



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 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

Monday, November 21 2022

Prosecutor urges California federal judge to give Holmes 15-year sentence

SAN JOSE, Calif., Nov 18 (Reuters) - Theranos founder Elizabeth Holmes should serve 15 years in prison, a prosecutor told a California federal judge on Friday as Holmes awaited sentencing on charges of defrauding investors in her now-defunct blood testing startup.

Holmes, wearing a black skirt and dark blouse, sat in court facing U.S. District Judge Edward Davila, who will sentence her on three counts of investor fraud and one count of conspiracy. A jury convicted Holmes, 38, in January following a trial that spanned three months. Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeff Schenk told the judge that by handing down a 15-year sentence, he would be "making a statement that the ends don't justify the means."

"Day after day, week after week, month after month and finally year after year, Ms. Holmes made the decision to defraud her investors," he said.

Anti-abortion groups ask U.S. court to pull approval for abortion drugs Canadian hospitals, strapped for staff, strain with sick children COVID variants BQ.1/BQ.1.1 make up nearly half of U.S. cases - CDC Explainer: How the World Health Organization might fight future pandemics

Defendants in other major fraud cases have received sentences ranging from 10 to 25 years, prosecutors said in court papers. Examples included Enron CEO Jeffrey Skilling who was sentenced to more than 13 years in prison for his conviction on charges stemming from the company's spectacular collapse.

But Holmes' attorneys have asked that she receive a more lenient sentence of 18 months of home confinement, followed by community service, urging the judge not to make her a "martyr to public passion."

More than 130 friends, family, investors and former Theranos employees submitted letters to Davila urging leniency.

They included U.S. Senator Cory Booker of New Jersey, who said Holmes "can, despite mistakes, make the world a better place."

Prosecutors said Holmes misrepresented Theranos' technology and finances, including by claiming that its miniaturized blood testing machine was able to run an array of tests from a few drops of blood. The company secretly relied on conventional machines from other companies to run patients' tests, prosecutors said.

Holmes testified in her own defense, saying she believed her statements were accurate at the time.

Once valued at \$9 billion, Theranos Inc promised to revolutionize how patients receive diagnoses by replacing traditional labs with small machines envisioned for use in homes, drugstores and even on the battlefield.

But the startup collapsed after a series of articles in the Wall Street Journal in 2015 questioned its technology.

Though she was convicted on three counts, Holmes was acquitted on four other counts alleging she defrauded patients who paid for Theranos tests.



[3/3] Theranos founder Elizabeth Holmes and her family leave the federal courthouse after attending her fraud trial in San Jose, California, U.S. January 3, 2022. REUTERS/Brittany Ho-sea-Small/File Photo

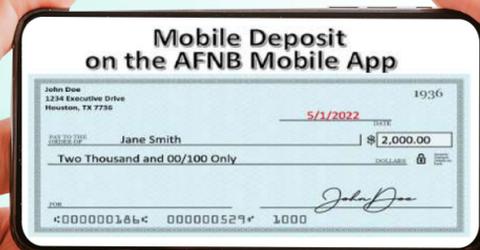
恆豐銀行 American First National Bank



- Split bill with a friend
- Deposit checks
- Pay a bill
- Send money

Convenient, Fast, Secure

Make Deposit or Send Money Directly



877-473-1888

Call us for more information!



Houston Area:				Nevada Area:				California Area:											
Main Office 713-596-2888	Spring Branch 713-273-1838	Katy Branch 281-762-6688	Harwin Branch 713-273-1888	First Colony Branch 713-596-2588	Sugar Land Branch 281-762-6699	Las Vegas Branch 702-777-9988	Pahrump Branch 775-751-1773	Amargosa Branch 775-372-1100	Henderson Branch 702-216-5500	Richardson Branch 972-348-3488	Harry-Hines Branch 972-348-3433	Legacy Branch 972-348-3466	Carrollton Branch 972-428-5088	Arlington Branch 817-261-5585	Garland Branch 972-272-3375	Plano Branch 469-429-2422	City of Industry Branch 626-667-3988	Alhambra Branch 626-863-1980	Arcadia Branch 626-321-4455



OPEC+ oil output cut shows widening rift between Biden and Saudi royals

WASHINGTON/LONDON, Oct 7(Reuters) - The OPEC+ organization's decision this week to cut oil production despite stiff U.S. opposition has further strained already tense relations between President Joe Biden's White House and Saudi Arabia's royal family...

The White House pushed hard to prevent the OPEC output cut, these sources said. Biden hopes to keep U.S. gasoline prices from spiking again ahead of midterm elections in which his Democratic party is struggling to maintain control of the U.S. Congress.

