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John Robbins 281-965-6390
Jun Gai 281-498-4310

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Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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Publisher: Wea H. Lee
President: Catherine Lee
Editor: John Robbins

Address: 11122 Bellaire Blvd., Houston, TX 77072
E-mail: News@scdaily.com

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At least 12 killed in protests in Myanmar; civilian vice-president vows resistance to junta

(Reuters) - Myanmar security forces killed at least 12 people, witnesses and media reported, as the acting leader of a civilian parallel government vowed in a first public address on Saturday to pursue a "revolution" to overturn the Feb. 1 military coup.

Five people were shot dead and several injured when police opened fire on a sit-in protest in Mandalay, Myanmar's second-biggest city, witnesses told Reuters.

Another person was killed in the central town of Pyay and two died in police firing in the commercial capital Yangon, where three were also killed overnight, domestic media reported.

"They are acting like they are in a war zone, with unarmed people," said Mandalay-based activist Myat Thu. He said the dead included a 13-year-old child.

Si Thu Tun, another protester, said he saw two people shot, including a Buddhist monk. "One of them was hit in the pubic bone, another was shot to death terribly," he said.

In Pyay, a witness said security forces initially stopped an ambulance from reaching those who were injured, leading to one death.

A truck driver in Chauk, a town in the central Magwe Region, also died after being shot in the chest by police, a family friend said.

A spokesman for the junta did not answer phone calls from Reuters seeking comment. Junta-run media MRTV's evening news broadcast labelled the protesters as "criminals" but did not elaborate.

More than 70 people have been killed in Myanmar in widespread protests against the military's seizure of power, the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners advocacy group has said.

RELATED COVERAGE

Vice-president of Myanmar civilian government vows resistance to junta rule
The deaths came as the leaders of the United States, India, Australia and Japan vowed to work together to restore



democracy in the Southeast Asian nation and the acting leader of the country's ousted civilian government addressed the public for the first time.

Mahn Win Khaing Than, who is in hiding along with most senior officials from the ruling National League for Democracy Party, addressed the public via Facebook, saying, "This is the darkest moment of the nation and the moment that the dawn is close".

He was appointed acting vice-president by representatives of Myanmar's ousted lawmakers, the Committee for Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH), which is pushing for recognition as the rightful government.

The group has announced its intention to create a federal democracy and leaders have been meeting representatives of Myanmar's largest ethnic armed organizations, which already control vast swathes of territory across the country.

"In order to form a federal democracy, which all ethnic brothers, who have been suffering various kinds of oppressions from the dictatorship for decades, really desired, this revolution is the chance for us to put our efforts together," Mahn Win Khaing Than said.

He said the CRPH would "attempt to legislate the required laws so that the people have the right to defend themselves" and that public administration would be handled by an "interim people's administration team".

A civil disobedience movement that started with government employees such as doctors and teachers has expanded into a general strike that has paralysed many sectors of the economy and taken a large portion of the workings of government out of the military's hands.
PROTESTS
Saturday's protests erupted after posters spread on social media urging people to mark the death anniversary of Phone Maw, who was shot and killed by security

forces in 1988 inside what was then known as the Rangoon Institute of Technology campus.

His shooting and that of another student who died a few weeks later sparked widespread protests against the military government known as the 8-8-88 campaign, because they peaked in August that year. An estimated 3,000 people were killed when the army crushed the uprising.

Aung San Suu Kyi emerged as a democracy icon during the movement and was kept under house arrest for nearly two decades.

She was released in 2010 as the military began democratic reforms. Her National League for Democracy won elections in 2015 and again in November last year.

On Feb. 1 this year, the generals overthrew her government and detained Suu Kyi and many of her cabinet colleagues, claiming fraud in the November elections.

The coup in Myanmar, where the military has close ties to China, is a major early test for U.S. President Joe Biden.

The U.S. President held a virtual meeting with the Indian, Japanese and Australian leaders on Friday, the first official summit of the group known as the Quad, as part of a push to demonstrate a renewed U.S. commitment to regional security.

"As longstanding supporters of Myanmar and its people, we emphasise the urgent need to restore democracy and the priority of strengthening democratic resilience," the four leaders said in a statement released by the White House.

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WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

CORONAVIRUS DIARY

03/13/2021

Congressman Al Green Came To The Rescue

Our dear friend and brother Al Green hosted a community meeting to outline all the details about the American Rescue Plan.

