

# CONGRATULATIONS!

# BIDEN HARRIS WIN 2020 US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

## 恭賀: 拜登 賀錦麗 當選 美國總統暨副總統



歷經數日計票程序，民主黨候選人拜登最終拿下賓州 20 張選舉人票，並於當地時間 7 日以 284 票比 214 票擊敗現任總統川普，當選第 46 屆總統。美南傳媒集團董事長李蔚華發出賀電恭喜拜登賀錦麗入主白宮。



休士頓 AAPI 社區民主黨各族裔參選者及支持者 10 月 25 日，在美南新聞前廣場集會，為拜登競選總統及副總統候選人卡馬拉·哈里斯拉票。



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Stay Home!

# BUSINESS

Wear Mask!

## Easier-To-Use Coronavirus Saliva Tests Start To Catch On



An employee at Spectrum Solutions in Draper, Utah, shows tubes used in their COVID-19 saliva test kit. (George Frey/Getty Images)

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

As the coronavirus pandemic broke out across the country, health care providers and scientists relied on the standard method for detecting respiratory viruses: sticking a long swab deep into the nose to get a sample. The obstacles to implementing such testing on a mass scale quickly became clear. Among them: Many people were wary of the unpleasant procedure, called a nasopharyngeal swab. It can be performed only by trained health workers, putting them at risk of infection and adding costs. And the swabs and chemicals needed to test for the virus almost immediately were in short supply. Some places, like Los Angeles County, moved early to self-collected oral swabs of saliva and sputum, with the process supervised at drive-thru testing sites by trained personnel swathed in protective gear. Meanwhile, researchers began investigating other cheaper, simpler alternatives to the tried-and-true approach — including dribbling saliva into a test tube. But the transition has not been immediate. Regulators and scientists are generally cautious about new, unproven technologies and have an understandable bias toward well-established protocols.

“Saliva is not a traditional diagnostic fluid,” said Yale microbiologist Anne Wylie, part of a team whose saliva-based test, called SalivaDirect, received emergency use authorization from the Food and Drug Administration in August. “When we were hit by a virus that came out of nowhere, we had to respond with the tools that were available.”



Eight months into the pandemic, the move toward saliva screening is gaining traction, with tens of thousands of people across the country undergoing such testing daily. However, saliva tests still represented only a small percentage of the more than 900,000 tests conducted daily on average at the end of September. Yale is providing its protocol on an open-source basis and recently designated laboratories in Minnesota, Florida and New York as capable of performing the test. Besides the Yale test, the FDA has authorized emergency use of several others, including versions developed at Rutgers University, the University of South Carolina and SUNY Upstate Medical University. A further advance, an at-home saliva test, could be headed for FDA authorization, too. Since the start of the pandemic, the Trump administration’s approach to testing has been hampered by missteps and controversy. As a key health agency during an unprecedented emergency, the FDA’s effectiveness relies on public trust in how it balances the need for speed in authorizing innova-

tive products, like saliva tests and vaccines, with ensuring safety and effectiveness, said Ann Keller, an associate professor of health policy at the University of California-Berkeley. “You obviously want to get new tests into the mix quickly in order to address the emergency, but you still need to uphold your standards,” Keller said. The White House’s public pressure on the FDA has complicated the agency’s efforts by undermining its credibility and independence, she said.



Respiratory viruses colonize areas inside the nasal cavity and at the back of the throat. Besides the nasopharyngeal approach, nasal samples obtained with shorter and less invasive swabs have proven effective for the coronavirus and have become widely adopted, although they also generally require a health care worker’s involvement. The millions of rapid tests that will be distributed across the country, per a recent White House announcement, rely on nasal swabs. In the early months of the pandemic, some studies reported significant levels of the virus in oral secretions. In a Hong Kong study published in February, for example, the virus was found in the saliva of 11 of 12 patients with confirmed coronavirus infection. In Los Angeles, which began using the oral swab test in late March, more than 10,000 samples are collected per day, said Fred Turner, chief executive of Curative, the company that developed it.

Turner sees an advantage to the swabbing strategy. The self-swab procedure takes only 20 to 30 seconds, while producing enough saliva for testing can take people two to three minutes, and sometimes longer, he said. “That might not sound like much difference,” Turner said, “but it is when you’re trying to push 5,000 people through a test site.”