The U.S. administration lobbied OPEC+ for weeks. In recent days, senior U.S. officials from energy, foreign policy and economic teams urged their foreign counterparts to vote against an output cut...

Amos Hochstein, Biden's top energy envoy, along with national security official Brett McGurk and the administration's special envoy to Yemen Tim Lenderking, traveled to Saudi Arabia last month to discuss energy issues, including the OPEC+ decision.

Latest Updates

Danielle Smith, new premier of Canada's oil-rich Alberta, set to defy Trudeau

NYC mayor declares state of emergency amid migrant busing crisis

Analysis: Defeats in Ukraine stoke crisis for Vladimir Putin

Putin orders Russia to seize Exxon-led Sakhalin 1 oil and gas project They failed to prevent an output cut, just as Biden did after his own July visit.

US officials "tried to position it as 'us versus Russia,'" said one source briefed on the discussions, telling Saudi officials they needed to make a choice.

That argument failed, the source said, adding that the Saudis said that if the United States wanted more oil on the markets, it should start producing more of its own.

The United States is the world's No. 1 oil producer and also its top consumer, according to data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration.



The Saudi government media office CIC did not respond to Reuters emailed requests for comment about the discussions.

"We are concerned first and foremost with the interests of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and then the interests of the countries that trusted us and are members of OPEC and the OPEC + alliance," Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz told Saudi TV Wednesday.

OPEC weighs its interests with "those of the world because we have an interest in supporting the growth of the global economy and providing energy supplies in the best way," he said.

Washington's handling of the Iran nuclear deal and withdrawal of support for a Saudi-led coalition's offensive military operations in Yemen have upset Saudi officials, as have actions against Russia after the February 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

A U.S. push for a price cap on Russian oil is causing uncertainty, Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman told Bloomberg TV after the OPEC cut, noting the "lack of details and the lack of clarity" about how it will be implemented.

A source briefed by Saudi officials said the kingdom views it as "a non-market price-control mechanism, that could be used by a cartel of consumers against producers."

A Biden-directed sale of 180 million barrels of oil in March from the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve put downward pressure on oil prices. In March, OPEC+ said it would stop using data from the International Energy Agency (IEA), a Western oil watchdog, due to Saudi-led concerns the United States had too much influence.

Editor's Choice



Nasibe Samsaei, an Iranian woman living in Turkey, reacts after she cut her hair during a protest following the death of Mahsa Amini, outside the Iranian consulate in Istanbul, Turkey. REUTERS/Murad Sezer



Russian law enforcement officers detain men during an unsanctioned rally, after opposition activists called for street protests against the mobilization of reservists ordered by President Vladimir Putin, in Moscow, Russia. REUTERS



Models present creations from the Prada Spring/Summer 2023 collection during Milan Fashion Week in Milan, Italy. REUTERS/Alessandro Garofalo



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskiy is pictured on video screens as he delivers a recorded address to the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly at U.N. Headquarters in New York City. REUTERS/Mike Segar



College students perform during a flash mob as a tribute to the cultural diversity of India, at Mumbai Central railway station, in Mumbai, India. REUTERS/Niharika Kulkarni



French President Emmanuel Macron visits the Saint-Nazaire offshore wind farm, off the coast of the Guerande peninsula in western France. REUTERS/Stephane Mahe/Pool

Biden Administration Plans Imminent Booster Expansion To All Adults



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

The Biden administration is expected to begin the process of expanding the booster authorization to all adults as early as this week, according to a source familiar with internal planning.

Why it matters: America's booster campaign got off to an underwhelming start, potentially leaving millions of vulnerable people at risk as the holidays approach.

The big picture: The pandemic still isn't over, and the data is clear that vaccine effectiveness has waned over time and with the rise of Delta — but also that a booster dose restores protection against the virus to remarkable levels.

Despite disagreement among experts about who needs a booster, there's broad consensus that older people and at least some with underlying health conditions should get an additional dose around six months after their first series.

• But only 36% of Americans 65 and older have received a booster shot, according to the CDC.

• "As every month goes by, the immunity wanes more and more. So as time goes by, you're going to see more vaccinated people" becoming more vulnerable to the virus, NIAID director Anthony Fauci told Axios.



• The vast majority of breakthrough cases — particularly among younger people — aren't severe. But "as is always the case, the elderly are more vulnerable, because they're more likely to have waning of protection over time," Fauci said.

State of play: The Biden administration's original plan over the summer was to recommend that most adults get a booster shot eight months after their initial round. However, the FDA and CDC ultimately recommended that more limited groups of people receive another shot six months later.