Congressman Green said, "I am pleased to announced that the American Rescue Plan which was signed by President Biden includes two pieces of legislation I proposed at the request of the House Financial Service committee chairwoman Maxine Waters. HR 1669 reauthorizes and funds at \$10 billion the



state small business credit initiative which will unleash \$100 billion in low cost capital to small business."

I also take the opportunity to appreciate our congressman who took to heart the effort to help our community. We will organize the service line to answer all questions from our community businesses.

This is really a great day for all of us. We are looking for better days to come.



Wea H. Lee
Wealee@scdaily.com

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Southern DAILY Make Today Different

Editor's Choice



A demonstrator holds a painting depicting George Floyd as she protests against racial inequality in New York, June 9, 2020. REUTERS/Idris Solomon



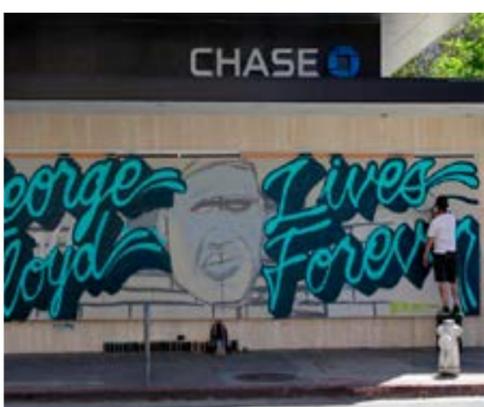
People walk past a mural with the image of George Floyd on a boarded-up shop in the Soho district of Manhattan following looting in the area during protests against the death in Minneapolis police custody of George Floyd, in New York, June 10, 2020...



A portrait of George Floyd is seen during a protest against racial inequality in the aftermath of his death in Minneapolis police custody, in New York City, June 8, 2020. REUTERS/Shannon Stapleton



Protesters react as they leave items to memorialize George Floyd at the scene of his arrest in Minneapolis, Minnesota, June 4, 2020. REUTERS/Adam Bettcher



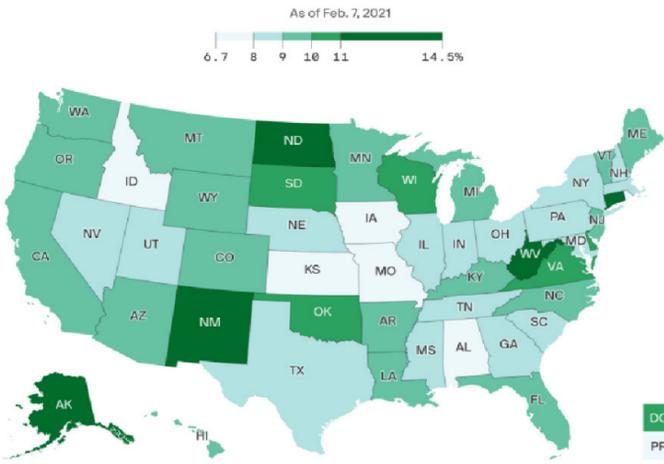
Local artist "Shawn" paints a mural in memory of George Floyd in downtown Oakland, California, June 3, 2020. REUTERS/Nathan Frandino



Demonstrators wearing protective face masks during a Black Lives Matter protest are seen by a mural in Manchester, Britain, June 6, 2020. REUTERS/Phil Noble

Is America's Nightmare Year Finally Ending?

Share of population that received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine



Data: CDC; Chart: Danielle Alberti and Andrew Witherspoon/Axios

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

One year after the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic, the end of that pandemic is within reach. The death and suffering caused by the coronavirus have been much worse than many people expected a year ago — but the vaccines have been much better.

Flashback: “Bottom line, it’s going to get worse,” Anthony Fauci told a congressional panel on March 11, 2020, the day the WHO formally declared COVID-19 to be a global pandemic. One year ago, the U.S. had confirmed 1,000 coronavirus infections. Now we’re approaching 30 million. In the earliest days of the pandemic, Americans were terrified by the White House’s projections — informed by well-respected modeling — that 100,000 to 240,000 Americans could die from the virus. That actual number now sits at just under 530,000. Many models at the time thought the virus would peak last May. It was nowhere close to its height by then. The deadliest month of the pandemic was

January. Last March, even the sunniest optimists didn’t expect the U.S. to have a vaccine by now. They certainly didn’t anticipate that over 300 million shots would already be in arms worldwide, and they didn’t think the eventual vaccines, whenever they arrived, would be anywhere near as effective as these shots turned out to be.



