

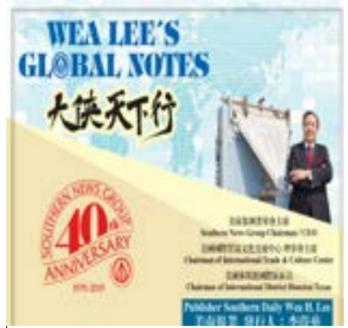


If you would like to share news or information with our readers, please send the unique stories, business

news organization events, and school news to us including your name and phone number in case more information is needed.

For news and information consideration, please send to News@scdaily.com or contact John Robbins 832-280-5815 Jun Gai 281-498-4310

Mr. Lee's Commentary and Dairy



Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

**Publisher:** Wea H. Lee  
**President:** Catherine Lee  
**Editor:** John Robbins, Jun Gai  
**Address:** 11122 Bellaire Blvd., Houston, TX 77072  
**E-mail:** News@scdaily.com

Tuesday January 26 2021 | www.today-america.com | Southern News Group

## Moderna says it believes vaccine will work against new variants



"It is a little worrisome that you see a lesser neutralizing antibody response, but that doesn't necessarily mean that you are unprotected," he said, noting that even these lower levels may still be enough to protect against serious infections.

"The goal of this vaccine is to keep you out of the hospital and to keep you out of the morgue. If you get a symptomatic infection or mildly symptomatic infection that is not a burden to the healthcare system," Offit said.

Moderna said the new booster shot could be made available in future if evidence were to emerge that protection declined.

Pfizer Inc and BioNTech SE have also said tests showed their vaccine is effective against the variant found in Britain, but have not yet disclosed results against the South Africa variant.

That variant first found in Britain has caused a massive surge in cases there and has also been found in more than a dozen U.S. states. U.S. public health officials expect it to be the dominant strain in the United States within 6 weeks.

Moderna said it plans to publish data from its tests against the variants on the website bioRxiv.

(Reuters) - Moderna said on Monday it believes its COVID-19 vaccine protects against new variants found in Britain and South Africa, although it will test a new booster shot aimed at the South Africa variant after concluding that the antibody response could be diminished.

a reduced response but still believed its two-dose regimen would provide protection.

Moderna shares rose nearly 10%, or \$12.40, to \$143.85 in morning trading.



The emergence of new variants in Britain, South Africa and Brazil has created some concern that mutations in the virus may make vaccines less effective.

Jefferies analyst Michael Yee said in a research note that it was encouraging that the Moderna testing showed that even against the variant found in South Africa, the antibody response produced by its mRNA-1273 vaccine was still "above the levels" that provide protection.

Yee also said the speed with which Moderna was able to design a new

booster shot candidate was proof of the flexibility of the new mRNA technology upon which it is based.

Dr. Paul Offit, an infectious disease expert at the University of Pennsylvania and a member of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's vaccine advisory panel said he was only mildly concerned that the vaccine would not be protective against the variants.

## Leon Black to step down as Apollo CEO after Epstein review

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Leon Black said on Monday he would relinquish his chief executive post at Apollo Global Management Inc following the buyout firm's independent review of his ties to the late financier and convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

The review, conducted by law firm Dechert LLP, found Black was not involved in any way with Epstein's criminal activities. Black, the review found, paid Epstein bona fide fees for advice on tax and estate planning, and other related services.

Nevertheless, Apollo said it would undertake efforts to strengthen its corporate governance to allow the board to oversee "all aspects" of the buyout firm and delegate less of that work.

Apollo co-founder Marc Rowan will take over as CEO, with Black remaining Apollo's chairman, the firm said.

The sudden end to Black's management of Apollo, a New York-based firm he co-founded 31 years ago and turned into one of the world's largest private equity and credit investment groups, reflects the toll that revelations of his ties to Epstein took on the investment firm's business.

Apollo executives had warned in October that some investors had paused their commitments to Apollo's funds as they awaited the review's findings.

