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Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

## U.S. House top Republican opposes creating commission investigating Capitol riot

WASHINGTON, May 18 (Xinhua) -- U.S. House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, the top-ranking Republican in the chamber, said Tuesday he would not support the creation of an independent commission to investigate the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol.

“Given the political misdirections that have marred this process, given the now duplicative and potentially counterproductive nature of this effort, and given the Speaker’s shortsighted scope that does not examine interrelated forms of political violence in America, I cannot support this legislation,” McCarthy said in a statement.

The statement came on the heels of a bipartisan agreement reached last week between House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Bennie Thompson, a Democrat, and the panel’s top GOP member, John Katko, who voted to impeach former President Donald Trump following the insurrection by the president’s supporters, on the legislation establishing the investigative body modeled after the 9/11 Commission.

McCarthy, himself facing the potential of being subpoenaed by the prospective commission since he talked to Trump as the insurrection unfolded, said he could not support the legislation because House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Democrat of California, “refused to negotiate in good faith” on the parameters of the commission and because Democrats’ “renewed focus” does not include the “political violence” in American cities, the 2017 shooting at a Republican congressional baseball practice or the fatal attack on April 2 that killed a Capitol Police officer.

“The presence of this political violence in American society cannot be tolerated and it cannot be overlooked,” McCarthy wrote. “I have communicated this to our Democrat colleagues for months and its omission is deeply concerning,” he added.

A spokesperson for House Minority Whip Steve Scalise, a Louisiana Republican, said Monday that Republicans are not being urged to vote for or against the bill. It remains to be seen to what extent McCarthy’s opposition will influence House Republicans’ decision on the legislation, on which the House is expected to vote Wednesday.

Under the bill, the commission would include five members, including a chair, appointed by Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, a New York Democrat, and another five members, including a vice chair, appointed by McCarthy and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky.

None of its 10 members will be sitting members of Congress, according to Thompson, and they must all have “significant expertise in the areas of law enforcement, civil rights, civil liberties, privacy,



intelligence, and cybersecurity.”

The commission will also have the subpoena power to solicit information to carry out its investigation, but that will require agreement between the chair and the vice chair or a vote by a majority of commission members.

Assuming the legislation would pass the Democratic-controlled House, its passage in the Senate faces an uphill battle, requiring bipartisan agreement to overcome the filibuster.

If created, the panel would have to issue a final report on its investigation and recommendations for preventing similar attacks by the end of the year.



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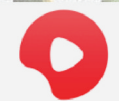
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# WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

## CORONAVIRUS DIARY

05/18/2021

### India And Asian Countries Fight The COVID War



In Taiwan, the government has imposed new social distancing rules, closed bars, clubs and gyms and all schools and kindergartens. In Taipei and New Taipei City schools will be closed for two weeks starting today. According to the spokesman, an increasing level of community transmission has been shown by cases of unknown origin.

The island has one of the lowest vaccination rates in the

world with fewer than 1% vaccinated. We do not understand why the government has acted so slowly on the vaccine. Taiwan is considered a wealthy country where the vaccine can be readily purchased.

President Biden just announced that the U.S. will send twenty million doses of COVID-19 vaccine to foreign countries. Maybe this is too little too late.



India's neighboring countries Nepal and Sri Lanka are under lockdown and have suspended vaccinations in the face of a horrific surge of the coronavirus. Countries like India with densely populated cities, heavy air pollution, a fragile healthcare system and a large number of poor workers are facing the threat of the virus and starvation.

"We feel like it's a world war situation. Many workers returned from India and with them came the virus." Nearby Nepal is recording at 9,000 infections per day with more than 40 percent having now tested positive.

Prime Minister Modi of India has hosted huge maskless political rallies for his party. Likewise, Nepal also did the same thing.

One of the doctors said that,

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## Editor's Choice



Migrants stand next to and swim around the fence between the Spanish-Moroccan border, after thousands of migrants swam across the border in Ceuta, Spain. REUTERS/Jon Nazca



Community coordinator Terence Surin hugs Joan Brock, 101, a resident at Alexander House Care Home in Wimbledon, as coronavirus restrictions continue to ease, in London. REUTERS/Hannah McKay



