

# At Least 600 Tons Of Dead Fish Have Washed Up Along Tampa Bay's Shore

July 13, 2021 · 3:18 PM ET

JOSIE FISCHELS

The hordes of fish were killed by a red tide, a large "bloom" of toxic algae that appears on Florida's Gulf Coast about once a year. Experts say the bloom shouldn't be happening right now.



Fish are seen washed ashore at the Sanibel Causeway after dying in a red tide in 2018 in Sanibel, Florida.

"The bay is really hurting right now," she said. "It's significant numbers of dead fish all up and down the food chain, from small forage fish all the way up to tarpon, manatees, dolphins. ... If it's swimming in the bay, right now it's washing up dead."

The Pinellas County solid waste division has reported that since late June, 600 tons of dead sea life have been collected by cleanup crews throughout the county. During a [news conference](#), St. Petersburg's emergency manager, Amber Boulding, said more could wash to shore until the bloom moves away. When that will happen, according to Stumpf, is unknown.

"We scrape the beaches. We get it cleaned up — as soon as those tides change, we have fish right back in," Boulding said. "We don't know the end of it."

## The reason for the red tide's severity and location is under debate

Another unknown that Florida faces is what has made this summer's bloom so severe. Rainfall, wind and the amount of phosphorus and nitrogen in the water can all play a part, according to Stumpf, but the cause cannot yet be confirmed.

Tom Frazer, dean and professor at the University of South Florida's College of Marine Science, said at a recent discussion at the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute in St. Petersburg that a wastewater spill at a phosphate plant in April could be [fueling the outbreak](#), but isn't the cause.

No matter the cause, Burke says the untimely results of this summer's red tide are gruesome.



## This family's 24-year search for their abducted son inspired a movie. They've just been reunited

By **Jessie Yeung**, CNN

🕒 Updated 3:39 AM ET, Wed July 14, 2021



Guo Xinzhen (green t-shirt) was reunited with his family on July 11, in Liaocheng, China, after being abducted in 1997.

**Hong Kong (CNN)** — The abduction of 2-year-old Guo Xinzhen in eastern China in 1997 sparked a desperate, seemingly never-ending nationwide search by his parents that inspired filmmakers to bring their story to the big screen.

But this week -- 24 years after his disappearance -- the search for Guo finally came to an end.

Police in Liaocheng City, Shandong province, said Monday they had found Guo, now an adult living in neighboring Henan province -- and had reunited him with his parents. Video footage of the reunion on Sunday, released by police, shows the family in tears and embracing tightly, crying out, "We found you, you've come back."

Police said they had arrested two people who confessed to kidnapping and trafficking Guo.

### Longstanding problem

Child abduction and trafficking has long been a [rampant problem](#) in China, with many parents never finding their missing children. Activists and experts say the problem was exacerbated by China's one-child policy, which has been relaxed in recent years. In May, the government announced it would begin allowing couples to have up to three children.

But for decades, because of the strict policy and China's patriarchal society, it was common for couples to desire a boy -- driving a [black market](#) for trafficked infant boys, while girls are often sold to foreign adoptive parents, falsely labeled as orphans.

It's not clear how many children go missing in China every year, though estimates go up to tens of thousands. China is ranked Tier 3 by the US State Department's [anti-trafficking agency](#) -- the lowest level, meaning the government "does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking."

Since the turn of the century, the government has stepped up efforts to curb the problem, including launching a national DNA database in 2009 and an online anti-trafficking platform in 2016. These have helped authorities track down more than 4,700 missing children in the past five years, [according to Xinhua](#).



## After San Francisco shoplifting video goes viral, officials argue thefts aren't rampant

The city has been gripped by a perception of lawlessness after a string of videos featured people openly shoplifting, seemingly without repercussion.



July 14, 2021, 1:37 AM PDT

By Erik Ortiz and Jacob Ward

SAN FRANCISCO – A flurry of [shoplifters in masks and hooded jackets](#) sprinted from a downtown Neiman Marcus last week and into getaway cars with armfuls of designer handbags – a scene captured on video and raising fears that rings of thieves were hitting retail businesses.

The incident, which remains under investigation, was only the latest to give an impression of lawlessness running rampant in San Francisco's stores, where people have been caught on recordings openly swiping products seemingly without repercussion.

But city leaders are pushing back at that image after the release Monday of a [midyear public safety report](#). Police data shows overall thefts are down 9 percent in the first six months of the year compared to the same period in 2020, when the [city was on lockdown](#) and many businesses closed during the onset of the pandemic.

San Francisco Police Chief William Scott and Mayor London Breed acknowledged that while some crime is up, including aggravated assaults, homicides and incidents with guns, the overall numbers of violent and property crimes have fallen.

Charis Kubrin, a professor of criminology, law and society at the University of California, Irvine, who [researched](#) Proposition 47 and its impact on public safety, found that the initiative had no effect statewide on most crimes through the year after it was enacted, and while there was a modest increase in larcenies and auto thefts, it was too small to reach any significant conclusions.

California, she added, has seen its [property and violent crime rates fall](#) in recent years to historic lows in some cases as the state embarked on reforms. Additional research, however, will be needed, Kubrin said, to see the effect something like Proposition 47 is having on San Francisco and other local communities.

"Nobody cares about big broad statistics," she said. "They care about what's happening in their backyard."

On Monday, Scott said officers in San Francisco were being deployed in more crime-plagued neighborhoods. But he also conceded that it has been difficult recruiting new police officers to the city's department, which remains hundreds of officers short during a climate in which policing remains heavily scrutinized.

"Robberies are one of the categories where cops in the street matter," he told reporters.

Ambrosio Rodriguez, a criminal defense attorney and former deputy district attorney in Los Angeles, said cities like San Francisco battling rising crime rates amid calls against over-policing will have to determine how much the public is willing to tolerate in terms of smaller, "victimless" crimes before overall quality of life is an issue.

"I do think no one is going to have much empathy for Neiman Marcus, but that's besides the point," Rodriguez said. "There are stores around there, too. So when people stop going to Neiman Marcus, and the stores around it closes, there will be a larger effect on other businesses and perceptions about whether a place is safe to visit."

"San Franciscans will have to determine what they can put up with," he added.



CONGRESS

## Democrats unveil \$3.5T go-it-alone plan to fulfill Biden's agenda

The proposal sets an overall limit for the array of Democratic policy ambitions that won't make it into a bipartisan infrastructure deal, if Congress can reach one.



Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said: "If we pass this, this is the most profound change to help American families in generations." | Scott Applewhite/AP Photo

By **CAITLIN EMMA** and **JENNIFER SCHOLTES**

07/13/2021 09:22 PM EDT

Updated: 07/14/2021 12:23 AM EDT

Senate Democrats announced a top line budget number late Tuesday that will propel their plan to enact the full array of President Joe Biden's social welfare and family aid promises without Republican votes.

The proposal sets an overall limit of \$3.5 trillion for the spate of Democratic policy ambitions that won't make it into a bipartisan infrastructure deal, if Congress can reach one. If the still-forthcoming budget resolution can clear both chambers with lockstep party support, it will unleash the power to circumvent a GOP filibuster using the so-called reconciliation process, the same move that Democrats used to pass the president's \$1.9 trillion pandemic aid package in March.

Combined with a bipartisan infrastructure compromise that's still getting shaped into legislation, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said the budget's investments in infrastructure, the middle class and more would total about \$4.1 trillion, "which is very, very close to what President Biden asked us for." Biden will also attend Democrats' lunch on Wednesday to discuss the plans, Schumer said.

Meanwhile, negotiations on a bipartisan infrastructure bill, which would require support from at least 10 Senate Republicans, [are starting to get shaky](#) amid GOP concerns over spending and ways to finance the legislation.

Embarking again on a reconciliation bill will be arduous and painful for Democratic lawmakers. The process involves enduring two more vote-a-rama sessions in the Senate, each of which will allow Republicans to fire off a barrage of politically tricky amendments.

The Senate parliamentarian, who serves as the chamber's nonpartisan procedural enforcer, is also expected to shoot down parts of the proposal that are found to be out of bounds under the special budget process.



# 'This Is A Test Of Our Time,' Biden Says About Voting Rights Battles

Updated July 13, 2021 · 6:01 PM ET



BRIAN NAYLOR



ALANA WISE



President Biden addresses the issue of voting rights Tuesday at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia.

*Drew Angerer/Getty Images*

Amid Republican efforts to enact new state-level election rules, President Biden on Tuesday gave a stark warning about the future of voting rights.

"This is a test of our time," Biden said in a long-promised speech from Philadelphia.

The president spoke a day after Texas Democratic state lawmakers left their state in protest of GOP voting legislation and traveled to Washington, D.C., where they hope to put pressure on Biden and Congress to take federal action on the topic.



POLITICS

[Vice President Harris Hints That She Has Discussed Filibuster Changes With Senators](#)

Biden portrayed the current fight over voting rights as one of the great moments of morality for the United States and said the issue would require support from across the aisle.

"We'll be asking my Republican friends in Congress and states and cities and counties to stand up, for God's sake, and help prevent this concerted effort to undermine our election and the sacred right to vote," Biden said, referencing Republican efforts to overturn the 2020 presidential election.

"Have you no shame?" he asked of his GOP counterparts.



POLITICS

[What's Next For Voting Rights After The Supreme Court's Decision](#)

## Progressives protest

Progressive activists are also turning up the pressure on Biden. They planned to rally to push the president to use his bully pulpit more forcefully to make the case for enacting the For the People Act.

"He could go around the country and give speeches about it very specifically that would educate voters so that they get on board and they tell their senators that it needs to be passed, and he can rally support for it," said Vicki Miller of Indivisible Philadelphia, one of the groups protesting outside of Biden's speech. "This is what presidents do when they prioritize major legislation. And he could be doing that, and we want him to start now."

Miller also said she hoped to see Biden make the case for [amending the Senate's filibuster rules](#), specifically for the purpose of passing voting rights legislation. Current rules require 60 votes to overcome a challenge and move legislation forward — a threshold Democrats haven't been able to meet in this effort.





What are you looking at? Greg Shine, BLM/Flickr, CC BY

## Don't hike so close to me: How the presence of humans can disturb wildlife up to half a mile away

July 14, 2021 8:24am EDT

Jeremy Dertien, *Clemson University*, Courtney Larson, *University of Wyoming*, Sarah Reed, *Colorado State University*

Millions of Americans are traveling this summer as pandemic restrictions wind down. [Rental bookings](#) and [crowds in national parks](#) show that many people are headed for the great outdoors.

Seeing animals and birds is one of the main draws of spending time in nature. But as researchers who study [conservation](#), [wildlife](#) and [human impacts on wild places](#), we believe it's important to know that you can have major effects on wildlife just by being nearby.

In a [recent review](#) of hundreds of studies covering many species, we found that the presence of humans can alter wild animal and bird behavior patterns at much greater distances than most people may think. Small mammals and birds may change their behavior when hikers or birders come within 300 feet (100 meters) – the length of a football field. Large birds like eagles and hawks can be affected when humans are over 1,300 feet (400 meters) away – roughly a quarter of a mile. And large mammals like elk and moose can be affected by humans up to 3,300 feet (1,000 meters) away – more than half a mile.

### How to reduce your impact on wildlife

While there's much still to learn, we know enough to identify some simple actions people can take to minimize their impacts on wildlife. First, keep your distance. Although some species or individual animals will become used to human presence at close range, many others won't. And it can be hard to tell when you are stressing an animal and potentially endangering both it and yourself.

Second, respect closed areas and stay on trails. For example, in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, wildlife managers [seasonally close some backcountry ski areas](#) to protect critical habitat for bighorn sheep and reduce stress on other species like moose, elk and mule deer. And rangers in Maine's Acadia National Park [close several trails annually near peregrine falcon nests](#). This reduces stress to nesting birds and has [helped this formerly endangered species recover](#).

Getting involved with educational or volunteer programs is a great way to learn about wildlife and help maintain undisturbed areas. As our research shows, balancing recreation with conservation means opening some areas to human use and keeping others entirely or mostly undisturbed.

As development [fragments wild habitat](#) and climate change forces many species to [shift their ranges](#), movement corridors between protected areas become even more important. Our research suggests that creating recreation-free wildlife corridors of at least 3,300 feet (1,000 meters) wide can enable most species to move between protected areas without disturbance. Seeing wildlife can be part of a fun outdoor experience – but for the animals' sake, you may need binoculars or a zoom lens for your camera.





Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, center, greets Gen. Scott Miller, the former top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, upon Miller's July 14, 2021, return to the U.S. at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland. Alex Brandon - Pool/Getty Images

## The US withdraws from Afghanistan after 20 years of war: 4 questions about this historic moment

July 15, 2021 8.26am EDT

Mark Jacobson, Syracuse University

**As an Afghanistan veteran, what do you think at this turning point as the U.S. withdraws from the country?**

I'm saddened by the policy decision to completely withdraw. I think it's a poor choice and I believe that both President Trump's and President Biden's assessment of the issue was based on their belief in a false choice between a so-called "endless war" and full withdrawal.

But I can live with lousy policy decisions. I'm more concerned about my former Afghan colleagues and their families and whether we can do our part to make sure they can evacuate safely if the need arises. What gives me hope is that the Biden administration is taking this issue seriously and working through a process to get former interpreters, advisers and their families to the U.S. under the special immigrant visa program.



Afghan men bury a victim of deadly bombings near a girls' school in May. Mariam Zuhaib/AP

## As the Taliban surges across Afghanistan, al-Qaeda is poised for a swift return

July 13, 2021 4.10pm EDT

Greg Barton, Deakin University

The imminent fall of Afghanistan is more than a national disaster. It is not just that the gains made in the past two decades, at the cost of tens of thousands of lives and trillions of dollars, look certain to be reversed as the Taliban advances.

The Taliban's victory is also al-Qaeda's victory, and it has global implications.

Even before the US military completes the final steps of its troop withdrawal, the Taliban is surging. It is now reported to control 212 districts — more than half of Afghanistan's 407 districts. This is triple the territory it controlled on May 1. The Taliban has seized 51 districts since the start of July alone.

The Taliban is currently contesting a further 119 districts, leaving the government with control over just 76, or little more than 20%.



# One of the nation's worst surges in overdose deaths is happening in Louisiana; here's why

BY RAMON ANTONIO VARGAS | STAFF WRITER

PUBLISHED JUL 14, 2021 AT 4:32 PM | UPDATED JUL 14, 2021 AT 7:51 PM

🗨️ 📖 2 min to read



In this Friday, June 1, 2018, photo, small vials of fentanyl are shown in the inpatient pharmacy at the University of Utah Hospital in Salt Lake City. (AP Photo/Rick Bowmer)

## Top 10 states for overdose increases in 2020

- |                          |                             |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Vermont: 57.6%        | 6. Tennessee: 44.6%         |
| 2. West Virginia: 55.6%  | <b>7. California: 43.7%</b> |
| 3. Kentucky: 53.7%       | 8. Nebraska: 43.2%          |
| 4. South Carolina: 52.8% | 9. Arkansas: 42.3%          |
| 5. Louisiana: 47.6%      | 10. Virginia: 42.1%         |

Facing a proliferation of the potent opiate fentanyl, along with isolating lockdowns and other stressors related to the coronavirus pandemic, Louisiana endured the nation's fifth-worst surge in drug overdose deaths last year, the federal government said Wednesday.

About 1,930 people died of drug overdoses in Louisiana in 2020, an increase of nearly 48% from the roughly 1,300 such deaths reported in 2019, according to preliminary information from the National Center for Health Statistics. Only Vermont, West Virginia, Kentucky and South Carolina registered greater increases, with jumps ranging between 53% and 58%.

Overdose deaths across the U.S. soared to a record 93,000 last year, easily surpassing the prior mark of 72,000 set in 2019, the government's estimate shows. That equates to a jump of nearly 30% — a staggering 250 overdose deaths per day, or 11 an hour.

But the Pelican State shouldered a disproportionate amount of the spike, according to the government's findings, which confirmed a February analysis from The Times-Picayune | New Orleans Advocate.

For example, the number of additional overdose deaths in Louisiana last year — 631 — was greater than in all but a handful of states in the country. And that number was higher than the total overdose deaths of many states.

Jefferson Parish Coroner Dr. Gerry Cvitanovich said the statistics are not a surprise.

He noted that last year was defined by prolonged periods of social distancing and other sacrifices to slow the spread of the coronavirus, which hit Louisiana particularly hard. **Simultaneously, the dangerously powerful opiate fentanyl has continued to replace heroin and prescription painkillers as the drug driving the nation's overdose epidemic for the last couple of years, especially in Louisiana. Dealers have been known to lace drugs with fentanyl to boost their potency while keeping them affordable.**



# Hunter Biden's Paintings Are Going On Sale, Drawing Critics Of Art And Ethics

Updated July 14, 2021 - 9:47 AM ET  
Heard on Morning Edition



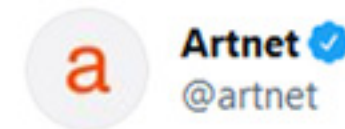
At 51 years old, having made it through a long and tumultuous period of substance use, Hunter Biden has poured himself into painting. A New York gallery is preparing to show and sell his work, prompting the White House to announce an arrangement aimed at insulating President Biden and his son from ethical pitfalls.

But the arrangement is not convincing experts in the art world or government ethics.

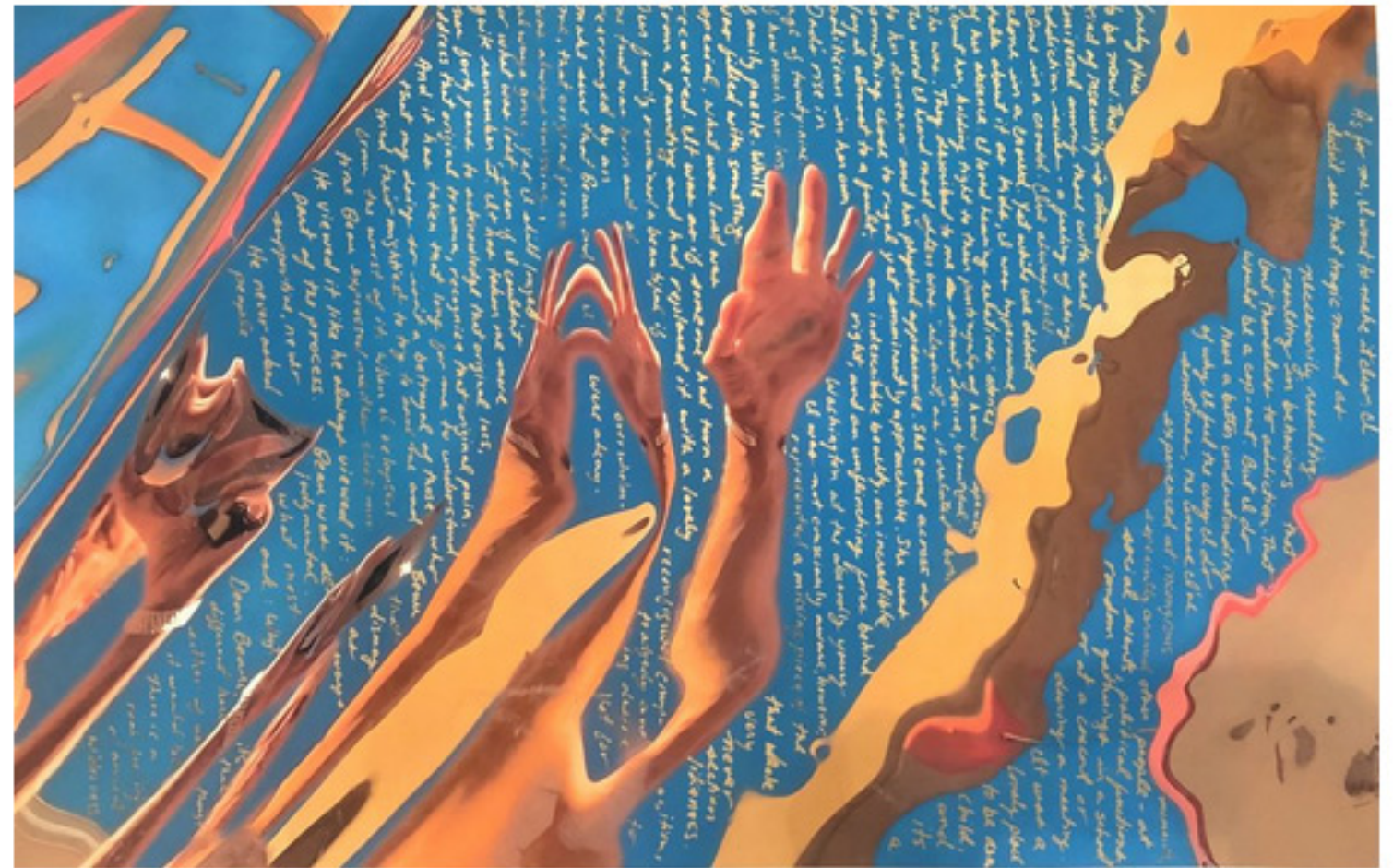
"All interactions regarding the selling of art and the setting of prices will be handled by a professional gallerist, adhering to the highest industry standards," White House press secretary Jen Psaki said at a recent briefing.

She added that any offer out of the norm would be tossed, "and the gallerist will not share information about buyers or prospective buyers, including their identities, with Hunter Biden or the administration."

The gallerist, Georges Bergès, has praised Biden's skill as an artist and said the works on paper and canvas will be priced at between \$75,000 and \$500,000 each.



We spoke to Hunter Biden about his new life as a full-time artist, and his personal quest for 'universal truth' through painting: [bit.ly/3xm7uBq](https://bit.ly/3xm7uBq)



Hunter Biden, *Untitled* (2021). Courtesy of the artist and Georges Bergès



Hunter Biden, *Untitled* (2020). Courtesy of the artist and Georges Bergès



# A Conspiracy Theorist Who Vandalized Hunter Biden's New York Gallery Has Been Arrested

The vandal tried to write "Daddy is a war criminal" on the wall.

Taylor Dafoe, July 12, 2021



Rod Webber vandalizing Georges Berges Gallery in New York.

A conspiracy theorist filmmaker was arrested last week for vandalizing the New York gallery representing U.S. president Joe Biden's 51-year-old son, Hunter Biden.

The vandal, Rod Webber, entered Georges Berges Gallery on Friday afternoon with a can of pink spray paint in hand. (Webber later claimed on Twitter that it was a bottle of washable hair spray.) He scrawled the word "daddy" on a wall and damaged a painting by another artist worth \$14,500 in the process, according to the [New York Post](#).

Webber, who [live-streamed the incident](#) on his Facebook page, later explained that he was trying to write "Daddy is a war criminal," and argued that Hunter Biden's work was a front for laundering money. None of Biden's artwork was on display at the time.

The attack came just one day after the *Washington Post* reported on an [apparent agreement between the White House and Berges](#) to keep the sales details of Hunter Biden's paintings confidential, including from his father. The deal was said to be a way to deter bad actors from purchasing artworks at high prices in order to curry favor with the White House; critics have argued that the lack of transparency has the opposite effect.

The one-hour and twenty minute-long video Webber recorded begins with him standing outside the gallery's storefront space, musing on Joe Biden's "shenanigans," saying the president has worked with "segregationists and klansmen." The footage then follows him inside as he tries to finish his message before being detained by a gallery employee.

*Video from Rod Webber / @rodwebber's arrest about an hour ago. Longer full length video of the event, the arrest and the cops is uploading right now, will share it soon.*  
<https://t.co/2WluJHLItG> [pic.twitter.com/eLInLVFHRK](https://pic.twitter.com/eLInLVFHRK)

— Gregg Housh (@GreggHoush) July 9, 2021

Webber is no stranger to art world stunting. He was previously arrested at Art Basel Miami Beach in December 2019, when he [wrote the words "Jeffrey Epstein Didn't Kill Himself"](#) in red lipstick on the same wall to which [Maurizio Cattelan infamously taped a \\$120,000 banana](#).

For his latest antic, Webber was charged with assault and criminal mischief, according to the *Post*. He appeared before a judge at an arraignment in a Manhattan criminal court this weekend.

In a cryptic blog post published on his personal website ahead of the incident, Webber wrote: "New Daddy is same as the old Daddy. Bombings in Syria and Iraq. Endless wars. Weapons of Mass Destruction was a lie. Art Gallery promotes crime family."

"To the good people at Georges Berges," he added, "If you support ending the wars, leave my art be..."

When reached for comment, Webber told Artnet News, "The intention of my actions on Friday [was] to create a new piece of art—and I did."

Representatives from Berges declined to weigh in.



Thursday, July 15, 2021

## California woman first to face federal charges over fake COVID immunizations, vaccination cards

Juli A. Mazi was accused of wire fraud and false statements related to health care matters

By Emma Colton, David Spurr | Fox News

A homeopathic doctor in [California](#) became the first person in the United States to face federal charges over fake COVID-19 immunizations and falsified [coronavirus](#) vaccine cards.

Juli A. Mazi, 41, of Napa was arrested Wednesday and charged with one count of wire fraud and one count of false statements related to health care matters, the [Department of Justice](#) said in a press release.

"This defendant allegedly defrauded and endangered the public by preying on fears and spreading misinformation about FDA-authorized vaccinations, while also peddling fake treatments that put people's lives at risk. Even worse, the defendant allegedly created counterfeit COVID-19 vaccination cards and instructed her customers to falsely mark that they had received a vaccine, allowing them to circumvent efforts to contain the spread of the disease," said Deputy Attorney General Lisa O. Monaco.

Authorities were first tipped off to Mazi's alleged scheme in April, when a person contacted the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General's hotline. The tipster said family members had purchased immunization pellets from the doctor that "contained the COVID-19 virus and would create an antibody response in the immune system," the DOJ said.

"If people are selling fraudulent vaccine cards, they are endangering everyone," said Siobhan Johnson with the FBI in May. "So yes, we are looking at those cases and investigating them and there can be severe penalties."



**Dr. Juli Mazi, ND**

@DrJuliMazi

Dr. Juli Mazi is a Naturopathic Doctor, who works with people of all ages to help them thrive and to achieve an optimal and vibrant state of well being.

📍 Napa, California 🔗 [drjulimazi.com](https://drjulimazi.com) 📅 Joined February 2013

93 Following 81 Followers



# NASA warns moon 'wobble' could lead to more flooding, more often

The slightest change in the moon's orbit could see big problems for coastal regions.



Steph Panecasio July 14, 2021 10:56 p.m. PT



▶ LISTEN - 02:47



The moon is wobbling. There's really no other way to say it. A slight alteration to the moon's orbit -- a wobble, if you will -- has raised both eyebrows and questions about what effect such a slight jiggle may have here on Earth. It's funny to say, sure, but the potential ramifications of a moon wobble have scientists concerned for the future.

In a study, published in the journal *Nature Climate Change* in June, scientists suggest that by the 2030s, the wobble will have enough of an effect on the moon's gravitational pull to impact rising sea levels, seeing coastal cities all around the US cop a drastic increase in flooding. Climate change is already causing global sea levels to rise in two ways: warming waters cause the volume of the ocean to expand and increased glacier and ice sheet melt.

For low-lying cities that already face this kind of "high-tide" flood risk, it could spell significant damage and concern in the not-so distant future.

NASA Administrator Bill Nelson said, "The combination of the moon's gravitational pull, rising sea levels, and climate change will continue to exacerbate coastal flooding on our coastlines and across the world. NASA's Sea Level Change Team is providing crucial information so that we can plan, protect, and prevent damage to the environment and people's livelihoods affected by flooding."

Scientists identified the tipping points by studying tide gauge locations in the coastal US (excepting Alaska). Using the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's existing sea level rise scenarios and flood thresholds, they were able to create a statistical framework that projects likely scenarios over the next 60 years.

This will help narrow down likely timelines for significant flooding and help pinpoint how likely it is a flood might occur in different months of the year. Information like this could be crucial for coastal inhabitants and planners.

But what does the wobbly moon have to do with this? Climate scientists have warned that global sea levels have been rising -- and will continue to rise -- for quite some time. How does the wobble change what's already occurring?

Scientists have actually known about the wobble for centuries -- it was first discovered in 1728 -- however the issue is that sea levels have already risen to a point where we now must consider how the moon's existing tide cycles will affect the globe.

Experts split the moon's 18.6-year orbit into two halves, or tide cycles. For the duration of the first half, tides on Earth are suppressed, with high tides lower than average and low tides higher than average -- a "meet in the middle" kind of effect. For the other half, however, the effect is reversed. Tides are amplified: High tides get higher and low tides get lower.

The issue is that in the 2030s, when sea levels are expected to have risen considerably, the Earth will be in the amplified part of the tide cycle. High tides will be higher than ever, causing flood numbers to dramatically increase on the coastlines.

With this new predictive model, scientists can narrow down when and where these floods are most likely to occur -- and potentially save both lives and livelihoods in the process.



## Biden bids Merkel farewell: Friends – with disagreements

By AAMER MADHANI, ALEXANDRA JAFFE and FRANK JORDANS today



WASHINGTON (AP) — Welcoming Angela Merkel to the White House for a final time, President Joe Biden renewed his concerns to the German chancellor Thursday about a major, nearly complete Russia-to-Germany gas pipeline but said they agreed Russia must not be allowed to use energy as a weapon.

The two discussed — though made no apparent headway — on differences over the Nord Stream 2 pipeline during a largely friendly farewell visit for Merkel as she nears the end of a political career that has spanned four American presidencies.

“On a personal note, I must tell you I will miss seeing you at our summits,” Biden said as he stood by Merkel, the second-longest serving chancellor in Germany’s history, at a late afternoon White House press conference. “I truly will.”

Merkel, who had a famously difficult relationship with former President Donald Trump, showed her ease and familiarity with Biden, who has long been a fixture in international politics, repeatedly referring to him as “Dear Joe.”

While there are points of tension, Biden seemed eager to offer Merkel a proper farewell.

He hosted Merkel and her husband, as well as an array of lawmakers and administration officials, current and past, at the White House for a dinner Thursday evening. The guest list included Secretary of State Antony Blinken, as well as two of his predecessors — Hillary Clinton and Colin Powell.

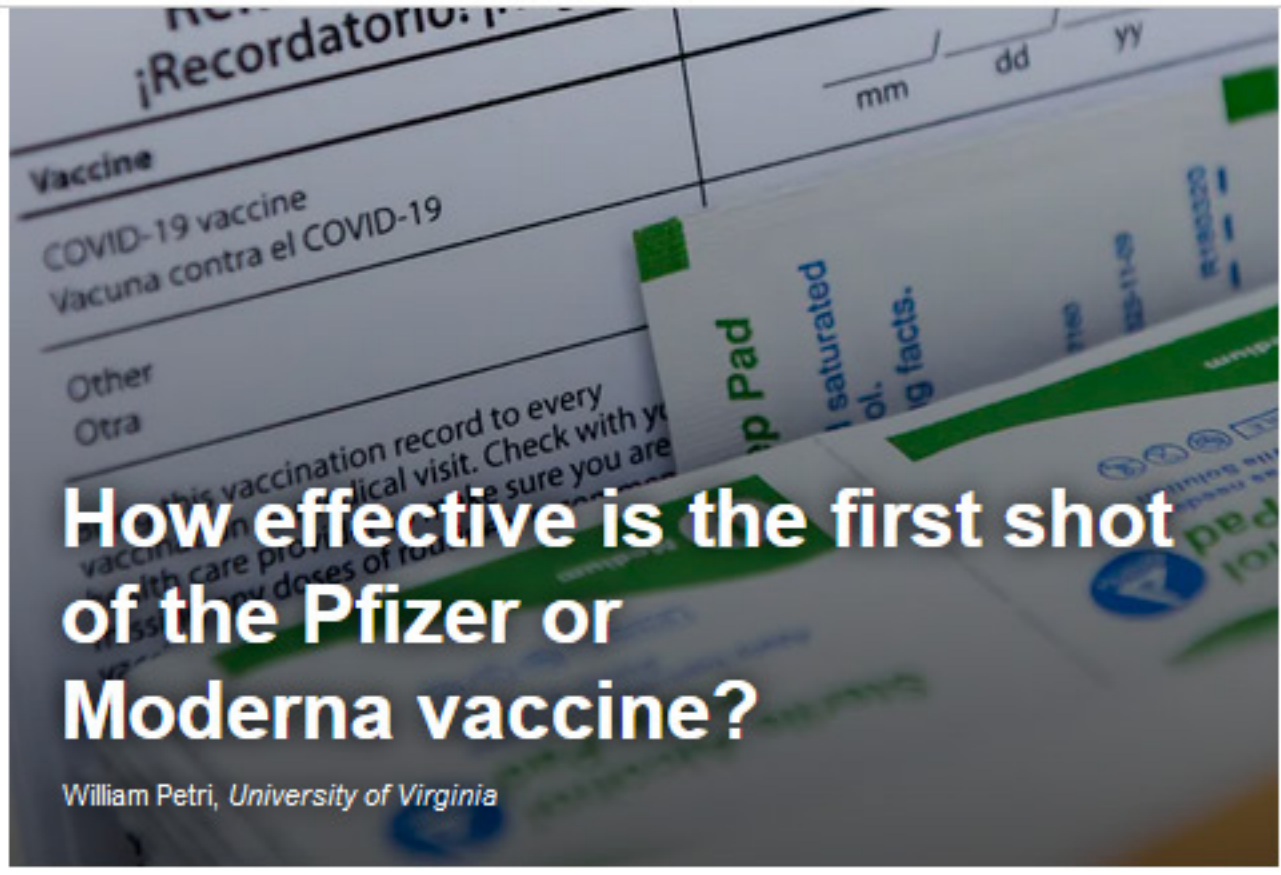
The Republican Senate and House leaders, Mitch McConnell and Kevin McCarthy, were also in attendance along with other top U.S. and German officials. The menu featured crispy sea bass and black pepper tagliatelle.