Apollo shares missed out on a stock market rally and are down 1% since the New York Times reported on Oct. 12 that Black paid at least \$50 million to Epstein for advice and services, when most of his clients had deserted him. Shares of peers Blackstone Group Inc, KKR & Co Inc and Carlyle Group Inc are up 19%, 10% and 23% over that period,

FILE PHOTO: Vials with a sticker reading, "COVID-19 / Coronavirus vaccine / Injection only" and a medical syringe are seen in front of a displayed Moderna logo in this illustration taken October 31, 2020. REUTERS/Dado Ruvic/File Photo

The company said in a press release that it found no reduction in the antibody response against the variant found in Britain. Against the variant found in South Africa, it found

# 休士頓 去哪兒玩

## HOUSTON HIDDEN GEMS

# 令人垂涎欲滴的馬來西亞大餐

# PAPARICH



休士頓 去哪儿玩

每週三更新

敬請專注我們的YOUTUBE 頻道

STV 15.3 Houston

# WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

01/25/2021

## CORONAVIRUS DIARY

Wealee@scdaily.com

# The Foundation Of World Peace – UNA–USA Houston

It was my great honor to join the United Nations Association Houston Chapter as a new board member. Our President Daniel Stoecker hosted the first board meeting last week to set the projects for this year.

The mission of UNA–Houston is to educate people about the United Nations' role in international affairs, how it impacts individuals and communities and to strengthen those whose purpose it is to promote social justice, the foundation for universal peace.

On the agenda we discussed the different committees' functions and assignments including membership, dialog with the Diplomat/Cultural Dinner virtual

event, the International Women's Day Celebration, Human Rights Day, UN Day, global education classes and young adult engagement. All of these programs really have received positive attention from the local community.

Today our nation is facing serious challenges like never before. President Biden's new administration is trying to get back into the international community including the United Nations to regain the leadership role on the world stage. We as citizens all need to be a part of this important mission.

In this internet age the world has come closer, but this pandemic has really damaged our world economy and many lives



have been lost. We need to rebuild the new world structure, including the United Nations. We feel that this local civic or-

ganization will really get in touch with the grass roots. We really need to work together to save our world.



**Southern News Group**  
40th Anniversary  
1979-2019

**STV**  
KVVV153  
美南國際電視網

Southern News Group Chairman / CEO  
Chairman of International Trade & Culture Center  
Chairman of International District Houston Texas



Publisher Southern Daily Wea H. Lee

Stay Home!

# BUSINESS

Wear Mask!

### The Stakes Are High And The State Is Scrambling To Solve It

## State Of Texas Faces A Big Problem With Its COVID-19 Vaccination Data



Tarrytown Pharmacy in Austin quickly exhausted its supply of 500 coronavirus vaccine doses in late December, then was bombarded by phone calls from people looking to get vaccinated. Credit: Montinique Monroe for The Texas Tribune

#### Key Point

As the state began the massive undertaking of distributing the coronavirus vaccine, early data problems left state officials with immunization records that were outdated, incomplete and sometimes misleading.

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

After the staff at Austin's Tarrytown Pharmacy hustled to vaccinate 500 vulnerable Texans and front-line workers over the holidays, pharmacist Rannon Ching logged into an online state system used to track the vaccines. Then he panicked. According to the system, his Tarrytown pharmacy hadn't vaccinated anyone. The numbers on his screen indicated all 500 doses were still sitting on his shelf.

"I freaked out thinking, 'Oh my gosh, they're not going to give me any [more] doses because they think I'm not giving anything,'" Ching said.

As the state began the massive undertaking of distributing the coronavirus vaccine, its early rollout was beset by data problems that left state officials with immunization and dose information that was outdated, incomplete and sometimes misleading. Health care providers feared those inaccurate numbers, collected by the state's immunization registry, ImmTrac2, and another system were being used by the state to decide who would get the weekly allotment of vaccine — and by others to decide who would get blamed for moving too slowly as a desperate public clamored for shots. Health officials say the

registry data were not used to dole out vaccines in the early weeks of the rollout — that's a misconception, they said — but added that the data they're collecting with ImmTrac2 could soon become a central factor in how many vaccine doses Texas gets from the federal government going forward.



Rannon Ching in his office at Tarrytown Pharmacy. He said his staff had to manually re-enter data for hours after their system wouldn't sync with the state's. Credit: Montinique Monroe for The Texas Tribune

"We haven't been using the data that's in ImmTrac for allocation, but it sounds like we are going to need to place greater emphasis on that," Anton said. "Because if they think we're not using up all of their

vaccines, they're not going to send us additional vaccine. You know, they'll send it somewhere else that's using more."