Curative’s three labs process tens of thousands

of tests from jurisdictions across the country in addition to L.A., Turner said. A test developed at SUNY Upstate Medical University, which is expected to become available at state labs around New York, also uses an oral swab. For the Curative test, a health care worker is supposed to oversee the sample collection — reminding people to cough to bring up fluids, for example. When investigators at the University of Illinois launched what they called a “Manhattan Project” to develop a saliva test by mid-June, they hoped to make it possible for people to visit a collection site, drool into a test tube, seal it and drop it off without the aid of a health care worker.

The university is now testing more than 10,000 people a day at its three campuses and is seeking to expand access to communities across the state and country, said chemistry professor Paul Hergenrother, who led the research team. Like the similar Yale test, it is being made freely available to other laboratories. The University of Notre Dame, in Indiana, recently adopted it. Like tests using nasopharyngeal and other kinds of nasal swabs, these saliva tests are based on PCR technology, which amplifies small amounts of viral genetic material to facilitate detection. Both the Yale and University of Illinois tests have managed to simplify the process by eliminating a standard intermediate step: the extraction of viral RNA. Their protocols also don’t require viral transport media, or VTM — the chemicals generally used to stabilize the samples after collection.



“You don’t need swabs, you don’t need health care workers, you don’t need VTM, and you don’t need RNA isolation kits,” Hergenrother said.

In correspondence published in the New England Journal of Medicine, the Yale team reported detecting more viral RNA in saliva specimens than in nasopharyngeal ones, with a higher proportion of the saliva tests showing positive results for up to 10 days after initial diagnosis. The National Basketball Association provided \$500,000 in support for the Yale project, said David Weiss, the NBA’s senior vice president for player matters. He said the Yale team’s decision to eliminate the process of RNA extraction, which separates the genetic ma-

terial from other substances that could complicate detection, involved trade-offs but did not compromise the value of the test.

“Any molecular test that has an RNA extraction step is almost by definition going to be more sensitive, but it will also be more expensive and take longer and use supplies that are in shorter supply,” he said. “If we’re trying to look at surveillance testing to open up schools and nursing homes, a test that’s still very sensitive and a lot cheaper is an important innovation.”

Prices for coronavirus tests vary widely, running upward of \$100. Tests based on the Yale or University of Illinois protocols, which require only inexpensive materials, could be available for as little as \$10. The Curative testing service, which includes collection and transportation of samples as well as the laboratory component, averages around \$150 per test depending on volume, said Clayton Kazan, chief medical director of the L.A. County Fire Department, which uses the tests.



Despite the advances in sample collection, tests using PCR — polymerase chain reaction — technology still require laboratory processing. Researchers have been investigating other approaches, including saliva-based antigen tests, that could be self-administered at home and would provide immediate results. Meanwhile, scientists at Columbia University, the University of Wisconsin and elsewhere are investigating the use of saliva with other kinds of rapid-test technologies.

“There’s tons of interest” in an at-home saliva test, noted Yvonne Maldonado, chief of pediatric infectious diseases at Stanford University School of Medicine.

“People really do want to get that pregnancy-type kit out there,” she said. “You could basically send people a little packet with little strips, and you pull off a strip every day and put in under your tongue.” This story also ran on Los Angeles Times. (Courtesy /khn.org/)

# WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

11/06/2020

CORONAVIRUS DIARY

## The Whole World Is Waiting

The 2020 election has now almost come to an end. There is still a lot to be determined, but we know that the nation has successfully pulled off another election. Under incredible circumstances and with this record high turnout, we should be very proud.

But in the meantime, even the Democratic Party will be winning. President Donald Trump has offered little indication that he was prepared to concede defeat, even as the vote totals now show him trailing former Vice President Joe Biden in key battleground states.

Trump has not prepared a concession speech and in conversation with allies in recent days, he has said he has no intention of conceding the election.

In Asia, American allies are very worried about what is going on. In America, in Europe, including France and Germany, other political leaders are also watching very closely how the new administration will take care of world affairs.

Trump campaign general counsel Matt Morgan said that this election is not over.



continue to work with them.

We are looking forward to a speedy resolution of the election. The world is also expecting that the United States will



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# BIDEN WINS



Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), ranking member, Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX), Sen. Kamala D. Harris (D-CA), before a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington, September 27, 2018. Melina Mara/Pool via REUTERS



California Attorney General Kamala Harris (L) smiles after marrying same-sex couple and Proposition 8 lawsuit plaintiffs Sandy Stier and Kris Perry (both not seen) at City Hall in San Francisco, June 28, 2013.