Earlier Thursday, Harris hosted Merkel for breakfast at her residence on the grounds of the U.S. Naval Observatory, commending her for her “extraordinary career.” Merkel in turn noted [the historic nature of the Harris vice presidency](#).

“I can only say that I’m delighted, too, for this opportunity here to meet the first madam vice president of the United States of America,” Merkel said before the two leaders stepped into a residence to talk over a breakfast of Gruyère soufflé, seasonal fruit and charcuterie.

Also Thursday, Merkel received an honorary doctorate, her 18th, from Johns Hopkins University and spoke at the university’s School of Advanced International Studies.



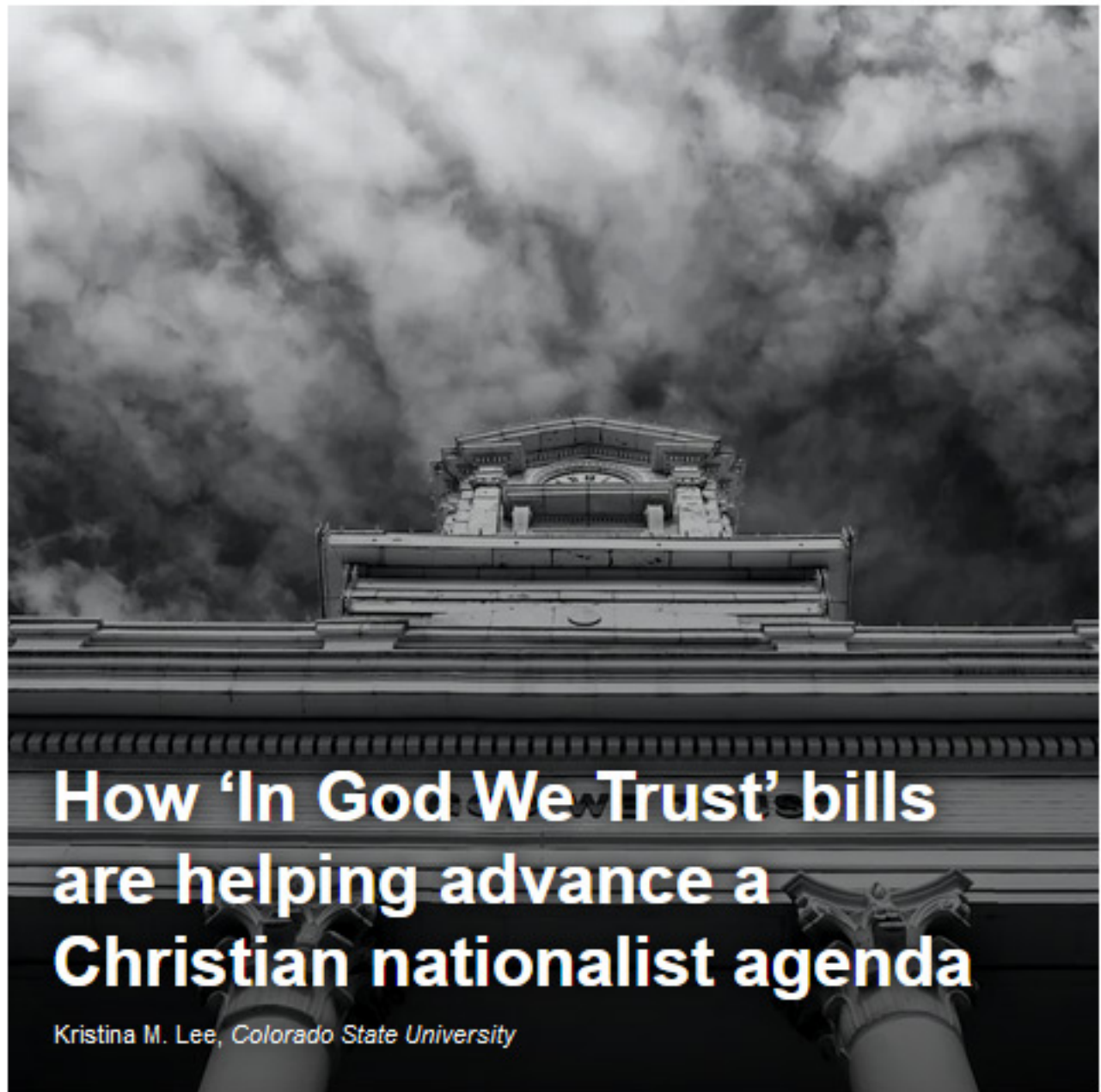
**How effective is the first shot of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine?**

William Petri, *University of Virginia*



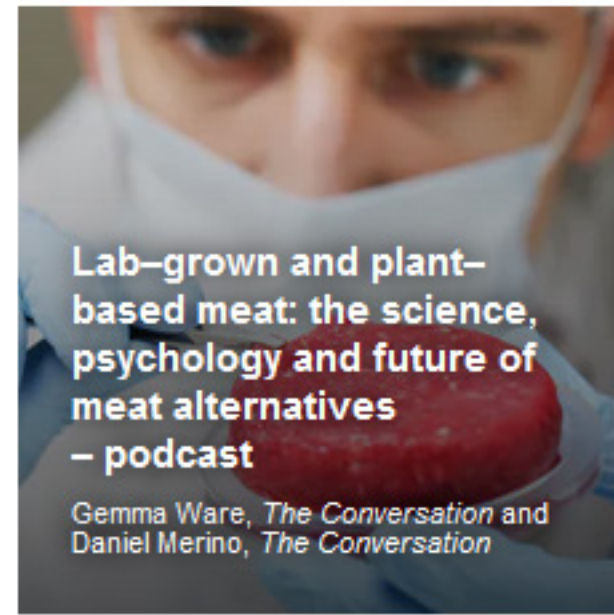
**As coastal flooding worsens, some cities are retreating from the water**

A.R. Siders, *University of Delaware* and Katharine Mach, *University of Miami*



**How 'In God We Trust' bills are helping advance a Christian nationalist agenda**

Kristina M. Lee, *Colorado State University*



**Lab-grown and plant-based meat: the science, psychology and future of meat alternatives – podcast**

Gemma Ware, *The Conversation* and Daniel Merino, *The Conversation*



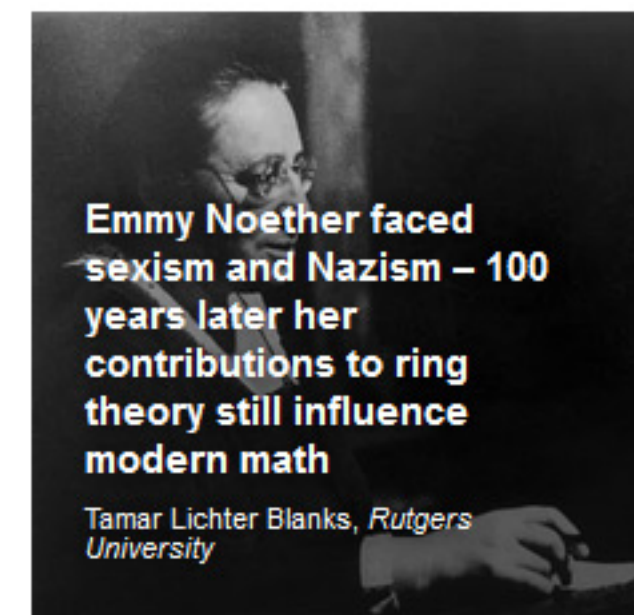
**Why some younger evangelicals are leaving the faith**

Terry Shoemaker, *Arizona State University*



**High-tide flood risk is accelerating, putting coastal economies at risk**

Renee Collini, *Mississippi State University*



**Emmy Noether faced sexism and Nazism – 100 years later her contributions to ring theory still influence modern math**

Tamar Lichter Blanks, *Rutgers University*



## Germany's worst rainfall in a century leaves dozens dead and hundreds missing, authorities say

By Nadine Schmidt, Schams Elwazer, Barbara

Wojazer and Sharon Braithwaite, CNN

🕒 Updated 6:15 AM ET, Fri July 16, 2021



**Berlin (CNN)** — Catastrophic flooding in Germany has killed at least 93 people, with hundreds more missing, authorities said Friday, as large-scale rescue efforts continue amidst rising water, landslides and power outages.

Shocking images of the devastation show entire villages underwater, with cars wedged in between collapsed buildings and debris.

In the hard-hit district of Ahrweiler, in the western state of Rhineland-Palatinate, the death toll could rise further, authorities told CNN Friday.

"There is no end in sight just yet," Ulrich Sopart, a police spokesman in the city of Koblenz, told CNN. There are currently 1,300 people unaccounted for in Ahrweiler, he said, adding that authorities are hopeful that they will be able to revise down that number as the rescue operation continues and phone lines are restored.

At least 165,000 people are currently without power in Rhineland-Palatinate and the neighboring state of North Rhine-Westphalia, authorities told CNN.

The death toll in the two states currently stands at 50 and 43 respectively. In North Rhine-Westphalia, the state's Interior Ministry spokeswoman Katja Heins told CNN: "The situation remains very dynamic - we do not know how many people are unaccounted for."

Extreme rainfall is becoming more common in the warming climate, as warmer air can hold more water vapor that is available to fall as rain.

"Climate change has arrived in Germany," Environment Minister Svenja Schulze tweeted Thursday. Speaking on German radio channel Inforadio, Schulze added that "the events show with what force the consequences of climate change can affect us all, and how important it is for us to adjust to extreme weather events in the future."

Hannah Cloke, a professor of hydrology at the UK's University of Reading, told CNN that "these kind of high-energy, sudden summer torrents of rain are exactly what we expect in our rapidly heating climate."





## California approves 1st state-funded guaranteed income plan

By ADAM BEAM yesterday

*...a bill that would fund guaranteed income programs across the state. Guaranteed income programs give money to people each month with no restrictions on how they can spend it.*

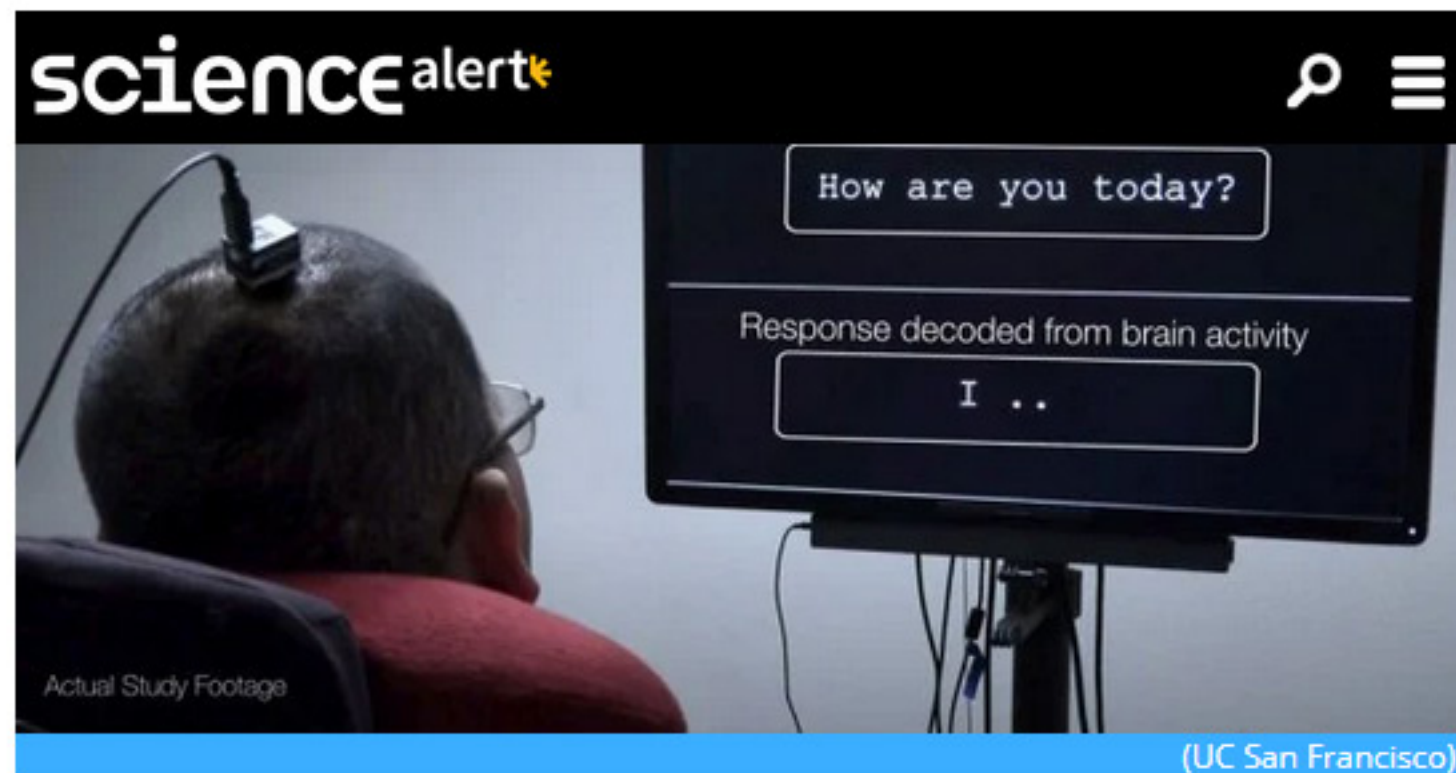
SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — California lawmakers on Thursday approved the first state-funded guaranteed income plan in the U.S., \$35 million for monthly cash payments to qualifying pregnant people and young adults who recently left foster care with no restrictions on how they spend it. The votes — 36-0 in the Senate and 64-0 in the Assembly — showed bipartisan support for an idea that is gaining momentum across the country. Dozens of local programs have sprung up in recent years, including some that have been privately funded, making it easier for elected officials to sell the public on the idea. California's plan is taxpayer-funded, and could spur other states to follow its lead. "If you look at the stats for our foster youth, they are devastating," Senate Republican Leader Scott Wilk said. "We should be doing all we can to lift these young people up." Local governments and organizations will apply for the money and run their programs. The state Department of Social Services will decide who gets funding. California lawmakers left it up to local officials to determine the size of the monthly payments, which generally range from \$500 to \$1,000 in existing programs around the country. The vote came on the same day millions of parents began receiving their first monthly payments under a temporary expansion of the federal child tax credit many view as a form of guaranteed income.

"Now there is momentum, things are moving quickly," said Michael Tubbs, an advisor to Gov. Gavin Newsom, who was a trailblazer when he instituted a guaranteed income program as mayor of Stockton. "The next step is the federal government." For decades, most government assistance programs have had strict rules about how the money could be spent, usually limiting benefits to things like food or housing. But a guaranteed income program gives money to people with no rules on how to spend it. The idea is to reduce the stresses of poverty that cause health problems and make it harder for people to find and keep work. "It changes the philosophy from 'big brother government knows what's best for you,'" said state Sen. Dave Cortese, a Democrat from San Jose. "We've been very prescriptive with that population as a state and as counties go. Look at the failure. Half of them don't get their high school diplomas, let alone advance like other people their age." But critics like Republican Assemblyman Vince Fong of Bakersfield say guaranteed income programs "undermine incentives to work and increase dependence on government." "We should be pushing policies that encourage the value of work," said Fong, who abstained from Thursday's vote. "Guaranteed income doesn't provide the job training and skills needed for upward mobility."

Guaranteed income programs date back to the 18th century. The U.S. government even experimented with them in the 1960s and 1970s during the Nixon administration before they fell out of favor. But recently, guaranteed income programs have been making a comeback. Programs have been announced in New Orleans; Oakland, California; Tacoma, Washington; Gainesville, Florida; and Los Angeles — the nation's second largest city, which has a plan to give \$1,000 a month to 2,000 needy families. The state wants to target the money on programs that benefit pregnant people and young adults aged out of the foster care system to help them transition to life on their own. The latter includes people like Naihla De Jesus, who was removed from her mother's custody at 17 and bounced between living with an aunt, a godmother and a boyfriend until landing in a transitional housing program. She became ineligible for that program when she turned 24 last year, which normally would have ended her government assistance as a foster child. Instead, the taxpayers of Santa Clara County have been paying her \$1,000 a month with no restrictions on how she can spend it, part of a guaranteed income program targeting former foster care children. De Jesus is also caring for her 9-year-old brother as his temporary guardian while battling anxiety and depression. She said her condition made it hard for her to keep a job because some days she wouldn't have enough energy to get out of bed and wouldn't go to work. Now, she has a full-time job as a client support specialist with the Bill Wilson Center, where she works with young people who are in situations like hers. She says she doesn't worry about money like she used to, choosing to save most of what she gets from the guaranteed income program. She used some of it to buy things for her brother, whose interest in expensive electronics grows as he gets older. And she used the money to save for a down payment for her "dream car," a blue Subaru WRX. "I'm proud of myself, of where I am," she said. "I don't have to stress and then isolate myself and overthink, 'Oh, I'm not going to have enough money to pay my rent or pay my phone bill.'"

Santa Clara County's program has cost the county \$1.4 million so far. Participants get the money on a debit card, which they can use for purchases or to withdraw money from an ATM. County officials ask them to fill out surveys to monitor how they are doing, but they haven't completed a thorough analysis, said Melanie Jimenez Perez, who oversees the program. An analysis of a guaranteed program in Stockton found full-time employment increased among participants after the first year of receiving the money.





HEALTH

## A Paralyzed Man's Brain Waves Converted to Speech in a World-First Breakthrough

AFP  
16 JULY 2021

In a world first, US researchers have developed a neuroprosthetic device that successfully translated the brain waves of a paralyzed man into complete sentences, according to a scientific paper published Thursday.

The breakthrough involved a 36-year-old man who had a stroke when he was 20 that left him with anarthria - the inability to speak intelligibly, though his cognitive function had remained intact.

Every year, thousands of people lose the ability to talk due to strokes, accidents or disease.

Past research in this area has focused on reading brain waves via electrodes to develop mobility prosthetics that allow users to spell out letters.

The new approach was intended to enable more rapid and organic communication.

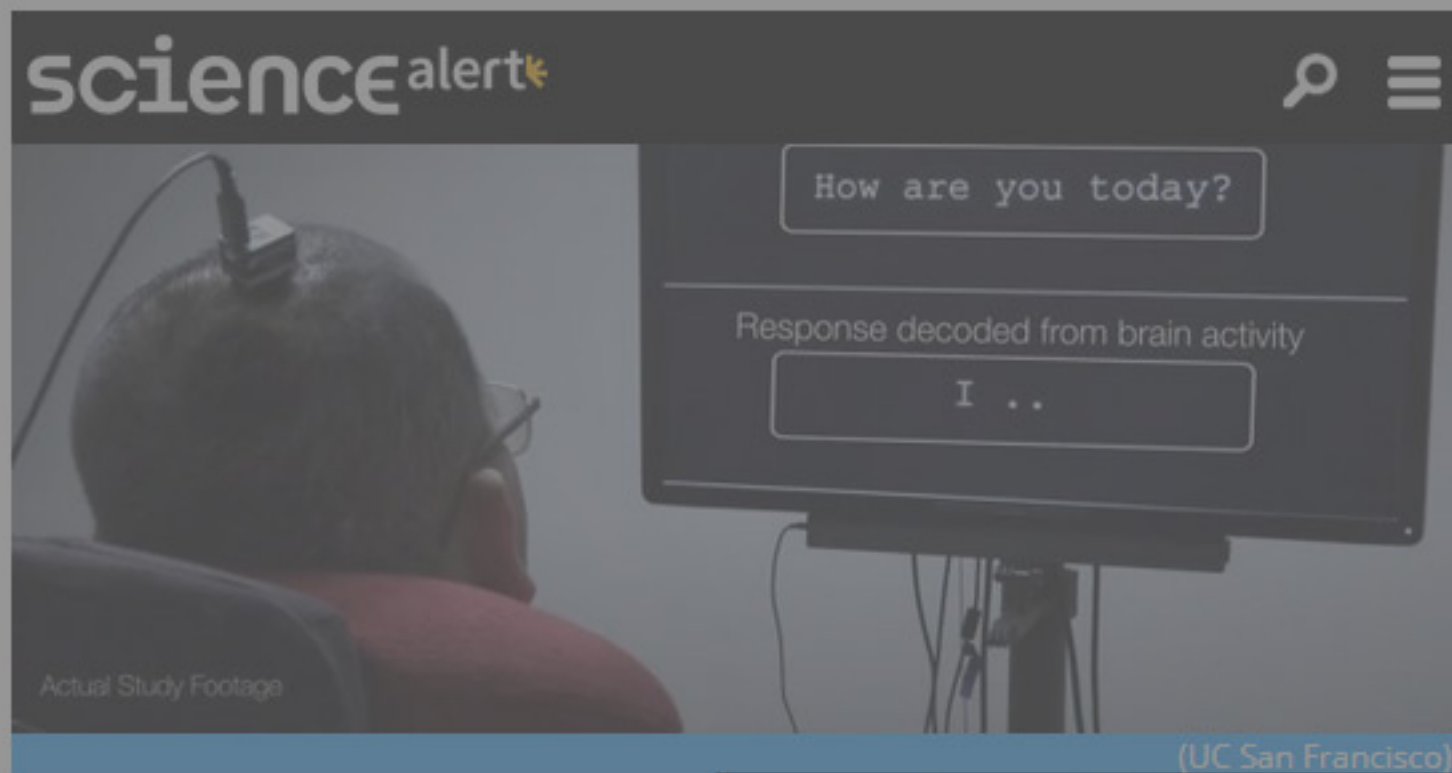
The system decoded up to 18 words per minute with a median accuracy of 75 percent. An "auto-correct" function, similar to that used in phones, contributed to its success.

"To our knowledge, this is the first successful demonstration of direct decoding of full words from the brain activity of someone who is paralyzed and cannot speak," said BRAVO1's neurosurgeon Edward Chang, a co-author.

An [accompanying editorial in the journal](#) hailed the development as "a feat of neuroengineering," and suggested advancements in technology such as smaller surface electrodes might help improve accuracy even further.







The system decoded up to 18 words per minute with a median accuracy of 75 percent. An "auto-correct" function, similar to that used in phones, contributed to its success.

"To our knowledge, this is the first successful demonstration of direct decoding of full words from the brain activity of someone who is paralyzed and cannot speak," said BRAVO1's neurosurgeon Edward Chang, a co-author.

An accompanying editorial in the journal hailed the development as "a feat of neuroengineering," and suggested advancements in technology such as smaller surface

## HEALTH

# A Paralyzed Man's Brain Waves Converted to Speech in a World-First Breakthrough

AFP  
16 JULY 2021

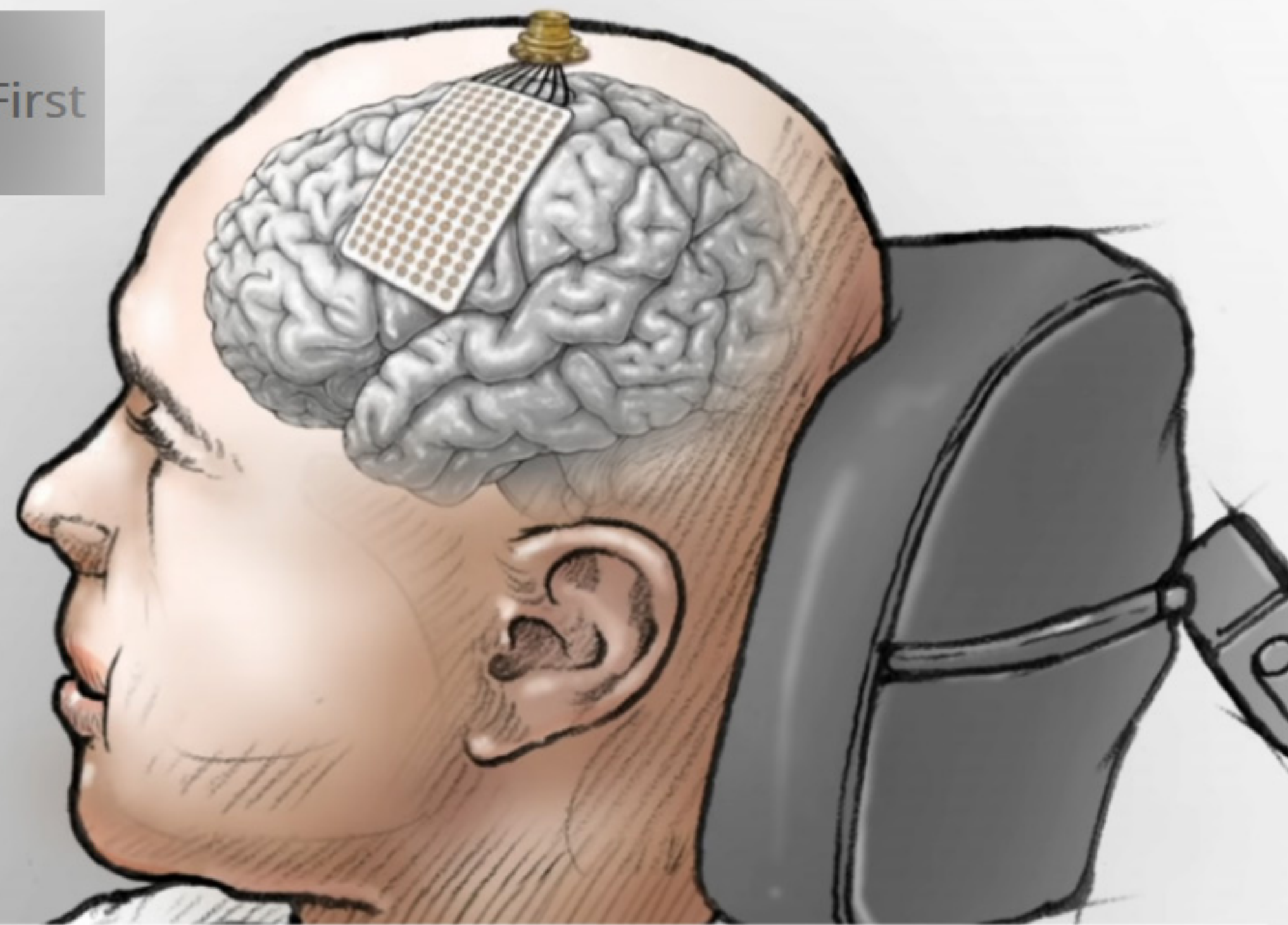
In a world first, US researchers used a neuroprosthetic device that sent brain waves of a paralyzed man into speech, according to a scientific paper published in the journal *Nature*.

The breakthrough involved a man who had a stroke when he was 20 that left him with an inability to speak intelligibly, though his brain had remained intact.

Every year, thousands of people suffer from strokes, accidents or disease.

Past research in this area has used electrodes to decode brain waves via electrodes to develop a device that would allow users to spell out letters.

The new approach was intended to bypass organic communication.



In this study, an electrode device was implanted over the brain area that normally controls the vocal tract



One potential way to make opioids less addictive is to make them target injured tissue rather than the healthy brain.

PM Images/Photodisk via Getty Images

## Designing less addictive opioids, through chemistry

July 16, 2021 8:28am EDT

⌵ Aaron W. Harrison, *Austin College*

What if there was a way for pain patients to get all the pain-relieving power of opioids with none of the addicting side effects?

Opioids are one of the most powerful pain medications available, but millions of Americans have struggled with prescription opioid misuse after getting hooked on the feelings of calm and euphoria they also induce. But new research suggests there may be a way to chemically tailor opioids to reduce their addictive potential.

The first wave of the opioid epidemic in the United States began in the 1990s. By 2015, approximately 11.5 million Americans were struggling with prescription opioid misuse. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that nearly 500,000 people died from opioid overdose from 1999 to 2019. Recent reports have shown that this ongoing health crisis has only intensified during the COVID-19 pandemic. The U.S. reached a record 93,000 overdose deaths in 2020, a 29% increase from the previous year.

Many people with opioid dependencies report using these drugs to relieve physical pain: Chronic pain treatment is a leading cause of opioid abuse. But there currently are no equivalent medications capable of the providing the same level of pain relief without the potential risk of addiction.

A less addictive opioid, however, could be an important tool to deal with the opioid epidemic. I'm a physical chemist interested in this problem, and my research group used computational chemistry to investigate how opioids like morphine can be redesigned to target specific pain regions without affecting the brain.



In the process of trying to develop a less addictive painkiller, researchers produced more forms of addictive opioids.







Make that second appointment and get your final dose for full protection. MediaNews Group/Reading Eagle via Getty Images

## How effective is the first shot of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine?

March 19, 2021 7:29am EDT Updated July 14, 2021 10:49am EDT

William Petri, University of Virginia



Maybe you've postponed your second COVID-19 vaccine appointment, whether because of scheduling hassles or general reluctance. But how safe are you after just a single dose?

As an immunologist, I hear this question frequently – and the answer has changed as new genetic strains of the coronavirus become more common. By the beginning of July 2021, the delta variant had become the most dominant strain of SARS-CoV-2 circulating in the U.S.

The Moderna and Pfizer mRNA vaccines weren't designed specifically to ward off the delta variant. While overall they still provide excellent protection after the full two doses, new research suggests a single dose provides less immunity against the coronavirus strains that are out there now than it did against the original strain.

Bottom line: Two shots are way better than one.

Bottom line: Two shots are way better than one.



# Kids aren't just littler adults – here's why they need their own clinical trials for a COVID-19 vaccine

July 16, 2021 9:04am EDT

▼ [Judy Martin](#), *University of Pittsburgh*



The freedom of going mask-free is still a ways off for kids under age 12. Juan Monino/E+ via Getty Images

Now that two-thirds of all adults in the United States have received at least one dose of a SARS-CoV-2 vaccine as of mid-July 2021, life seems to be returning to some semblance of pre-pandemic times. People are again traveling, eating in restaurants with friends, attending in-person gatherings and flocking to movie theaters and Major League baseball games.

Yet for parents of children under the age of 12, who are not yet eligible for COVID-19 vaccines, there is still no collective sigh of relief. Many parents have concerns about the upcoming school year and the uncertainty surrounding the delta variant.

Clinical research studies of the mRNA-based vaccines for children under 12 are ongoing, and authorization of a vaccine for this younger age group is still at least several months away. These trials are necessary because children have important differences in physiology and responses to vaccines from those of adults. Conducting separate studies in children under age 12 is a vital step toward ending the pandemic.

As a specialist in pediatric infectious diseases, I have been conducting research on common infections in children and related vaccines for over 20 years. Here at the University of Pittsburgh, our Pittsburgh Vaccine Trials Unit has carried out both adult and pediatric clinical trials for vaccines to fight COVID-19.

## Clinical trials for kids

After setting up a new clinical trials space and gathering all the staff and necessary equipment, the Trials Unit here at the University of Pittsburgh was ready to host phase 3 clinical trials with volunteer participants.

Beginning in August 2020 and into the fall, we ran phase 3 adult clinical trials for both the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines. We recently enrolled kids ages 6-11 as well as 6 to 24 months of age in phase 2 of the pediatric Moderna trials, focusing on whether the vaccine is safe to use in these kids and at what dosages.

Our site is now set to move to phase 3 of the pediatric trials, currently slated to begin in mid-August for children age 6-11, throughout the U.S. and Canada. This final stage of the clinical trials will determine how well the vaccine really works to keep kids from getting COVID-19. We expect early results of these studies by this fall, after which they will be reviewed by the FDA.

The FDA said on July 15 that emergency authorization for vaccines for children under 12 is likely to come by early to mid-winter.



# \$73,499-Per-Guest World Cruise Sells Out In Less Than 3 Hours

July 16, 2021 · 12:04 PM ET

BILL CHAPPELL



Home away from home: Passengers on the Seven Seas Mariner will sail around the world in a "deluxe veranda suite" — a voyage that will last more than four months.

Now, that's a long — and expensive — trip.

A 132-night "world cruise" sold out in under three hours, despite pandemic worries that have hobbled the cruise industry and steep prices that start at \$73,499 per guest — and range up to \$199,999 per person for a master suite.

Regent Seven Seas Cruises released the fares for sale at 8:30 a.m. ET Thursday. By 11 a.m., all the spots had been snapped up by people eager to spend more than four months on a cruise ship. The strong interest may be a positive sign for the cruise industry as it tries to rebound from the pandemic.

The voyage, which will span 34,500 nautical miles, includes 66 ports of call, as the Seven Seas Mariner will visit 31 countries and four continents. Passengers will also see 61 UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

High-end accommodations brought some of the most intense interest, the company says. That trend aligns with the new economic reality imposed by the pandemic, in which well-off customers have snapped up [big-ticket products](#) and services, and even [homes](#), even as millions of other Americans struggle to pay for housing and essentials.



The Seven Seas Mariner will circumnavigate the Earth, taking passengers on a cruise that lasts more than four months and spans 34,500 nautical miles.

*Regent Seven Seas Cruises*

The cost of travel rose more than 13% from June 2020 to June 2021, according to the U.S. Travel Association's most recent [travel price index](#). The figures also show a 3% rise in travel prices from June 2019 to June 2021.



# Hobbled Hubble Telescope Springs Back To Life On Its Backup System

"There was cheering in the control center" when word came that NASA had brought a key computer back, says James Jeletic, the Hubble project's deputy project manager.

