



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](mailto:News@scdaily.com) or contact  
**John Robbins 281-965-6390**  
**Jun Gai 281-498-4310**



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

**Address:** 11122 Bellaire Blvd., Houston, TX 77072  
**E-mail:** [News@scdaily.com](mailto:News@scdaily.com)

Sunday, September 25 2022

## How Texas' abortion ban hurts Big Oil's effort to transform its workforce

DENVER/HOUSTON, Sept 23 (Reuters) - As Texas officials moved to restrict abortion, promote Christianity in schools and the state's power grid teetered on collapse, oil worker Steven Beaman and his wife Hayley Hollands decided it was time to live elsewhere.

By April, Beaman had joined a communications firm in Colorado, leaving behind a more than decade-long career in oil and gas, and Hollands, an attorney, soon followed, forsaking the state over its increasingly strident politics and polarization.

"It is kind of the first time I've reckoned with the idea that I don't think I'm going to live in my home state ever again," said Hollands. She likened the climate contributing to the couple's decision to leave Texas to "death by a thousand paper cuts."

Oil companies have spent millions to counter the frayed image of fossil fuels and recruit a younger and more diverse workforce. But a flaring of political culture wars - around abortion, religion and LGBT+ rights - threaten to undo hiring and retention goals, according to interviews with more than two dozen workers and a national survey.

Over half of women between 18-44 years and 45% of college-educated male and female workers would not consider a job in a state that banned abortion, according to a survey of 2,020 U.S. adults last month by opinion researcher PerryUndem.

BP (BPL), Chevron (CVX.N), Exxon Mobil (XOM.N), Shell (SHEL.L) and TotalEnergies (TEF.PA) did not comment on how abortion and cultural wars are affecting their hiring and employee retention when asked by Reuters.

### RECRUITING HURDLE

"It has always been difficult to attract women into oil and gas," said Sherry Richard, a 40-year oil industry veteran most recently human resources chief at offshore driller Transocean Ltd (RIGN.S). "When you create an environment that is unfriendly to women, it just makes it harder," she said.

Richard, 66, who now sits on the boards of two oilfield firms, said she does not plan to leave the state, but would support her son and his family if they moved.

The business risks to recruiting is especially high for oil companies, already unpopular with graduates of engineering programs, said Jonas Kron, chief advocacy officer at Trillium Asset Management. The Boston-based firm, which oversees \$5.4 billion in investments outside of oil, is asking companies to take action to minimize the financial losses of a limited workforce.

"Lack of diversity is not only a problem to financial performance, which they are acutely aware of, but also one of company values," Kron said. "That is deeply concerning."

Some California members of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) have declined to attend the group's confer-



ence in Houston in October because of the state's anti-abortion law, which bans most abortions after about six weeks. The only exception is when a doctor certifies the mother's life is in immediate danger.

SWE after next year will not hold conferences for its 40,000 members in states with abortion bans due to "restricted access to women's healthcare," according to its website.

Trevor Best, chief executive of Syzygy Plasmonics, a Houston-based startup whose chemical reactors run on renewable electricity, recently had a woman job candidate from out-of-state say she would not consider relocating to Texas.

Texas Governor Greg Abbott has acknowledged the state is losing workers, but does not regret the departures. "We have an exchange program going on," Abbott said in August at a conservative political gathering. "We are getting California conservatives; we are sending them our liberals."

### SILENCE ON ABORTION

The five top oil majors have said they support travel for health treatments by employees in different states. But none named abortion in their responses, nor disclosed whether there is an internal guidance for abortion care, a concern for employees who have to administer the policies.

"The rules are not clear," said a Texas engineer who also does recruiting for an U.S. oil major in

Houston and declined to be named. "Will (an employee) have to tell her manager the reason of the trip for instance? I have asked for clarity, but I received no reply."

Some workers want their employers to take a stand on abortion.

"Companies say they value employee's rights and yet finance politicians who violate my rights and wellbeing," said a 45-year-old engineer at oilfield service firm Halliburton (HAL.N) who declined to be identified fearing reprimands. "This is hypocrisy," she said.