As Texas tries to vaccinate its roughly 29 million residents during its worst surge in COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths since the onset of the pandemic, the stakes attached to accurately reporting and tracking vaccinations could not be higher.

"The fear is that with delayed reporting, if you can't see [vaccination distribution] in real time ... you're hindering [vaccine providers'] availability to get future batches, because nobody wants to send a scarce resource and put it in the hands of people who can't move it," said Carrie Kroll, an ad hoc member of the state's Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel and the director of advocacy for the Texas Hospital Association. Designed years ago to help consenting Texans keep track of their inoculation records, ImmTrac2 was chosen last year by the Texas Department of State Health Services to be the state's main avenue for tracking the COVID-19 vaccine rollout — and a vehicle to transmit required immunization data to the federal government.



(Left) Pharmacist-In-Charge Rannon Ching enters vaccination information into ImmTrac2 at Tarrytown Pharmacy. (Right): Staff members work in Tarrytown Pharmacy in Austin. (Photo/Montinique Monroe for The Texas Tribune)

Experts and health officials acknowledge that the Department of State Health Services has a Herculean task on its hands as it manages both the pandemic response and the vaccine rollout. To help providers, the agency has undertaken massive training efforts to teach the system to the thousands of workers who, before the pandemic, had little to no experience with the registry. And Anton said DSHS also moved the ImmTrac system onto new servers before the vaccines arrived, to get ahead of any "memory or storage issues." Texas is the first state to have given more than 1 million doses of the vaccine, crossing that milestone a month after the first batch arrived Dec. 14 in UPS and FedEx trucks. This month, the state began turning to large "hubs" in urban areas to distribute a large portion of the state's vaccine doses, rather than relying on networks of pharmacies and other small providers.

Dr. John Zerwas, a member of the vaccine allocation panel who has advised Gov. Greg Abbott on the pandemic, said tracking different facets of the virus and vaccine rollout has challenged the state's data systems.

They "were never structured or developed with the idea that this massive amount of information would need to be ingested," said Zerwas, a former state lawmaker. "Now, it's been something that has been addressed on the fly throughout the whole pandemic."

### ImmTrac2 Texas Immunization Registry

A crush of calls but no vaccine On Dec. 29, the day Ching noticed his numbers hadn't been recorded by the state, Abbott admonished health care providers to speed it up, suggesting that doses may be "sitting on hospital shelves" while Texans clamored for vaccines. The next morning, Ching's pharmacy was bombarded with calls from people anxious to be vaccinated. He had no shots left. Ching initially blamed himself. He'd worked hard. But Ching quickly discovered a problem. His pharmacy's electronic records weren't syncing with ImmTrac2. He emailed state health officials to tell them. Ultimately, four of his employees had to re-enter all the information by hand, a task that took six hours on Dec. 30 — the day after Abbott's tweet. "The system that they had in place to supposedly log which facilities had given how many doses wasn't working properly," Ching said. "I think that played into some of that pandemonium."

A "perfect storm" of data problems When the pandemic hit, ImmTrac2 was in the process of being upgraded to let it more seamlessly work with pharmacies' and hospitals' vaccine recording systems, which were also being adjusted. Its functionality has been heavily influenced by anti-vaccine and pro-privacy activists who have lobbied to keep Texas' immunization registry one of the nation's only opt-in registries, critics say — meaning adults must consent to have their immunization records retained, a step they have said is inefficient and complicated. As a result, standard software used by health care providers "doesn't come out of the box" ready to address Texas' unique consent requirement, said Nora Belcher, executive director of the Texas e-Health Alliance, an advocacy organization that represents digital health companies. Those factors combined with the ongoing upgrade created the "perfect storm," Belcher said.



State works on solutions In Huntsville, Aiena's clinic recently had its third-party records system try to create

a patch solution to link his system to ImmTrac2 and automate the process, but it didn't work. The system needs to work in a timely manner — without getting in the way of the ultimate mission, which is vaccinating the people, he said.