July 16, 2021 - 4:03 PM ET

BILL CHAPPELL



Images of the Eagle Nebula show the Hubble Space Telescope's ability to capture pictures in both visible (left) and infrared (right) light. NASA is celebrating the successful restart of the telescope's payload computer, opening the door to more observations.

Visible

Infrared





## 'Pandemic Of The Unvaccinated': Florida Tallies 20% Of Soaring New COVID-19 Cases In US

HuffPost · 7 hours ago

- **CDC Director Warns Of 'Pandemic Of The Unvaccinated' As Covid Cases Rise**

 NBC News · 12 hours ago

 [View Full Coverage](#)



## San Diego Isn't Joining Mask Mandate Band Wagon, for Now; Here's What Locals Think

For now, indoor mask mandates are not making a comeback in San Diego County, but things could change as case rates continue to climb and the delta variant poses a risk

By **Dana Griffin** · Published July 16, 2021 · Updated 6 hours ago

I began day 1 of my Chaotic Collage COVID-19 with: "There is a time to take risks, this isn't one of those. Be Safe."

Putting the larger question of the balance of nature to the side for now, I still feel there is no pragmatic upside to taking unwarranted risks. Best practice indicates being vigilant in getting the best data available, revising our mental modeling and making wise choices. Our understanding is emerging, but there's still a lot we don't know, particularly about the long term consequences of having been infected with COVID-19, even if asymptomatic or when symptoms are very mild. I'll include a couple recent cites below regarding children with Long COVID.\*\*

Until recently COVID has been contracted and spread predominately by the young, and the old and compromised were the ones dying and suffering the long-term consequences. I'm out and about driving around picking up and delivering food, so I see a good real-time sampling, especially among essential workers and their customers. By an overwhelming margin the 20-30, then 30-40 year olds are least likely to wear masks or be concerned with social distancing. There is a certain hubris in youth that demands to learn for itself, but if it's at the expense of others, are those lessons worth the cost of living with regret for the rest of your life? Especially when the price of being cautious and compassionate for others is so benign.

Now the head of the CDC is saying the hospitalizations and death rate from COVID-19 in the U.S. is rising steadily, reversing a months-long downward trend that began in mid-January, as the nation grapples with a renewed burst of cases in what's become "a pandemic of the unvaccinated."

In my view, weighing all the complexities, the personal known risks of getting vaccinated are so minimal and the clear potential for increased suffering both to your long-term self and others of NOT getting vaccinated makes it a no-brainer, the question answers itself.

**\*\* Children with long covid**

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7927578/>

**Post-COVID-19 Syndrome: The Persistent Symptoms at the Post-viral Stage of the Disease. A Systematic Review of the Current Data**

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8129035/>



<b>Summary of Certification Questions and Answers</b>	<b>Week 1</b> 07/04/2021 - 07/10/2021	<b>Week 2</b> 07/11/2021 - 07/17/2021
---	--	--

1.	Were you too sick or injured to work for reasons other than the COVID-19 pandemic?	No	No
	1a. If yes, enter the number of days (1 through 7) you were unable to work.		
2.	Was there any reason (other than sickness, injury or the COVID-19 pandemic) that you could not have accepted full-time work, <b>each workday</b> ?	No	No
3.	Did you look for work or contact your last employer, or, if self employed, did you attempt to resume self-employment?	Yes	Yes
4.	Did you refuse any work?	No	No
5.	Did you receive disability, private income insurance, or supplemental unemployment benefits?	No	No
6.	Did you work or earn money, <b>whether you were paid or not?</b> If self-employed, report earnings during the week you receive the money.	No	Yes
	6a. Did you work this week?		Yes
	6b. Did you receive any other income this week based on work performed?	No	No
	7f. I am an independent contractor with reportable income who is unemployed, partially unemployed, or unable or unavailable to work because the COVID-19 public health emergency has severely limited my ability to continue performing my customary work activities, and I have been forced to suspend such activities.	Yes	Yes

## Claim Summary

**Benefit Year**  
03/15/2020 - 09/04/2021

**Work Search Requirements**  
You must be able and available for work each week.

**Week 1 Certification Status**  
Paid for week ending 07/10/2021

**Week 2 Certification Status**  
Excessive Earnings for week ending 07/17/2021

**Last Payment Issued**  
\$1,060.00 on 07/04/2021

**Claim Balance**  
\$3,910.00

**Weekly Benefit Amount**  
\$230.00

<b>Summary of Work Details - Record # 1</b>	<b>Week 1</b> 07/04/2021 - 07/10/2021	<b>Week 2</b> 07/11/2021 - 07/17/2021
---	--	--

Employer Name:	Dan Landrum
Address:	2822 Gregory St San Diego, CA 92104 - 5200 United States
Date Last Worked:	07/17/2021
Total Hours Worked for this employer:	21
Gross earnings before deductions for this employer (whether you were paid or not):	\$476.00
Wage Type:	Self Employment or Independent Contract Work Pay
Employer Type:	Self Employment
Are you still going to work for this employer?	Yes
What is your employment status?	Still working part time or on-call
Provide more details:	
If you reported wages earned while performing self-employment, would you have been willing to change or stop your self-employment activities to accept full-time work during this week?	Yes
If you are working full-time or you no longer need Unemployment Insurance benefits, check this box.	No

You have successfully submitted your certification for 07/04/2021 - 07/17/2021. Your certification confirmation number is 20210718W0203550. You can view this certification at any time on the Claim History page. If you have more weeks to certify for benefits, select the Return to Certify for Benefits button. Your certification for 07/04/2021-07/17/2021 has been received.



# Work Details



Week 1  
Certification Questions



Week 2  
Work Details



Review and Submit



Confirmation

Provide your employment information for the week listed below.

\*Required Field

## Week 2: 07/11/2021 - 07/17/2021

You indicated that you worked this week. You will need to report all the employers you worked for this week. If you have more than one employer, be sure to answer "Yes" to question "Do you have any additional employers to report for this week?".

\*Employer Name:

Location:  United States  Canada  Other Country

\*Address Line 1:  (Street address, P.O. Box)

Address Line 2:  (Apartment, suite, unit, building floor, etc.)

\*City:

\*State:

\*ZIP:  -

\*Date Last Worked:  (MM/DD/YYYY)

\*Total Hours Worked for this employer:

\*Gross earnings before deductions for this employer (whether you were paid or not): \$  (If \$1000.00 or more, enter \$999.99.)

\*Wage Type:

\*Employer Type:

\*Are you still going to work for this employer?  Yes  No

\*What is your employment status?

If you reported wages earned while performing self-employment, would you have been willing to change or stop your self-employment activities to accept full-time work during this week?

If you are working full-time or you no longer need Unemployment Insurance benefits, check this box.

\*Do you have any additional employers to report for this week?  Yes  No

Previous

Save as Draft

Cancel

Next



Some viruses, like ones that cause cases have led to the question: Is “latent,” when the viruses all but University of Manitoba in Canada, Covid-19 so far, notes Jonathan Karn.

Here’s what we know about persistent infection.

### Persistent, but impermanent

Karn explains that persistent viruses protect them as closely as the rest often isn’t worth the risk of destruction. So what goes on is a sort of

Ebola provides a solid example of shown up occasionally in the eyes times for more than three years. condom for 12 months or until the situation. With Ebola, most often

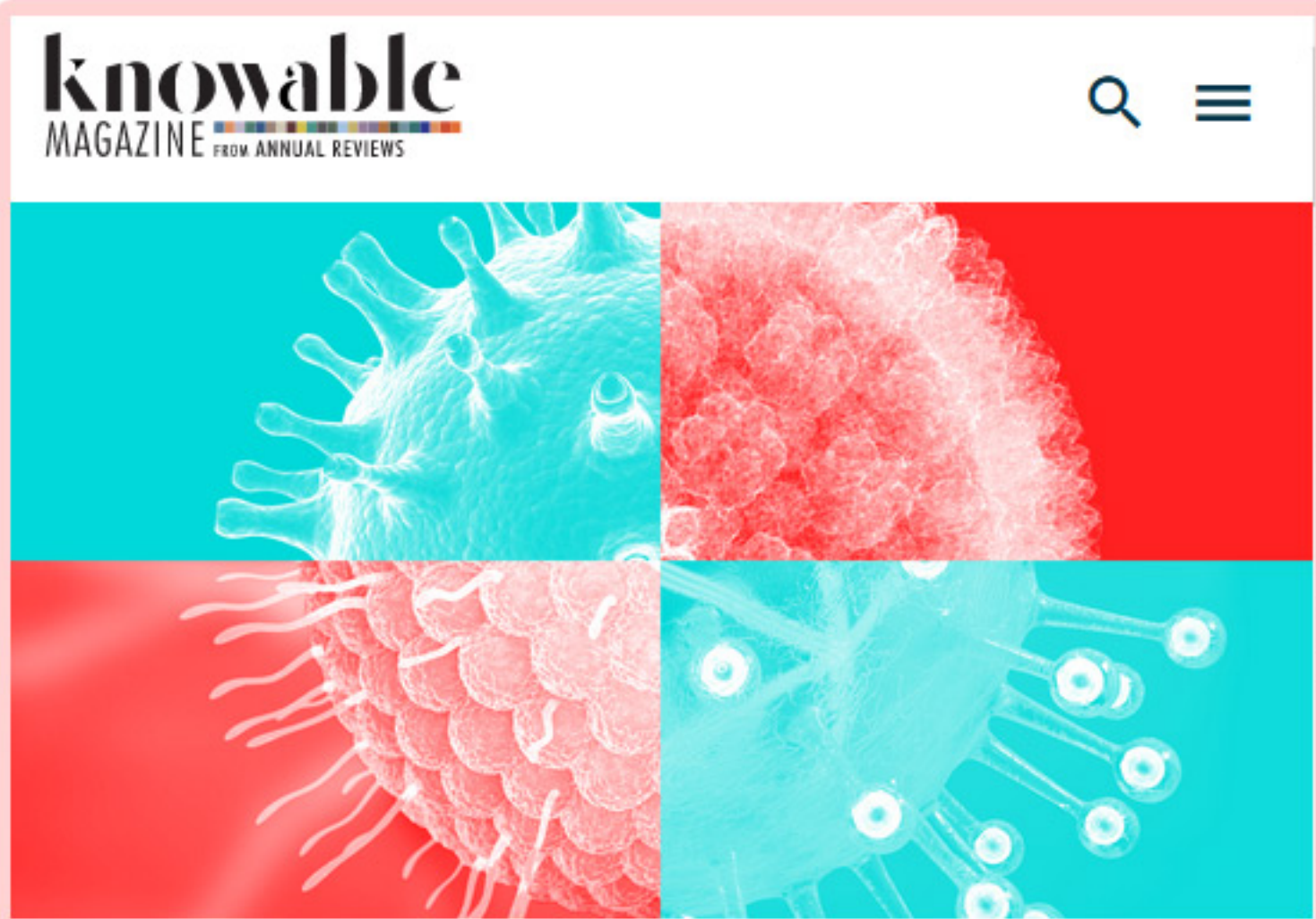
### Latency for life

There is no such fond farewell after University of North Carolina School into the host cell’s chromosomes. the immune system and spreads a term “recrudescence.” It’s not always an array of factors including fever respond to threats. If a cell hosts why HIV is such a tough virus to treat the world — for the rest of their lives. kill.” The idea is to rouse the sleeping attack and eliminate those cells, c

### The case with Covid-19

SARS-CoV-2 is brand new to humans. SARS-CoV-2 uses only RNA. And that the related SARS virus that killed

It’s true that some people have very amounts of viral RNA. Flip-flopping Covid-19 appear to have been re-



CREDIT: KNOWABLE MAGAZINE

HEALTH & DISEASE

# Viruses that come to stay

Some linger in the body for a lifetime. The one causing Covid-19 probably isn’t one of them, but it and others can create mischief long after the immune system appears to have banished them.

By Amber Dance | 09.15.2020

Plus, McNamara points out, tests for Covid-19 detect only a small piece of the viral genome. That may be all that remains, just a scrap of genetic flotsam — not a posse of fully infectious viruses. In one study, those scraps lasted as long as 15 weeks. Illustration of the Ebola virus.

Scientists have learned from Ebola survivors that the virus can persist in parts of the body such as the eyes and testes months or years after a person was sickened.

Scientists can also gauge the likelihood of persistence from patterns seen in antibody tests. When they’re infected, people make antibodies against the virus. With a short-lived infection, antibody levels rise but soon drop off when the infectious agent is gone (the immune system hangs on to “memory cells” that can produce those antibodies again if they’re needed).

But if antibody levels remain high, “then that’s good evidence that virus is persisting,” Karn says. There is no verified scientific evidence so far that this is happening with Covid-19: Detectable SARS-CoV-2 antibodies seem to last for one to four months before disappearing.

That does not mean everyone who tangles with the virus will bounce back with no lingering effects, however. And indeed, many Covid-19 survivors — the ones referred to as long-haulers — fight diverse symptoms, such as coughs and fatigue, for months.

Similar issues happened with the first SARS outbreak, McNamara notes. In one study, 22 people who recovered from SARS in Toronto still suffered fatigue, aches, depression and altered sleep patterns one to three years later. Researchers suggested that the symptoms might result from lingering inflammation after the virus was gone, as well as the psychological trauma of the infection.

Similarly, McNamara says, Covid-19 long-haulers are probably not dealing with the SARS-CoV-2 virus for months on end. Rather, the problem seems to be that the immune system is trying to repair the damage the virus did. And if the immune system is thrown out of whack, as often happens in severe Covid-19 cases, its actions make the person feel worse instead of better. Symptoms such as fever are, in fact, caused by the actions of the immune system as it works to fight off an invader. And weakness in the wake of a viral infection isn’t uncommon.

a long time in our bodies. In the current pandemic, anecdotes about long-lasting or recurring Covid-19 months or years, even after a person feels better, “persistence.” A subset of persistent viruses can go evidence to indicate that this happens with SARS-CoV-2, says Jason Kindrachuk, a virologist at the dd up, given the huge numbers of people (more than 29 million as of September 15) who have contracted

e of SARS-CoV-2 infection, thus far there are other explanations for what looks like recurrence or ongoing

ses can lie low in many places, but certain body parts are favored because immune cells don’t surveil or son for their underprotected nature: Immune cells can damage body tissues, and beating an infection rticles, slowly infecting cells and reproducing themselves. And the immune system isn’t completely shut on,” Karn says.

West Africa. That left 11,310 people dead, but also thousands of survivors to learn from. The virus has emen for months after symptoms start, with 10 percent harboring the virus for a year or longer — some- (For this reason, the World Health Organization recommends that male survivors avoid sex or use a ivors, though women who’ve beaten Ebola seem to have high rates of miscarriage and irregular men-

ou, and be a part of you, for the rest of your life,” says Ryan McNamara, a molecular virologist at the s enough, often existing in circular form inside the nucleus. Some viral genomes even insert themselves s, both components of the immune system. For the virus, this is a promising strategy. It stays invisible to ticles again. That re-emergence of a virus — be it latent or non-latent — goes by the technical yet vivid tter pathogen might create that stress, as could cancer. In the case of herpes simplex virus, for example, using signal is an uptick in production of molecules called cytokines that the immune system uses to that happens, a virus in its latent form is safe from immune attack and from medicines, too. And that is positive, people must take antiviral medications — expensive and not always easy to get in many parts of s of HIV and other latent viruses. And Karn and others are optimistic about a strategy called “shock and display bits and pieces of the virus. The follow-up “kill” might come from immune cells that recognize,

seems to be most common among viruses that have a DNA genome at some point in their life cycle; some cases of the common cold, infections are short-lived. The same was seen for some 8,000 cases of

ce for persistence, Kindrachuk says. A more likely explanation is the ability of tests to pick out even low he detection threshold. (And in what seem to be rare instances, some people who had recovered from one.)



# Viruses that come to stay

Some viruses, like ones that cause a cold, make us sick and then go away, vanquished by the immune system. But other viruses can hang around for a long time in our bodies. In the current pandemic, anecdotes about long-lasting or recurring Covid-19 cases have led to the question: Is the SARS-CoV-2 virus one of these stubborn foes? Virologists call the ability of certain viruses to stick around for months or years, even after a person feels better, “persistence.” A subset of persistent viruses can go “latent,” when the viruses all but disappear, leaving only their genetic material around so they can reemerge later. So far, at least, there’s not much evidence to indicate that this happens with SARS-CoV-2, says Jason Kindrachuk, a virologist at the University of Manitoba in Canada, “but we still want to look into it.” After all, even if SARS-CoV-2 persistence were a rare event, those cases could add up, given the huge numbers of people (more than 29 million as of September 15) who have contracted Covid-19 so far, notes Jonathan Karn, a virologist at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in Cleveland.

Here’s what we know about persistent and latent viruses and Covid-19. The take-home message: While scientists are far from knowing every nuance of SARS-CoV-2 infection, thus far there are other explanations for what looks like recurrence or ongoing infection.

## Persistent, but impermanent

Karn explains that persistent viruses of the non-latent kind often find safe spaces to hang out — sanctuary sites, as virologists term these spots. Viruses can lie low in many places, but certain body parts are favored because immune cells don’t surveil or protect them as closely as the rest of the body. These “immunoprivileged sites” include the eyes, brain and testes, and there’s a good biological reason for their underprotected nature: Immune cells can damage body tissues, and beating an infection often isn’t worth the risk of destroying nerves or a chance at parenthood. Persistent but non-latent viruses are still present, usually as intact virus particles, slowly infecting cells and reproducing themselves. And the immune system isn’t completely shut out. So what goes on is a sort of low-level battle between immune cells and the pathogen that may simmer for some time. “It’s a stalemate situation,” Karn says.

Ebola provides a solid example of a virus that can hide in sanctuary sites and persist, as became dreadfully apparent from the 2014–16 outbreak in West Africa. That left 11,310 people dead, but also thousands of survivors to learn from. The virus has shown up occasionally in the eyes or spinal fluid of survivors from that outbreak. And about half of the male survivors studied have the virus in their semen for months after symptoms start, with 10 percent harboring the virus for a year or longer — sometimes for more than three years. These men have no detectable virus in their blood, but it’s still in the testes, and can be passed to a sexual partner. (For this reason, the World Health Organization recommends that male survivors avoid sex or use a condom for 12 months or until their semen has twice tested negative for the virus.) Less is known about any potential for persistence in female survivors, though women who’ve beaten Ebola seem to have high rates of miscarriage and irregular menstruation. With Ebola, most often the immune system finally wins out and the infection is gone for good.

## Latency for life

There is no such fond farewell after infection with many latent viruses. Though some can eventually be cleared, often these pathogens “will infect you, and be a part of you, for the rest of your life,” says Ryan McNamara, a molecular virologist at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine in Chapel Hill. The whole infectious virus particle doesn’t need to be present; just the virus genome is enough, often existing in circular form inside the nucleus. Some viral genomes even insert themselves into the host cell’s chromosomes. HIV is a classic example of a latent virus. It inserts its genome into the DNA of a person’s T cells and macrophages, both components of the immune system. For the virus, this is a promising strategy. It stays invisible to the immune system and spreads every time the carrier cells divide. It stays latent, often for years, until one day it reemerges to make infectious particles again. That re-emergence of a virus — be it latent or non-latent — goes by the technical yet vivid term “recrudescence.” It’s not always clear what causes recrudescence, though a stressful event is often key, Kindrachuk says. Infection with some other pathogen might create that stress, as could cancer. In the case of herpes simplex virus, for example, an array of factors including fever, sunlight and menstruation can cause recrudescence, resulting in a cold sore. At the molecular level, a common rousing signal is an uptick in production of molecules called cytokines that the immune system uses to respond to threats. If a cell hosting a hidden virus is exposed to cytokines, the virus gets the message too, and leaps into action, Karn says. But until that happens, a virus in its latent form is safe from immune attack and from medicines, too. And that is why HIV is such a tough virus to treat, says Karn, who coauthored an overview of HIV latency in the Annual Review of Virology. To survive while HIV-positive, people must take antiviral medications — expensive and not always easy to get in many parts of the world — for the rest of their lives. At least that’s the case for now: Some scientists hope to apply a treatment that will alter or cut out the genes of HIV and other latent viruses. And Karn and others are optimistic about a strategy called “shock and kill.” The idea is to rouse the sleeping virus, perhaps with a cytokine, so that it starts to reproduce. That’s the “shock.” All the infected cells will then display bits and pieces of the virus. The follow-up “kill” might come from immune cells that recognize, attack and eliminate those cells, once and for all.

## The case with Covid-19

SARS-CoV-2 is brand new to humanity, so how can we predict what it will do? There are hints, and reasons for optimism. Latency, Kindrachuk says, seems to be most common among viruses that have a DNA genome at some point in their life cycle; SARS-CoV-2 uses only RNA. And though this coronavirus is novel, scientists can garner clues from several of its cousins. In coronaviruses that cause some cases of the common cold, infections are short-lived. The same was seen for some 8,000 cases of the related SARS virus that killed 774 people in a 2003 outbreak.

It’s true that some people have recovered from Covid-19, tested negative for viral genes, then tested positive again. But this isn’t necessarily evidence for persistence, Kindrachuk says. A more likely explanation is the ability of tests to pick out even low amounts of viral RNA. Flip-flopping results could be especially likely in cases where a person’s concentration of viral genes is hovering right around the detection threshold. (And in what seem to be rare instances, some people who had recovered from Covid-19 appear to have been re-infected later with a slightly different version of the virus, indicating that it’s truly a new infection, not a persistent one.)

Plus, McNamara points out, tests for Covid-19 detect only a small piece of the viral genome. That may be all that remains, just a scrap of genetic flotsam — not a posse of fully infectious viruses. In one study, those scraps lasted as long as 15 weeks.

Illustration of the Ebola virus.

Scientists have learned from Ebola survivors that the virus can persist in parts of the body such as the eyes and testes months or years after a person was sickened.

Scientists can also gauge the likelihood of persistence from patterns seen in antibody tests. When they’re infected, people make antibodies against the virus. With a short-lived infection, antibody levels rise but soon drop off when the infectious agent is gone (the immune system hangs on to “memory cells” that can produce those antibodies again if they’re needed).

But if antibody levels remain high, “then that’s good evidence that virus is persisting,” Karn says. There is no verified scientific evidence so far that this is happening with Covid-19: Detectable SARS-CoV-2 antibodies seem to last for one to four months before disappearing.

That does not mean everyone who tangles with the virus will bounce back with no lingering effects, however. And indeed, many Covid-19 survivors — the ones referred to as long-haulers — fight diverse symptoms, such as coughs and fatigue, for months.

Similar issues happened with the first SARS outbreak, McNamara notes. In one study, 22 people who recovered from SARS in Toronto still suffered fatigue, aches, depression and altered sleep patterns one to three years later. Researchers suggested that the symptoms might result from lingering inflammation after the virus was gone, as well as the psychological trauma of the infection.

Similarly, McNamara says, Covid-19 long-haulers are probably not dealing with the SARS-CoV-2 virus for months on end. Rather, the problem seems to be that the immune system is trying to repair the damage the virus did. And if the immune system is thrown out of whack, as often happens in severe Covid-19 cases, its actions make the person feel worse instead of better. Symptoms such as fever are, in fact, caused by the actions of the immune system as it works to fight off an invader. And weakness in the wake of a viral infection isn’t uncommon.



## Untangling Disinformation

# Outrage As A Business Model: How Ben Shapiro Is Using Facebook To Build An Empire

July 19, 2021 · 5:01 AM ET



**Benjamin Aaron Shapiro**

January 15, 1984 (age 37)  
Los Angeles, California, U.S.

Education: UC Los Angeles (BA)  
Harvard University (JD)



### An "intellectual sheen"

In the years since he left Breitbart News, Shapiro has carved out a rare niche within the conservative media world. The graduate of Harvard Law School taps into many of the same culture war themes that former President Donald Trump played into while also disagreeing with Trump, a feat he's managed without becoming a target of the former president's ire. Shapiro has also publicly denounced the alt-right and other people in Trump's orbit, such as Steve Bannon, as well as the conspiracy theory that Trump is the rightful winner of the 2020 election. "Last week, the Capitol was breached by a group of fringe Trump supporters who had bought into a series of lies," Shapiro wrote shortly after the violence on Jan. 6. But in the same column, he quickly turned his attention back to Democrats and their support of the nationwide Black Lives Matter protests last summer, which many conservatives have falsely sought to paint broadly as riots. He's been widely condemned for anti-LGBT comments. "I'm not going to go along with the general societal willingness to rewrite basic facets of human nature and human biology and, frankly, mammalian biology in order to suggest that a delusion is true," Shapiro said at a 2019 event at Stanford University.

Judd Legum, a former Democratic campaign operative who founded ThinkProgress.com, now writes a newsletter called Popular Information, which focused a recent edition on The Daily Wire's Facebook success. He said Shapiro takes many "red meat culture war issues" that might seem offensive at first glance but gives them "an intellectual sheen." "He's able to make these concepts seem as enticing as possible and make them not seem crazy," Legum told NPR.

### A zero-sum game

The Daily Wire's success isn't just amplified by the shrinking local news market, it may be contributing to the demise of local news as well. Legum and co-writer Tesnim Zekeria analyzed 70 of The Daily Wire's top stories on Facebook in May and June and found that almost all of them were regurgitations of another outlet's reporting. "For this minimal effort, The Daily Wire is rewarded with massive engagement on Facebook while the source of the journalism, quite often a local media outlet, gets a tiny fraction of engagement," Legum and Zekeria wrote. Legum mentioned a May 20 Chicago Tribune article as an example. The original story was written by the Tribune's Chicago police beat reporter and it received 870 engagements on Facebook. When The Daily Wire published its version however, which drew from both the Tribune and the Chicago CBS affiliate's stories, it received more than 350,000 engagements on Facebook. Each quote in the piece was attributed to a local affiliate, and as Legum noted, The Daily Wire's headline used a quote out of context to spice up the story. "The Chicago Tribune has to pay for this beat reporter, they have to do the work, they have to attend the meeting, they have to have sources," Legum said. "The Daily Wire doesn't do any of that, and they're getting pretty much all of the traffic and the benefits from Facebook."

Legum's previous reporting also revealed how the company operates a number of large Facebook pages that don't obviously appear connected to The Daily Wire at first glance, with titles such as "Conservative News" and "Don't Mess With America," but which exist only to promote Daily Wire content. Facebook struggled internally over how to handle that page coordination, according to reporting last year by The New York Times. One employee told The Times that Facebook worried "taking action against a prominent right-wing network could set off a Republican backlash." Publicly, however, there has been no indication that Facebook views The Daily Wire's engagement success to be a problem.

Freelon, the UNC professor, said Shapiro has done a brilliant job threading the needle of engaging much of the Republican base with polarizing content while not running afoul of the social media platforms.

"Regardless of whatever you think of Ben Shapiro's ideological leanings," Freelon said, "it's hard to deny that he's doing what he's doing well."





Joe Raedle/Getty Images

SPACE

## Jeff Bezos And Three Crewmates Travel To Space And Back In Under 15 Minutes

The Amazon founder became the second billionaire this month to reach the edge of space — following Richard Branson, who rocketed there aboard a vessel made by his company Virgin Galactic.

- **PHOTOS: Scenes From Bezos' Brief Flight To Space**
- **The Tiny Town Of Van Horn, Texas, Hosts Jeff Bezos' Space Launch**

Updated July 20, 2021 · 10:48 AM ET ⓘ



LAUREL WAMSLEY



The crew riding with Jeff Bezos includes his brother Mark (left), 18-year-old physics student Oliver Daemen and 82-year-old pioneering female aviator Wally Funk.

Blue Origin



Pinned Tweet



**Ed Yong** @edyong209 · Jul 16

I wrote about what Delta is doing to Missouri. Some hospitals have accrued as many COVID-19 patients in 5 weeks as they got in 5 months last year. Almost all those patients are unvaccinated. HCWs can't believe they're being overwhelmed \*again\*. 1/



'How Did We End Up Back Here Again?'

For America, the pandemic might be fading. For places like southwest Missouri, this year will be worse than last.

[theatlantic.com](https://theatlantic.com)

190

3K

4.2K



**Ed Yong** @edyong209

Science writer at The Atlantic. Many words; some awards. Author of *I Contain Multitudes* (2016). Married to Liz Neeley. Parent to Typo [edyong.me](https://edyong.me) (he/him)

1,858 Following 343.6K Followers



# The Untamed Rise Of Hospital Monopolies

July 20, 2021 · 9:40 AM ET

GREG ROSALSKY



The children's hospital wing of the University of Mississippi Medical Center, left, and the neighboring Methodist Rehabilitation Center in Jackson, Miss., merged some functions under an agreement approved in 2014. Hospital mergers and monopolies are increasingly the norm in the United States — which drives prices.

Rogelio V. Solis/AP

Last month, Michigan's two largest hospital systems, Spectrum Health and Beaumont Health, announced they wanted to become one. The \$12.9 billion "megamerger" would create a health industrial complex spanning 22 hospitals, 305 outpatient facilities, and an insurance company. It would employ 64,000 people, making it the largest employer in Michigan. Local newspapers had expected the merger to "sail through" government approval. But now they're not so sure.

That's because President Biden recently signed an executive order saying his administration was serious about promoting competition, and he specifically singled out hospitals as an area where growing monopolization is a concern. The order, the White House says, "underscores that hospital mergers can be harmful to patients and encourages the Justice Department and Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to review and revise their merger guidelines to ensure patients are not harmed by such mergers."

Hospitals are a really important part of the American economy. Not just in terms of health and wellbeing, but in terms of dollars and cents. The largest chunk of America's healthcare spending goes to hospitals. And the hospital sector is one of the largest sectors in the overall American economy, accounting for about 6 percent of America's GDP. Hospitals do a lot of good things. They save lives. They create good jobs. But because of growing monopolization of them, Zack Cooper, an economist at Yale School of Public Health, worries that they're becoming like a "Dracula" that "sucks some of the vibrancy out of a lot of towns across the country."

Cooper and his colleague, Martin Gaynor, have crunched the numbers on hospitals using the government's preferred way of measuring market concentration, and they've found that about 80% of America's hospital markets are now "highly concentrated." "The average hospital market in the U.S. is just way over what the FTC and the DOJ would consider a healthy level of concentration," Cooper says. Many of these markets, he says, are dominated by just one or two hospitals, giving them market power to suck extra money from communities for health procedures and emergencies.

In addition to decades of mergers and acquisitions with hospitals gobbling up other hospitals, hospitals have also been increasingly buying up physician practices. Economists refer to this as "vertical integration." Think steel manufacturers buying the railroad lines. Like with mergers and acquisitions, Cooper says, many of these deals have not received adequate scrutiny from federal regulators.

The research clearly shows, Cooper says, that growing monopolization has raised prices for patients. Less competition means hospitals can charge higher prices and get away with it. They can pay lower wages and get away with it. And they can provide worse care and get away with it. "We want firms to compete and be incentivized to raise their quality to attract more consumers, and the more that hospitals merge, the less sharp those incentives become," Cooper says. "We have evidence that death rates are literally higher in markets where hospitals face less competition."





HUMANS

## Here's How Many Cells in Your Body Aren't Actually Human

BEC CREW  
11 APRIL 2018

To figure out the true number, a team of biologists led by Ron Milo from the Weizmann Institute of Science set out to review all the available literature on the microbe populations that live inside us.

They found that for a man between 20 and 30 years old, with a weight of about 70 kg (154 pounds) and a height of 170 cm (about 5'7) - they call him the 'reference man' - there would be about 39 trillion bacterial cells living among 30 trillion human cells.

This gives us a ratio of about 1.3:1 - almost equal parts human to microbe.



**Bec Crew** is a Sydney-based science writer, award-winning blogger, and managing editor of an Australian science publication, ScienceAlert. She is the author of *Zombie Tits, Astronaut Fish and Other Weird Animals* (NewSouth Press), and blogs at *Scientific American*, *Australian Geographic*, and New York-based trend website, *World's Best Ever*, about all things animals.

But even that 1.3:1 ratio - 39 trillion microbial cells to 30 trillion cells - isn't really something we should be citing in our textbooks and scientific papers going forward, [as Ed Yong argues](#).

"These new estimates might be the best we currently have, but the studies and figures that Milo amassed come with their own biases and uncertainties," he says.

"My preference would be to avoid mentioning any ratio at all - you don't need to it convey the importance of the microbiome."



**Ed Yong** ✓  
@edyong209

Science writer at The Atlantic. Many words; some awards. Author of *I Contain Multitudes* (2016). Married to Liz Neeley. Parent to Typo [edyong.me](http://edyong.me) (he/him)

1,858 Following 343.6K Followers



**Ron Milo**

**Place of birth:** Haifa, Israel

**h-index:** 27

**Books:** [Cell Biology by the Numbers](#)

**Academic advisor:** [Uri Alon](#)

**Education:** [Weizmann Institute of Science](#), [Harvard Medical School](#), [The Hebrew University of Jerusalem](#)

**Research interests:** [Neurology](#), [Neuroimmunology](#), [Multiple Sclerosis](#)



UNTANGLING DISINFORMATION

# The Life Cycle Of A COVID-19 Vaccine Lie

July 20, 2021 · 5:04 AM ET



GEOFF BRUMFIEL



**Naomi Rebekah Wolf,**  
born November 12, 1962 (age 58),  
San Francisco, California, U.S.

Education: Yale University (BA),  
New College, Oxford (DPhil)



## Step 1: Start with a kernel of truth

"When you don't collect these data during the clinical trial, you really lose an opportunity to study it in a controlled fashion," Lu-Culligan says. The lost opportunity for scientists became an opening for anti-vaccine activists, says Melanie Smith, former director of analysis for Graphika. "In the more successful misinformation cases that we see, there is always that gap of knowledge," she says.