Oil companies contribute to politicians who advocate for free trade, tax and energy policies through political action committees (PACs). That criteria fits a majority of Republican politicians who also vote to restrict abortion rights.

A California-based Chevron engineer who is planning to have a child and also declined to have his name used said he told his boss that he could not go ahead with a relocation to Houston.

"We find it medically unsafe to carry a pregnancy in Texas," he said, adding his wife is at high risk for ectopic pregnancies. With doctors in Texas now only able to perform emergency abortions in event of immediate danger to the mother's life, "that is too close to call for me."

# 休士頓黃頁

SOUTHERN CHINESE DAILY NEWS



美南報業電視傳媒集團  
SOUTHERN NEWS GROUP

走進歷史 · 策劃將來



休斯頓最具影響力的中文黃頁

T 281-498-4310  
F 281-498-2728

11122 Bellaire Blvd Houston, TX 77072

ad@scdaily.com  
www.scdaily.com

# WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

09/23/2022

## New York Attorney General Sues Trump



New York Attorney General Letitia James filed a civil lawsuit on Wednesday alleging that the Trump Organization's persistent fraud devastates former President Trump's billionaire image.

The AG also said that not only has Trump been accused of lying about his wealth and business success, but the considerable wealth he has achieved has also been acquired by cheating banks and insurance companies.

Referring to her 214-page complaint, the AG said that, "All pages show decades of inflated real estate values that were employed to fabricate a facade that Trump was an enormously successful businessman."

During the last presidential election, Trump said, "I am proud of my net worth. I've done an amazing job. We need a leader that wrote, 'The Art Of The Deal.'"

As a matter of fact, Trump reported a loss of \$1 billion dollars from 1985 to 1994.

James not only has sued Donald Trump, but also Trump's sons, Trump Jr. and Eric Trump, as well as Trump's daughter, Ivanka Trump, and Allen Weisselberg. All are accused of engaging in a criminal conspiracy to defraud banks and inflate Trump's net worth.

This offensive and defensive battle against the Trump family is related to the future of the Republican Party. Is it even possible that Trump can still be a candidate in 2024?



**Wea H. Lee**  
Wealee@scdaily.com

Chairman of International District Houston Texas  
**Publisher Southern Daily Wea H. Lee**

Southern News Group Chairman / CEO  
Chairman of International Trade & Culture Center  
Republic of Guiana Honorary consul at Houston Texas



**Southern DAILY** Make Today Different

## Editor's Choice



Citigroup CEO Jane Fraser testifies before a Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs hearing on "Annual Oversight of the Nation's Largest Banks", on Capitol Hill in Washington, September 22. REUTERS/Evelyn Hockstein



Tereza Arapium, from the Arapium indigenous people, candidate for Rio de Janeiro state deputy for the Rede Sustentabilidade party, poses for a photo at the Aldeia Maracana in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil September 22. REUTERS/Pilar Olivares



Environmental justice leaders block the entrance to the Hart Senate Office building to protest Senator Joe Manchin's (D-WV) "dirty deal" to fast-track fossil fuel project approvals, on Capitol Hill in Washington, September 22. REUTERS/Evelyn Hockstein



Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba attends a high-level meeting of the United Nations Security Council on the situation amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine, at the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly at U.N. Headquarters in New York City, September 22. REUTERS/Amr Alfiky



Master cobbler Sam Jiggins works on a shoe in his underground subway shop, in London, Britain September 21. REUTERS/Clodagh Kilcoyne



A Netherlands fan with his face painted is seen in the stand before the match against Poland during UEFA Nations League action in Warsaw, Poland, September 22. REUTERS/Kacper Pempel

We'll Be Dealing With Covid-Related Fallout As Long As There Is The Possibility Of New Variants

The 'New World' After The Pandemic – What's In Store?