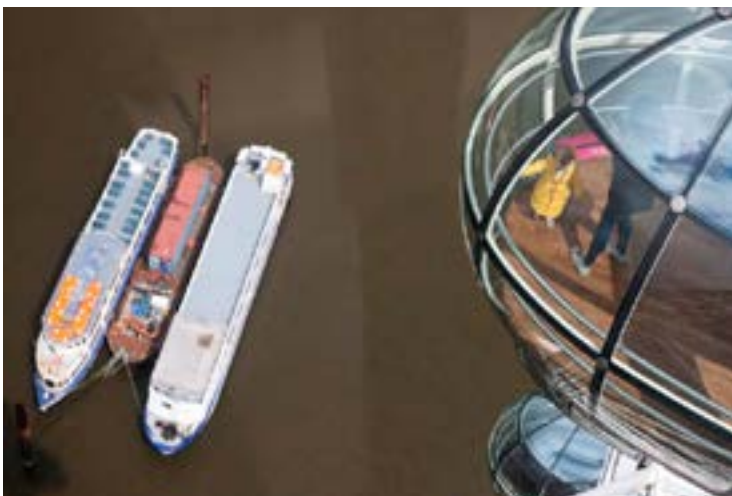
A Palestinian firefighter reacts as he participates in efforts to put out a fire at a sponge factory after it was hit by Israeli artillery shells, according to witnesses, in the northern Gaza Strip. REUTERS/Ashraf Abu Amrah



An explosion is seen midair as Israel's Iron Dome anti-missile system intercepts a rocket launched from the Gaza Strip. REUTERS/Amir Cohen



SpaceX founder and Tesla CEO Elon Musk holds a helmet as he visits the construction site of Tesla's gigafactory in Gruenheide, near Berlin, Germany. REUTERS/Michele Tantussi

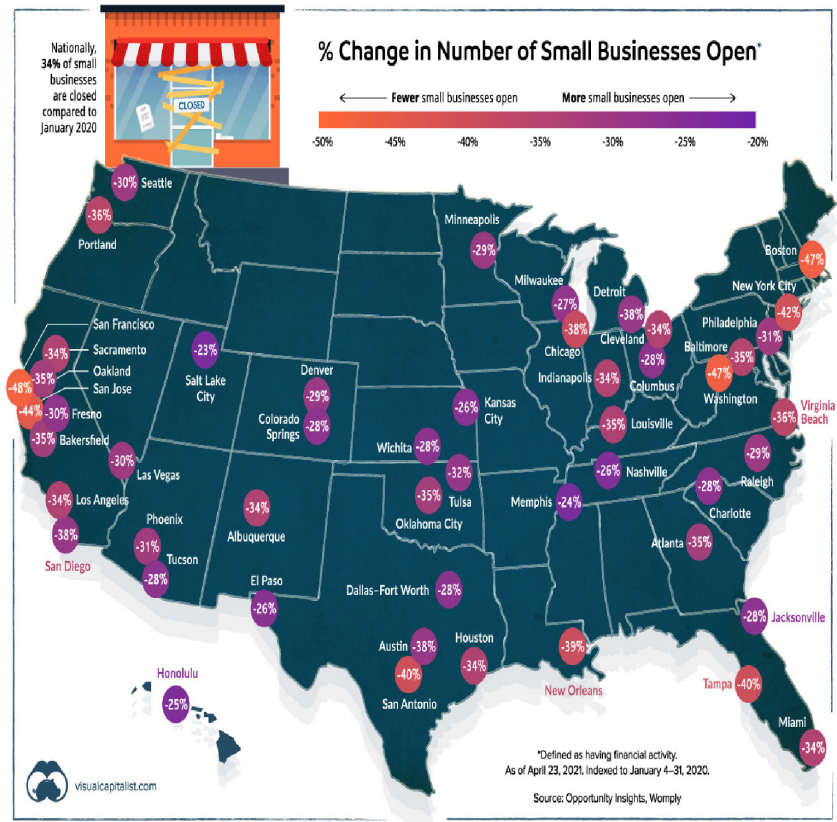


People ride in a capsule of the London Eye as the attraction reopens while coronavirus restrictions continue to ease in London, Britain. REUTERS/Tom Nicholson



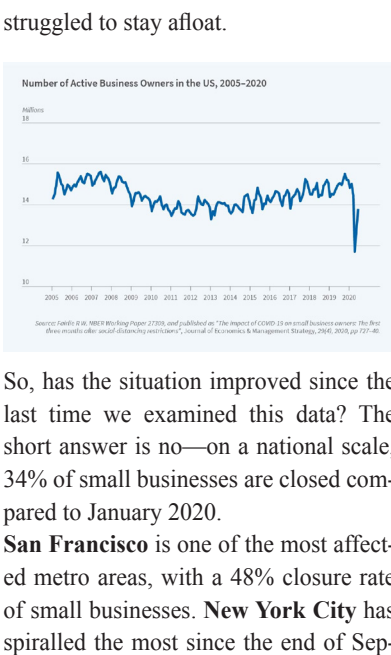
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The State Of Small Business COVID-19 Recovery In America