Kamala Harris takes the stage for a campaign stop at Keene State College in Keene, New Hampshire, April 23, 2019. REUTERS/Brian Snyder



Kamala Harris laughs during the presidential candidate forum at the annual convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), in Detroit, Michigan, July 24, 2019. REUTERS/Rebecca Cook



People gather in front of the White House after news media declared Joe Biden to be the winner of the election, in Washington, November 7. REUTERS/Carlos Barria



Kamala Harris puts hot sauce on her greens while eating lunch at Rodney Scott's BBQ in Charleston, South Carolina, February 15, 2019. REUTERS/Elijah Nouvelage



People at Central Park react as media announce that Joe Biden has won the election in New York City, November 7. REUTERS/Caitlin Ochs



A man sprays champagne as people celebrate in Washington, November 7. REUTERS/Michael A. McCoy

Contested Presidential Elections Are Part Of American History



Sen. John F. Kennedy speaks to supporters at Chicago Stadium four days before the 1960 election. (AP Photo)

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

As states continue to count their ballots in the 2020 election, it seems possible that Democrats and Republicans will end up in court over whether President Trump will win a second term in the White House.

The Confederate states had been readmitted to the Union, and Reconstruction was in full swing. The Republicans were strongest in the pro-Union areas of the North and African-American regions of the South.



1876: A compromise that came at a price. By 1876 - 11 years after the end of the Civil War - all

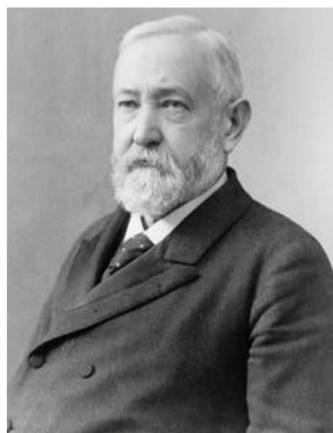


In 1876, Republicans nominated Ohio Gov. Ruth-

erford B. Hayes, and Democrats chose New York Gov. Samuel Tilden.

But in a political scheme that backfired, Davis was chosen by Democrats in the Illinois state legislature to serve in the U.S. Senate. (Senators weren't chosen by voters until 1913.) They'd hoped to win his support on the electoral commission.

1888: Bribing blocks of five. In 1888, Democratic President Grover Cleveland of New York ran for reelection against former Indiana U.S. Sen. Benjamin Harrison.



Benjamin Harrison. (Photo/Wikimedia Commons) Harrison had appointed an Indiana lawyer, William Wade Dudley, as treasurer of the Republican National Committee.

The instructions outlined how each Republican activist would be responsible for five of these "floaters." Democrats got a copy of the letter and publicized it widely in the days leading up to the election.

1960: Did the Daley machine deliver? The 1960 election pitted Republican Vice President Richard Nixon against Democratic U.S. Sen. John F. Kennedy.



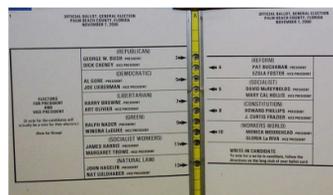
The 1960 election pitted Republican Vice President Richard Nixon (right) against Democratic U.S. Sen. John F. Kennedy (left).

If Nixon had won Texas and Illinois, he would have had an Electoral College majority. While Republican-leaning newspapers proceeded to investigate and conclude that voter fraud had occurred in both states.

2000: The hanging chads. In 2000, many states were still using the punch card ballot, a voting system created in the 1960s.

malfunctions and missed votes, no one seemed to know or care - until all Americans suddenly realized that the outdated technology had created a problem in Florida.

But ultimately, the month-long process to determine the winner of the presidential election came down to an issue of "hanging chads."



The Florida butterfly ballot confused a number of voters, who ended up voting for Reform Party candidate Pat Buchanan thinking they had voted for Democratic candidate Al Gore.

Over 60,000 ballots in Florida, most of them on punch cards, had registered no vote for president on the punch card readers.

The national drama and trauma that followed Election Day in 1876 and 2000 could be repeated this year. Of course, a lot will depend on the margins and how the candidates react.

Most eyes will be on Trump, who hasn't said whether or not he'll accept the result if he loses. On election night, he announced he had won before all the votes had been counted in a number of battleground states.

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