## Step 2: Find an influencer to spread doubts and questions

With no firm data, stories about the disruption to menstrual cycles began popping up in forums and groups. Many were just wondering if it had happened to others and whether they should be worried. But there was one Facebook group in particular that turned out to be important. "It's called, literally 'COVID-19 Vaccine Side Effects,' " Smith says. There were a lot of posts by ordinary people there, looking for answers, but anti-vaccine activists were also part of the group. One of the people reading this page was an anti-vaccine campaigner named Naomi Wolf. Formerly best known for her writing about feminism, Wolf has, over the years, drifted into anti-vaccine advocacy. "She is a very highly followed influencer in what we call the pseudo-medical community," Smith says. Wolf is not a medical doctor, and yet on April 19, she tweeted out a link to the Facebook group along with this message: "Hundreds of women on this page say that they are having bleeding/clotting after vaccination, or that they bleed oddly AROUND vaccinated women. Unconfirmed, needs more investigation, but lots of reports." Smith points out that Wolf is using an old trick: by saying something "needs more investigation," she's raising doubts, without presenting facts that can be refuted.

## Step 3: Pile on some related myths

Wolf's tweet also seamlessly inserted a myth: that somehow vaccinated women could pass side effects on to the unvaccinated. Lu-Culligan says that's absolutely not the case. She adds that this myth seems to echo another popular falsehood: that somehow women who live together can influence each other's cycles. Wolf kept tweeting and piling on more misinformation in question form: Can vaccines cause infertility? Miscarriages? This slam went well beyond disruption to menstrual cycles, raising the stakes dramatically. Lu-Culligan says the evidence overwhelmingly shows that the vaccines do not cause these problems. "At this point there have been many, many millions of women who have gotten the vaccine, and there have been no scientific reports of any infertility," she says.

## Step 4: Make waves in mainstream media

Days after Wolf started tweeting about vaccines and fertility, other influencers began picking it up, and a few clickbait websites wrote fake news stories. But it was the real news that gave the lies their biggest boost. About a week after the initial tweets, a Miami private school, the Centner Academy, announced it would no longer allow vaccinated teachers into the classroom. It said there were too many questions about whether the vaccine could spread to unvaccinated mothers and children. The school's CEO, Leila Centner, is an established anti-vaccine advocate, so her decision wasn't surprising. But the ban made national news anyway.

## Step 5: Morph to fit the messenger

Finally, because misinformation about vaccines is not grounded in data, it can mutate to fit any political message or worldview.

## Step 6: Repeat the cycle with new lies

By late June, the lies about fertility had spread everywhere from France to Brazil. But then, Smith says, they started fading away. "It seems to have kind of fallen by the wayside in terms of the COVID-19 news cycle that happens in these spaces on the internet," she says. And that's the last lesson about the lies: They don't stick around. They grab the attention, raise questions and doubt, but there's no substance there. So once they've shocked those they're meant to engage, they disappear. Or more properly, they're replaced by a new, incredible story.

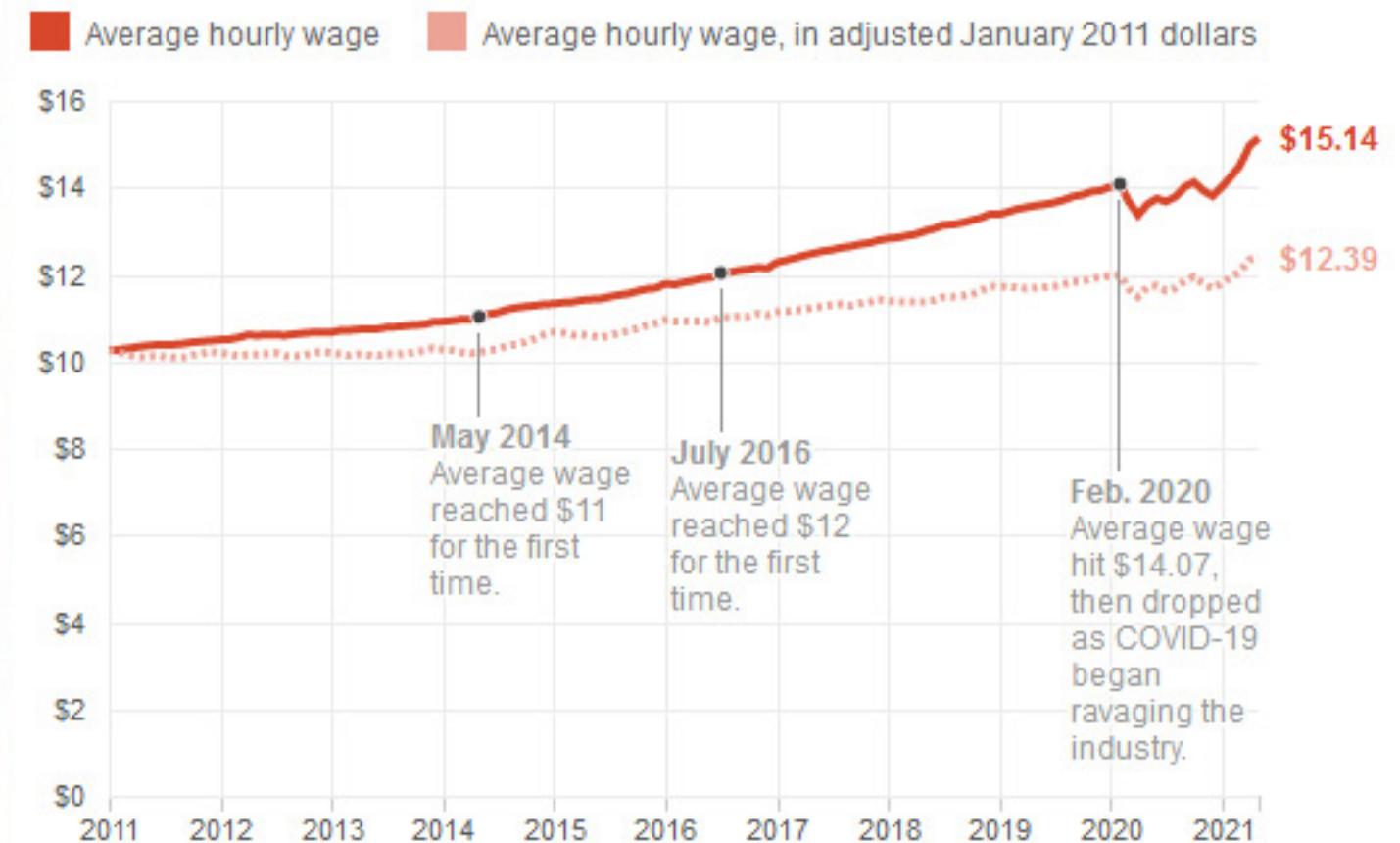


## If you can't pay well, "then you can't afford to be in business"



### Wages In Restaurants And Bars Have Languished Over 10 Years

Average hourly pay of production and nonsupervisory workers at food and drinking places topped \$15 for the first time in May.



Note: Actual wage data is [seasonally adjusted](#). NPR adjusts wages for inflation to January 2011 dollars using nonseasonally adjusted Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers.

#### BUSINESS

## Low Pay, No Benefits, Rude Customers: Restaurant Workers Quit At Record Rate

Average wages for nonmanagers at restaurants and bars hit \$15 an hour in May, but many say no amount of pay would get them to return. They are leaving at the highest rate in decades.

July 20, 2021 · 5:00 AM ET

 ALINA SELYUKH 



# U.S. Life Expectancy Fell By 1.5 Years In 2020, The Biggest Drop Since WWII

July 21, 2021 · 12:01 AM ET



JANE GREENHALGH



A fence alongside Greenwood Cemetery, in Brooklyn, N.Y., is covered with memorial art for people who died of COVID-19. Pandemic deaths caused the biggest drop in life expectancy in decades.

*Andrew Lichtenstein/Corbis via Getty Images*

Life expectancy in the United States declined by a year and a half in 2020, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which says the coronavirus is largely to blame.

COVID-19 contributed to 74% of the decline in life expectancy from 78.8 years in 2019 to 77.3 years in 2020, according to the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics.

It was the largest one-year decline since World War II, when life expectancy dropped by 2.9 years between 1942 and 1943. Hispanic and Black communities saw the biggest declines.

For African Americans, life expectancy dropped by 2.9 years from 74.7 years in 2019 to 71.8 in 2020.

U.S. Hispanics — who have a longer life expectancy than non-Hispanic Blacks or whites saw the largest decline in life expectancy during the pandemic, dropping 3 years from 81.8 years in 2019 to 78.8 years in 2020. Hispanic males saw the biggest decline, with a drop of 3.7 years. COVID-19 was responsible for 90% of the decline among Hispanics.

The increase in drug overdose deaths was also a factor in declining life expectancy. More than 93,000 people died from drug overdoses in 2020. That's the highest number reported in a single year. Other causes of death contributing to the decline were increases in homicide and deaths from diabetes and chronic liver disease.






The rally – fed by citizen-spread misinformation and disinformation – that turned into the Jan. 6, 2021 Capitol insurrection.

## We are all propagandists now

July 20, 2021 8:14am EDT

 Jennifer Mercieca, Texas A&M University

The U.S. is in an information war with itself. The public sphere, where Americans discuss public issues, is broken. There's little discussion – and lots of fighting.

One reason why: Persuasion is difficult, slow and time-consuming – it doesn't make good television or social media content – and so there aren't a lot of good examples of it in our public discourse.

What's worse, a new form of propaganda has emerged – and it's enlisted us all as propagandists.

### The manufacture of consent

Mass propaganda techniques emerged with mass communication technologies like posters, pictures and movies during the first World War.

That old propaganda model was designed by political elites to “manufacture consent” at home so that citizens would support the war, and to demoralize the enemy abroad.

According to linguist and social critic Noam Chomsky, the manufacture of consent was believed by elites to be necessary because they thought “the mass of the public are just too stupid to be able to understand things...We have to tame the bewildered herd, not allow the bewildered herd to rage and trample and destroy things.”

During World War I, George Creel's Committee on Public Information, a federal agency, oversaw the production of pro-war films like the 1918 silent film “America's Answer.” When Americans went to see the film in theaters, they would often encounter a speech from one of the “Four Minute Men” – the local citizens whom Creel enlisted to give patriotic speeches during the four minutes it took to change the movie reels.

A poster for ‘America's Answer,’ the second official United States war film. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.

After World War I, according to Herman and Chomsky, all sorts of elites turned to propaganda to “tame the bewildered herd.” The old propaganda was good at taming citizens. But there was a nasty side effect that played out over almost a century of its use: disengagement. Political communication scholars in the 1990s and early 2000s worried about what they saw as the crisis in democracy, which was civic disengagement characterized by low voter turnout, low political party affiliation and rising distrust, cynicism and disinterest in politics.

### The manufacture of dissent

The elite-controlled old vertical propaganda model couldn't withstand the changes in communication brought on by the new participatory media – first talk radio, then cable, email, blogs, chats, texts, video and social media.

According to recent Pew research, 93% of Americans are connected to the internet and 82% of Americans are connected to social media. We now all have direct access to communicate in the public sphere – and, if we choose, to create, circulate and amplify propaganda.

A lot of people use their social media connections and platforms to knowingly and unknowingly spread misinformation, disinformation, conspiracy and partisan talking points – all forms of propaganda. We're all propagandists now.

Rather than the elite manufacturing consent, a new propaganda model has emerged in the 21st century: what I call the “manufacture of dissent.”  
New crisis in democracy

The “manufacture of dissent” model takes advantage of our individual abilities to produce, circulate and amplify propaganda. It sets us in motion to, in Chomsky's words, “rage and trample and destroy things.”

The new propaganda can emerge from anyone, anywhere – and it is designed to create chaos so no one knows whom to trust or what is true.

Now we have a new crisis in democracy.



## Garland launches gun trafficking strike forces in 5 cities

By MICHAEL BALSAMO today



WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department is launching an effort in five cities in the U.S. to reduce spiking gun violence by addressing illegal trafficking and prosecuting offenses that help put guns in the hands of criminals.

Attorney General Merrick Garland will launch the gun trafficking strike forces in Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Washington, D.C. The effort will include stepped-up enforcement in so-called supply areas — cities and states where it's easier to obtain firearms that are later trafficked into other cities with more restrictive gun laws.

Besides prioritizing gun crimes, the strike forces will embrace intelligence sharing and prosecutions across jurisdictions, Justice Department officials said. Authorities have also embedded federal agents in homicide units of police departments across the U.S., have been deploying additional crime analysts and are conducting fugitive sweeps to arrest people who have outstanding state and federal warrants for violent crimes.

Violent crimes, particularly homicides and shootings, are up in many cities around the country, and the Biden administration has sought to aid communities hamstrung by violence. But the initiative launched this week differs from other recent federal efforts to address violence, because it is not sending agents or prosecutors into cities with crime spikes. Justice officials say the strike forces are targeted prosecutions meant to be a longer-term effort to combat gun trafficking.

There is no federal gun trafficking law, so federal agents often must rely on other statutes, like lying on a firearms purchase form, to prosecute gun trafficking cases or stop straw purchasers, people who buy weapons legally to then provide them to others who can't legally have them.

Officials hope the new plan will mean federal prosecutors in some of the supply cities will be more likely to bring charges in those cases.

But if the effort sounds familiar, it is. In 2017, Chicago police, federal agents and prosecutors launched a similar initiative — the Chicago Crime Gun Strike Force — to try to stem the flow of illegal firearms in the city and curb rampant gun violence.

The Justice Department said that strike force was formed in response to a surge in firearm violence and its work is continuing, but it has been focused locally in Chicago on reducing violence and not on gun trafficking from other jurisdictions that put the guns in the hands of criminals. That's been the case with similar gun task forces, too, including in New York.

"These previous approaches generally surged resources to specific areas, without a sustained focus on cross-jurisdictional trafficking," the department said. "Now we are formalizing and standardizing coordination between districts. This strategy is focused on trafficking -- keeping firearms out of the hands of those who will pull the trigger."

Police statistics released earlier this month showed that fewer killings were reported over the first six months of 2021 in Chicago compared with the same period last year, but the number of shootings and people shot increased.

While crime is rising in many U.S. cities, violent crime overall remains lower than it was a decade ago or even five years ago.

Experts say this year's spike in crime defies easy explanation and point to a number of potential causes, including the coronavirus pandemic, worries about the economy and large gatherings after months of stay-at-home orders.





**Hong Kong**

## Five arrested in Hong Kong for sedition over children's book about sheep

**Books tried to explain the pro-democracy movement, portraying supporters as sheep surrounded by wolves**

*Agence France-Presse*

Thu 22 Jul 2021 00.33 EDT

Five members of a Hong Kong union behind a series of children's books about sheep trying to hold back wolves from their village have been arrested for sedition.

The arrests by the new national security police unit, which is spearheading a sweeping crackdown on dissent, are the latest action against pro-democracy activists since huge and often violent protests convulsed the city two years ago.

Police said on Thursday that the two men and three women aged between 25 and 28 had "conspired to publish, distribute, exhibit or copy seditious publications".

A man poses for a photo in front of books about Chinese President Xi Jinping on display at the Hong Kong book fair.

Self-censorship hits Hong Kong book fair in wake of national security law

Sedition is a colonial-era law that until last year had not been used since Hong Kong's 1997 handover to China. It carries up to two years in jail for a first offence.

Police and prosecutors are now regularly using it alongside the national security law to clamp down on political speech and views.

Most of those arrested for such crimes are denied bail.

"Residents must see the facts clearly, must not condone or beautify violence and should not let the next generation be incited and misled by untrue and biased information," police said.



## Washington AG Bob Ferguson rejects opioids settlement, wants trial

by Associated Press | Wednesday, July 21st 2021

AA



*Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson talks to reporters, Monday, Aug. 26, 2019, during a news conference in Seattle. (AP Photo/Ted S. Warren)*

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) — Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson has rejected the state's proposed part of a \$26 billion settlement with the nation's three largest drug distribution companies and drugmaker Johnson & Johnson related to the opioid addiction and overdose crisis.

Ferguson said in a news release Wednesday that under the proposal companies who distributed opioids would pay Washington an estimated total of \$527.5 million over 18 years but only if all the cities and counties opt in.

Ferguson called the offer deficient, saying the amount of money isn't enough to address the devastation caused by the opioid crisis.

Ferguson says he plans to take his lawsuits against McKesson, Cardinal Health and Ameri-source Bergen and against Johnson & Johnson to trial.



# California Gov. Newsom signs bill to combat organized retail crime following brazen and violent thefts

The creates crime task forces around the California Highway Patrol and local agencies

By Louis Casiano | Fox News



## San Francisco retailers closing doors early due to rampant shoplifting

A growing number of residents want to move away from the Golden City if the crime surge continues. John Dennis with insight on 'Fox & Friends First.'

California Gov. Newsom announced new efforts to crack down on a surge of retail thefts and other crimes Wednesday following a series of violent incidents involving shoplifters in recent months.

Appearing with law enforcement officials and mayors from throughout the state at a small business in Long Beach, the Democratic governor signed a bill to create crime task forces around the California Highway Patrol and local agencies to address organized theft rings.

The bill -- AB 331 -- also re-established organized retail theft as a crime, a designation which had lapsed on July 1. It also applies to those who work with thieves to steal or receive stolen merchandise and those who recruit or organize theft rings.

"We've been organized in a very deliberative manner to address the issue of organized retail crime for a number of years," said Newsom. "We are doubling down on those efforts today with this bill that I'll be signing here in a moment."



The task force teams will focus on three regions – the San Francisco Bay Area, San Diego and Orange County.



# The Supreme Court Injects Partisan Politics Into Independent Agencies

July 22, 2021 · 5:01 AM ET

ERIC SINGERMAN



**If you think that government experts should be free from political influence, then think again.**

Twice this June the Supreme Court ruled that the president could exert more control over regulatory agencies, the government institutions that are as important as they sound boring.

While Congress may write laws, agencies are needed to interpret them, apply them, and fill in their gaps. Take the government's efforts to address lead poisoning. Congress passed a statute in 1971, and since then, a suite of agencies has issued regulations that keep up with the latest science on the problem. Such updating is especially needed in an era of political gridlock. Most climate policy, for example, builds on a 1963 statute that hasn't been amended in nearly 30 years.

Congress initially designed many of these agencies—including the two at issue this term—to stand above the whims of politics. But the court may be on the verge of undoing almost a century's worth of precedent and legal understandings protecting that independence.

## More Presidential Control Over Hiring

In one case, the court ruled that administrative judges hired to hear challenges to existing patents were too independent and had to be supervised by a presidential appointee with the power to overturn their decisions.

## An Attack on Agencies

The same day the court said the president could fire the agency's director, President Biden did exactly that. And three weeks later, Biden axed the head of the Social Security Administration, also headed by a single director whom President Trump had appointed. More lawsuits and more firings may lie ahead at other agencies run by a single director, like the Government Accountability Office. Even more prominent agencies may also be at risk, among them the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Federal Reserve Board, and the Federal Communications Commission. Though these agencies are led by multi-member commissions, not single directors, those commissions have a single chairman who is difficult to replace. Now those chairmen may be in the crosshairs.

June's decision is the latest attack on a New Deal era precedent that protects agency independence. In 1935, a unanimous court held that President Franklin Roosevelt had acted unconstitutionally when he fired William Humphrey, a Federal Trade Commissioner, for political reasons. Humphrey was a conservative holdover from the prior administration who disagreed with Roosevelt's progressive policies. And the court said that under the statute that created the FTC, he could only be fired for cause, meaning misconduct.

The current court has narrowed the scope of this 86-year-old precedent. On top of that, Justices Neil Gorsuch and Clarence Thomas have called for overturning the 1935 decision altogether, and Justice Brett Kavanaugh criticized the decision while a judge on the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals.

## A Scalpel or a Sledgehammer?

Both of June's decisions also raised a question that reaches beyond regulatory agencies. When one provision of a law is unconstitutional, can the court remove the issue with a scalpel and then patch up the problem? Or does the court need to strike down whole portions of the law with a sledgehammer and then undo the government's decisions? But the court for nearly a century has used a more surgical approach. The justices have presumed that unconstitutionality in one provision does not infect the rest of the law or an agency's decisions. In these two cases, a majority of the court reaffirmed that presumption.

In both cases Justice Neil Gorsuch bucked the trend. He would have reversed the decisions of the patent judges and undone \$124 billion worth of bailout decisions aimed at stemming the financial crisis. In other recent cases, Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito have signed on to Gorsuch's idea. When the court this term upheld the Affordable Care Act, Justice Alito dissented, calling for the court to strike down the law's key provisions because of a problem with just one of them. These three justices may fall short of a majority, but they have planted the seeds for future cases.



'LET THE GAMES BEGIN!'

# Tokyo Olympics Opening Ceremony: Live Updates, Best Moments

The opening ceremony for the Tokyo Olympics is underway. Athletes will be parading into an almost empty 68,000-seat stadium, marking the launch of one of the most unique and turbulent games in history.



Dylan Martinez - Pool/Getty Images

First lady Jill Biden takes part in a moment of silence during the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games.

## THE CORONAVIRUS

### How Many Of The Athletes Competing Are Vaccinated?

By Will Jones

Posted 10 minutes ago

Ahead of today's opening ceremony, the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee's medical chief, Jonathan Finnoff, said that about 100 of the U.S. athletes who are competing are not vaccinated.

Finnoff confirmed that about 600 of the American athletes had filled out their health histories ahead of the trip. And based on that, about 83% replied that they were vaccinated.

In terms of the Olympic Village as a whole, the International Olympic Committee estimates that about 85% of residents are vaccinated. Their numbers are based on what each competing country's Olympic committee has informed them. And those number have not been independently verified.

## THE CORONAVIRUS

### The Opening Ceremony Featured A Moment Of Silence For COVID-19 Victims

By Bill Chappell

Posted 22 minutes ago



'LET THE GAMES BEGIN!'

# Tokyo Olympics Opening Ceremony: Live Updates, Best Moments

The opening ceremony for the Tokyo Olympics is underway. Athletes will be parading into an almost empty 68,000-seat stadium, marking the launch of one of the most unique and turbulent games in history.



Dylan Martinez - Pool/Getty Images

First lady Jill Biden takes part in a moment of silence during the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games.

THE CORONAVIRUS

## The Opening Ceremony Featured A Moment Of Silence For COVID-19 Victims

By Bill Chappell

Posted 22 minutes ago



## Delta variant is one of the most infectious respiratory diseases known, CDC director says

PUBLISHED THU, JUL 22 2021-5:19 PM EDT UPDATED THU, JUL 22 2021-8:34 PM EDT



Rich Mendez  
@RICHMENDEZCNBC

### KEY POINTS

- The delta Covid variant is one of the most infectious respiratory diseases seen by experts.
- Currently, the more infectious strain makes up more than 83% of sequenced cases in the U.S.
- 97% of people admitted to hospitals with Covid symptoms are unvaccinated.



Rochelle Walensky, Director of the CDC

Source: CDC | YouTube

***“The delta Covid variant is one of the most infectious respiratory diseases ever seen by scientists!”***

The variant is highly contagious, largely because people infected with the delta strain can carry up to 1,000 times more virus in their nasal passages than those infected with the original strain, according to new data.

“The delta variant is more aggressive and much more transmissible than previously circulating strains,” CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky told reporters at a briefing Thursday. “It is one of the most infectious respiratory viruses we know of, and that I have seen in my 20-year career.”

The delta variant has spread quickly through the U.S., accounting for more than 83% of sequenced cases in the U.S. right now, up from 50% the week of July 3.

The seven-day average of new cases is up about 53% from last week, currently at 37,674 new cases per day. Hospitalizations are up 32% from last week at about 3,500 per day and deaths have also increased 19% in the same time frame to about 240 per day.

“This virus has no incentive to let up, and it remains in search of the next vulnerable person to infect,” Walensky said.

The virus is ripping through U.S. counties with low vaccination rates, while counties with high vaccination rates are seeing lower rates of new cases.

CNBC Health & Science

Three states, Florida, Texas and Missouri, with low vaccination rates accounted for 40% of all new cases nationwide, White House Covid czar Jeff Zients said. Florida alone accounted for 1 in 5 of all new cases in the U.S. for the second week in a row.

In hospitals around the country, 97% of people admitted with Covid symptoms are unvaccinated, and 99.5% of all Covid deaths are also among the unvaccinated.

In the past week, the five states with the highest case counts had higher rates of people getting newly vaccinated compared with the national average.

“We are at yet another pivotal moment in this pandemic, with cases rising again and some hospitals reaching their capacity in some areas, we need to come together as one nation,” Walensky said.



## A new look at an old virus: patterns of mutation accumulation in the human H1N1 influenza virus since 1918

Robert W Carter<sup>1</sup> and John C Sanford | Published online 12 Oct 2012

The H1N1 influenza A virus has been circulating in the human population for over 95 years, first manifesting itself in the pandemic of 1917–1918. Initial mortality was extremely high, but dropped exponentially over time. Influenza viruses have high mutation rates, and H1N1 has undergone significant genetic changes since 1918. The exact nature of H1N1 mutation accumulation over time has not been fully explored.

### Methods

We have made a comprehensive historical analysis of mutational changes within H1N1 by examining over 4100 fully-sequenced H1N1 genomes. This has allowed us to examine the genetic changes arising within H1N1 from 1918 to the present.

### Results

We document multiple extinction events, including the previously known extinction of the human H1N1 lineage in the 1950s, and an apparent second extinction of the human H1N1 lineage in 2009. These extinctions appear to be due to a continuous accumulation of mutations. At the time of its disappearance in 2009, the human H1N1 lineage had accumulated over 1400 point mutations (more than 10% of the genome), including approximately 330 non-synonymous changes (7.4% of all codons). The accumulation of both point mutations and non-synonymous amino acid changes occurred at constant rates ( $\mu = 14.4$  and 2.4 new mutations/year, respectively), and mutations accumulated uniformly across the entire influenza genome. We observed a continuous erosion over time of codon-specificity in H1N1, including a shift away from host (human, swine, and bird [duck]) codon preference patterns.

### Conclusions

While there have been numerous adaptations within the H1N1 genome, most of the genetic changes we document here appear to be non-adaptive, and much of the change appears to be degenerative. We suggest H1N1 has been undergoing natural genetic attenuation, and that significant attenuation may even occur during a single pandemic. This process may play a role in natural pandemic cessation and has apparently contributed to the exponential decline in mortality rates over time, as seen in all major human influenza strains. These findings may be relevant to the development of strategies for managing influenza pandemics and strain evolution.

Keywords: Influenza, H1N1, Swine flu, Mutation accumulation, Pandemic, Evolution, Error catastrophe

*The Spanish flu was an unusually deadly influenza pandemic caused by the H1N1 influenza A virus. Lasting from February 1918 to April 1920, it infected 500 million people – about a third of the world's population at the time – in four successive waves. The death toll is typically estimated to have been somewhere between 20 million and 50 million, although estimates range from a conservative 17 million to a possible high of 100 million, making it one of the deadliest pandemics in human history.*

### How many mutations of H1N1 are there?

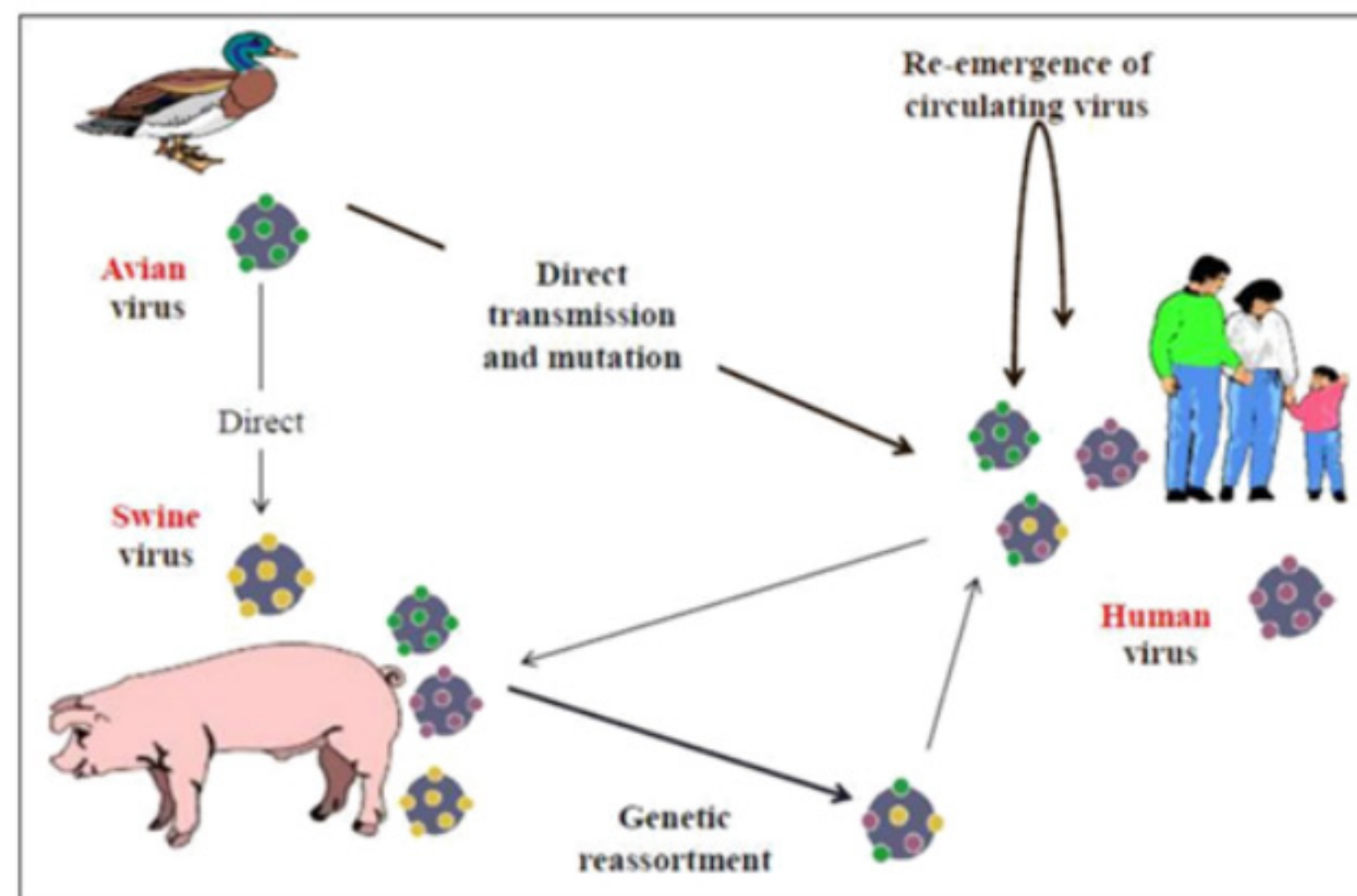
At the time of its disappearance in 2009, the human H1N1 lineage had accumulated over 1400 point mutations (more than 10% of the genome), including approximately 330 non-synonymous changes (7.4% of all codons).

### How did H1N1 evolve?

In addition to the genes from different swine influenza viruses, the H1N1 virus that caused the outbreak was found to contain genetic material from human and avian influenza viruses as well. Thus, the virus is believed to have evolved through genetic reassortment that was presumed to have occurred in pigs.

### How did H1N1 spread from pigs to humans?

The virus likely spreads from pig to pig through contact with infected mucous secretions. (When pigs are really sick, their mucous carries high levels of virus). Strains of swine flu virus also can be directly transmissible to humans. Most human infections occurred following direct contact with infected pigs.





Sun Yiwen of China has beaten five-time Olympian Ana Maria Popescu of Romania 11-10 in overtime to win gold in the women's épée fencing competition.



Yang Qian, of China, holds her rifle aloft after winning a gold medal in the women's 10-meter air rifle at the Asaka Shooting Range in the 2020 Summer Olympics, Saturday, July 24, 2021, in Tokyo, Japan. Anastasiia Galashina, left, of the Russian Olympic Committee, took the silver medal and Nina Christen, of Switzerland took the bronze medal.(AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

Syria's Hend Zaza, youngest Tokyo Olympian at 12 years old, out in first match



In the Women's singles at the 2020 Olympics Hend Zaza was defeated in the preliminary round on 24 July 2021 by Liu Jia, a Chinese-born Austrian player aged 39 who had previously competed in every Summer Olympics since 2000. The score was 11:4, 11:9, 11:3, 11:5.[8] After the match Zaza said: "I will not stop playing. Table tennis is my whole life. I spend all my time playing it, other than table tennis I study. I'm working towards the future, to be the world champion and an Olympic champion, and to be a pharmacist or lawyer with my studies."

Syria's Hend Zaza competes during women's table tennis singles preliminary round match against Austria's Liu Jia at the 2020 Summer Olympics, Saturday, July 24, 2021, in Tokyo. (AP Photo/Kin Cheung)



ELECTION 2020 | Feb 19, 2021, 09:47am EST | 48,714 views

# Here Are The Billionaires Who Donated To Donald Trump's 2020 Presidential Campaign



**Michela Tindera** Forbes Staff  
Billionaires

Donald Trump never donated to his own reelection campaign, but he did find plenty of other billionaires willing to write him checks. In total, Forbes identified 133 superrich donors who pitched in for Trump's 2020 campaign.