Where things stand: President Biden has said every American adult who wants a vaccine will be able to get one by the end of May, and the country is on track to meet that target. The U.S. is administering over 2 million shots

per day, on average. Roughly 25% of the adult population has gotten at least one shot. The federal government has purchased more doses than this country will be able to use: 300 million from Pfizer, 300 million from Moderna and 200 million from Johnson & Johnson. The Pfizer and Moderna orders alone would be more than enough to fully vaccinate every American adult. (The vaccines aren’t yet authorized for use in children.) And millions of Americans are still anxiously awaiting their first shot.

The bottom line: Measured in death, loss, isolation and financial ruin, one year has felt like an eternity. Measured as the time between the declaration of a pandemic and vaccinating 60 million Americans, one year is an instant. The virus hasn’t been defeated, and may never fully go away. Getting back to “normal” will be a moving target. Nothing’s over yet. But the end of the worst of it — the long, brutal nightmare of death and suffering — is getting close.

Related

The Coronavirus Vaccines Have Shattered Expectations And Saved Countless Lives

No matter at what angle you look at them from, the coronavirus vaccines are a triumph. They are saving lives today; they will help end this pandemic eventually; and they will pay scientific dividends for generations. But the pandemic isn’t over. There are still big threats ahead of us and big problems to solve. But for all the things that have gone wrong over the past year, the vaccines themselves have shattered even the most ambitious expectations.



Illustration: Annelise Capossela/Axios
The vaccines represent a “stunning

scientific achievement for the world ... unprecedented in the history of vaccinology,” said Dan Barouch, an expert on virology and vaccines at Harvard, who worked on the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Specifics: Developing a vaccine takes an average of 10 years — if it works at all. We now have multiple COVID-19 vaccines, all developed in less than a year. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are the world’s first successful mRNA vaccines — which, to oversimplify it, teach our bodies to generate an immune response without relying on weakened or inactivated viruses. It’s a milestone that scientists have been working toward for 30 years. Moderna’s vaccine is the company’s first licensed product of any kind. All the leading vaccines work extremely well. All four vaccines or vaccine candidates in the U.S. — from Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson — appear to prevent coronavirus deaths, and to offer total or near-total protection against serious illness. Some of the vaccines are more effective than others at preventing mild or asymptomatic infections, but all of them significantly exceed the FDA’s threshold to be considered effective.

The variants: The vaccine makers have said that their products aren’t as effective against the South African variant. Viruses can mutate when they spread widely. The best defense against widespread variants is to vaccinate as many people as possible and step up social distancing to contain the virus. Drugmakers may need to develop booster shots or new recipes to deal with variants, but waiting for a vaccine that addresses every variant will only leave the door open for more variants.



“Once the history of this is written, they

are going to be referred to as some of the greatest achievements of science,” Zeynep Tufekci, a University of North Carolina sociologist with a track record of prescience on the coronavirus, told The New York Times’ Ezra Klein. “It’s the kind of thing you would have national celebration and fireworks and church bells ringing and all of that,” she said. This wasn’t a miracle, and it didn’t happen overnight. “What we’ve seen over the last year is the result and culmination of decades of scientific advances,” she said. Researchers have been building toward mRNA-based vaccines for roughly 30 years, fueled by broader advances in genetic science. Those same advances have also greatly accelerated genetic sequencing — which is why researchers were able to map out COVID-19’s structure within weeks of discovering the virus, and to then begin working on potential vaccines.

What’s next/the future: The vaccine race is one of the few areas of this entire pandemic where the U.S. and the world will be able to learn from our successes, rather than our failures. The breakthrough of successful mRNA vaccines will, scientists hope, pave the way for a new generation of products that are more effective and easier to develop than previous vaccines. Shoveling money at vaccine developers and establishing early, step-by-step communication with regulatory agencies also helped accelerate this process, and can help again in future pandemics.

The bottom line: “Good funding, great science and great collaboration with the regulatory agencies — that’s how they were able to do something that I didn’t think could be done in a year,” said Mark Slifka, an immunology professor at Oregon Health & Science University. (Courtesy axios.com)

Stay Home!

COMMUNITY

Wear Mask!