"If it's not working, we don't get more shots, and that's what the state keeps dangling over our heads," Aiena said. "I understand that, you know, they only want to get shots to people who are giving the shots out, that makes perfect sense to me. But unfortunately that means if we don't update ImmTrac and TDEM within 24 hours, we don't get the shots." Meanwhile, he's involved in the planning of a potential mass-vaccination program in Huntsville — located in a county of 74,000 people — and says organizers are considering recruiting nearby medical students to help update records in ImmTrac2. In an email sent to providers on New Year's Eve, state health officials wrote that the TDEM workaround, deployed in late December, was "an interim step until we can get all the data flowing consistently in ImmTrac2. ... Please know that the teams are working hard to quickly resolve the data submission issues for some providers."

"Our process is automated. It uploads each evening," Kirkman said. "I'm not sure we have any recommendations for other organizations other than to see if there is a way to configure their medical records system to batch these records into a file that can be sent to the state." Anton said the issues with the data and allocation would become less of a problem as more vaccines become available, smaller providers have less need for it, and the state moves to larger vaccination hubs, many of which have the resources or systems to quickly handle the ImmTrac2 demands.

For now, state Rep. Donna Howard, D-Austin, said the onus seems to be on local providers to "jump through all kinds of hoops" — a responsibility that was "totally overwhelming" them as they also tried to "deliver the vaccines, get people signed up and do whatever else they have to do," she said. But she's not surprised there have been problems with ImmTrac2. She's filed several bills trying to make the immunization registry an opt-out system, a change she said was needed "because of the inevitable possibility of an epidemic." "I did think there would be hang-ups because I knew that the system had not been upgraded and was not meant to be a system that would allow for an opt out vaccination," Howard said. "This is exactly what we were trying to anticipate, though, and correct before it actually happened." (Courtesy <https://www.texastribune.org/>)

# Editor's Choice



A woman takes part in a rally in support of jailed Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny in Omsk, Russia. REUTERS/Alexey Malgavko



Health workers are seen in protective gear inside a locked down portion of the Jordan residential area to contain a new outbreak of the coronavirus in Hong Kong. REUTERS/Tyrone Siu



A man falls off a sledge in Campbell Park, in Milton Keynes, Britain. REUTERS/Andrew Boyers



Dancers perform during the full dress rehearsal for the Republic Day parade in New Delhi, India. REUTERS/Adnan Abidi



A healthcare worker is pictured at a swabbing station during the coronavirus outbreak in Singapore. REUTERS/Edgar Su



A banner with a message for members of the U.S. Congress hangs over a popular thoroughfare to the Capitol Building in Washington. REUTERS/Leah Millis

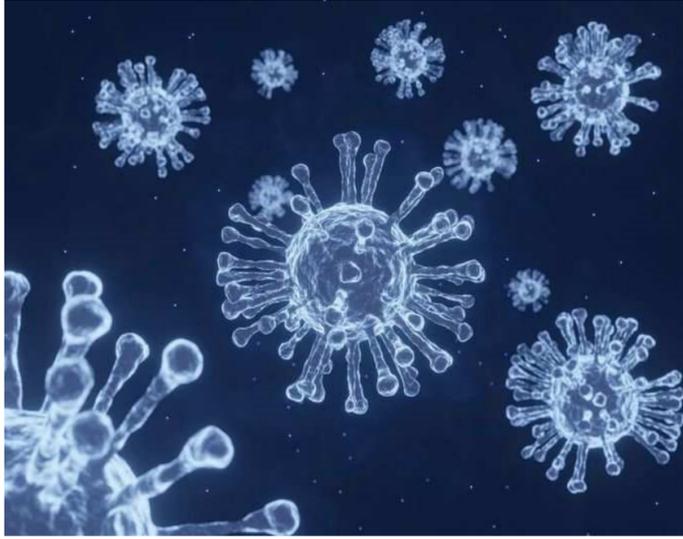


New U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin receives an elbow bump from Vice President Kamala Harris prior to being sworn in by Harris during a brief ceremony in the Roosevelt Room at the White House in Washington. REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque



The airplane carrying two million doses of AstraZeneca/Oxford vaccines against the coronavirus from India lands at Galeao Air Base in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. REUTERS/Ricardo Moraes

New Symptoms Of COVID Aid In Diagnosis And Treatment  
**Coronavirus: ‘COVID Tongue’ Identified As New Coronavirus Symptom Say Experts**



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

The number of COVID-19 symptoms have expanded and continued to increase since the outbreak of the deadly virus over 9 months ago. While the attempt to contain the spread of the virus continues to rage on, new and unusual symptoms have come to the surface and wreak havoc in the public domain. Although, fever, fatigue and dry cough are some of the most predominant signs of SARs-COV-02, a rare and ‘strange symptom’ has been established amongst COVID-19 patients in the recent past, which causes infection inside the mouth.