Trump's tycoons, who collectively make up about 14% of all American billionaires, tend to fall into a few specific categories. Several were longtime Republican mega-donors, like gambling mogul Sheldon Adelson, who died in January, and his wife, Miriam. Others knew Trump from their days in business, including Texas banker Andy Beal and casino king Phil Ruffin. About one quarter of them made their money in finance and investments, more than any other industry. About 10% got rich in real estate, while roughly the same number earned a fortune from the energy sector. Most of them came from three states: New York (19%), Texas (19%) and Florida (13%).

Some clearly benefited from having a friend in the White House. Miriam Adelson received the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Kelcy Warren, chief executive of Energy Transfer Partners, got clearance for his Dakota Access Pipeline, as well as a seat on the board of trustees at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Harold Hamm, the oil baron, became an informal advisor. Linda McMahon, who is married to WWE Chief Executive Vince McMahon, accepted a role as head of the Small Business Administration, before moving on to chair a pro-Trump super-PAC named America First Action.

## Who are the America's billionaires that financed Trump's 2020 campaign?

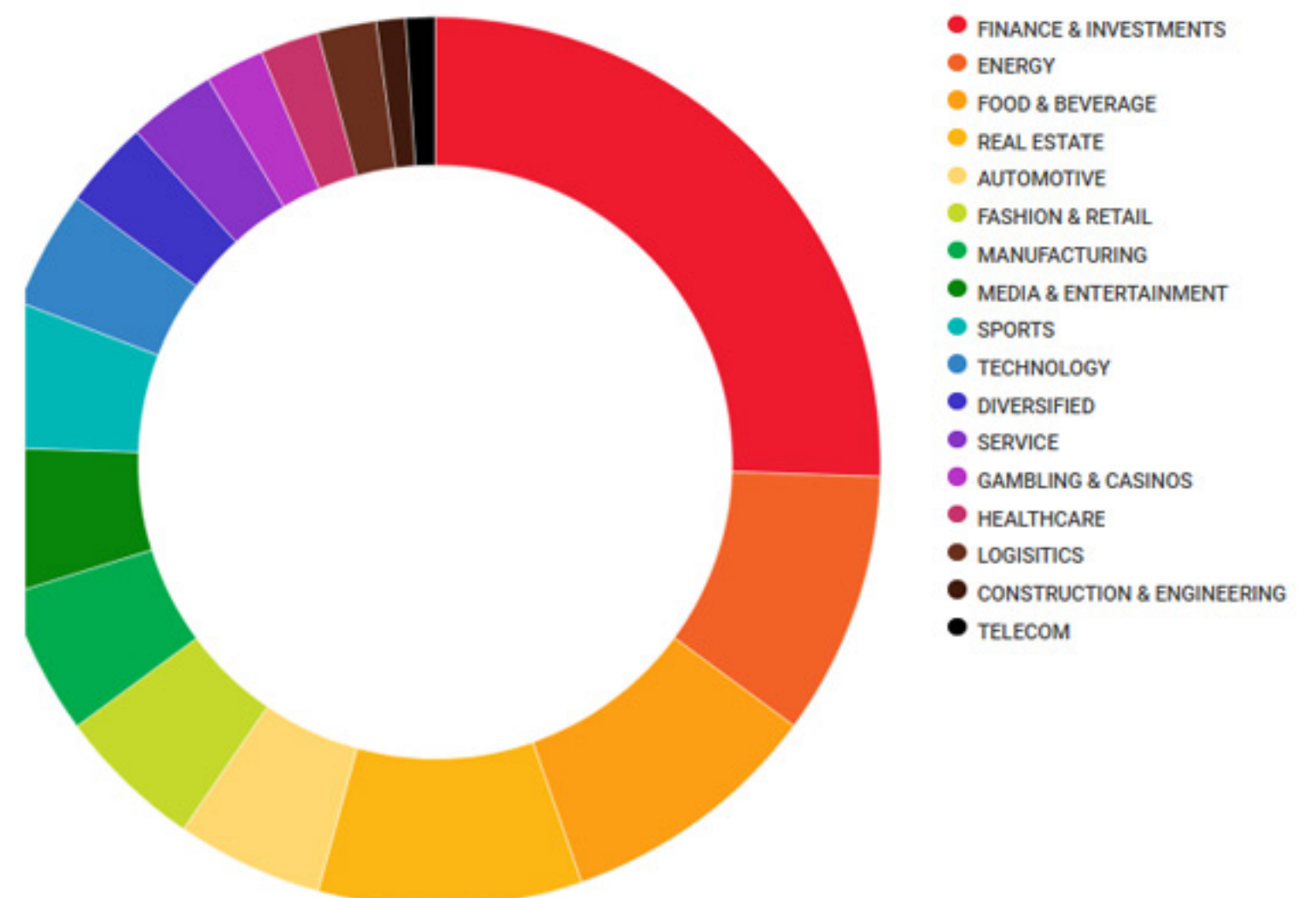
On average, the donors contributed about \$285,000 to the Trump campaign and its joint-fundraising committees, which split their hauls with the Republican Party. About 9% of Trump's billionaire donors, however, gave less than \$5,000. At least 19 also donated to pro-Trump super-PACs. Unlike other types of political committees, super-PACs can accept unlimited amounts of money. The Adelsons, for instance, gave \$90 million to a pro-Trump super-PAC called Preserve America. Marvel Entertainment billionaire Isaac Perlmutter and his wife, Laura, gave \$21 million to America First. Kelcy Warren donated \$10 million to the same group.

Here's the complete list of every billionaire Forbes found who put money into Trump's reelection campaign, either directly or through their spouse > <https://www.forbes.com/trump-biden-2020-election-donations/>

You can explore this in more depth at our interactive donor tool. Find out more about **Joe Biden's billionaire donors here** > <https://www.forbes.com/sites/michelatindera/2021/02/17/here-are-the-billionaires-who-donated-to-joe-bidens-2020-presidential-campaign/?sh=d944baf21c4c>

## How Donald Trump's Donors Got Rich

Forbes found 133 billionaires or spouses of billionaires who donated to Trump's campaign ahead of the 2020 election. They built their fortunes in 17 industries.



Sources: Federal Election Commission filings; Forbes Real-Time Billionaires list.



ELECTION 2020 | Feb 17, 2021, 09:49am EST | 52,578 views

# Here Are The Billionaires Who Donated To Joe Biden's 2020 Presidential Campaign



Michela Tindera Forbes Staff

Billionaires

Three years ago, Joe Biden spoke onstage at a think tank event, opining on wealth in America. "I love Bernie, but I'm not Bernie Sanders. I don't think 500 billionaires are the reason why we're in trouble," he explained. "The folks at the top aren't bad guys. I get in trouble in my party when I say wealthy Americans are just as patriotic as poor folks. I've found no distinction."

And, based on who they supported during the 2020 election, billionaires don't think Joe Biden is such a bad guy, either. About 25% of America's billionaires donated to his election efforts, either directly or through a spouse, according to an analysis of records filed with the Federal Election Commission. By contrast, Donald Trump received money from only 14% of American billionaires.

The 230 Biden backers include the founders of companies like Patagonia, DoorDash and Netflix, Democratic megadonors like George Soros and Henry Laufer, as well as billionaire members of some of the country's richest families like the Waltons, the Pritzkers and the Lauders. Broadly, they tended to hail from the coasts. More than one third live in California. Another 27% are based in New York. It makes sense, then, that about a quarter of them got rich in tech and a third made their fortunes in finance. On average, the billionaires gave about \$170,000 to the Biden campaign and its joint-fundraising committees, which split their receipts with the Democratic Party.

Some donors did more than just write checks. After losing to Biden in the primary, Tom Steyer hosted fundraisers for his former foe. Nicole Systrom, who is married to Instagram founder Kevin Systrom, joined Steyer for at least one event. Before the pandemic, these sorts of events could be held at a donor's home. Or, in the case of billionaire real estate broker George Marcus, who hosted Biden in 2019, at a restaurant he owned in California. Eventually, the Democratic front-runner shifted his events to video calls, where he or Kamala Harris would hop on the line to make a speech and take questions. Other billionaire hosts included former Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker and Blackstone executive Hamilton James.

## Who are the America's billionaires that financed Biden's 2020 campaign?

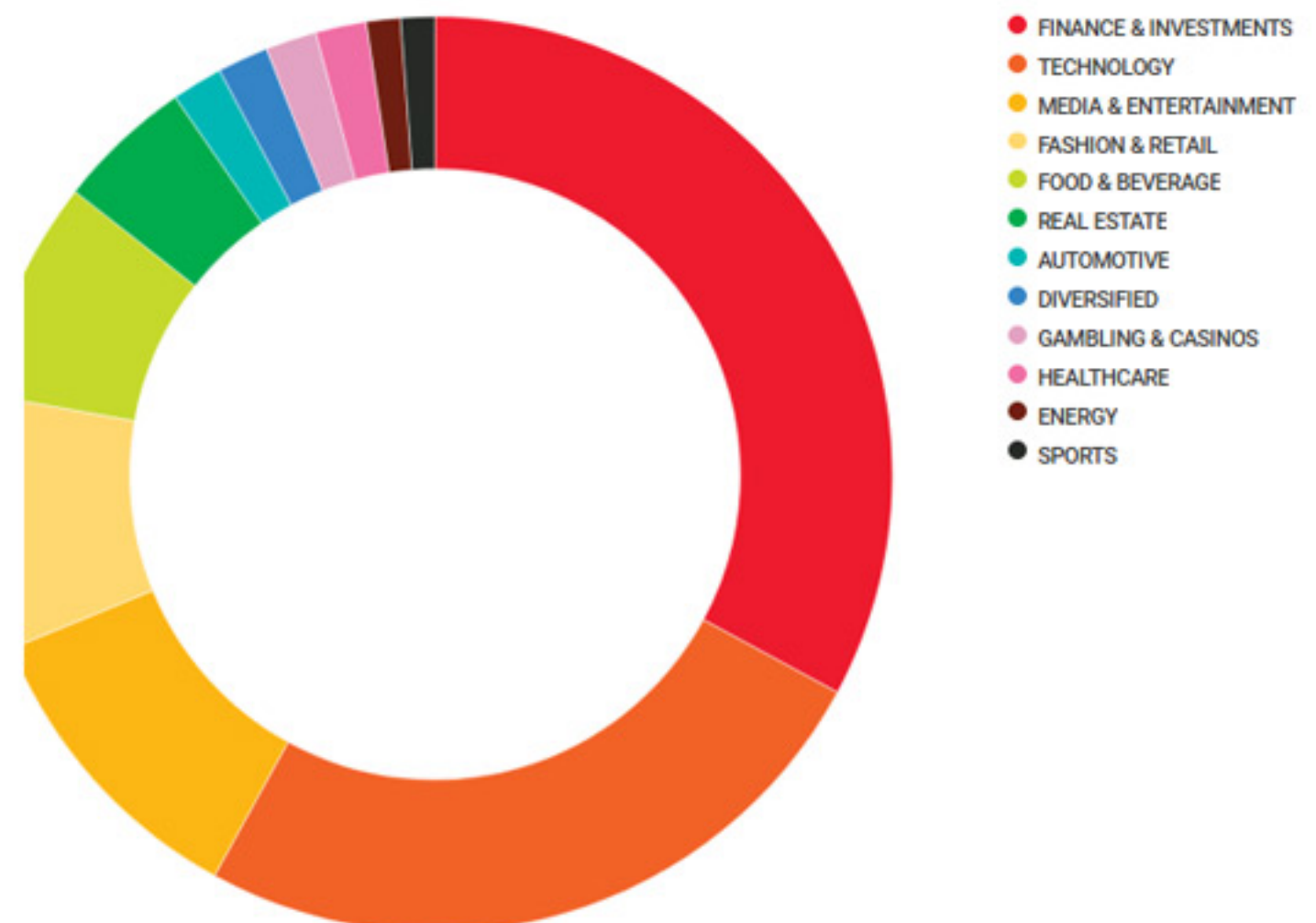
At least 60 Biden donors also contributed to some of the major pro-Biden super-PACs. Those groups can't coordinate with campaigns directly, but they can accept and spend unlimited sums. Facebook cofounder Dustin Moskovitz gave \$47 million to one super-PAC. LinkedIn cofounder Reid Hoffman poured more than \$7 million into other pro-Biden super-PACs and into ads opposing Trump. Mike Bloomberg never donated directly to Biden's campaign, but he threw \$100 million into super-PACs supporting the Democratic nominee.

Not every billionaire backer spent big, though. About 25% of Biden's ultrawealthy donors never gave more than \$5,000.

It remains unclear exactly what the billionaires will get for a return on their investments. "Biden has laid out an ambitious policy agenda, much of which wealthy people and corporations will not like," says Robert Maguire, research director of Citizens for Responsible Ethics in Washington. "Now that he has had that support from so many wealthy people who are connected to so many major companies that will be impacted by his agenda, you have to wonder whether he's going to have pause, or whether there's going to be pushback."

## How Joe Biden's Donors Got Rich

Forbes found 230 billionaires or spouses of billionaires who donated to Biden's campaign ahead of the 2020 election. They built their fortunes in 12 industries.



Source: Federal Election Commission filings; Forbes Real-Time Billionaires list



# Why isn't Joe Biden doing all he can to protect American democracy?

*Robert Reich*



Sun 25 Jul 2021 01:00 EDT

Both parties are beholden to an anti-democratic coalition. This is stopping real change

You'd think Biden and the Democratic party leadership would do everything in their power to stop Republicans from undermining democracy.

So far this year, the Republican party has passed roughly 30 laws in states across the country that will make voting harder, especially in Black and Latino communities. With Trump's baseless claim that the 2020 election was stolen, Republicans are stoking white people's fears that a growing non-white population is usurping their dominance.

Yet while Biden and Democratic leaders are openly negotiating with holdout senators for Biden's stimulus and infrastructure proposals, they aren't exerting similar pressure when it comes to voting rights and elections. In fact, Biden now says he won't take on the filibuster, which stands firmly in the way.

What gives? Part of the explanation, I think, lies with an outside group that has almost as much influence on the Democratic party as on the Republican, and which isn't particularly enthusiastic about election reform: the moneyed interests bankrolling both parties.

A more robust democracy would make it harder for the wealthy to keep their taxes low and profits high. So at the same time white supremacists have been whipping up white fears about non-whites usurping their dominance, America's wealthy have been spending vast sums on campaign donations and lobbyists to prevent a majority from usurping their money.

They're now whipping up resistance among congressional Democrats to Biden's plan to tax capital gains at 39.6% – up from 20% – for those earning more than \$1m, and they're on the way to restoring the federal tax deduction for state and local taxes, of which they're the biggest beneficiaries.

## *Who are the America's billionaires that financed Trump's 2020 campaign?*

In recent years these wealth supremacists, as they might be called, have quietly joined white supremacists to become a powerful anti-democracy coalition. Some have backed white supremacist's efforts to divide poor and working-class whites from poor and working-class Black and brown people, so they don't look upward and see where most of the economic gains have been going and don't join together to demand a fair share of those gains. Similarly, white supremacists have quietly depended on wealth supremacists to donate to lawmakers who limit voting rights, so people of color continue to be second-class citizens. It's no accident that six months after the insurrection, dozens of giant corporations that promised not to fund members of Congress who refused to certify Biden as president are now back funding them and their anti-voting rights agenda.

Donald Trump was put into office by this anti-democracy coalition. **According to Forbes, 9% of America's billionaires, together worth a combined \$210bn, pitched in to cover the costs of Trump's 2020 campaign.** During his presidency Trump gave both parts of the coalition what they wanted most: tax cuts and regulatory rollbacks for the wealth supremacists; legitimacy for the white supremacists. The coalition is now the core of the Republican party, which stands for little more than voter suppression based on Trump's big lie that the 2020 election was stolen, and tax cuts for the wealthy and their corporations.

Meanwhile, as wealth supremacists have accumulated a larger share of the nation's income and wealth than at any time in more than a century, they've used a portion of that wealth to bribe lawmakers not to raise their taxes. It was recently reported that several American billionaires have paid only minimal or no federal income tax at all. Tragically, the supreme court is supporting both the white supremacists and wealth supremacists. Since Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito joined in 2005 and 2006, respectively, the court has been whittling away voting rights while enlarging the rights of the wealthy to shower money on lawmakers. The conservative majority has been literally making it easier to buy elections and harder to vote in them.

The Democrats' proposed For the People Act admirably takes on both parts of the coalition. It sets minimum national standards for voting, and it seeks to get big money out of politics through public financing of election campaigns. Yet this comprehensiveness may explain why the Act is now stalled in the Senate. Biden and Democratic leaders are firmly against white supremacists but are not impervious to the wishes of wealth supremacists. After all, to win elections they need likely Democrats to vote but also need big money to finance their campaigns.

Some progressives have suggested a carve-out to the filibuster solely for voting rights. This might constrain the white supremacists but would do nothing to protect American democracy from the wealth supremacists.

If democracy is to be preserved, both parts of the anti-democracy coalition must be stopped.



**CHEW**  
**CHEW**  
**CHEW**  
**CHEW**

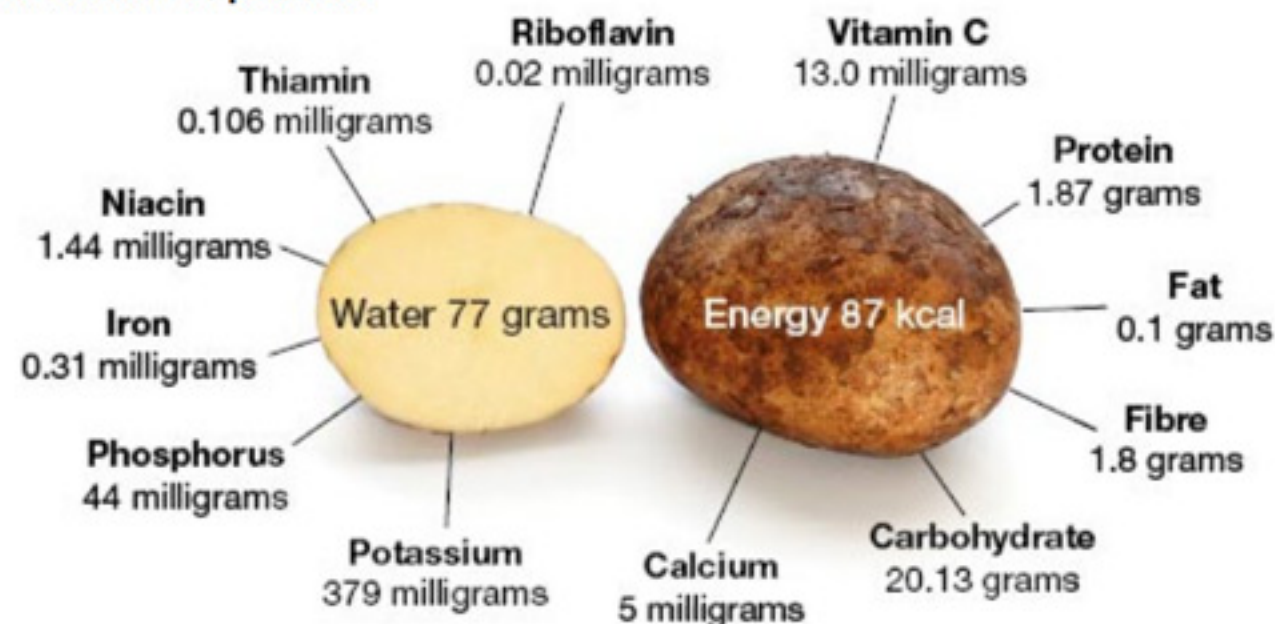


## Potatoes, nutrition and diet

The potato is a good source of dietary energy and some micronutrients. But balanced diets need to include other vegetables and whole grain foods



### Nutrient content of potatoes



(Per 100 g, after boiling in skin and peeling before consumption)

Source: United States Department of Agriculture, National Nutrient Database

### Toxic components of potato

As part of the potato plant's natural defences against fungi and insects, its leaves, stems and sprouts contain high levels of toxic compounds called glycoalkaloids (usually solanine and chaconine). Glycoalkaloids are normally found at low levels in the tuber, and occur in the greatest concentrations just beneath the skin. Potatoes should be stored in a dark, cool place in order to keep glycoalkaloid content low. Under exposure to light, potatoes turn green in colour due to increased levels of chlorophyll, which can also indicate higher levels of solanine and chaconine. Since glycoalkaloids are not destroyed by cooking, cutting away green areas and peeling potatoes before cooking ensures healthy eating.



Potato is a versatile, carbohydrate-rich food highly popular worldwide and prepared and served in a variety of ways. Freshly harvested, it contains about 80 percent water and 20 percent dry matter. About 60 to 80 percent of the dry matter is starch. On a dry weight basis, the protein content of potato is similar to that of cereals and is very high in comparison with other roots and tubers.

In addition, the potato is low in fat. Potatoes are rich in several micronutrients, especially vitamin C - eaten with its skin, a single medium-sized potato of 150 g provides nearly half the daily adult requirement (100 mg). The potato is a moderate source of iron, and its high vitamin C content promotes iron absorption. It is a good source of vitamins B1, B3 and B6 and minerals such as potassium, phosphorus and magnesium, and contains folate, pantothenic acid and riboflavin. Potatoes also contain dietary antioxidants, which may play a part in preventing diseases related to ageing, and dietary fibre, which benefits health.

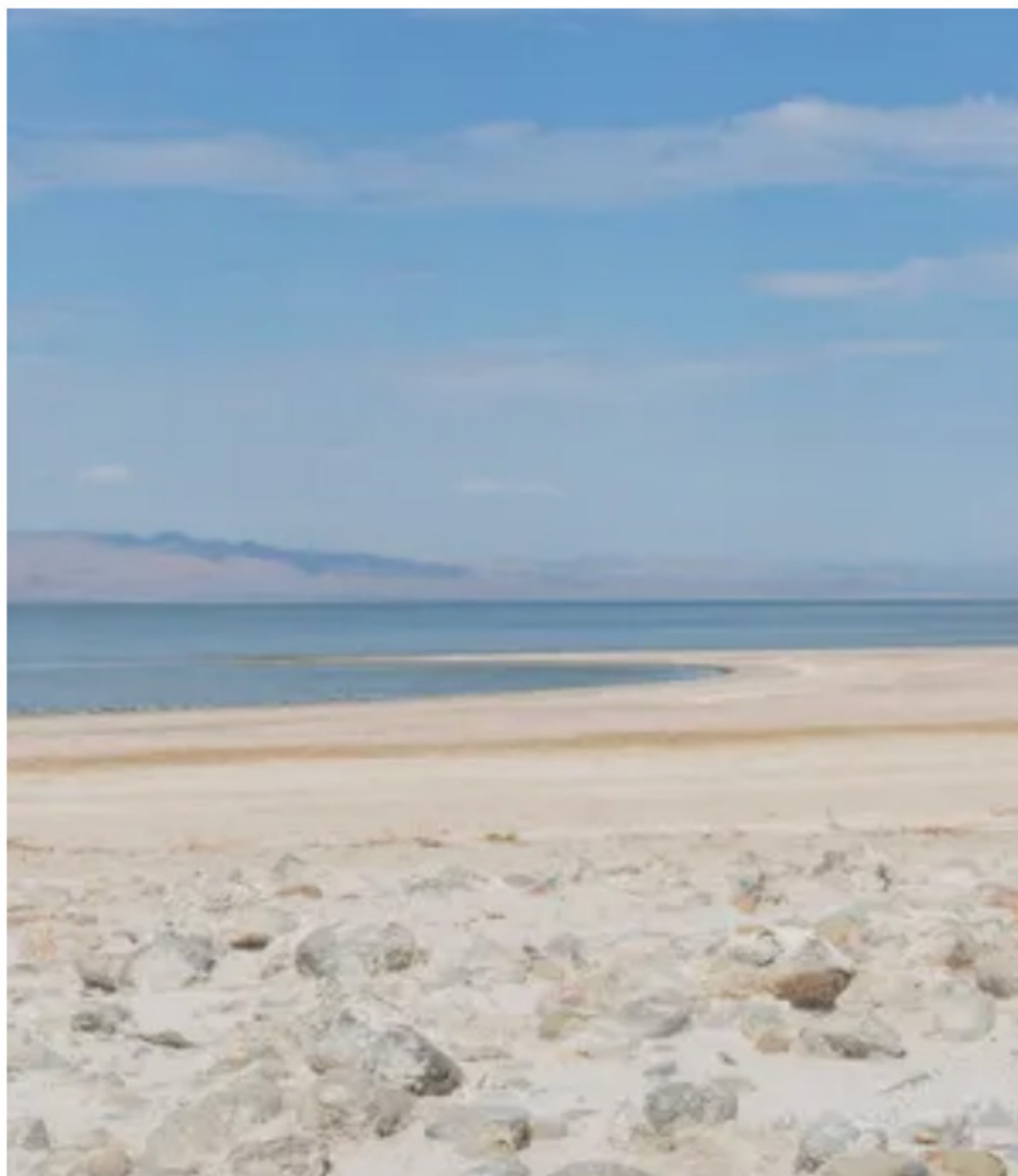
### Effects of potato preparation methods

The nutritive value of a meal containing potato depends on other components served with them and on the method of preparation. By itself, potato is not fattening (and the feeling of satiety that comes from eating potato can actually help people to control their weight). However, preparing and serving potatoes with high-fat ingredients raises the caloric value of the dish.

Since the starch in raw potato cannot be digested by humans, they are prepared for consumption by boiling (with or without the skin), baking or frying. Each preparation method affects potato composition in a different way, but all reduce fibre and protein content, due to leaching into cooking water and oil, destruction by heat treatment or chemical changes such as oxidation.

Boiling - the most common method of potato preparation worldwide - causes a significant loss of vitamin C, especially in peeled potatoes. For french fries and chips, frying for a short time in hot oil (140°C to 180°C) results in high absorption of fat and significantly reduces mineral and ascorbic acid content. In general, baking causes slightly higher losses of vitamin C than boiling, due to the higher oven temperatures, but losses of other vitamins and minerals during baking are lower.





## **‘The air is toxic’: how an idyllic California lake became a nightmare**

by [Maanvi Singh](#) in Calipatria and Salton City

The view from the original shoreline of the Salton Sea in Salton City, California.

Photograph: Alex Welsh/The Guardian

Sat 24 Jul 2021

# The shrinking Salton Sea was once a tourist destination. Now it's home to dangerous algal blooms, endless dust and noxious air

## **A string of broken promises**

In 2003, the local water authority in the region signed the largest agriculture-to-urban water transfer agreement in US history with San Diego. Imperial Irrigation District (IID) agreed to start selling much of its massive allotment of water from the Colorado River to city-dwellers and suburbanites along the coast. As part of the deal, IID agreed to send some water to the Salton Sea for 15 more years, buying it and other local authorities time to find a solution for the shrinking lake.

“And for 15 years, everyone just sat there and did a lot of nothing,” said Luis Olmedo, executive director of Comité Cívico Del Valle, a health and social services organization in Brawley, just south of the Salton Sea. A \$8.9bn [proposal](#) in 2007 to rehabilitate the lake fell through as the Great Recession took hold. In 2015, local authorities [broke ground](#) on a project at Red Hill Bay, intending to flood the desiccated lakebed to the south of the lake with water from the sea and the nearby Alamo River, to keep down the dust and create wetlands for birds. Today, it remains flat, dry and dusty - the project has been derailed by budget issues, local politics and “just a lack of will”, said Olmedo. “They keep doing these ribbon-cutting ceremonies, and nothing happens.”




CRIME · Published 11 hours ago

# Former Sen. Barbara Boxer attacked, robbed in California

Boxer served in the Senate from 1993 to 2017

By Louis Casiano | Fox News

 **Barbara Boxer** ✓  
@BarbaraBoxer

Earlier today former Senator Barbara Boxer was assaulted in the Jack London Square neighborhood of Oakland. The assailant pushed her in the back, stole her cell phone and jumped in a waiting car. She is thankful that she was not seriously injured."

3:18 PM · Jul 26, 2021

2.9K 2K Copy link to Tweet

## Conversation 8.4K Comments

506 Viewing

**wallyman2** · 1 hour ago  
Replying to NoBuddy

*The statement posted to Boxer's Twitter account said she is "thankful that she was not seriously injured."*

I wonder if she is also thankful there were no cops around to possibly apprehend these thugs. What do you say, Ms. Boxer? Do you think maybe this might not have happened if perhaps there were?

Reply 62

**ELH326** · 21 minutes ago  
Replying to wallyman2

They probably did this because they need bread to feed their family. I don't like Boxer's views, but I am glad she was not injured.

Reply 3

**ThomasEdisonWashington** · 12 minutes ago  
Replying to ELH326

Is bread the new slang term for crack?

Reply

**sillyrabbit** · 1 minute ago  
Replying to wallyman2

Come on you have to at least admit the chances are slim there would have been a cop there anyway. You have a point with the defund police hamstringing law enforcement. But at least admit there most likely now have been a cop there.

**plh** · 1 hour ago  
Replying to NoBuddy

Personal awareness is kind of important these days.

Reply 108

**dEMSrDIRTY** · 35 minutes ago  
Replying to NoBuddy

Wealth redistribution..Right dems?

Reply 46 1

**Cornpoplives** · 19 minutes ago  
Replying to NoBuddy

AOC says don't get hysterical, abolishing the incarceration system will solve incidences like this. Trust her.

Reply

**HOLOCENE619** · 13 minutes ago  
Replying to NoBuddy

To all white people.....we need to organize and identify with our own race just like every other race in America is allowed to do. We need a white equivalent of the NAACP. Most of all, we need to vote for white Republicans that identify as white and who will fight for our own interests.

Reply 1

**TheRedBarronFlies** · 8 minutes ago  
Replying to NoBuddy

Oh my! She was pushed in the back and it made the news as an "assault". Gee, how about the elderly that have been attacked and beat within an inch of their lives in the blue utopias? Not a big deal right? Because they're not some old democrat politician?

Reply 17

**cbrules30** · 5 minutes ago



# How it Works

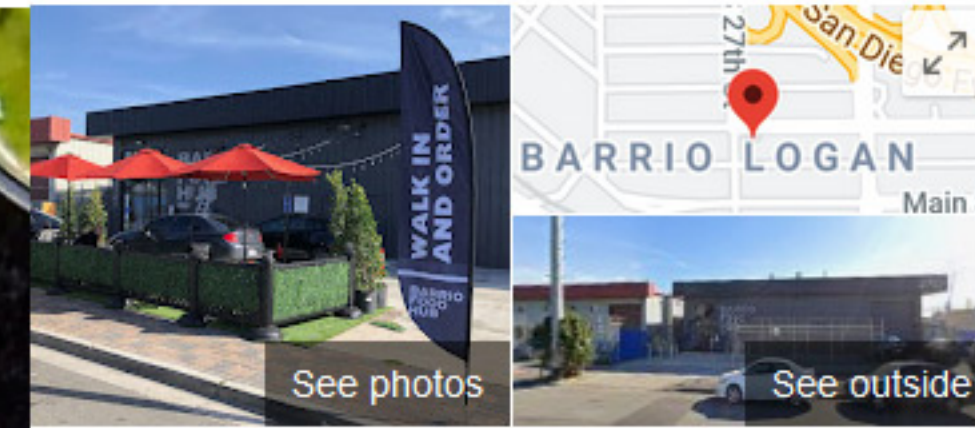


1. Buy meals from one or multiple restaurants below



2. Pickup your order on-site and enjoy!  
*Or, order on-site instead.*

BARRIO  
FOOD  
HUB



## Barrio Food Hub

[Website](#) [Directions](#) [Save](#)

4.1 ★★★★★ 52 Google reviews

Food court

**Service options:** Takeout · No-contact delivery

**Address:** 2707 Boston Ave, San Diego, CA 92113

**Hours:** Open · Closes 12AM

**Menu:** [barriofoodhub.com](http://barriofoodhub.com)

**Phone:** (310) 691-2595

**Order:** [barriofoodhub.com](http://barriofoodhub.com)

- All
- American Food
- Asian Food
- BBQ
- Breakfast
- Breakfast Sandwich
- Burgers
- Burritos
- Cakes
- Cheesesteaks
- Chinese Food
- Comfort Food
- Cookies
- Cupcakes
- Curry
- Desserts
- Falafel
- Fried Chicken
- Fried Chicken Sandwiches
- Fries
- Hawaiian Food
- Healthy
- Hibachi
- Italian Food
- Japanese Food
- Kids Menu
- Korean Food
- Loaded Fries
- Lunch Combos
- Mediterranean Food
- Mexican Food
- Middle Eastern Food
- Noodles
- Pancakes
- Pasta
- Pho
- Pizza
- Poke
- Rice Bowls
- Salads
- Sandwiches
- Seafood
- Shawarma
- Soups
- Southern Food
- Steak
- Tacos
- Tex-Mex
- Vegetarian Food
- Vietnamese Food
- Waffles
- Wings

 Awesome Jamaican Jerk & Wings PRE ORDER FOR PICKUP	 Barrio Philly ORDER FOR PICKUP	 Big Kahuna Grill ORDER FOR PICKUP	 Bird-N-Bun ORDER FOR PICKUP	 Fuku Sushi ORDER FOR PICKUP	 Gabriella's of NY PRE ORDER FOR PICKUP	 Gordy's BYO PRE ORDER FOR PICKUP	 Hana Hawaiian Grill ORDER FOR PICKUP
 Blue Poke ORDER FOR PICKUP	 Bodega Brothers PRE ORDER FOR PICKUP	 Cali BBQ PRE ORDER FOR PICKUP	 Cali Wings PRE ORDER FOR PICKUP	 Hot Thang Nashville Hot Chicken ORDER FOR PICKUP	 Little Chef Chinese Take-Out PRE ORDER FOR PICKUP	 MamaMia Kitchen PRE ORDER FOR PICKUP	 Mo' Betta Noodlery PRE ORDER FOR PICKUP
 Daygo Chicken PRE ORDER FOR PICKUP	 Eggwich Breakfast Sandwiches PRE ORDER FOR PICKUP	 El Arabachi ORDER FOR PICKUP	 Falafel California ORDER FOR PICKUP	 pbo-ology PRE ORDER FOR PICKUP	 Southwest Grillers ORDER FOR PICKUP	 SugarBears Sweet Provisions ORDER FOR PICKUP	 Tasty Tenders ORDER FOR PICKUP

**Awesome Jamaican Jerk & Wings**

**PRE ORDER FOR PICKUP**



# U.S. Surfer Carissa Moore Wins The First Gold Medal Ever In Her Sport At The Olympics

July 27, 2021 - 12:22 PM ET



MANDALIT DEL BARCO

*...surfing "to share some positivity and love, all that kind of stuff."*



surf

gold medal

Carissa Moore from the U.S. performs on the wave during the gold medal heat in the women's surfing competition at the Summer Olympics on Tuesday in Ichinomiya, Japan.