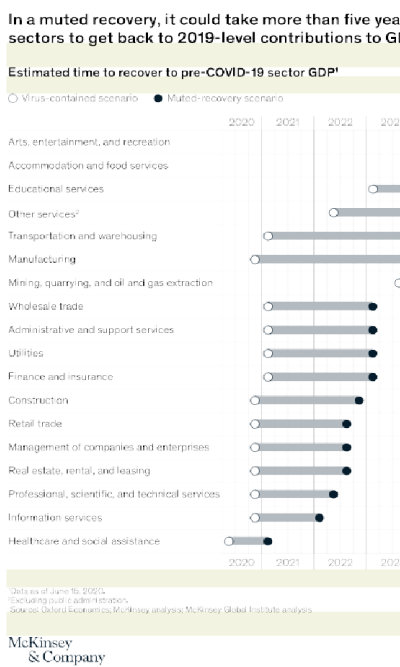


Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

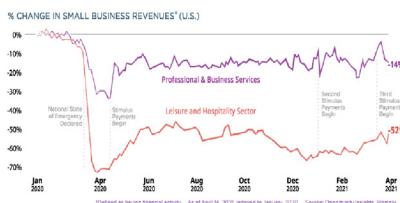
In the business news cycle, headlines are often dominated by large corporations, macroeconomic news, or government action. While mom and pop might not always be in focus, collectively small businesses are a powerful and influential piece of the economy. In fact, 99.9% of all businesses in the U.S. qualify as small businesses, collectively employing almost half (47.3%) of the nation's private workforce. Unfortunately, they've also been one of the hardest-hit sectors of the economy amid the pandemic. From the CARES Act to the new budget proposal, billions of dollars have been allocated towards helping small businesses to get back on their feet. **Small Business Recovery in 50 Metro Areas** During the pandemic, many small businesses have either swiftly pivoted to survive, or



tember 2020. **Road to a K-Shaped Recovery** As of April 25, 2021, nearly 42% of the U.S. population has received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. However, even with this rapid vaccine rollout, various segments of the economy aren't recovering at the same pace. Take for instance the stark difference between professional services and the leisure and hospitality sector. Though small business revenues in both segments have yet to return to pre-pandemic levels, the latter has much more catching up to do.



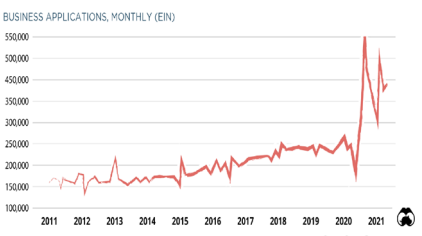
This uneven phenomena is known as a K-shaped recovery, where some industries see more improvement compared to others that stagnate in the aftermath of a recession. Despite these continued hardships, it appears that many Americans have not been deterred from starting their own businesses.



Many small businesses require an Employer Identification Number (EIN)

which makes EIN applications a good proxy for business formation activity. Despite an initial dip in the early months of the pandemic, there has been a dramatic spike in EIN business applications. Many small businesses in the United States will need to make extreme changes to survive. The broad themes are, by now, familiar and generally the same as with most large businesses: protecting the health and safety of employees and customers, adapting business models, investing in talent and technology, and adjusting staffing models and labor practices. Small businesses will need to make all these changes at greater relative cost and with less working capital. Small businesses with slim margins have little room to invest in the business models and technologies that they will need to survive. It will take collaboration across the economy to keep them afloat. Most mall businesses across sectors came into the COVID-19 crisis with low financial resilience. Close to a third of the nation's

small businesses have been operating at a loss or breaking even prior to the crisis. Profit margins are typically below 5 percent for small retailers selling staples, such as groceries, and below 10 percent for those selling discretionary items.



Balance sheets for small businesses in manufacturing, retail, and restaurants also lack flexibility, since a significant portion of the costs for small businesses in those three

sectors are relatively fixed. Occupancy costs, for example, are especially so for smaller businesses, which often lack the market power to renegotiate the terms of their leases. Even in the face of a global pandemic, the perseverance of such metrics prove that the innovative American spirit is unwavering, and spells better days to come for small business recovery. (Courtesy <https://www.visualcapitalist.com/> and <https://www.mckinsey.com/>)

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Houston Health Department, Partners Announce Free COVID-19 Testing Schedule For Week Of May 17


HOUSTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Houston Health Department, Partners Announce Free COVID-19 Testing Schedule For Week Of May 17