Covid-19 Testing Site On The Streets Of New York City, January 2022. Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

As a virus-weary world limps through the third year of the outbreak, experts are sending out a warning signal: Don't expect omicron to be the last variant we have to contend with — and don't let your guard down yet. In the midst of a vast wave of milder infections, countries around the world are dialing back restrictions and softening their messaging. Many people are starting to assume they've had their run-in with Covid-19 and that the pandemic is tailing off. But that's not necessarily the case. The crisis isn't over until it's over everywhere. The effects will continue to reverberate through wealthier nations — disrupting supply chains, travel plans and health care — as the coronavirus largely hits under-vaccinated developing countries over the coming months.

previous strains, but it is wildly infectious, pushing new case counts to once unimaginable records. Meanwhile, evidence is emerging that the variant may not be as innocuous as early data suggest. There's also no guarantee that the next mutation — and there will be more — won't be an offshoot of a more dangerous variant such as delta. And your risk of catching Covid more than once is real. "The virus keeps raising that bar for us every few months," said Akiko Iwasaki, a professor of epidemiology at Yale School of Medicine. "When we were celebrating the amazing effectiveness of booster shots against the delta variant, the bar was already being raised by omicron." "It seems like we are constantly trying to catch up with the virus," she said. It's sobering for a world that's been trying to move on from the virus with a new intensity in recent months. But the outlook isn't all gloom. Anti-viral medicines are hitting the market, vaccines are more readily available and tests that can be self-administered in minutes are now easy and cheap to obtain in many places. Nevertheless, scientists agree it's too soon to assume the situation is under control.

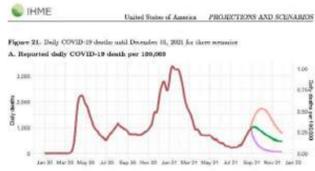


Figure 21. Daily COVID-19 deaths and reported daily COVID-19 deaths per 100,000. Before any of that, the world has to get past the current wave. Omicron may appear to cause less severe disease than



A medical worker waits for antigen test results at the Erez Crossing on the Israel-Gaza border in December. (Photo/ Kobi Wolf/Bloomberg)

In six months' time, many richer countries will have made the transition from pandemic to endemic. But that doesn't mean masks will be a thing of the past. We'll need to grapple with our approach to booster shots, as well as the pandemic's economic and political scars. There's also the shadow of long Covid. **Is Covid-19 Here to Stay?** "There is a lot of happy talk that goes along the lines that omicron is a mild virus and it's effectively functioning as an attenuated live vaccine that's going to create massive herd immunity across the globe," said Peter Hotez, dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. "That's flawed for a number of reasons." Experts now believe that the virus will never go away entirely, and instead will continue to evolve to create new waves of infection. Mutations are possible every time the pathogen replicates, so surging caseloads put everyone in danger. The sheer size of the current outbreak means more hospitalizations, deaths and virus mutations are all but inevitable. Many people who are infected aren't making it into the official statistics, either because a home test result isn't formally recorded or because the infected person never gets tested at all. Trevor Bedford, an epidemiologist at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle known for detecting early Covid cases and tracking the outbreak globally, estimates that only about 20% to 25% of omicron infections in the U.S. get reported. With daily cases peaking at an average

of more than 800,000 in mid-January, the number of underlying infections may have exceeded 3 million a day — or nearly 1% of the U.S. population, Bedford estimates. Since it takes five to 10 days to recover, as much as 10% of people in the country may have been infected at any one time.