## Beijing thrusts long lists of demands at Biden administration

The State Department No. 2's visit to China is met with bellicose exchanges.



U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi sit together in Tianjin, China. | U.S. Department of State via AP

By STUART LAU

07/26/2021 01:09 PM EDT

“Chinese people look at things with eyes wide open. They see the competitive, collaborative and adversarial rhetoric as a thinly veiled attempt to contain and suppress China,” Xie said. “They feel that the real emphasis is on the adversarial aspect.”

“U.S. policy seems to be demanding cooperation when it wants something from China; decoupling, cutting off supplies, blockading or sanctioning China when it believes it has an advantage; and resorting to conflict and confrontation at all costs,” Xie said. The strong response came despite Sherman’s attempt to reassure her Chinese interlocutors that the U.S. was trying to prevent confrontation.

“The Deputy Secretary and State Councilor Wang had a frank and open discussion about a range of issues, demonstrating the importance of maintaining open lines of communication between our two countries,” State Department spokesperson Ned Price said in a statement. “They discussed ways to set terms for responsible management of the U.S.-China relationship. The Deputy Secretary underscored that the United States welcomes the stiff competition between our countries — and that we intend to continue to strengthen our own competitive hand — but that we do not seek conflict with the PRC.”

Sherman raised several human rights issues with Wang, according to Price. Those included Hong Kong, Xinjiang, Tibet, as well as “concerns about Beijing’s conduct in cyberspace; across the Taiwan Strait; and in the East and South China Seas.”

She also raised the sensitive issue of the World Health Organization’s ongoing probe into Covid-19 origin, which Beijing is blocking on the grounds of politicization and stigmatization.

China shows no sign of toning down the harsh rhetoric with the U.S. during the visit of Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman, who on Monday held “frank and open” talks with Foreign Minister Wang Yi and one of his deputies in the Chinese city of Tianjin.

Underscoring an increasingly adversarial relationship between the world’s two richest superpowers, Chinese officials accused the U.S. of “coercive diplomacy,” questioned the moral high ground with which the U.S. has mustered a coalition of international partners against it and warned the U.S. to stop meddling in Taiwan or Xinjiang issues.

They also presented Sherman with two lists of action — the lists included revoking sanctions on Communist Party officials, lifting visa bans for students, making life easier for state-affiliated journalists and reopening the door for Confucius Institutes — in the hope that Washington, D.C., will follow through.

“The U.S. side is in no position to lecture China on democracy and human rights,” Vice Foreign Minister Xie Feng told Sherman, adding that the U.S. was once “engaged in genocide against Native Americans.”



## Confucius Institutes: Criticism and controversies

In the short time-frame of their rapid expansion, the institutes have been the subject of much controversy. Criticisms of the institutes have included administrative concerns about finance, academic viability, legal issues, and relations with the Chinese partner university, as well as broader concerns about improper influence over teaching and research, industrial and military espionage,[50][51] surveillance of Chinese abroad, and undermining Taiwanese influence.[52] There has also been organized opposition to the establishment of a Confucius Institute at University of Melbourne,[53] University of Manitoba,[54] Stockholm University,[55][56] University of Chicago[57] and many others. More significantly, some universities that hosted Confucius Institutes decided to terminate their contracts. These include Japan's Osaka Sangyo University in 2010;[58] Canada's McMaster University and Université de Sherbrooke,[59][60] and France's University of Lyon in 2013;[29] the University of Chicago, Pennsylvania State University, and the Toronto District School Board in 2014,[61][62][63] the German Stuttgart Media University and University of Hohenheim in 2015,[64][65] and Vrije Universiteit Brussel in 2019.[66]

Controversy regarding Confucius Institutes in the US, Australian, and Canadian press includes criticism that unlike other governments' language and culture promotion organizations, the Confucius Institutes operate within established universities, colleges, and secondary schools around the world, providing funding, teachers and educational materials.[9][50][67] This has raised concerns over their influence on academic freedom, the possibility of industrial espionage,[68] and concerns that the institutes present a selective and politicized view of China as a means of advancing the country's soft power internationally.[9][67][69]

Underlying such opposition is concern by professors that a Confucius Institute would interfere with academic freedom and be able to pressure the university to censor speech on topics the Communist Party of China objects to.[70] An article in The Chronicle of Higher Education asserts that there is little evidence of meddling from China, although the same article did go on to say the institutes were "distinct in the degree to which they were financed and managed by a foreign government." [45] After interviewing China scholars, journalists and CI directors, a writer for The Diplomat, a publication covering politics, society, and culture in the Indo-Pacific region, also found little support for the concern that CIs would serve as propaganda vehicles, though some of her sources did note that they would face constraints in their curriculum on matters such as Tibet and human rights.[71] An article in The New York Times quotes Arthur Waldron, a professor of international relations at the University of Pennsylvania, saying that the key issue is academic independence. "Once you have a Confucius Institute on campus, you have a second source of opinions and authority that is ultimately answerable to the Chinese Communist Party and which is not subject to scholarly review." [72]

Controversy continued in 2018 as U.S. Congress members from Texas wrote a letter to four universities in that state urging them to close their Confucius Institutes. Texas A&M did so shortly after receiving the letter.[93] Throughout 2018 and 2019, all of the institutes in Florida were closed: the University of West Florida,[94] the University of North Florida,[95] the University of South Florida,[96] and Miami Dade College.[97]

A U.S. law passed in 2019 that prohibits universities hosting Confucius Institutes from receiving funding for Chinese language studies from the Department of Defense led to more closures of Confucius Institutes. Unable to obtain a waiver from the Department of Defense, Indiana University, the University of Minnesota, the University of Rhode Island, San Francisco State University, the University of Oregon, Western Kentucky University, Arizona State University, the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and San Diego State University closed their programs in 2019.[98][99][100][101] In 2020, the University of Maryland also announced the closure of its Confucius Institute, the oldest one in the U.S.[102]

On 13 August 2020, U.S. Department of State designated the Confucius Institute U.S. Center as a foreign mission of the PRC.[110][111] On 8 March 2021, the U.S. Senate passed a bill that would restrict colleges hosting Confucius Institutes from receiving some federal funding.



**CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE**  
孔子学院

World map showing Confucius Institutes and classrooms as of 2021. Includes a 'More images' button.

### Confucius Institute

Confucius Institutes are public educational partnerships between colleges and universities in China and colleges and universities in other countries; the partnerships are funded and arranged in part by Hanban which is itself affiliated with the Chinese government. [Wikipedia](#)

**Headquarters:** [Xicheng District, Beijing, China](#)

**Founded:** November 21, 2004

**Location:** [129 Deshengmen Outer Street, Xicheng District, Beijing](#)

**Focus:** [Chinese culture](#), [Chinese language](#)

**Owner:** Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China

**Director:** [Xu Lin wikipedia.org](#)



A ghost kitchen (also known as a delivery-only restaurant, virtual kitchen, shadow kitchen, commissary kitchen, cloud kitchen or dark kitchen) is a professional food preparation and cooking facility set up for the preparation of delivery-only meals. Some ghost kitchens have allowed takeout meals or included drive-throughs. They do not include a storefront or indoor seating for customers. A ghost kitchen differs from a virtual restaurant in that a ghost kitchen is not a restaurant brand in itself and may contain kitchen space and facilities for more than one restaurant brand. [citation needed] Ghost kitchens can work within brick-and-mortar restaurants or function as standalone facilities.

### History

The term "ghost kitchen" was first used in a 2015 NBC New York article. The article was critical of ghost kitchens in New York City, where restaurant owners were caught by an investigative team listing their restaurant under multiple different brands on delivery applications such as Seamless and GrubHub. These kitchens had names and addresses that failed to match any listing on the city's database of restaurant inspection grades. Several of these locations were non-retail food processing establishments, which did not have restaurant permits to sell food directly to customers. Consequently, the virtual brands were taken off of Seamless and GrubHub and each company passed policies to fact-check restaurant information and give transparency to customers using the delivery applications.

Ghost kitchens have emerged as a business model in response to the rapid growth in consumer demand for restaurant delivery meals,[2] the rising usage of third-party delivery applications, and the lower costs incurred by using kitchen facilities located outside of high-rent, high-foot-trafficked urban locations.[3][4] Using a ghost kitchen allows established restaurants with dining-in service to expand their delivery operations without adding stress to the existing kitchen, frees up parking taken by the delivery vehicles, and allows restaurant to enter new areas with lower costs.[5] Ghost kitchens have been crucial for the food service industry because they allow restaurants to operate at lower costs and keep pace with the growing demand for food delivery.

### Function

A ghost kitchen prepares meals for a restaurant or virtual restaurant to then be picked up for delivery, takeout, or given at a drive-through. [citation needed]

Ghost kitchens offer a multitude of benefits compared to their brick-and-mortar counterparts. The lack of customer seating and dining areas saves money by reducing the square footage of the facility, lowering the rent. [6] The physical location matters less, so ghost kitchens can set up in cheaper areas without having to worry about losing out to competition in more convenient locations. Additionally, there is no need to hire a wait staff to serve customers or maintain the would-be seating area. [7] Other eliminated expenses include front-of-house staff, renovations, and paper menus. Optimized delivery and increased kitchen space in a ghost kitchen contribute to lower labor costs as well. Whereas a typical restaurant delivers 15 to 20 orders per hour, a ghost kitchen can deliver 60 orders per hour with a single employee. [8] The reduced space lowers overall overhead and operational costs, thus yielding higher profit margins without reducing the price of the food provided. [9]

The lack of a physical brand allows companies to experiment with new menus, brands, and concepts with ease and low-risk. Menus can be adjusted to match current trends or target multiple demographics with a variety of cuisines. [10] The online nature of ghost kitchens makes it possible for virtual restaurants to easily track customer data and analytics through the food ordering process and make data-driven decisions. They can track the popularity of items, wait times, and customer feedback via ratings and adjust their menus accordingly. [11]

An individual can set up a ghost kitchen to start their own brand, which is identified with their own online restaurant. One might choose to start up a ghost kitchen because setup costs are lower, and the time taken is shorter, than for a kitchen that also serves a walk-in restaurant. It might take only 3 or 4 weeks. [citation needed]

### Growth from the COVID-19 pandemic

Many brick-and-mortar restaurants limited dining on their property or shut down entirely due to the COVID-19 pandemic and government restrictions. [12] Ghost kitchens helped brick-and-mortar restaurants recoup their losses and minimize employee layoffs by allowing them to prepare food for multiple brands and keep themselves in business. [13] Ghost kitchens kept many restaurants in business during the pandemic when they would otherwise have to close down by lowering costs and allowing them to work with delivery services. While the brick-and-mortar restaurants survived, virtual brands proliferated and operated at low cost by using their facilities as ghost kitchens, and food delivery companies prospered because of the boom in demand caused by restricted indoor dining.

The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the growth of the ghost kitchen industry by five years within three months in 2020. Many restaurants survive due to ghost kitchens and the food delivery options they make available. This spike in growth is predicted to potentially create a \$1 trillion industry by 2030. [14]

### Impact on the food service industry

Across the world, the food delivery industry is increasing at a high rate. Ghost kitchens have proliferated to match the increased demand of food delivery services. The expansion of ghost kitchens, in turn, led to growth in both the food delivery and restaurant industries.

In the United States, food delivery applications produce \$35 billion in annual revenue, and are projected to grow to \$42 billion in annual revenue by 2025, with 111 million users. As of 2020, there were 1,500 ghost kitchens in the United States. The United States restaurant industry is about \$800 billion. [15]

In Europe, food delivery applications produce over \$18.9 billion in revenue annually, and are projected to grow to \$29.1 billion by 2025, with 150 million users. [16]

In China, food delivery applications produce \$51.5 billion in revenue annually, and are projected to grow to \$100 billion by 2025, with 650 million users. As of 2020, there were 7,500 ghost kitchens in China. [17]

Globally, food delivery applications produce \$120 billion in revenue annually, and are projected to grow to \$230 billion by 2025

4.1 ★★★★★ 52 Google reviews

Food court

Service options: Takeout · No-contact delivery

113

Phone: (310) 604-2505

The screenshot shows a grid of restaurant listings. Each listing includes a small image of a dish, the restaurant name, and a 'PRE ORDER FOR PICKUP' button. The restaurants listed include: Awesome Jamaican Jerk & Wings, Bodega Brothers, Cali BBQ, Cali Wings, Hot Thang Nashville Hot Chicken, Little Chef Chinese Take-Out, MamaMia Kitchen, Mo' Betta Noodliery, and Jamaican Jerk & Wings. The interface is clean and user-friendly, with a focus on quick ordering.



The California Transparency in Supply Chains Act, which became effective on January 1, 2012, empowers **California consumers to join the fight against human trafficking** by giving them access to information about retailers' and manufacturers' efforts to eradicate such labor practices from their supply chains.

<https://oag.ca.gov> › [agweb](#) › [pdfs](#) › [resource-guide](#) PDF ⓘ

## The California Transparency in Supply Chains Act

**Human trafficking in California** is the illegal [trade](#) of human beings for the purposes of reproductive slavery, commercial [sexual exploitation](#), and [forced labor](#) as it occurs in the state of [California](#). Human trafficking, widely recognized as a modern-day form of [slavery](#), includes

"the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power, or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs."<sup>[1]</sup>

California is particularly vulnerable because of its "proximity to international borders, number of ports and airports, significant immigrant population, and large economy that includes industries that attract forced labor."<sup>[2]</sup> It serves both as an entry point for slaves imported from outside the US as well as a destination for slaves, with major hubs centered on [Los Angeles](#), [Sacramento](#),<sup>[3]</sup> [San Diego](#), and [San Francisco](#).<sup>[4]</sup> According to the 2011 Department of State report, California, together with New York, Texas, and Oklahoma, has the largest concentrations of survivors of human trafficking.



LIVE House Democrats hold first committee hearing on Capitol riot



NEWS

Manchin warns 'everything could fall apart' if bipartisan infrastructure bill fails

By Samuel Chamberlain

July 27, 2021 | 12:06am | Updated

Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) put his Democratic colleagues on notice Monday night, predicting they would not be able to pass a massive \$3.5 trillion spending plan if attempts to piece together a bipartisan \$1.2 trillion infrastructure fail.



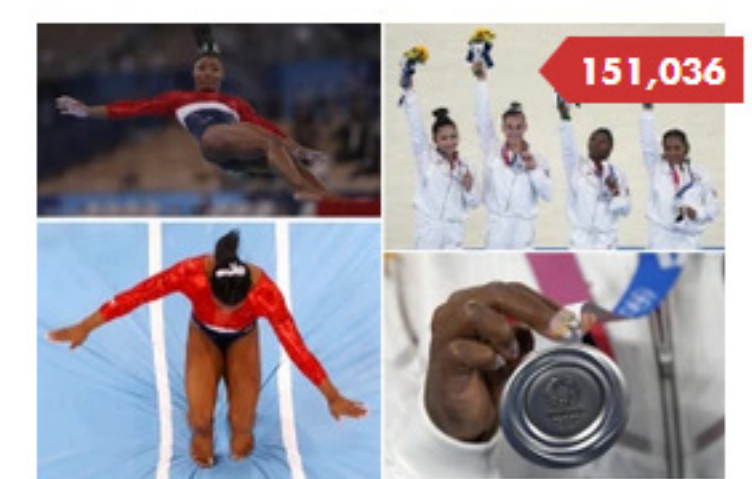
Democratic Senator from West Virginia Joe Manchin speaks to reporters after US President Joe Biden met with lawmakers seeking their support for his two-bill approach to infrastructure spending in the US Capitol in Washington, DC.

EPA

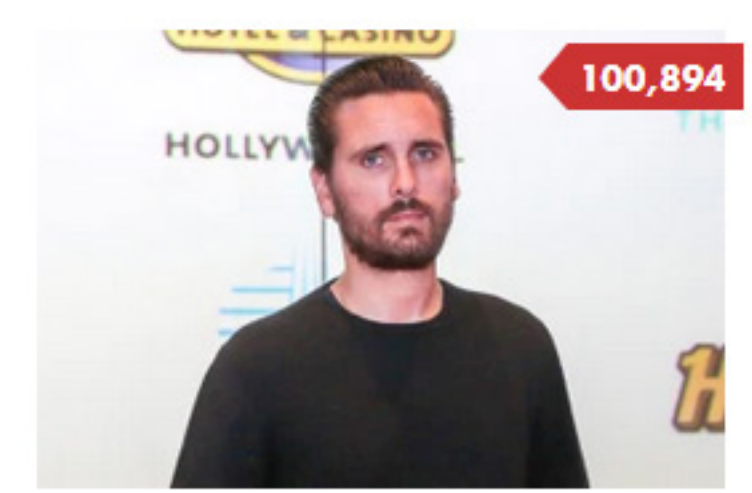
TRENDING NOW ON NYPOST.COM



Jamie Lynn Spears' husband caught looking at Britney's Instagram



Simone Biles shockingly pulls out of team gymnastics competition



Scott Disick bails on event after asking small-town restaurant for private jet





### Criticism and comments on the media

After leaving CBS News, Logan began to criticize the media which she said had a liberal bias. She described journalists as "political activists" and "propagandists" against President Trump. She said that by saying this she was doing something akin to "professional suicide." Shortly thereafter, she joined the Sinclair Broadcast Group.

### 2019 Fox News "No Agenda" series

In 2019, Logan was hired by Fox News to do a series of independent style shows called "Lara Logan has No Agenda."

### Claims about antifa

On 31 May 2020, Logan tweeted a picture, which she claimed was an antifa riot instruction manual. The picture actually was an updated hoax dating to the 2015 Baltimore riots. On 1 June, Logan tweeted a threat by the @ANTIFA\_US Twitter account. The account turned out to be fake and linked to Identity Evropa, a white nationalist organization. After being criticized for posting the hoaxes, Logan claimed that there was a campaign to "destroy" her, including by Media Matters for America.

On 4 June 2020, Logan appeared on Hannity to claim that antifa was leaving "pallets of bricks" at protest sites in an attempt to stoke violence and destruction. Fact-checkers found that claims of bricks being left at protest sites were baseless. No one else reported seeing antifa trucks leaving pallets of bricks. Next, Logan promoted a 5 June joke tweet which linked antifa to juggalos and a "clown hierarchy". Logan instead focused on the portion of the tweet that mentioned a "traditional command structure" and argued that anarchists thus indeed had organizational structure.

## Sinclair Broadcast Group

Last updated on September 26th, 2020 at 02:09 pm



Factual Reporting
Very High
High
Mostly Factual
<b>MIXED</b>
Low
Very Low

### RIGHT BIAS

These media sources are moderately to strongly biased toward conservative causes through story selection and/or political affiliation. They may utilize strong loaded words (wording that attempts to influence an audience by using appeal to emotion or stereotypes), publish misleading reports and omit reporting of information that may damage conservative causes. Some sources in this category may be untrustworthy. **See all Right Bias sources.**

- **Overall, we rate Sinclair Broadcast Group Right Biased based on political affiliation with the Republican Party and the direction of network news programming. We also rate them Mixed for factual reporting due to airing news shows with poor fact check records.**



## Is oatmeal healthy?

That depends on who you ask. And it also depends on each specific body. Even the research is conflicting, whether it's based on carbohydrates or grains, it makes it confusing to understand where oatmeal falls into the world of health.

Like everything, the health category of oatmeal depends on: How your body uses it. How you pair it or layer it with other foods. The time of day you eat it.

If we pulled all of the negatives out of oatmeal, here would be the list:

It is a grain, meaning it has all of the anti-nutrient properties that grains do. Includes phytic acid, which has been studied to strip your body from absorbing the vitamins and minerals in the oats.

It is a high starch or high carbohydrate food. So, in the end, yes, oats can spike your blood sugar, putting you on a "sugar-high" your body doesn't necessarily agree with. This could potentially cause excess weight gain.

It is a bland food that leaves many people to spice it up with an extra heaping mound of sugar or two. So problem number two now escalates into a third, fourth, and fifth problem.

### Here are the pros:

It contains a healthy amount of fiber. Given that over 90% of people are no longer getting sufficient amounts of fiber in their diet, oats can help push people past the critical threshold. Oats contain both soluble and insoluble fiber, linking them to potentially reducing cholesterol and diabetes.

It contains a decent nutritional profile. Considering oats are not a form of produce {fruit or vegetables}, oats have a nutritional profile to look at. Definitely not one to toss out because of the carbohydrate load alone.

They are versatile. There are countless ways to use oats or oat flour from breakfast to dinner. They make a great base for many healthy recipes that can simplify your diet.

They are quick and easy. This is quite possibly the biggest reason I keep oats at home {especially true with children}. They are a quick and easy source of nutrition on the fly. From granola bars to granola or even a warm and comforting bowl of oatmeal in the morning, they are a pantry staple in our house.

So, back to the original question... is oatmeal healthy? I think it is fair to say that the pros of oatmeal still outweigh the cons. Although it is important to note the cons given that oats are not an end all be all. The most important factor is listening to your body. How does it respond to a bowl of oats?

If you feel inflamed, become excessively gassy, or feel exhausted after you eat them, it's probably best to skip them, at least for the time being. But the secret to making oats healthy is not eating them alone or with a heaping mound of sugar.

### The best way to eat oats.

Like all foods, the best way to prepare a bowl of oats or consume them is in addition to a healthy source of protein and fat—the staples of a well-rounded meal. Without protein and fat, oats are quickly digested and don't leave you full for long.

## Oatmeal ↩

Oatmeal refers to a preparation of oats that have been dehusked, steamed and flattened, or else a coarse flour made of hulled oat grains that have either been milled or steel-cut. Ground oats are also called "white oats". Steel-cut oats are known as "coarse oatmeal", "Irish oatmeal" or "pinhead oats".  
[Wikipedia](#)

**Serving size:** 1/2 cup [healthline.com](#)

### Nutrition Facts

Oatmeal ▾  
Sources include: [USDA](#)

Amount Per 1 cup, cooked (234 g) ▾	
<b>Calories</b> 158	
	<b>% Daily Value*</b>
<b>Total Fat</b> 3.2 g	4%
Saturated fat 0.5 g	2%
Trans fat regulation 0 g	
<b>Cholesterol</b> 0 mg	0%
<b>Sodium</b> 115 mg	4%
<b>Potassium</b> 143 mg	4%
<b>Total Carbohydrate</b> 27 g	9%
Dietary fiber 4 g	16%
Sugar 1.1 g	
<b>Protein</b> 6 g	12%
Vitamin C 0%	Calcium 18%
Iron 77%	Vitamin D 0%
Vitamin B-6 35%	Cobalamin 0%
Magnesium 15%	

\*Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs.



# GLIMPSES: At Olympic beaches, surf's definitely up

The Associated Press Tuesday, July 27, 2021



1 of 5

Brazil's Gabriel Medina goes to the air on a wave during the semifinals of the men's surfing competition at the 2020 Summer Olympics, Tuesday, July 27, 2021, at Tsurigasaki beach in Ichinomiya, Japan. (AP Photo/Francisco Seco)

TOKYO (AP) — On the beach about 60 miles east of Tokyo, Olympic surfers are enjoying waves created by an approaching typhoon that has disrupted some outdoor events — and made the proceedings feel even more dramatic, both in life and on camera.

The storm is a major win for competitive surfing, given that Tsurigasaki Beach is not generally known for powerful waves, according to Olympic surfing forecaster Kurt Korte. The beach is popular for surfing in Japan — but is hardly a world class location like Hawaii or Tahiti.

Surfers again had powerful waves from the storm but were gifted Tuesday with rain that tamed the winds — as ideal a forecast as could be expected this time of year for this beach.

For photographers trying to capture the moments, the contrast of murky water makes an image pop even more than during sunny, placid days with bluer waves. The three layers — competitor on surfboard, foamy waves and background water — are brought out in even more stark relief, adding to the drama.





# The repair shop aiming to fix throwaway culture - BBC News

[https://youtu.be/\\_V6Az4kjA2M](https://youtu.be/_V6Az4kjA2M)

This repair shop in Glasgow, Scotland is giving a second lease of life to a range of items from clothes to broken mobile phones.

## Remake Scotland

<https://remakescotland.co.uk/>

Remake is a community reuse charity run by volunteers and staff based in Crieff. Our purpose is to promote the reuse of materials for the benefit of our community. Remake is a local solution to a global problem.

<https://remade.network/>

A repair and reuse social enterprise working collaboratively across communities.



## Remade Network

@remadenetwork

A repair economy from the ground up.

- ♻️ Affordable repair services
  - 🌍 Training & campaigning
  - 👤 Local jobs & digital inclusion
- hello@remade.network

2,813 Following 3,393 Followers

## Sophie Unwin

**Sophie Unwin.** Sophie is the founder of Remade Network, she has a track record of setting up repair projects and has been working in Glasgow for the last two years.





## Biles withdraws from gymnastics final to protect team, self

By WILL GRAVES 36 minutes ago Tuesday, July 27, 2021



In the five years since Biles and the U.S. put on a dazzling display on their way to gold in Rio de Janeiro, gymnastics has undergone a reckoning. The tectonic plates in a sport where obedience, discipline and silence were long considered as important as talent and artistry are moving.

Biles has become an outspoken advocate for athlete's rights and the importance of proper mental health. There was a time, there were many times actually, where she felt she wasn't right and just powered through because that's what people expected of her.

Not anymore. And the stand she took could resonate far beyond the color of any medal she may win in Tokyo.

Biles is the latest in a series of high-profile athletes, including tennis star Naomi Osaka, who have used their platforms to discuss their mental health struggles. A subject that was once taboo has become far more accepted and embraced.

U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee CEO Sarah Hirshland applauded Biles for prioritizing her "mental wellness over all else" and offered the organization's full support. USA Gymnastics women's program vice-president called Biles' act "incredibly selfless."

Biles posted on social media Monday that she felt the weight of the world on her shoulders after an uncharacteristically sloppy showing during qualifying left the Americans looking up at the ROC on the scoreboard. The tension affected her practice. It affected her confidence. And when she stepped onto the vault runway, it finally found its way to her performance, too.

She was scheduled to do an "Amanar" vault that requires a roundoff back handspring onto the table followed by 2 1/2 twists. Biles instead did just 1 1/2 twists with a big leap forward after landing. She sat down and talked to U.S. team doctor Marcia Faustini, then headed to the back while the rest of the Americans moved on to uneven bars without her.

When Biles returned several minutes later, she hugged her teammates and took off her bar grips. And just like that, her night was over. "To see her kind of go out like that is very sad because this Olympic Games, I feel like, is kind of hers," Lee said. Biles is scheduled to defend her Olympic title in the all-around final on Thursday. She also qualified for all four event finals later in the Games. She said she will regroup on Wednesday before deciding whether to continue.

Biles' abrupt absence forced the Americans to scramble a bit. The finals are a three-up/three-count format, meaning each country enters three of their four athletes on an apparatus, with all three scores counting.

Chiles stepped in to take Biles' place on uneven bars and balance beam. The 20-year-old who made the team with her steady consistency pulled off a solid bars routine and drilled her balance beam set two days after falling twice on the event. Thanks in part to a little help from ROC — which counted a pair of falls on beam — the U.S. drew within striking distance heading to floor, the final rotation.

Without Biles and her otherworldly tumbling, the U.S. needed to be near perfect to close the gap. It didn't happen. Chiles stumbled to the mat at the end of her second pass, and any chance the U.S. had of chasing down ROC went right along with it. Not that Chiles or the rest of the Americans particularly cared. The gold might be gone, but something more significant may have happened instead. It's a tradeoff they can live with.

"This medal is definitely for (Biles)," said Chiles. "If it wasn't if it wasn't for her, we wouldn't be here where we are right now. We wouldn't be a silver medalist because of who she is as a person."

Chiles then turned to her good friend. Biles helped convince her to move to Houston to train alongside her two years ago, a decision that turned Chiles into an Olympian. In an empty arena in the middle of Japan with the world watching, Chiles did for Biles what Biles has done for so many for so long. She had her back.

"Kudos to you girl," Chiles said. "This is all for you."



Starchy foods are a good source of energy and the main source of a range of nutrients in our diet. As well as starch, they contain **fibre, calcium, iron and B vitamins**. Some people think starchy foods are fattening, but gram for gram they contain fewer than half the calories of fat.



<https://www.nhs.uk> > Live Well > Eat well

## Starchy foods and carbohydrates - NHS

### *What are the good source of starch?*

Starchy foods include peas, corn, potatoes, beans, pasta, rice and grains. Starches are a more concentrated source of carbohydrates and calories than fruits, nonstarchy vegetables and dairy, but many of them are excellent sources of fiber, vitamins, minerals and phytonutrients.

### *What is the healthiest starch to eat?*

Black beans, lentils, kidney beans, garbanzo beans (chickpeas), split peas, fava beans ... yum. "The healthiest starchy foods are the ones bursting with protein and fiber, putting beans and legumes at the top of the list."

### *What happens when you eat starch?*

When starch is consumed, it dissolves into glucose molecules with the help of molecular machines, known as enzymes. Specifically, enzymes called amylases aid in breaking starch into glucose with the help of water.

Starches are long chains of glucose that are found in grains, potatoes and various foods. But not all of the starch you eat gets digested. Sometimes a small part of it passes through your digestive tract unchanged. In other words, it is resistant to digestion.

Only about five percent of starches are broken down in the mouth. (This is a good thing as more glucose in the mouth would lead to more tooth decay.) When carbohydrates reach the stomach no further chemical breakdown occurs because the amylase enzyme does not function in the acidic conditions of the stomach.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3823506/>

Cooked potatoes administered to patients with an ileostomy\* showed only 0.82% resistant starch in freshly cooked potatoes, whereas potatoes that had been allowed to cool showed 1.60% resistant starch when analyzed using an Englyst method procedure with an acid hydrolysis step.

\*Ileostomy is a stoma constructed by bringing the end or loop of small intestine out onto the surface of the skin, or the surgical procedure which creates this opening. Intestinal waste passes out of the ileostomy and is collected in an external ostomy system placed next to the opening.





JPN 🇯🇵 1  
GEO 🇬🇪 0  
0:00

Japanese siblings Abe Uta and Abe Hifumi became the first brother and sister duo to win gold medals at the same Olympics on Saturday, the former in the women's 52kg and the latter in the men's 66kg. #NBCOlympics #Tokyo2020 #Judo

July 24, 2021

<https://youtu.be/xegyqvumGsQ>



JPN 🇯🇵 1  
GEO 🇬🇪 0  
0:00



## 'Metaverse': the next internet revolution?

Tech Xplore · 3 hours ago

- Facebook creates new unit to build a "metaverse"

Axios · Yesterday

[View Full Coverage](#)



 JULY 28, 2021

## 'Metaverse': the next internet revolution?



Imagine a world where you could sit on the same couch as a friend who lives thousands of miles away, or conjure up a virtual version of your workplace while at the beach.

Welcome to the metaverse: a vision of the future that sounds fantastical, but which tech titans like Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg are betting on as the next great leap in the evolution of the internet.

The metaverse is, in fact, the stuff of science-fiction: the term was coined by Neal Stephenson in his 1992 novel "Snow Crash", in which people don virtual reality headsets to interact inside a game-like digital world.

The book has long enjoyed cult status among Silicon Valley entrepreneurs—but in recent months the metaverse has become one of the tech sector's hottest buzzwords, with companies pouring millions of dollars into its development.

Facebook fuelled the excitement further Monday by announcing the creation of a new team to work on Zuckerberg's vision of the metaverse.

"This is going to be a really big part of the next chapter for the technology industry," Zuckerberg told tech website The Verge last week. Over the next five years, he predicted, Facebook would transition from "primarily being a social media company to being a metaverse company".

As with many tech buzzwords, the definition of the metaverse depends on whom you ask. But broadly, it involves blending the physical world with the digital one. With the help of augmented reality glasses, it might allow you to see information whizz before your eyes as you walk around a city, from traffic and pollution updates to local history. But metaverse enthusiasts are dreaming of a future in which the idea could be extended much further, allowing us to be transported to digital settings that feel real, such as a nightclub or a mountain-top.

Cathy Hackl, a tech consultant who advises companies on the metaverse, said the next generation was more comfortable with the idea of attaching real meaning to virtual experiences and objects.

Exhilarating, or dystopian?

Hackl rejects the dystopian vision presented in "Snow Crash" of a virtual world where people go to escape the horrors of reality, an idea that emerged again two decades later in the novel and Steven Spielberg movie "Ready Player One". Nor does she think the metaverse would necessarily involve everyone shutting out their neighbours with virtual reality headsets around the clock.