• But some cities and states — including California, Colorado, and New York City — have gotten ahead of the FDA and have made boosters available to all adults, and some experts are arguing that it's time for the federal government to do the same.

• Other experts are still skeptical about further broadening eligibility.

Where it all stands: There isn't good national data on how many current hospitalizations and deaths are among vaccinated people, although some states are reporting rising numbers of breakthrough cases. (The number of breakthrough cases is expected to rise as more people get vaccinated.)

• In Colorado, for example, 80% of hospitalized COVID patients are unvaccinated, Denver's 9 News reports from state data.



• "Many of the ones who end up hospitalized after vaccination are older or have medical conditions or they're on some sort of immunosuppressant," Jared Eddy, director of Infection Control and Prevention at National Jewish Health, told 9 News.

What we're watching: If eligibility is expanded — and thus simplified — booster uptake could increase.

• "I believe it's extremely important for people to get boosters, and I am hoping very soon we will see a situation where there won't be any confusion about who should and should not get boosters," Fauci said.

• "In my opinion boosters are ultimately going to become a part of the standard regimen and not just a bonus," he added.

Coronavirus Dashboard



1. Vaccines: NYC to allow all adults to get a booster shot — Biden administration plans imminent booster expansion to all adults — All adults in California, Colorado, New Mexico can get boosters.

2. Health: Pfizer agrees to share recipe for COVID pill — Kaiser Permanente averts strike in tentative deal with health care workers — The best way to use rapid tests — if you can find them.

3. Politics: World gets tough on the unvaccinated — Florida special legislative session will consider bills to curb vaccine mandates — Texas AG justifies supporting state vaccine ban, opposing federal mandate.

4. Education: Schools across the U.S. offer vaccine drives — Benefits of in-person school outweigh risks, study finds.

Cases:
1. Global: Total confirmed cases as of 12:15 p.m. ET on Tuesday: 254,092,019 — Total deaths: 5,111,573 — Total vaccine doses administered: 7,538,664,047.
2. U.S.: Total confirmed cases as of 12:15 p.m. ET on Tuesday: 47,233,212 — Total deaths: 764,608.

World Coronavirus Updates

Reported cases of COVID-19



Top countries by reported case count	1. U.S.	2. India	3. Brazil	4. France	5. Turkey	6. Russia	7. U.K.	8. Italy	9. Argentina	10. Germany	11. Spain	12. Colombia	13. Iran	14. Poland	15. Mexico
Reported cases	173,999,000	29,896,000	17,044,000	5,786,000	5,206,000	5,056,000	4,546,000	4,246,000	4,016,000	3,716,000	3,716,000	3,616,000	2,916,000	2,816,000	2,416,000
Deaths	3,747,000	4,546,000	4,246,000	4,016,000	3,716,000	3,616,000	2,916,000	2,816,000	2,416,000	2,316,000	2,216,000	2,116,000	2,016,000	1,916,000	1,816,000
Recoveries	111,982,000	3,716,000	3,616,000	3,516,000	3,416,000	3,316,000	3,216,000	3,116,000	3,016,000	2,916,000	2,816,000	2,716,000	2,616,000	2,516,000	2,416,000

Data: The Center for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins; Map: Axios Visuals

By the numbers: Globally, more than 1 million people have died from the novel coronavirus and over 35.7 million have tested positive, Johns Hopkins data shows.

• The U.S. has reported the highest death toll and case count from the novel coronavirus, with nearly 210,800 fatalities and almost 7.5 million infections — with President Trump among those being treated for the virus.

• Brazil has reported the second-highest number of deaths from COVID-19 — nearly 147,500. India has the second-highest number of cases (almost 6.7 million).

What's happening:
 • The World Health Organization said in a statement Tuesday that Europe is experiencing "rising COVID-19 fatigue" as cases increase across the continent. "Despite the hardships, COVID-19 is urging us to move beyond biomedical science," the WHO said.

• Ireland's government has rejected health experts' advice to return the country to a "full lockdown" despite rising

infection numbers, the Guardian reports.
 • France's Prime Minister Jean Castex said bars in Paris will close for two weeks from Tuesday as part of new measures against the coronavirus, per the EU Observer.

Pfizer agrees to licensing deal for COVID-19 pill

Pfizer announced on Tuesday it will allow low and middle-income countries to make and distribute the company's COVID-19 pill inexpensively. The move is an attempt to increase the global supply in 95 poorer nations.

While the deal helps treat patients, the company has not made the same decision when it comes to its COVID-19 vaccine.