Long lines Queues at a testing station in Seoul on Feb. 6. (Photo/SeongJoon Cho/Bloomberg)

He's not alone in projecting astronomical numbers. At the current infection rate, computer modelling indicates more than half of Europe will have contracted omicron by mid-March, according to Hans Kluge, a regional director for the World Health Organization. Meanwhile, a sub-variant known as BA.2 is spreading rapidly in South Africa. It appears to be even more transmissible than the original strain and may cause a second surge in the current wave, one of the country's top scientists said. And just because you've already had the virus doesn't mean you won't get re-infected since Covid doesn't confer lasting immunity. New evidence suggests that delta infections didn't help avert omicron, even in

vaccinated people. That would explain why places like the U.K. and South Africa experienced such significant outbreaks even after being decimated by delta. Reinfection is also substantially more common with omicron than previous variants. "With omicron, because it has more of an upper respiratory component, it's even less likely to result in durable immunity" than previous variants, Hotez said. "On that basis, it's incorrect thinking to believe that this is somehow going to be the end of the pandemic." **Preparing for the next Covid strains is critical.** "As long as there are areas of the world where the virus could be evolving, and new mutants arriving, we all will be susceptible to these new variants," said Glenda Gray, chief executive officer of the South African Medical Research Council.



A child receives a vaccine shot in San Francisco on Jan. 10. (Photo/ David Paul Morris/Bloomberg)

Lockdowns and travel curbs aren't going away, even if they are becoming less restrictive on the whole. "The things that will matter there are whether we are able to respond when there is a local surge," said Mark McClellan, former director of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and director of the Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy. "Maybe going back to putting on more masks or being a little bit more cautious about distancing." Inoculation is still the world's primary line of defense against Covid. More than 62% of people around the globe have gotten at least one dose, with overall rates in wealthy countries vastly higher than in developing ones. At the current pace, it will take another five months until 75% of the world's population has received their first shot.

(Article Continues Below)

The 'New World' After The Pandemic – What's In Store?

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

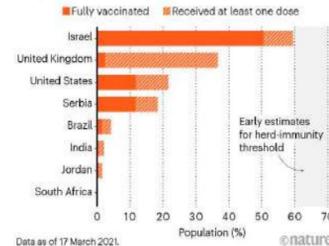


Results of trials on a daily pill to treat COVID-19 could be available within months. (Image/Unsplash/Halacious)

Uneven Access to Vaccines

DISPARITIES IN DISTRIBUTION

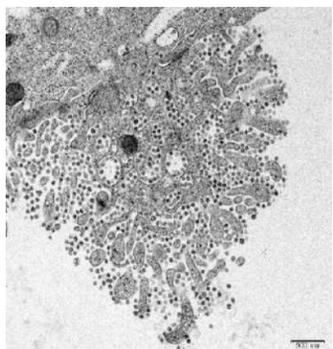
The worldwide roll-out of COVID-19 vaccinations is uneven, as shown by this selection of countries. Even as some nations approach a theoretical threshold for herd immunity, quashing the spread of the virus will prove difficult.



How We'll Know When the Covid-19 Crisis Is Over

While the virus won't be overwhelming hospitals and triggering restrictions forever, it's still unclear when — or how — it will become safe to leave on the back burner. Experts Bloomberg News spoke to agree that in developed countries including the U.S. and much of Europe, the virus could be well in hand by mid-2022. There will be better access to pills such as Pfizer Inc.'s Paxlovid, rapid antigen tests will be more readily available and people will have become accustomed to the idea that Covid is here to stay.

But studies show one or two injections don't ward off the pathogen. The best bet at this point is a booster shot, which triggers the production of neutralizing antibodies and a deeper immune response. People inoculated with more traditional inactivated vaccines, such as the widely used shots from China's Sinovac Biotech Ltd., will need at least two boosters — preferably with different vaccines — to control the virus, Yale's Iwasaki said. In the next six months, more countries will contend with whether to roll out a fourth shot. Israel has started and the U.S. backs them for vulnerable people, but India is pushing back and refusing to "blindly follow" other countries.



Transmission electron micrograph of a green monkey kidney cells 24 hours

after infection by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. (Source/The University of Hong Kong)

Robert Wachter, chair of medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, puts the odds at 10-to-one that by the end of February, most parts of the U.S. and the developed world will no longer be struggling with severe outbreaks. Vaccinations and new treatments, widespread testing and immunity as a result of previous infections are helping. Countries like Denmark are getting rid of all pandemic restrictions despite ongoing outbreaks. "That is a world that feels fundamentally different from the world of the last two years," he said. "We get to come back to something resembling normal." "I don't think it's irrational for politicians to embrace that, for policies to reflect that."