Facebook has invested heavily in technology that allows people to feel like they are physically somewhere else, such as its Portal video-calling devices, Oculus headsets and its Horizon virtual reality platform. But even Zuckerberg has admitted that existing virtual reality headsets are "a bit clunky", requiring far greater development for the kind of experiences he has described.

Wedbush tech analyst Michael Pachter said it was hard to predict whether Facebook could truly transform into a "metaverse company" in five years. "But they certainly have a huge advantage of having one billion people log on every day," he said. "If they offer entertainment options, it's likely they will succeed."

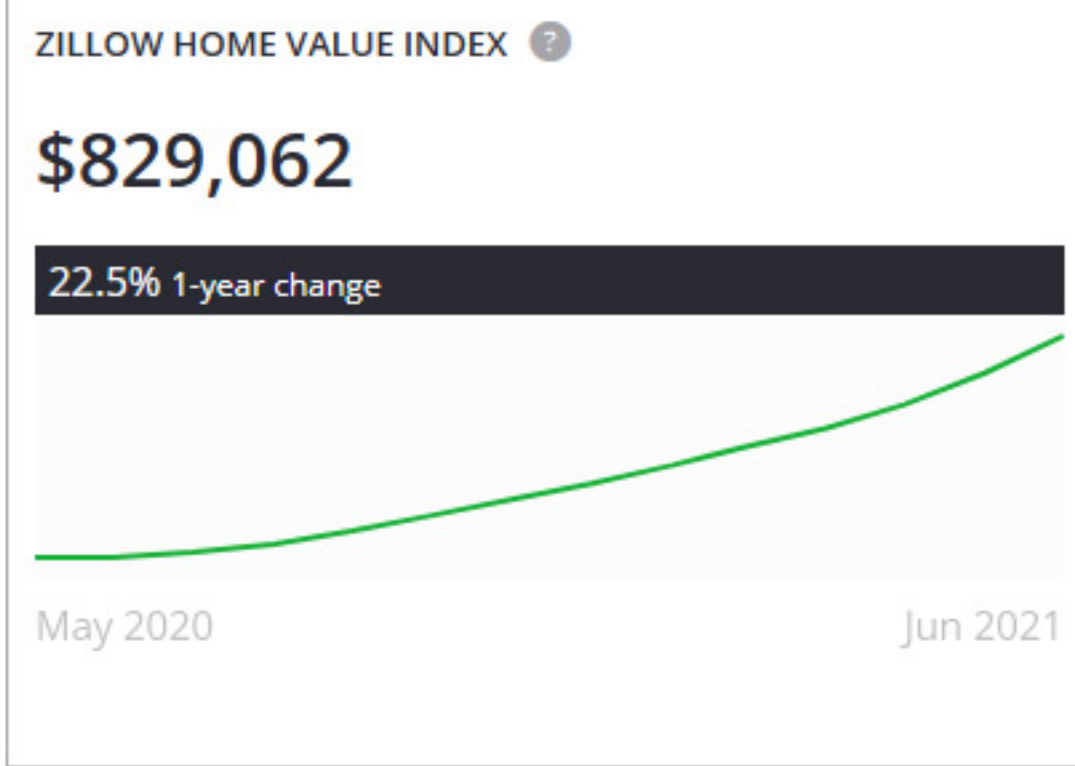


# San Diego home prices now up 25% in a year. Second-hottest market in the nation

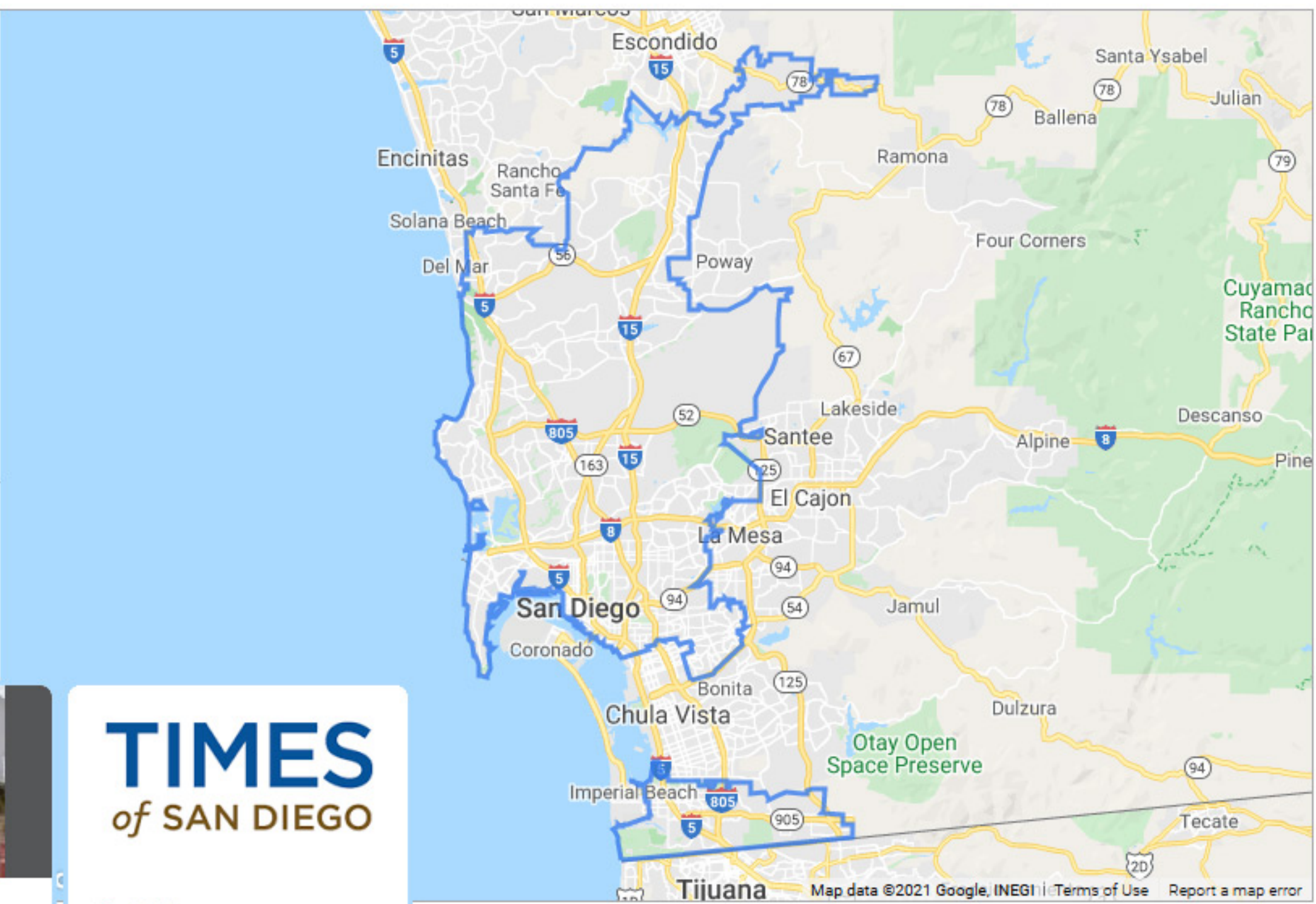
The San Diego Union-Tribune · 15 hours ago



## San Diego Home Values



The typical home value of homes in San Diego is \$829,062. This value is seasonally adjusted and only includes the middle price tier of homes. San Diego home values have gone up 22.5% over the past year.



**TIMES of SAN DIEGO**

**San Diego Home Prices Up Nearly 25% Over Past Year in 'Extraordinary' Surge**

20 hours ago

**TIMES of SAN DIEGO**

**San Diego Home Prices Up Nearly 25% Over Past Year in 'Extraordinary' Surge**

13 hours ago



**SARS-CoV-2 Delta variant**, also known as lineage B.1.617.2, is a variant of lineage B.1.617 of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.[1] It was first detected in India in late 2020.[2][3] The World Health Organization (WHO) named it the Delta variant on 31 May 2021.[4]

It has mutations in the gene encoding the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein[5] causing the substitutions T478K, P681R and L452R,[6] which are known to affect transmissibility of the virus as well as whether it can be neutralised by antibodies for previously circulating variants of the COVID-19 virus.[7][failed verification] Public Health England (PHE) in May 2021 observed secondary attack rates to be 51–67% higher than the alpha variant.[8] COVID-19 vaccines are effective in preventing severe disease or hospitalisation from infection with the variant, although some evidence suggests vaccinated people are more likely to develop symptoms from Delta than other variants of SARS-CoV-2.[9]

On 7 May 2021, PHE changed their classification of lineage B.1.617.2 from a variant under investigation (VUI) to a variant of concern (VOC) based on an assessment of transmissibility being at least equivalent to B.1.1.7 (Alpha variant);[10] the UK's SAGE subsequently estimated a "realistic" possibility of being 50% more transmissible.[11] On 11 May 2021, the WHO also classified this lineage VOC, and said that it showed evidence of higher transmissibility and reduced neutralisation. On 15 June 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) declared Delta a variant of concern.[12]

The variant is thought to be partly responsible for India's second wave of the pandemic beginning in February 2021.[13][14][15] It later contributed to a third wave in Fiji, the United Kingdom[16][17] and South Africa,[18] and the WHO warned in July 2021 it could have a similar effect elsewhere in Europe and Africa.[19][18] By late July it had also driven an increase in daily infections in parts of Asia,[20] the United States[21] and Australia.[22]

As of 20 July 2021, this variant had spread to 124 countries,[23] and WHO had indicated that it was becoming the dominant strain, if not one already.[24]

### Government responses

After the rise in cases from the second wave, at least 20 countries imposed travel bans and restrictions on passengers from India in April and May. UK prime minister Boris Johnson cancelled his visit to India twice, while Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga postponed his April trip.[169][170][171]

In May 2021, residents of two tower blocks in Velbert, Germany were quarantined after a woman in the building tested positive for the Delta variant.[172]

In May, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said that a new coronavirus variant from Singapore was extremely dangerous for children and could result in a third wave in India. Singapore's Ministry of Health said there was no Singapore variant nor any evidence of a coronavirus variant extremely dangerous to children,[173][174] and that the increase in COVID-19 cases came from the Delta variant.[174]

On 14 June, the British prime minister Boris Johnson announced that the proposed end of all restrictions on 21 June in the United Kingdom was delayed for up to four weeks and vaccination roll-out was accelerated following concerns over the Delta variant, which accounted for the vast majority (90%) of new infections.[175] UK scientists have said that the Delta variant is between 40% and 60% more transmissible than the previously-dominant Alpha variant, which was first identified in the UK (as the Kent variant).[176]

On 23 June, the province of Ontario in Canada accelerated 2nd dose vaccine appointments for people living in Delta hot spots such as Toronto, Peel and Hamilton.[177]

On 25 June, Israel restored their mask mandate citing the threat of Delta.[178]

On 28 June, Sydney and Darwin in Australia went back into lockdown because of Delta outbreaks.[179] South Africa banned indoor and outdoor gatherings apart from funerals, imposed a curfew, and banned the sale of alcohol.[180]

On 3 July, the islands of Bali and Java in Indonesia went into emergency lockdown.[181]

On 8 July, Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga announced that Tokyo would once again enter a state of emergency, and that most spectators would be barred from attending the Olympics set to start there on July 23.[182]

On 9 July, Seoul, Korea ramped up restrictions urging people to wear masks outdoors, and limiting the size of gatherings.[183]

On 12 July, French President Emmanuel Macron announced that all health care workers will need to be vaccinated by September 15 and that France will start using health passports to enter bars, cafés, restaurants and shopping centres from August.[184]

Los Angeles announced it will require masks indoors starting 17 July 2021.[185]

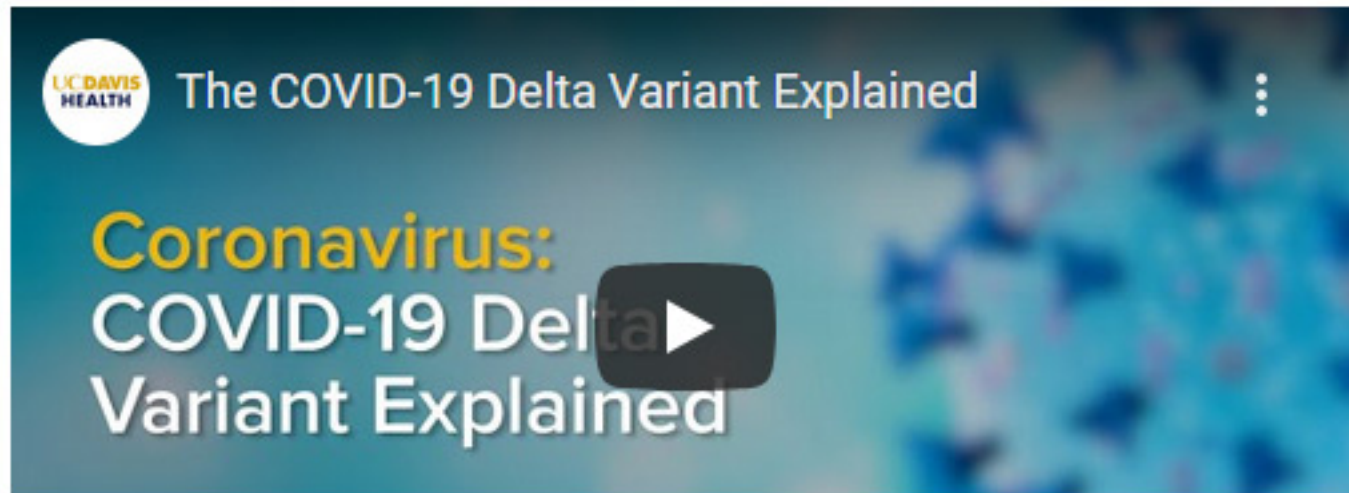
The United Kingdom lifted most COVID-19 restrictions on 19 July, despite a surge in cases as the Delta variant became dominant. The government cited the protection and wide coverage of the COVID-19 vaccination programme although health experts expressed concern at the move.[186][187]

On 23 July, Vietnam extended its lockdown of Ho Chi Minh City to August 1, and announced lockdown restrictions would be put in place in Hanoi, affecting a third of the country's population. The Delta variant had brought upon the country's largest outbreak to date, after mostly successful containment measures throughout 2020.[188][189]



## Delta variant: 8 things you should know about this COVID-19 strain

Updated July 23, 2021



A newer strain of COVID-19 is causing concern as cases are rising in California and across the U.S. The Delta variant, which originated in India, began spreading more rapidly and making news around the middle of June. Now, health experts are warning of another surge of COVID-19. Here's what health experts have learned about the Delta variant:

### 1. Delta variant is highly contagious

As of July 22, nearly 80% of UC Davis Health patients who tested positive for COVID-19 had the Delta variant. According to the CDC during the same week, the Delta variant accounted for more than 80% of new cases in the U.S. Health experts say it's typical for a new strain of a virus to be more contagious because it often becomes much more efficient and easily transmitted.

### 2. Delta variant symptoms are the same

The symptoms of the Delta variant appear to be the same as the original version of COVID-19. However, physicians are seeing people getting sicker quicker, especially for younger people. Recent research found that the Delta variant grows more rapidly – and to much greater levels – in the respiratory tract.

Typically, vaccinated people are either asymptomatic or have very mild symptoms if they contract the Delta variant. Their symptoms are more like those of a common cold, such as cough, fever or headache, with the addition of significant loss of smell.

### 3. Delta variant is affecting unvaccinated people more

Most patients hospitalized at UC Davis Medical Center are people who have not received the COVID-19 vaccine. Nationally, 97% of patients hospitalized with COVID-19 are unvaccinated, as of July 22. Vaccines are highly effective at preventing COVID-19 infection and are also effective in fighting against the Delta variant.

In California and across the U.S., data shows that areas with lower vaccination rates tend to have higher COVID-19 infection rates. Health experts urge that COVID-19 vaccines work to prevent severe disease, which may be fatal.

### 4. Breakthrough cases for vaccinated people are rare, but do happen

When a vaccinated person tests positive for COVID-19, most either have no symptoms or have very mild symptoms, and it rarely results in hospitalization or death. Their symptoms are more like those of a common cold, such as cough, fever or headache, with the addition of significant loss of smell.

As of July 22, there were 65,000 breakthrough cases (or people who are vaccinated but got COVID-19) among the 160 million people who are fully vaccinated. That's 0.04% of vaccinated people reporting breakthrough cases. No vaccine is 100% effective. With the COVID-19 vaccines averaging about 90% efficacy, health experts expect about 10% of those vaccinated could be infected.

### 5. Delta variant could be catastrophic in some communities

In communities with lower vaccination rates, particularly rural areas with limited access to care, the Delta variant could be even more damaging. This is already being seen around the world in poorer countries where the COVID-19 vaccine isn't as accessible. Health experts say the impact could be felt for decades to come.

Learn more about UC Davis Health's efforts to care for and vaccinate underserved communities

### 6. Many unvaccinated patients with COVID-19 wish they had gotten the vaccine

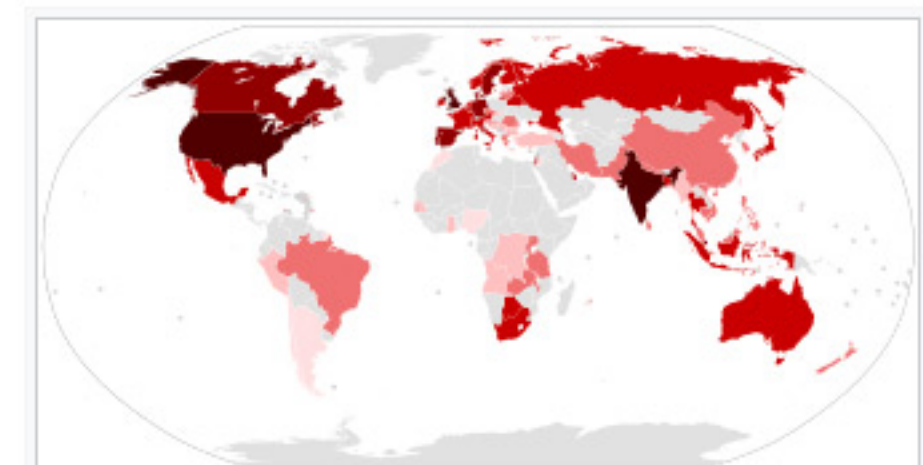
UC Davis Health physicians have noted that a number of younger patients, when they come in with critical illness, say that they wish they would have gotten the COVID-19 vaccine. Many patients have told their physicians, "Why did I not get the vaccine?" or "Why did I not listen?"

### 7. Some experts are recommending to wear masks, even if you're fully vaccinated

Many health experts across the country are wearing masks themselves even though they're fully vaccinated against COVID-19. They're also advising vaccinated people to avoid large gatherings and mask up indoors where the vaccination status of other people is unknown.

### 8. More COVID-19 variants are likely to come

The Delta variant is currently the most prominent strain of COVID-19, but the Lambda variant out of South America is also emerging. Health experts urge that if people want to get back to normal, a significant portion of the population needs to be vaccinated. As long as a chunk of people across the world are unvaccinated, new strains of the virus will continue to develop and cause problems.



Countries with confirmed cases of Delta variant as of 9 July 2021 (GISAIID)

**Legend:**

- 5,000+ confirmed sequences
- 1,000–4,999 confirmed sequences
- 100–999 confirmed sequences
- 10–99 confirmed sequences
- 2–9 confirmed sequences
- 1 confirmed sequence
- None or no data



# Walmart Offering Full College Tuition And Books For Employees

July 27, 2021 - 4:57 PM ET



JONATHAN FRANKLIN



Walmart has a plan to pay for its workers to get college degrees without going into debt.

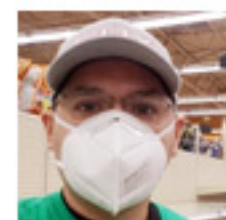
Walmart has a plan to pay for its workers to get college degrees without going into debt.

In an effort to help decrease the growing student debt nationwide, Walmart announced Tuesday that the company will begin offering free college tuition and books to its 1.5 million U.S. employees, effective Aug. 16.

Starting next month, the retail giant said it will drop its existing \$1-per-day fee for associates who participate in its Live Better U education program. As a result, approximately 1.5 million part-time and full-time Walmart and Sam's Club associates in the U.S. will be able to earn college degrees or learn trade skills without the burden of accumulating college debt.

"We are creating a path of opportunity for our associates to grow their careers at Walmart, so they can continue to build better lives for themselves and their families," said Lorraine Stomski, senior vice president of learning and leadership at Walmart in a statement released Tuesday. "This investment is another way we can support our associates to pursue their passion and purpose while removing the barriers that too often keep adult working learners from obtaining degrees."

The Live Better U education program was created three years ago in order to help employees grow and advance within the company.



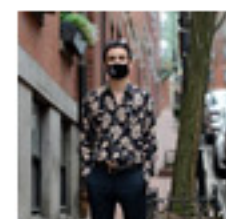
## THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

[More Essential Than Ever, Low-Wage Workers Demand More](#)



## POLITICS

[Sanders And Top Progressives Push To Make College Free For Most Americans](#)



## NATIONAL

[States Step In To Stop Colleges Holding Transcripts Ransom For Unpaid Bills](#)

Employees can choose from a variety of institutions, including: Johnson & Wales University, the University of Arizona, the University of Denver and Pathstream — complementing its existing "academic partners": Brandman University, Penn Foster, Purdue University Global, Southern New Hampshire University, Wilmington University and Voxy EnGen. Participants in the program must continue to be part-time or full-time employees.

Since the program started in 2018, more than 52,000 associates have participated in the program to date and 8,000 have already graduated, Walmart said.

"As the company making one of the nation's largest investments in education for America's workforce, Walmart is setting a new standard for what it looks like to prepare workers for the jobs of the future," said Rachel Carlson, CEO & co-founder of Guild Education. "Walmart is creating growth opportunities for their workforce and preparing them for the future of work."



BENDY

# X-RAY ECHOES BEHIND BLACK HOLES PROVIDE “EXTREME” PROOF EINSTEIN WAS RIGHT

The massive gravity of a black hole actually bent X-ray echoes from around its back.

When scientists first turned the X-Ray space telescopes NuSTAR and XMM-Newton toward a supermassive black hole in the center of a distant galaxy with the memorable name of IZwicky1, they knew their mission: How could it be that some of nature’s darkest forces are also some of its brightest? Black holes are called black holes for a reason. Yet, the hot gasses that fall into black holes become superheated and glow intensely. This was a question the international team aimed to solve. Instead, they wound up confirming Albert Einstein’s theory of general relativity in one of its most extreme tests to date.

Through a serendipitous observation of exceptionally bright X-ray flares around the supermassive black hole and careful analysis of the flare’s “echoes,” researchers were able to prove that what they were actually seeing were X-ray reflections from behind the black hole. The black hole’s massive gravity was bending the X-ray light around the corner, so to speak. “It’s really further confirmation that this light bending is still working as Einstein predicted it, even when the gravity gets really strong and really close to a black hole,” Dan Wilkins tells Inverse. Wilkins is the paper’s first author and a Stanford University research scientist. “It’s confirming what we already knew,” he says, “but at a more extreme scale.”

The theory of general relativity suggests that a massive object can warp space-time around it, creating what we experience as gravity. This facet of the theory has been proven many times, perhaps most famously during a solar eclipse in 1919, when astronomer Arthur Eddington confirmed that the sun’s gravity bent the light from stars — just as Einstein predicted. Astronomers have since used the gravity of distant galaxies to see around them toward even more distant objects, a phenomenon known as “gravitational lensing.” But this new work takes gravitational lensing to a whole new level, according to Wilkins. “It’s not just light being reflected a little bit. It’s coming from all the way behind the black hole, being bent all the way around into our line of sight,” he says. “It’s gravitational lensing at its most extreme.”

**Why it matters** — In the big picture, the new findings add one more brick in the column of evidence supporting general relativity. There are also implications for better understanding galaxies, stars, and black holes themselves.

It’s thought that most galaxies contain a supermassive black hole at their center, including our own Milky Way. Better understanding how these supermassive black holes function could help scientists better understand their possible role in galaxy formation, according to Wilkins. And in the process of verifying the gravitational bending of the X-rays around this particular supermassive black hole, the researchers also developed a new tool to help them study other black holes. Most such objects are too distant to photograph, but Wilkins says they can now use measurements of X-ray echoes as a sort of sonar “to reconstruct that picture, of that map, of the extreme environment outside a black hole.”

**What’s next** — The immediate next step for Wilkins and other researchers is to refine the new techniques to get better and better measurements of X-ray echoes, as well as a better picture of what the area around a black hole actually looks like.



CAPITOL RIOTS →

# *This Was the Biggest, Loudest Cop Union in America. Then Came Jan. 6.*

**| DOUBLE STANDARD? |**

**Andrew Boryga**

Justice Reporter

Updated Jul. 29, 2021 3:37AM ET

Published Jul. 28, 2021 10:06PM ET



Since historic protests against police violence in America broke out in force last May, police unions across the country have come under renewed and sometimes scathing scrutiny. After all, they have long been reliable defenders of cops who shoot and kill unarmed people, and their leaders have a penchant for slamming police critics, whether lawmakers and celebrities who advocate for controversial policies like “defunding the police,” or rank and file protesters.

Given this track record, Michael Fanone, one of the many cops who fended off rioters at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, said he expected the largest police union in the country, the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), to come out strongly in defense of him and fellow officers. The cops who stared down violent pro-Trump mobs that day have not only had to deal with their own physical and emotional injuries, but have also endured criticism from Republican lawmakers, hostile civilians, and even efforts by the former president to downplay the seriousness of the January riot.

But in an interview on CNN Wednesday, Fanone—fresh from testifying to Congress on Tuesday about his experience at the Capitol—said he received no outreach from the union immediately after Jan. 6. Even though the D.C. Metro cop has been a dues-paying member of the FOP since he first became a police officer, he said, it wasn’t until six months after the riot that he spoke with FOP President Patrick Yoes to voice his concerns about a lack of support from the union.

“I’ll be honest with you,” he told CNN, “I wasn’t particularly impressed with that conversation. I was extremely disappointed.”

Among the things Fanone was visibly pissed about was what he described as the FOP’s failure to marshal institutional support on behalf of the officers who defended the Capitol. This is a group that represents over 300,000 officers across the country, and has more than 100,000 followers on social media.

A review of statements and social-media posts by The Daily Beast bolster Fanone’s case. While the union has decried the Capitol attack from the jump, the posts, and conversations with experts, paint a picture of a typically loud-mouthed lobby that has been relatively muted thanks to undying devotion to Donald Trump.

[...]

But Seth W. Stoughton, associate professor of criminology and criminal Justice at the University of South Carolina and a former Tallahassee Police Department Officer, said the relatively paltry response from the union was telling.

As he put it, it “exposes the degree to which political tribalism overpowers purported political ideology.”

“Actions speak louder than words,” Stoughton said, “and it should now be abundantly clear to anyone who is paying attention—especially those in policing—that when lawmakers say they ‘back the blue,’ they mean ‘except when it’s inconvenient.’”



## CDC Changes Mask Guidance For Vaccinated People, Including In Schools : Shots - Health News

NPR · 21 hours ago



## California to follow CDC, recommend universal mask wearing indoors when in public

10News · 14 hours ago



## San Diego County echoes CDC guidance, asks all residents to mask indoors, whether vaccinated or not

La Jolla Light · 12 hours ago

Officials are endorsing — but not mandating — indoor masking following new guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention revised its guidance on wearing masks Tuesday. In a reversal of its earlier position, the agency is now recommending that some fully vaccinated people wear masks indoors if they live in areas with significant or high spread. Currently, much of the country falls into that category — with the exception of the Northeast and parts of the Upper Midwest. The CDC provides this link if you want to see the area of spread in the county where you live.

"This was not a decision that was taken lightly," said Dr. Rochelle Walensky, the CDC's director, acknowledging that people are "tired and frustrated."

But Walensky pointed to new data showing that while vaccinated people still account for a small amount of risk, in rare cases they can get infected and spread the virus to others.

**"The delta variant is showing every day its willingness to outsmart us," Walensky said.**

"When we examine the rare breakthrough infections and we look at the amount of virus in those people, it is pretty similar to the amount of virus in unvaccinated people," she said. And, it's possible that because of this higher viral load, people with breakthrough cases of delta may be able to spread it.

"Unlike the alpha variant that we had back in May where we didn't believe that if you were vaccinated, you could transmit further, this is different now with a delta variant," she explained.

The CDC move comes as the highly transmissible delta variant fuels a surge in cases around the country, and multiple cities have reinstated indoor mask mandates, including in Los Angeles County and St. Louis. For weeks, many public health experts had been nudging the agency to change its policy, arguing that fully vaccinated people should wear masks in indoor settings, especially in areas where transmission of the virus is high.

"We have places that are now reporting over 300 cases per 100,000, so an extraordinary amount of viral transmission," Walensky said. And she again urged people who have not been vaccinated to get their shots.

"The highest spread of cases and severe outcomes is happening in places with low vaccination rates and among unvaccinated people," she said. And "the associated illness, suffering and death could have been avoided."

In addition, the agency recommends that all teachers, staff and students of K-12 schools wear masks, even if they are vaccinated. As the delta variant spreads, particularly in areas where vaccination rates are low, kids remain unprotected against the virus. The vaccines are not authorized for children under 12, and many teenagers have yet to get vaccinated.

The nation's leading group of pediatricians also recommends mandatory masking in schools for all students (over 2 years old), staff and teachers regardless of vaccination status.

In May, the agency signaled it was safe for fully vaccinated people to stop masking in most settings. At that time cases were dropping significantly, and the vaccination campaign was in full swing. Nearly 2 million shots were administered on the day the policy was announced. "You can do things you stopped doing because of the pandemic," Walensky said at the time.

The hope was that dropping the mask mandate would encourage more people to get vaccinated. Back in April when the outdoor mask mandate was lifted, President Biden said that for those who haven't been vaccinated, or feel they don't need to be, "this is another great reason to go get vaccinated now."

But three months later about 30% of adults in the U.S. haven't been vaccinated. And polls suggest that up to 80% of unvaccinated adults are unlikely to change their minds.

**The decision to lift the mask mandate in the spring wasn't well thought out,** said Dr. Zeke Emanuel, a health policy researcher at the University of Pennsylvania, and the agency has been delaying taking action as the delta variant spreads.



# The Economy Is Surging. These 4 Things Will Determine What Happens Next

July 29, 2021 · 5:00 AM ET

Heard on [Morning Edition](#)



The U.S. economy likely grew at a blistering pace as the country emerged from the darkest days of the coronavirus pandemic. The question now is what happens next, especially as the delta variant continues to spread. On Thursday morning, the Commerce Department is expected to report that gross domestic product grew around 8% in the period between April and June from a year earlier as the rollout of vaccines spurred a surge in economic activity. The question is how much the economy could slow. Here are four factors that could determine the path forward:

## **The delta variant and the here-we-go-again impact**

The pandemic is clearly not over yet. The highly transmissible delta variant of the coronavirus is fueling a surge in cases around the U.S., and multiple municipalities have reinstated indoor mask mandates, including Los Angeles County and St. Louis.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention this week revised its guidance to recommend that some fully vaccinated people wear masks indoors if they live in areas with substantial or high transmission.

Although few people expect the type of economic impact we saw when the pandemic started last year, it remains a real concern, given that only about half of the U.S. population is fully vaccinated.

## **High inflation: temporary or here to stay?**

Another risk is inflation. Data this month showed consumer prices surged 5.4% in June from a year earlier, the highest increase in nearly 13 years. On Wednesday, after the Federal Reserve's two-day meeting, Chair Jerome Powell again maintained that these increases are a result of pandemic disruptions to the economy and will be short-lived or "transitory." Others are not so sure. Some economists worry that inflation could prove harder to reverse if Americans and businesses start to expect that prices will be high — and act accordingly.

## **The big debate over workers in America**

Perhaps no issue has split opinions more sharply than why some Americans have remained reluctant to return to work, hindering some sectors like leisure and hospitality. Republicans have consistently blamed the enhanced unemployment benefits passed during the pandemic. They say the benefits are a disincentive to work, and about half of states — almost all led by Republican governors — are ending the benefits early. The data so far has been inconclusive, and analysts cite a number of reasons that some Americans have stayed on the sidelines, including health concerns, difficulty finding child care and, yes, the financial cushion provided by expanded benefits.

## **Chips and the supply chain chaos**

It's a problem that has bedeviled industries from carmakers to homebuilders since last year: A surge in demand from people cooped up at home has led to shortages of key materials, such as chips used in all kinds of electronics and cars, as suppliers struggle to keep up.

Though some of the supply chain constraints are starting to ease — in the lumber sector, for example — there's no certainty of when global trade will approach normality. So far the impact has been manageable overall, though much depends on how long the shortages of key materials last.

"If there will be any drag on growth in the second quarter, it could be from inventory," says Bryson, of Wells Fargo. "[There are] lots of supply constraints, businesses can't produce as much and so, because of that, they may have been selling out of their inventory, and that could be a mild headwind to growth."



## Harris releases strategy to tackle migration's root causes

By ELLIOT SPAGAT an hour ago



SAN DIEGO (AP) — Vice President Kamala Harris said Thursday that efforts to address root causes of migration from three Central American countries won't produce immediate results as she unveiled a broad strategy that avoids detailed targets and deadlines.

Harris said the United States alone cannot tackle deep-seated motives for people to leave Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, including corruption, violence and poverty. The governments of Mexico, Japan and South Korea, along with the United Nations, have committed to joining the push, she said without elaborating.