Arkansas Allows Boosters For All Adults



Illustration: Annelise Capossela/Axios
 Anyone 18 and older can get booster shots in Arkansas, Gov. Asa Hutchinson announced yesterday during his news conference.

If it's been at least six months since your second Pfizer or Moderna vaccine or two months since your first Johnson & Johnson vaccine, you can get another dose.

Background: Booster doses were previously limited to people 65 or older and to people 18 to 64 who worked in high-risk environments, had underlying health conditions or lived in long-term care facilities.

"We want more people to get their booster shot and this is somewhat confusing and limiting as to eligibility goes," Hutchinson said, referencing the old regulations.

State health secretary Jose Romero stressed that parents need to get their children vaccinated. About 4% of kids in Arkansas ages 5 to 11 have received one dose since becoming eligible earlier this month. (Courtesy Axios.com)

Majority Of COVID-19 Cases And Deaths In State Are Unvaccinated Texans, New State Data Reveals



A pharmacist prepares the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine at Houston Independent School District's Hattie Mae White Educational Support Center. HISD partnered with Kroger to administer the COVID-19 vaccine to educators, police officers and school nurses as part of Phase 1A and 1B of the vaccine rollout. Jan. 9, 2021.

Credit: May-Ying Lam for The Texas Tribune

Key Point

The new state survey is the first time Texas health officials have been able to statistically measure the vaccine's true impact on the pandemic.

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

New data from the Texas health department released Monday proves what health officials have been trying to tell vaccine-hesitant Texans for months: The COVID-19 vaccine dramatically prevents death and is the best tool to prevent transmission of the deadly virus.

Out of nearly 29,000 Texans who have died from COVID-related illnesses since mid-January, only 8% of them were fully vaccinated against the virus, according to a report detailing the Texas Department of State Health Services' findings. COVID-19 cases and deaths by vaccination status From mid-January to October, unvaccinated people made up the vast majority of reported COVID-19 cases and deaths.

Unvaccinated Partially vaccinated Fully vaccinated



Note: Data only includes people age 12 and older. Most people became eligible for COVID-19 vaccines in late March. (Source: Texas Department of State Health Services Credit: Mandi Cai)

inated people were among Texans older than 75, the age group that is most vulnerable to the virus, the study shows.

COVID-19 was deadliest for unvaccinated Texans across age groups

Reported deaths from mid-January to October show that most COVID-19 deaths occurred among unvaccinated younger and older Texans.

Age group	Unvaccinated	Vaccinated
18-29 years	330	10
30-39	1,010	21
40-49	2,310	40
50-59	6,790	107
60-69	4,311	109
70+	7,810	1,243

Note: Most people became eligible for COVID-19 vaccines in late March. (Source: Texas Department of State Health Services Credit: Mandi Cai)

"We've known for a while that vaccines were going to have a protective effect on a large segment of our population," said Dr. Jennifer A. Shuford, state epidemiologist. "By looking at our own population and seeing what the impact of the vaccines have been on that population, we're hoping just to be able to reach people here

in Texas and show them the difference that being fully vaccinated can make in their lives and for their communities."

The state health department study covers most of the positive cases and COVID-19 deaths reported in Texas among residents from Jan. 15 to Oct. 1. It's the first time state officials have been able to statistically measure the true impact of the vaccine on the pandemic in Texas — which has one of the highest death tolls in the nation. The majority of Texans ages 16 and up didn't become eligible for the vaccine until late March. State health officials also found the vaccine greatly reduced the risk of virus transmission, including the highly contagious delta variant that ravaged the state over the summer.

Only 3% of 1.5 million positive COVID-19 tests examined since mid-January occurred in people who were already vaccinated. State researchers matched electronic lab reports and death certificates with state immunization records, and measured cases and deaths since mid-January, a month after the first shots were administered in Texas.



The study was done using data similar to those used by other states that conducted similar studies and methods recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Shuford said. And while the outcome was not particularly surprising, Shuford said, officials hope that the new data will increase trust in the benefits of the shot. "Texas is a unique place; it's got a lot of diversity, geographic and population-wise," Shuford said. "We know that some people want to see actual numbers and that they want to see it for their own community. And so we are hoping that this reaches some of those people who have been hesitant and really just questioning the benefits of the vaccines."