Confidence In COVID-19 Vaccines Continues To Rise Globally, Poll



COVID-19 vaccination programs are under way in many parts of the world. Image: REUTERS/Shannon Stapleton

Key Points

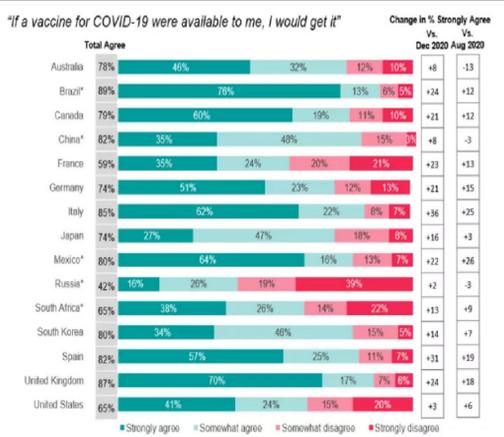
- A new Ipsos-World Economic Forum survey shows a notable increase in COVID-19 vaccination intent since December in all 15 countries studied.
- Eighty-nine percent of people in Brazil say they’re ready to be vaccinated, with confidence also very high in Italy, China and Spain.
- Confidence in the vaccines has risen most in Italy — up 36 percentage points since December.

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

With COVID-19 vaccination programs now under way in many parts of the world, confidence about getting the shot continues to rise. The latest vaccine survey from Ipsos and the World Economic Forum looked at people’s intention to be vaccinated at the earliest possible date. During the last few days of February, more than 13,500 adults under the age of 75 — who had not been vaccinated at that point — were asked online whether they would be likely to get their shots when offered.

Where are people most confident about being vaccinated?

- Very high in Brazil (89%) Italy (85%), China (82%), Spain (82%), Mexico (80%) and South Korea (80%).
- Fairly high in Canada (79%), Australia (78%), Japan (74%) and Germany (74%).
- Middling in the United States (65%), South Africa (65%) and France (59%).
- Low in Russia (42%).



© To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following: 'If a vaccine for COVID-19 were available, I would get it' (N=12,076 online adults aged 18-74 across 15 countries, excludes those who report receiving the vaccine). Source: Ipsos Global Advisory, February 24-28, 2021. Ipsos data excludes those who stated they have received the vaccine. *Online sample in Brazil, China, Mexico, Russia, and South Africa tend to be more urban, educated, and/or affluent than the general population. Ipsos

The countries with the smallest increase from December 2020 of those who strongly agree they would get the vaccine are Russia (+2 to 16%) and the US (+3 to 41%).

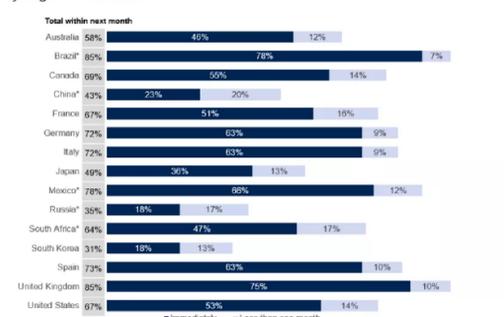
At the other end of the spectrum, the number of adults who agree strongly that they would receive the COVID-19 vaccine rose by 36 percentage points to 62% in Italy, and 31 points to 57% in Spain. People in Brazil and the UK also express a high degree of confidence in being vaccinated.

How many people have been vaccinated?

The UK has made solid progress with the rollout of its vaccination programme. According to the country’s National Health Service (NHS), the total number of people to have received at least one dose had reached 17,179,491 at the end of February. In the final week of the month, 2,249,002 people received a vaccination shot.

That means about one-third of the UK population has now been given at least one dose of the vaccine. By comparison, in the US that proportion is 14% and for Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, and Spain it is between 3% and 5%, according to data from Oxford University cited by Ipsos.

Once the COVID-19 vaccine becomes available to you, when would you get the vaccine?



© Once the COVID-19 vaccine becomes available to you, when would you get the vaccine? (N=12,076 online adults aged 18-74 across 15 countries, excludes those who report receiving the vaccine). Source: Ipsos Global Advisory, February 24-28, 2021. Ipsos data excludes those who stated they have received the vaccine. *Online sample in Brazil, China, Mexico, Russia, and South Africa tend to be more urban, educated, and/or affluent than the general population. Ipsos

Elsewhere around the world, vaccine uptake is also on the rise. In India, 21 million doses have now been administered. Last month that was just 5.8 million, according to Bloomberg, which also reported that 1.6 million people were vaccinated on Saturday in India.

As vaccination begins to lead to declining rates of infection, hospitalization and fatality in many countries, people aren’t just becoming more confident about being vaccinated, they say they wouldn’t hesitate.

Asked by Ipsos when they would get the vaccine, in most of the countries surveyed, the majority answered “immediately”. (Courtesy weforum.org)



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