side-effects.



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