According to an epidemiologist at King’s College London, Professor Tim Spector, one of the unusual warning signs of

COVID-19 may be developing in the mouth. He claims to be seeing an increase in the number of COVID patients suffering with uncomfortable symptoms in their mouth, such as coated tongue or ‘COVID tongue’ as he calls it. Professor Spector, also a lead scientist on the Zoe Covid Symptom Study App, tweeted about the ‘strange symptom’ saying, “One in five people with Covid still present with less common symptoms that don’t get on the official PHE list - such as skin rashes.” Apart from that, he also claims observing increasing numbers of Covid tongues and strange mouth ulcers in COVID-19 patients.



COVID tongue can cause patches and

ulcers all across your mouth. Though the tongue gets back to normal in a week’s time. But if you notice patches on your tongue, you must consult your doctor and get yourself tested.

**When should you be alarmed?**



‘COVID tongue’ can cause serious infection inside the mouth and also form patches all over the tongue. This may seem alarming initially, it’s a harmless condition, which will resolve itself in a few days or weeks. However, if in case you develop ‘COVID tongue’ along with other signs of coronavirus, it is important to get yourself diagnosed and confirm whether you have contracted the virus or not. In the meantime, you must self-isolate yourself and take every precautionary measures, so as to contain the spread of the virus.



While new and unusual symptoms of COVID-19 continue to expand and increase, it is also important to be aware of the most common and classic symptoms. The novel coronavirus brings along wide ranges of medical conditions that can go from mild to severe symptoms. Some of the most common signs of COVID-19 are as follows:

- Fever- Dry cough- Sore throat- Runny and stuffy nose- Chest pain and shortness of breath



In case of such mouth infections accompanied by other symptoms of COVID-19, make sure to get yourself tested and treated accordingly. That said, in order to prevent such medical complications, it is important that you follow all important precautionary measures to contain the spread of the deadly virus. Ensure that you wear your masks at all times and maintain social distancing when in a public sphere. Use hand sanitizers and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, so as to prevent any unnecessary contamination.

**Coronavirus: Signs of COVID-19 Can Be Seen On Your Nails And Earlobe**



With the onset of the novel coronavirus, people have experienced innumerable numbers of medical complications and health issues that have also impacted their mental well being. From experiencing mild to severe symptoms, many have even complained of long term effects on their health. That said, one must stay on guard and be aware of all the signs that indicate COVID-19.

In recent times, it is believed that COVID-19 can also be spotted through your nails and your earlobes. While it may come as a surprise, this could be due to the link between the deadly virus and your blood oxygen levels.



**COVID-19 and blood oxygen levels**

As is known, the novel coronavirus has the potential to cause your blood oxygen levels to fluctuate at disturbing levels. COVID-19 enters the body through the respiratory system, causing direct injury to a person’s lungs via inflammation. This can impact the efficiency of oxygen transfer into the bloodstream. That said, oxygen impairment can occur at different levels of COVID-19, and not simply for critically ill patients placed on ventilators.

However, not every COVID patient experiences low oxygen levels. Some only develop common symptoms of COVID. With the help of a pulse oximeter, one can determine the level of oxygen in one’s body.

**Can your nails and earlobe indicate whether you have COVID-19?**

Nails and earlobes can provide insights into your blood oxygen levels, which can also indicate whether you have COVID-19 or not. According to the Symptom Study app, you can check your oxygen levels using a pulse oximeter which is an easy process that shines light on your earlobes or nails, determining the range of oxygen levels in your body. However, it is crucial that you remove any nail varnish, dirt or artificial nails while using the oximeter, as it can disrupt the process. (Courtesy <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/>)

**Why**  
**is my MRI normal and I still hurt?**

Go to [www.thepaindiagnostest.com](http://www.thepaindiagnostest.com) to find out why