When Will the Pandemic End?

Elsewhere in the world, the pandemic will be far from over. The threat of new variants is highest in less wealthy countries, particularly those where immune conditions are more common. The delta mutation was first identified in India while omicron emerged in southern Africa, apparently during a chronic Covid infection in an immunocompromised HIV patient. "As long as we refuse to vaccinate the world, we will continue to see new waves," Hotez said. "We are going to continue to have pretty dangerous variants coming out of low- and middle-income countries. That's where the battleground is."



A "door-to-door" vaccination team inoculates residents at a village in the Budgam district of Jammu and Kashmir, India, in August 2021. (Photo/Sunit Dayal/Bloomberg)

Amesh Adalja, senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins University Center for Health Security in Baltimore, sees the pandemic continuing into 2023 for parts of the developing world. "For me, the transition from pandemic

to endemic is when you're not worried about hospitals getting crushed," he said. "That will happen in most Western countries in 2022, and it will take a little bit longer for the rest of the world."

In parts of Asia, public health officials aren't even willing to consider calling the end of the pandemic. While most of the world now seeks to live alongside Covid, China and Hong Kong are still trying to eliminate it. After spending much of 2021 virtually virus-free, both places are currently dealing with outbreaks. "We do not possess the prerequisites for living with the virus because the vaccination rate is not good, especially amongst the elderly," said Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam. "I could not stand seeing a lot of old people dying in my hospitals." Harsh virus restrictions including border closures and quarantines may well be in place until the end of 2022, though the higher contagiousness of the new variants is making that harder to maintain, as Hong Kong's current challenges show. Walling out the virus completely, like a swathe of countries did early in the pandemic, may no longer be possible. With so much of the world still mired in the pandemic, virus-related dislocations will continue everywhere.



Covid-19 testing outside a building placed under lockdown at the City Garden housing estate in Hong Kong, in Jan. 2022. (Photo/Louise Delmotte/Bloomberg)

The immense strain on global supply chains is only worsened by workers sickened or forced to quarantine as a result of omicron. The problem is especially acute in Asia, where much of the world's manufacturing takes place, and means global concerns about soaring consumer prices are unlikely to disappear any time soon. China's increasingly vehement moves to keep quashing Covid are also becoming disruptive. With many countries only partially open to visitors, international travel is still very far from what we considered normal in 2019. Hospitals and health care

systems around the world face a long, slow recovery after two years of monumental pressure.

And for some individuals, the virus may be a life sentence. Long Covid sufferers have now been experiencing severe fatigue, muscle aches and even brain, heart and organ damage for months. How long will we be dealing with the long-term ramifications of the virus? "That's the million-dollar question," South Africa's Gray said. "Hopefully we can control this in the next two years, but the issues of long Covid will persist. We will see a huge burden of people suffering from it."



A temporary Covid treatment facility at the Commonwealth Games Village Sports Complex in New Delhi on Jan. 5. (Photo/T. Narayan/Bloomberg)

**Life After the Pandemic** Over the coming months, a sense of what living permanently with Covid really looks like should take shape. Some places may forget about the virus almost entirely, until a flareup means classes are cancelled for a day or companies struggle with workers calling in sick. Other countries may rely on masking up indoors each winter, and an annual Covid vaccine is likely to be offered in conjunction with the flu shot. To persist, the virus will need to evolve to evade the immunity that's hitting high levels in many parts of the world. "There could be many scenarios," Yale's Iwasaki said. "One is that the next variant is going to be quite transmissible, but less virulent. It's getting closer and closer to the common cold kind of virus." If that evolution takes a more toxic path, we will end up with a more severe disease. "I just hope we don't have to keep making new boosters every so often," she added. "We can't just vaccinate everyone around the world four times a year." "It's really hard to predict." (Courtesy Bloomberg.com)