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

The Houston Health Department and its agency partners are announcing the schedule for sites offering free COVID-19 tests the week of May 17, 2021. Twenty-three FREE+FAST+SAFE testing sites across Houston are on the schedule for the week. **U.S. Health & Human Services** The Houston Health Department will offer drive-thru testing via nasal self-swab at two surge sites affiliated with U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.: **Southwest Multi-Service Center, 6400 High Star Dr., and Houston Community College - North Forest, 6010 Little York Rd.** Appointments are available at [doineeda-covid19test.com](https://doineeda-covid19test.com) and on-site registration is also available. **Houston Health Department Fixed Sites** The department will offer drive thru or walk-up testing via mouth self-swab at three fixed sites. The sites, open Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday from 8 a.m. to

4 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., are: **Acres Homes Multi-Service Center, 6719 W. Montgomery Rd., Magnolia Multi-Service Center, 7037 Capitol St., and**  **Hiram Clark Multi-Service Center, 3810 Fuqua St.** The fixed sites do not require appointments. **Houston Health Department Pop-up Sites** Three department will offer drive thru and walk-up via nose self-swab testing at two pop-up sites open Tuesday through Saturday. The pop-up sites do not require appointments and are located at:

**Melrose Community Center, 1001 Camino Rd., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Iglesia Cristo Vive, 14035 Beechnut Street, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.**

The department will also provide drive thru, self-nasal swab testing at the METRO Addicks Park & Ride, 14230 Katy Freeway. Appointments are available by calling the department's call center at 832-393-4220 but not required. **Texas Division of Emergency Management** Texas Division of Emergency Management offers oral self-swab testing at Minute Maid Park Lot H, 1643 Memorial Dr. This is a new location near Fonde Community Center that replaces the previous site near the stadium. The site is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m., Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.




Appointments are available at [curative.com](https://curative.com). On-site registration is also available. TDEM and the department will also operate drive-thru sites offering tests Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at: **HCC - Northeast Campus, 555 Community College Drive, self-mouth swab, and HCC - South Campus, 1990 Airport Blvd., nasal swab by healthcare professionals.** TDEM and the department offer drive thru, nasal-swab tests administered by healthcare professionals at LeRoy Crump Stadium, 12321 Alief Clodine Rd. The site is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Appointments for TDEM sites are available at [covidtest.tdem.texas.gov](https://covidtest.tdem.texas.gov). On-site registration is also available.

**United Memorial Medical Center** United Memorial Medical Center will offer nasal-swab testing by healthcare professionals at drive-thru test sites at:



**PlazAmericas Mall, 7500 Bellaire Blvd. Houston Community College - Southeast, 6815 Rustic St.; Building B, and UMMC Tidwell, 510 W. Tidwell Rd.** The sites don't require appointments and will offer testing Monday through Friday (PlazAmericas is also open Saturday) from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. People needing information about UMMC test sites can call 1-866-333-COVID or visit [ummcscreeing.com](https://ummcscreeing.com). **Curative** Curative will provide walk up testing daily at: **University of St. Thomas, 3800 Montrose Blvd., shallow nose self-swab, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Memorial Park Conservancy, 1153 E. Memorial Loop Dr., mouth self-swab, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., Miller Outdoor Theater, 6000 Hermann Park Dr., mouth self-swab, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., Houston Metro West, 11555 Westpark Dr., mouth self-swab, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., Houston Metro Kashmere, 5700 Eastex Fwy., mouth self-swab, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., and Houston Metro Fallbrook, 111 Fallbrook**

 **Dr., mouth self-swab, 8 a.m. 6 p.m. Jester Village Shopping Center, 1501 W. 18th St., 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.**

**Northshore Shopping Center, 1238 Uvalde Rd., 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.** Appointments are available at curative.com and on-site registration is available. **Federally Qualified Health Centers** The health department is providing test kits, lab access and equipment to local Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) so they can expand their COVID-19 testing capacity. The centers and phone numbers people can call to set up testing appointments are: **HOPE Clinic, 713-773-0803, Spring Branch Community Health Center, 713-462-6565, El Centro de Corazon, 713-660-1880, Avenue 360 Health and Wellness, 713-426-0027, Lone Star Circle of Care at the University of Houston, 346-348-1200, and Scarsdale Family Health Center, 281-824-1480.** FQHC patients pay what they can afford, based on income and family size, and are not denied services due to inability to pay or lack of insurance. The department and its agency partners may shift locations and schedules of test sites to better meet community needs. Houstonians can visit [HoustonEmergency.org/covid19](https://HoustonEmergency.org/covid19) for current Houston testing sites and information about stopping the spread of the virus. Information obtained through testing, treatment or services will not be used against immigrants in their public charge evaluation. (Courtesy The International District) **Media Contacts:** **Porfirio Villarreal** Office: 832-393-5041 Mobile: 713-826-5695 **Porfirio.Villarreal@houstontx.gov Scott Packard** Office: 832-393-5045 Mobile: 281-254-6403 [Scott.Packard@houstontx.gov](mailto:Scott.Packard@houstontx.gov)