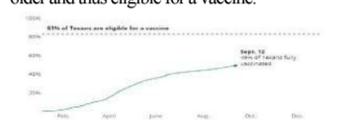
In Texas, it literally requires a disaster — like a pandemic — before the state records precise information about vaccinations. As a result, there is a record for every single COVID-19 vaccine dose of the name and age of the person who received it plus the date it was administered. Normally, vaccination records are shown to schools by parents, but details of all vaccinations are not regularly kept by a state registry in Texas, unlike nearly every other state, because it's a voluntary system. However, state officials still don't have official numbers on how many vaccinated people were hospitalized with COVID-19 because hospitals are not required to report that level of data under state law. But the state's largest hospital districts and counties have reported that at least 90% of the hospitalized Texans with the virus were unvaccinated.



The state's new health data comes as Republican state leaders grapple with local cities and school districts about masking, which has been proven to reduce transmission of the virus, and with federal officials over vaccine mandates. About 53% of the Texas population is fully vaccinated. More than 70,000 Texans have died from COVID-19

since the pandemic began.

Percentage of Texans fully vaccinated
 As of Nov. 14, about 53.9% of Texas' 29.1 million people have been fully vaccinated. According to the Census Bureau's 2019 Vintage population estimates, 93% of Texans are age 5 and older and thus eligible for a vaccine.



Sources: Vaccination data from the Texas Department of State Health Services, statewide population from the 2020 U.S. census, population by age from Census Vintage 2019 estimates. (Photo Credit: The Texas Tribune)

Immunity heading into the holidays
 The new report is particularly well-timed, officials say, because gatherings throughout the holiday season could touch off another surge as families get together — many of them for the first time since last year — and around 9 million Texans remain unvaccinated. Texas saw its deadliest surge of the pandemic in January, when more than 400 deaths were reported daily at its peak, a trend health officials said was likely a direct result of the holidays.

The recent Texas Coronavirus Antibody Response Survey, commissioned by the state health department in partnership with the University of Texas System, estimated that about 75% of Texans — roughly 22 million people — likely have some level of protection against the virus, either by natural immunity from being infected or through vaccination. But that doesn't mean infected people are immune indefinitely or that they shouldn't get the vaccine, health experts say. In fact, doctors, scientists and health officials urge those who have been infected to get vaccinated anyway, saying the vaccine provides a strong boost in immunity even to those who have some level of natural protection.

The Texas CARES study found that fully vaccinated participants showed significantly higher antibody levels than those who were unvaccinated but had been infected.

A week ago, the CDC found that while both vaccination and natural infection provide about six months of protection from infection by the virus, the vaccine provides a "higher, more robust, and more consistent level of immunity" than natural infection does. And while the fact that a solid majority of Texans are estimated to have some protection from the virus bodes well for the state in its fight against the pandemic, Shuford said, it still means that millions of Texans are vulnerable to severe illness or death from the highly contagious virus, without any vaccine or natural immunity.

"Those susceptible populations can still get infected, and the holidays are the perfect time for that," she said. "Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's. These are all times that people gather together, and COVID-19 can easily be transmitted at these gatherings." (Courtesy https://www.texastribune.org)

ted at these gatherings."

Vaccine FAQs
 • **Who is eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine?** People ages 5-17 are eligible to receive the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. People age 18 and older are eligible to receive the Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccines.

• **Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe and effective??**
 • **Should I still get the vaccine if I've had COVID-19?**

Yes. Research has not yet shown how long you are protected from getting COVID-19 again after recovering from COVID-19, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and vaccination will boost protection. If you were treated for COVID-19 with monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma, you should wait 90 days before getting a COVID-19 vaccine. Talk to your doctor if you are unsure what treatments you received or if you have more questions about getting a COVID-19 vaccine.

Where can I get the COVID-19 vaccine in Texas?

Most chain pharmacies and many independent ones have a ready supply of the vaccine, and many private doctors' offices also have it. Texas has compiled other options for finding vaccine appointments here, and businesses or civic organizations can set up vaccine clinics to offer it to employees, visitors, customers or members. The vaccine is free, and you don't need health insurance to get it.

The Texas CARES study found that fully vaccinated participants showed significantly higher antibody levels than those who were unvaccinated but had been infected.

A week ago, the CDC found that while both vaccination and natural infection provide about six months of protection from infection by the virus, the vaccine provides a "higher, more robust, and more consistent level of immunity" than natural infection does.

And while the fact that a solid majority of Texans are estimated to have some protection from the virus bodes well for the state in its fight against the pandemic, Shuford said, it still means that millions of Texans are vulnerable to severe illness or death from the highly contagious virus, without any vaccine or natural immunity.



"Those susceptible populations can still get infected, and the holidays are the perfect time for that," she said. "Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's. These are all times that people gather together, and COVID-19 can easily be transmitted at these gatherings." (Courtesy https://www.texastribune.org)