A one-page letter from the vice president and a fact sheet adhere to previous statements supporting short-term relief for migration pressures like extreme weather while committing sustained attention to long-term motivations for people to leave their countries.

"We will build on what works, and we will pivot away from what does not work," she wrote. "It will not be easy, and progress will not be instantaneous, but we are committed to getting it right."

Harris noted that she recently traveled to Guatemala, "where one of the largest challenges is corruption." On Tuesday, the Biden administration said it suspended cooperation with Guatemala's Attorney General's Office after the firing of the agency's top anti-corruption prosecutor, saying it "lost confidence" in the country's willingness to fight corruption.

**The White House also released a "Collaborative Migration Management Strategy,"** which President Joe Biden ordered in February to outline how the United States will work with other countries to address migration flows. Like the strategy on root causes, the one-page document is a broad statement of principles, many of which have been espoused by Biden and top aides before. They include expanding protections and job opportunities in countries where people are leaving, creating more legal pathways to come to the United States and fostering "secure and humane management of borders."

Harris' task, which Biden assumed when he was President Barack Obama's vice president, is enormous in scope and complexity, and the administration has struggled for short- and long-term responses.

U.S. border authorities reported large numbers of arrivals at the Mexican border in June, with significant increases in people arriving in families and children traveling alone. The trend appears to be continuing in July, when soaring temperatures often deter people from coming.

A group of 509 migrants from Central and South America turned themselves in Monday night in Hidalgo, Texas, hours after another group of 336 migrants was encountered nearby, said Brian Hastings, the Border Patrol sector chief in Rio Grande Valley, the busiest corridor for illegal crossings.

On Monday, the Department of Homeland Security said it resumed fast-track deportations, known as expedited removals, for "certain" families that don't express fear of being returned home. While it never announced a suspension, many families that enter the country illegally have been getting released in the United States with orders to appear in immigration court or report to immigration authorities.

BRIEFING ROOM

### FACT SHEET: The Collaborative Migration Management Strategy

JULY 29, 2021 • STATEMENTS AND RELEASES

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/07/29/fact-sheet-the-collaborative-migration-management-strategy/>



**Life** is a characteristic that distinguishes **physical entities** that have **biological processes**, such as **signaling** and **self-sustaining processes**, from those that do not, either because such functions have ceased (they have **died**), or because they never had such functions and are classified as inanimate. Various forms of life exist, such as **plants**, **animals**, **fungi**, **protists**, **archaea**, and **bacteria**. **Biology** is the science that studies life.

There is currently no consensus regarding the definition of life. One popular definition is that **organisms** are **open systems** that maintain **homeostasis**, are composed of **cells**, have a **life cycle**, undergo **metabolism**, can **grow**, **adapt** to their environment, respond to **stimuli**, **reproduce** and **evolve**. Other definitions sometimes include non-cellular life forms such as **viruses** and **viroids**.

**Abiogenesis** is the natural process of life arising from non-living matter, such as simple **organic compounds**. The prevailing scientific hypothesis is that the transition from non-living to living entities was not a single event, but a gradual process of increasing complexity. Life on Earth **first appeared** as early as 4.28 billion years ago, soon after **ocean formation 4.41 billion years ago**, and not long after the **formation of the Earth 4.54 billion years ago**.<sup>[1][2][3][4]</sup> The earliest known life forms are microfossils of bacteria.<sup>[5][6]</sup> Life on Earth is probably descended from an **RNA world**,<sup>[7]</sup> although **RNA-based life** may not have been the first life to have existed.<sup>[8][9]</sup> The classic 1952 **Miller–Urey experiment** and similar research demonstrated that most amino acids, the chemical constituents of the **proteins** used in all living organisms, can be synthesized from **inorganic compounds** under conditions intended to replicate those of the **early Earth**. Complex **organic molecules** occur in the **Solar System** and in **interstellar space**, and these molecules may have provided **starting material** for the development of life on Earth.<sup>[10][11][12][13]</sup>

### Life

Temporal range: 4280–0 Ma

Hadean - Present

Plants in the Rwenzori Mountains, Uganda

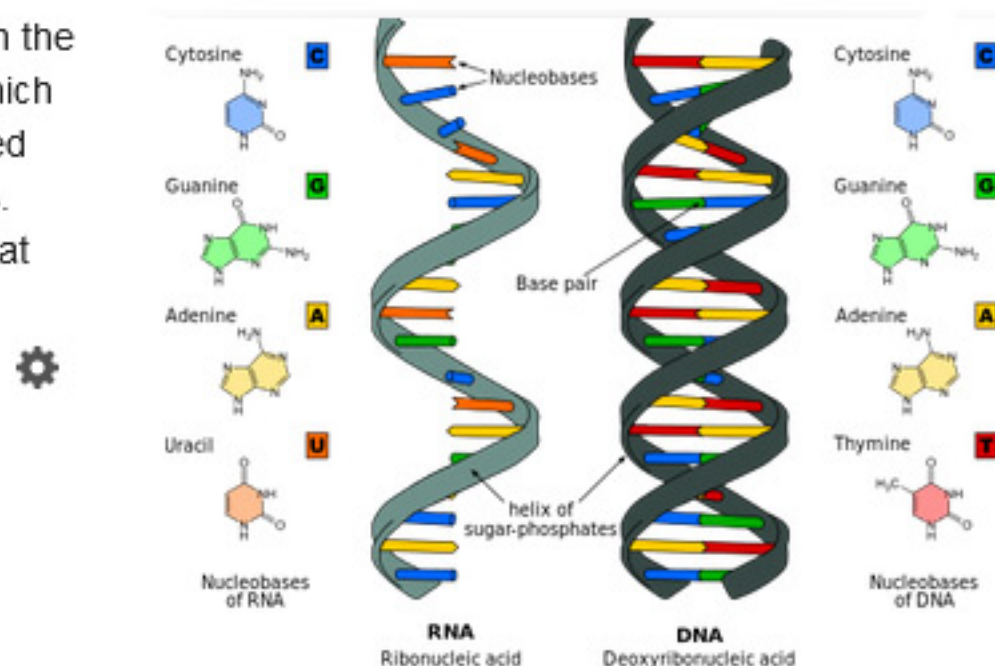
#### Scientific classification

#### Domains and Supergroups

Life on Earth:

- Non-cellular life<sup>[note 1][note 2]</sup>
  - Viruses<sup>[note 3]</sup>
  - Viroids
- Cellular life
  - Domain Bacteria
  - Domain Archaea
  - Domain Eukarya
    - Archaeplastida
    - SAR
    - Excavata
    - Amoebozoa
    - Opisthokonta

The **RNA world** is a hypothetical stage in the evolutionary history of life on Earth, in which self-replicating RNA molecules proliferated before the evolution of DNA and proteins. The term also refers to the hypothesis that posits the existence of this stage.



Therefore, a possibility, first suggested by **Francis Crick**,<sup>[143]</sup> is that the first life was based on **RNA**,<sup>[142]</sup> which has the DNA-like properties of information storage and the **catalytic** properties of some proteins. This is called the **RNA world hypothesis**, and it is supported by the observation that many of the most critical components of cells (those that **evolve** the slowest) are composed mostly or entirely of RNA. Also, many critical cofactors (**ATP**, **Acetyl-CoA**, **NADH**, etc.) are either nucleotides or substances clearly related to them. The catalytic properties of RNA had not yet been demonstrated when the hypothesis was first proposed,<sup>[144]</sup> but they were confirmed by **Thomas Cech** in 1986.<sup>[145]</sup>

One issue with the RNA world hypothesis is that synthesis of RNA from simple inorganic precursors is more difficult than for other organic molecules. One reason for this is that RNA precursors are very stable and react with each other very slowly under ambient conditions, and it has also been proposed that living organisms consisted of other molecules before RNA.<sup>[146]</sup> However, the successful synthesis of certain RNA molecules under the conditions that existed prior to life on Earth has been achieved by adding alternative precursors in a specified order with the precursor **phosphate** present throughout the reaction.<sup>[147]</sup> This study makes the RNA world hypothesis more plausible.<sup>[148]</sup>



# Pro-Sanders group rebranding into 'pragmatic progressives'

By WILL WEISSERT 25 minutes ago



WASHINGTON (AP) — Stinging from the disappointment of Bernie Sanders’ loss in the 2016 Democratic presidential primary, supporters pumped millions into the powerful advocacy group Our Revolution to keep the progressive fight alive and prepare for another swing at the White House.

But after another defeat in 2020, the 79-year-old Vermont senator is unlikely to run for president a third time. And the organization centered on his fiery brand of politics is undergoing a rebranding.

Rather than insisting on “Medicare for All” — Sanders’ trademark universal, government-funded health care plan — or the climate-change-fighting Green New Deal, Our Revolution is focusing on the more modest alternatives endorsed by President Joe Biden. Those include expanding eligibility for the existing Medicare program and curtailing federal subsidies for fossil fuel companies.

The shift reflects a progressive movement that is at a crossroads. Biden won the Democratic nomination last year by offering more centrist alternatives to much of Sanders’ agenda. Since then, progressive candidates have faced a series of electoral disappointments and are contending with anxiety from moderate Democrats worried that the party’s leftward shift could cost them control of Congress during next year’s midterm elections.



## Joseph Geevarghese

@JosephGeev

Executive Director of Our Revolution, @OurRevolution

Washington, DC [ourrevolution.com](http://ourrevolution.com) Joined January 2021

0 Following 20 Followers

“Coming out of Bernie’s 2016 campaign, in some ways the organization was probably more of a bridge organization between the two electoral cycles,” Joseph Geevarghese, Our Revolution’s executive director, said in an interview. “What we’re trying to build is something that is longer term” and “part of the overall ecosystem of the progressive movement.”

“I think we are rooted in a bold, progressive vision, but we’re also pragmatic progressives,” Geevarghese said.

[...]

Now, though, some other progressive organizations salute Our Revolution as further mobilizing grassroots activists heartened by Sanders’ strong presidential runs.

“You can see a real change in the trajectory of where the Democratic Party is when it comes to the big investments, the use of government levers to improve people’s livelihoods, the fight against climate change,” said Erich Pica, president of Friends of the Earth Action. “That is Our Revolution and Sen. Sanders really energizing that progressive base out there — and that base has made itself known in the electoral context.”

With next year’s midterms approaching, Our Revolution doesn’t plan to stop supporting progressives who challenge more moderate Democrats in primaries — even as the party clings to its narrow majority in both chambers.

“We want to have a united party going in, and that means mainstream Democrats have to make progress on our policy priorities,” Geevarghese said. “They can’t just talk the talk in the campaign and then get elected and then say, ‘Oh, it’s not doable.’”



# Chinese Billionaire Sun Dawu Is Sentenced To 18 Years For 'Provoking Trouble'

July 28, 2021 - 11:57 AM ET



EMILY FENG



Sun Dawu, shown here in 2005, was sentenced Wednesday in a court in China's Hebei province. The billionaire pig farmer was found guilty of eight charges, including gathering crowds to attack state agencies, illegal fundraising and "provoking trouble."

BEIJING — Sun Dawu, one of China's best-known rural entrepreneurs, was handed an 18-year prison sentence on Wednesday amid broader efforts by authorities in China to rein in powerful businessmen and limit the influence of private enterprise.

**The billionaire pig farmer was found guilty of eight charges by the Gaobeidian District People's Court in Hebei province. The charges included gathering crowds to attack state agencies, illegal fundraising and "provoking trouble."**

Nineteen of Sun's relatives and employees were given shorter sentences, ranging from 15 months to 12 years. Sun's Dawu Agricultural and Animal Husbandry Group conglomerate was fined \$480,000.

Sun's legal team declined to comment on the case, saying it was too politically sensitive. One lawyer spoke of the fear of losing the license to practice law if interviewed by NPR. Sun's case stemmed from a minor property dispute with a neighboring state farm that turned violent last summer. Dawu Group employees tried to petition local regulators for help in resolving the dispute. But in November, authorities detained more than two dozen of Sun's relatives and employees, holding them in a type of secret house arrest for more than five months until they were formally charged.

They described brutal conditions. "There were no windows in the designated residential surveillance area and the lights were on 24 hours a day, making it impossible to distinguish between day and night," said Jin Fengyu, Dawu Group's deputy director, according to notes provided by Sun's defense team. "A camera watched me and because of the lack of privacy, I never once could bathe." It has not been a good year for private businesses in China. The country's most valuable technology companies are facing a raft of new regulations severely restricting their scope of business. Meanwhile, thousands of owners of small and midsize private businesses have been nabbed in a three-year anti-corruption campaign that legal experts said has ensnared many innocent firms.

Sun, a 67-year-old social justice advocate and staunch defender of rural development, had once enjoyed a kind political celebrity. Prestigious Chinese universities invited him to deliver lectures on rural land reform and entrepreneurship. Intellectuals and political activists frequently stopped by his company headquarters. Top political leaders sought his advice on raising rural incomes. Over the years, he also covered legal costs for prominent human rights lawyers. The tycoon's idealism spurred him to fund his own hospital and school system, providing heavily subsidized services to Dawu Group's about 9,000 employees and their families.

Those social services became the basis for one of the charges against him — illegal fundraising. Authorities said Dawu Group had borrowed \$104 billion from employees and relatives on a fraudulent basis since 2003. Sun denied the charge. Dawu Group did not have ready access to credit, highlighting the legal complexities facing rural entrepreneurs. China's ruling Communist Party does not allow the sale of rural land or its use as collateral when obtaining bank loans, forcing rural firms to turn to shadow lending or private wealth.

**Last year, the state took over Dawu Group's operations, and most of the group's executives are now in prison.** During Sun's 12-day trial this month, police repeatedly blocked journalists from attending. Few onlookers were allowed access to the courtroom despite previous assurances that relatives and employees could attend.

Locked out of the court, some employees quietly celebrated Sun's birthday,



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amanda\\_Knox](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amanda_Knox)

<https://twitter.com/search/amanda+knox+stillwater>

amanda knox stillwater on Twitter



Amanda Knox  
@amandaknox

Does my name belong to me? My face? What about my life? My story? Why does my name refer to events I had no hand in? I return to these questions because others continue to profit off my name, face, & story without my consent. Most recently, the film #STILLWATER. / a thread

Twitter · 13 hours ago

**Stillwater** is a 2021 American [crime drama film](#) directed by Tom McCarthy, based on a script he co-wrote with Marcus Hinchey, Thomas Bidegain, and Noé Debré. It stars [Matt Damon](#) as an unemployed oil rig worker from Oklahoma who sets out alongside a French woman ([Camille Cottin](#)) to prove his convicted daughter's ([Abigail Breslin](#)) innocence. It is loosely based on the story of [Amanda Knox](#), a teenager who was wrongfully convicted of murder in Italy in 2007.<sup>[3]</sup>

The film had its world premiere at the [Cannes Film Festival](#) on July 8, 2021, and was theatrically released in the United States on July 30, 2021, by [Focus Features](#). It received mixed reviews from critics.

## Amanda Knox blasts Matt Damon flick 'Stillwater,' claims it's cashing in on her wrongful conviction

Fox News · 2 hours ago



**Amanda Marie Knox** (born July 9, 1987) is an American woman who spent almost four years in an Italian prison following her conviction for the 2007 [murder of Meredith Kercher](#), a fellow [exchange student](#) who shared her apartment. In 2015, Knox was definitively acquitted by the [Italian Supreme Court of Cassation](#).

Knox, aged 20 at the time of the murder, had called the police after returning to her and Kercher's apartment following a night spent with her boyfriend, Raffaele Sollecito, and finding Kercher's bedroom door locked and blood in the bathroom. During the police interrogations that followed, the conduct of which is a matter of dispute, Knox allegedly implicated herself and her employer, Patrick Lumumba, in the murder. Initially, Knox, Sollecito, and Lumumba were all arrested for Kercher's murder, but Lumumba was soon released. In the initial trial, Knox and Sollecito were convicted and sentenced to 26 and 25 years in prison, respectively. Known [burglar Rudy Guede](#) was arrested a short time later following the discovery of his bloodstained fingerprints on Kercher's possessions. He was later found guilty of murder in a fast-track trial and was sentenced to a 16-year prison sentence. As of December 4, 2020, an Italian court ruled that Guede could complete his term doing community service.<sup>[1]</sup>

Pre-trial publicity in Italian media (and repeated by other media worldwide) portrayed Knox in a negative light, leading to complaints that the [prosecution](#) was using [character assassination](#) tactics. A guilty verdict at Knox's initial trial and her 26-year sentence caused international controversy, as U.S. forensic experts thought evidence at the crime scene was incompatible with her involvement. A prolonged legal process, including a successful prosecution appeal against her [acquittal](#) at a second-level trial, continued after Knox was freed in 2011. On March 27, 2015, Italy's [highest court](#) definitively exonerated Knox and Sollecito. However, Knox's conviction for committing [calunnia](#) (calumny) against Lumumba was upheld by all courts. On January 14, 2016, Knox was acquitted of [calunnia](#) for saying she had been struck by policewomen during the interrogation.<sup>[2]</sup>

Knox subsequently became an author, an activist, and a journalist.<sup>[3][4]</sup> Her memoir, *Waiting to Be Heard*, became a best seller.<sup>[5]</sup> In December 2017, [Facebook Watch](#) announced that Knox would be hosting a show, *The Scarlet Letter Reports*, produced by [Vice Media](#) on its service.<sup>[6]</sup>

## Stillwater



Theatrical release poster

## Amanda Knox



Knox in July 2016

<b>Born</b>	Amanda Marie Knox July 9, 1987 (age 34) <a href="#">Seattle, Washington, U.S.</a>
<b>Education</b>	<a href="#">University of Washington (BA)</a>
<b>Occupation</b>	Writer, journalist
<b>Known for</b>	Convicted of the <a href="#">murder of Meredith Kercher</a> then subsequently exonerated in 2015
<b>Spouse(s)</b>	<a href="#">Christopher Robinson</a> (m. 2018)
<b>Website</b>	<a href="#">AmandaKnox.com</a> <span> </span> <span><span><span></span></span></span>



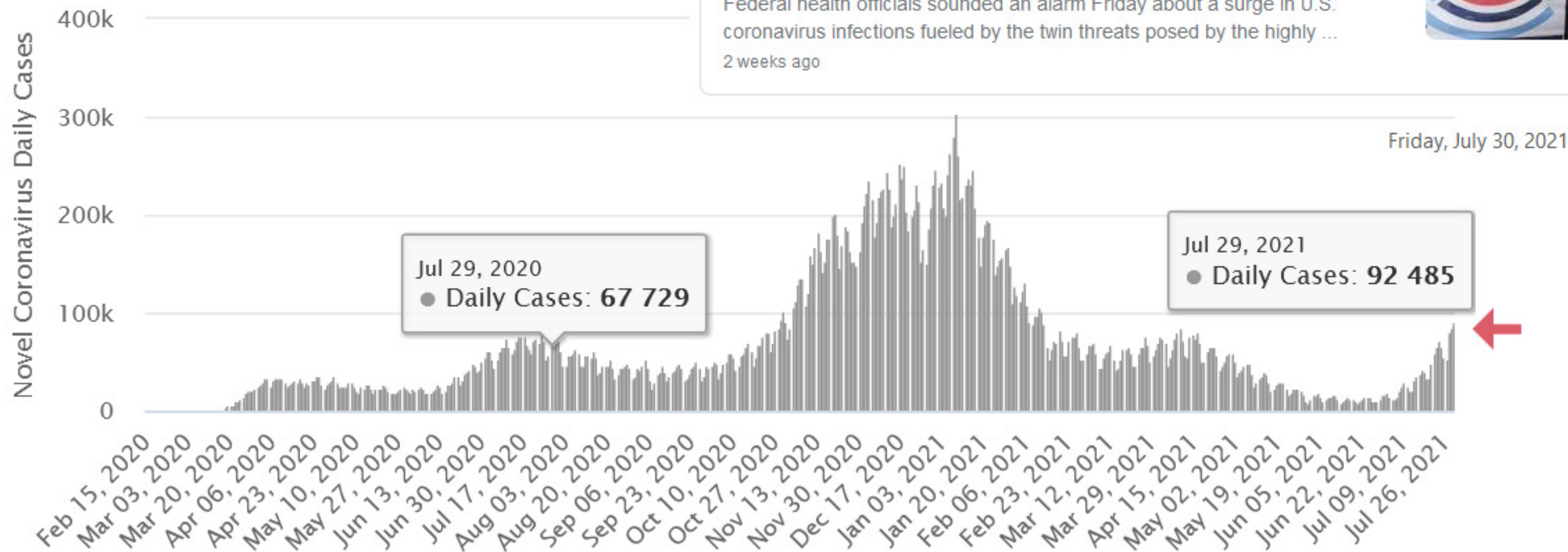
### Delta variant takes hold in U.S. as coronavirus cases rise nearly 70 percent

Federal health officials sounded an alarm Friday about a surge in U.S. coronavirus infections fueled by the twin threats posed by the highly ...

2 weeks ago

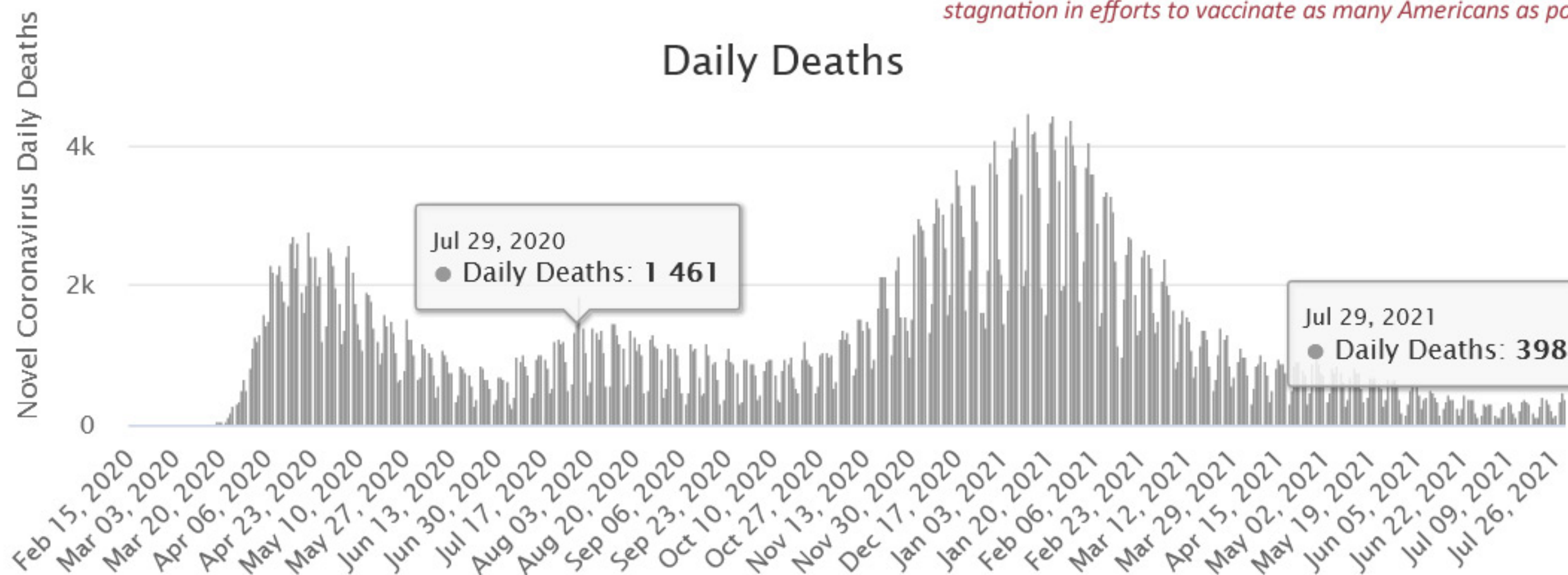


## Daily New Cases in the United States



*WaPo July 16, 2021: "Federal health officials sounded an alarm Friday about a surge in U.S. coronavirus infections fueled by the twin threats posed by the highly transmissible delta variant and a stagnation in efforts to vaccinate as many Americans as possible."*

## Daily Deaths





The French Gourmet  
960 Turquoise St, San Diego, CA 92109  
<https://thefrenchgourmet.com/>

  
**Savory Croissant**  
FRESH BAKED  
LARGE CROISSANT  
\$5.50

  
**Raisin Roll**  
Large Roll  
\$4.50

  
**Chocolate Roll**  
Large Roll  
\$4.50

  
**Almond Croissant**  
\$4.00

  
**Chocolate Croissant**  
\$5.50

  
**Croissant**  
\$3.00





# Djokovic loses to Zverev at Olympics, ending Golden Slam bid

By ANDREW DAMPF 2 minutes ago



Alexander Zverev, of Germany, embraces Novak Djokovic, of Serbia, after defeating Djokovic in the semifinal round of the men's tennis competition at the 2020 Summer Olympics, Friday, July 30, 2021, in Tokyo, Japan. (AP Photo/Patrick Semansky)

TOKYO (AP) — With his Golden Slam bid over for at least another three years, Novak Djokovic rested his head on Alexander Zverev's shoulder as his German opponent and friend consoled him.

"I told him that he's the greatest of all time," Zverev said. "I know that he was chasing history."

Djokovic, the top-ranked Serb who had seemed invincible in all of the biggest tournaments this year, lost to Zverev 1-6, 6-3, 6-1 Friday in the semifinals of the tennis tournament at the Tokyo Olympics.

Djokovic was attempting to become the first man to win all four Grand Slam tournaments and Olympic gold in the same year. He won the Australian Open, the French Open and Wimbledon this year and needed the Olympic and U.S. Open titles to complete the Golden Slam collection.



# Simone Biles Now Realizes She's More Than Her Gymnastics Accomplishments

July 29, 2021 · 1:40 AM ET



U.S. star Simone Biles has pulled out of the individual all-around final at the Summer Olympics in Tokyo.



the outpouring love & support I've received has made me realize I'm more than my accomplishments and gymnastics which I never truly believed before. ❤️

6:46 PM · Jul 28, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

54.6K Retweets 7,651 Quote Tweets 774.8K Likes

• Opinion | Diana Nyad: At first, I judged Simone Biles. Now I see her sacrifice.

The Washington Post · 13 hours ago · Opinion

U.S. gymnastics superstar Simone Biles says the wave of support she's received after pulling out of the two marquee events of Olympic women's gymnastics has changed the way she sees herself.

"the outpouring love & support I've received has made me realize I'm more than my accomplishments and gymnastics which I never truly believed before," Biles said in a tweet.

The greatest gymnast of all time suddenly withdrew from the team final on Sunday, after a difficult vault. In comments later, she explained that she made the decision because she wanted to preserve her mental health.

On Wednesday, on the eve of the individual all-around final, USA Gymnastics said Biles would not compete.

Team USA has supported Biles' decision. "Your strength and courage to focus on your wellbeing is something we can all learn from," it said in a tweet. "Thank you for being the leader you are."

Current and former Olympians are also opening up about the pressures that face the world's top athletes.

"Simone Biles. Man, what an athlete and competitor. We put athletes on a high stage, but people forget the day-to-day grind, the demands and that all the hype takes a toll on a person," U.S. softball player Monica Abbott said. "Mental health is a big topic right now, it's probably one that hasn't discussed in the past when it needed to be."

Dominique Moceanu, a retired U.S. gymnast and gold medalist in 1996, said Biles' decision "demonstrates that we have a say in our own health—'a say' I NEVER felt I had as an Olympian."

simone biles monica abbott mental health





# Simone Biles

Simone Arianne Biles born March 14, 1997 is an American artistic gymnast. With a combined total of 31 Olympic and World Championship medals, Biles is the most decorated American gymnast and is one of the greatest and most dominant gymnasts of all time.

Biles was born on March 14, 1997, in Columbus, Ohio,[9] the third of four siblings.[10] Her birth mother, Shanon Biles, was unable to care for Simone or her other children – Adria, Ashley, and Tevin. All four went in and out of foster care.

In 2000, Biles' maternal grandfather, Ron Biles, and his second wife, Nellie Cayetano Biles,[12] began temporarily caring for Shanon's children in the north Houston suburb of Spring, Texas, after learning that his grandchildren had been in foster care. In 2003, the couple officially adopted Simone and her younger sister Adria. Ron's sister, Shanon's aunt Harriet, adopted the two oldest children.[13][10][14] Biles holds Belizean citizenship through her adoptive mother and refers to Belize as her second home.[15] Biles and her family are Catholic.

In 2012, Biles made the choice to switch from public school to home school, allowing her to increase her training from approximately 20 to 32 hours per week. She gained all of her secondary education as a homeschooler, graduating in the summer of 2015. Biles verbally committed to UCLA on August 4, 2014.[17] She planned to defer enrollment until after the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro; in November 2014, she signed her National Letter of Intent with UCLA.[18] On July 29, 2015, she announced that she would turn professional and forfeit her NCAA eligibility to compete for UCLA.[19] In January 2018, Biles was reported to have enrolled at the University of the People,[20][21][disputed – discuss] an online college, to study business administration, and would become the university's brand ambassador.

On January 18, 2018, Biles released a statement on Twitter confirming that former USA Gymnastics physician Larry Nassar, D.O. had sexually assaulted her.[172] She also named USA Gymnastics for having an alleged role in allowing the abuse to occur, and for subsequently covering it up.[173] She did not attend court hearings held from January 16 to 24, 2018, citing that she "wasn't emotionally ready to face Larry Nassar again." [174][175] In May 2018, it was announced that Biles and the other survivors would be awarded the Arthur Ashe Courage Award. At the 2018 U.S. National Championships, Biles designed and wore a teal leotard that she stated was meant to honor the survivors of Nassar's abuse, as a statement of unification.[176]

## Career-related injuries and health

In September 2016, Biles opened up about having attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) after her medical records were leaked online, revealing that she had been taking Ritalin (methylphenidate), used to treat the condition, during the Olympics. Having been diagnosed as a child, she had previously disclosed her condition to the World Anti-Doping Agency and obtained a medical exemption, allowing her to take the medication during competitions. In Biles's statement, she said that ADHD is "nothing to be ashamed of and nothing that I'm afraid to let people know."

## 2020 Summer Olympics

At the Olympic Games Biles performed the all-around during qualifications and helped the USA qualify to the team final in second place behind the athletes from Russia. Following her qualifications performance, Biles stated on Instagram that she was "[feeling] the weight of the world on [her] shoulders" and that she felt affected by the pressure of the Olympics. During warm-ups for the first rotation of the team final, Biles balked on her Amanar vault mid-air, performing 1.5 twists instead of the expected 2.5. She repeated this in the competition, balking and performing the 1.5 twist with a large lunge and near-fall on the landing, and scored just 13.766 with a difficulty score of 5.0 (rather than the Amanar's 5.8). She subsequently left the competition floor (although she returned to the floor a few minutes later) and withdrew from the rest of the team competition, citing mental health issues and explaining that she was inspired by fellow female Olympian Naomi Osaka, who had withdrawn from the Wimbledon competition that year for similar reasons. The USA team went on to win the silver medal behind the Russian Olympic Committee athletes.

On July 28, 2021, Biles withdrew from the finals of the individual all-around competition, again citing mental health concerns. Biles said that she experienced "the twisties", a psychological phenomenon causing a gymnast to lose air awareness while performing twisting elements

**Simone Biles**



Biles at the 2016 Summer Olympics

### Personal information

<b>Full name</b>	Simone Arianne Biles
<b>Born</b>	March 14, 1997 (age 24) <sup>[1]</sup> Columbus, Ohio, U.S.
<b>Hometown</b>	Spring, Texas, U.S.
<b>Residence</b>	Spring, Texas, U.S.
<b>Height</b>	4 ft 8 in (142 cm) <sup>[2]</sup>
<b>Discipline</b>	Women's artistic gymnastics
<b>Level</b>	Senior international elite
<b>Years on national team</b>	2012–2016, 2018–present (US)
<b>Gym</b>	World Champions Centre (current) <sup>[3]</sup> Bannon's Gymnastix Inc. (2003–2014)
<b>Head coach(es)</b>	Laurent Landi





# Simone Biles

## Simone Biles' Olympic Sponsors Praise Her For Putting Mental Health First

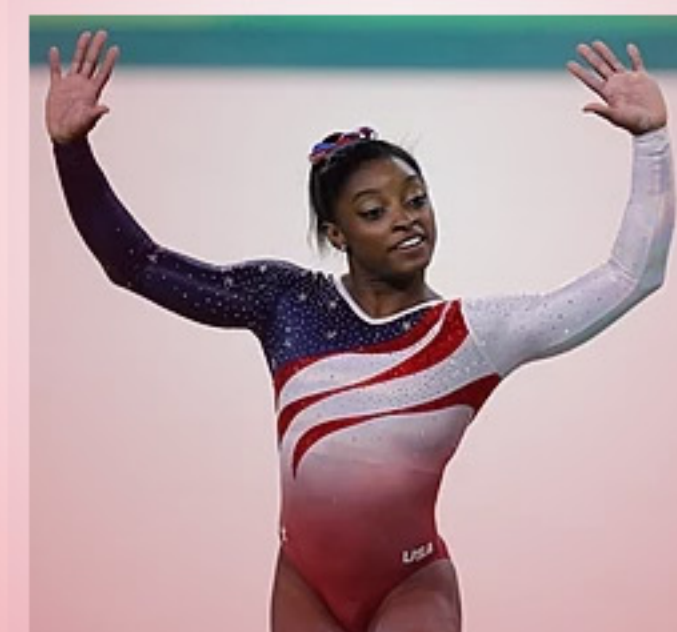
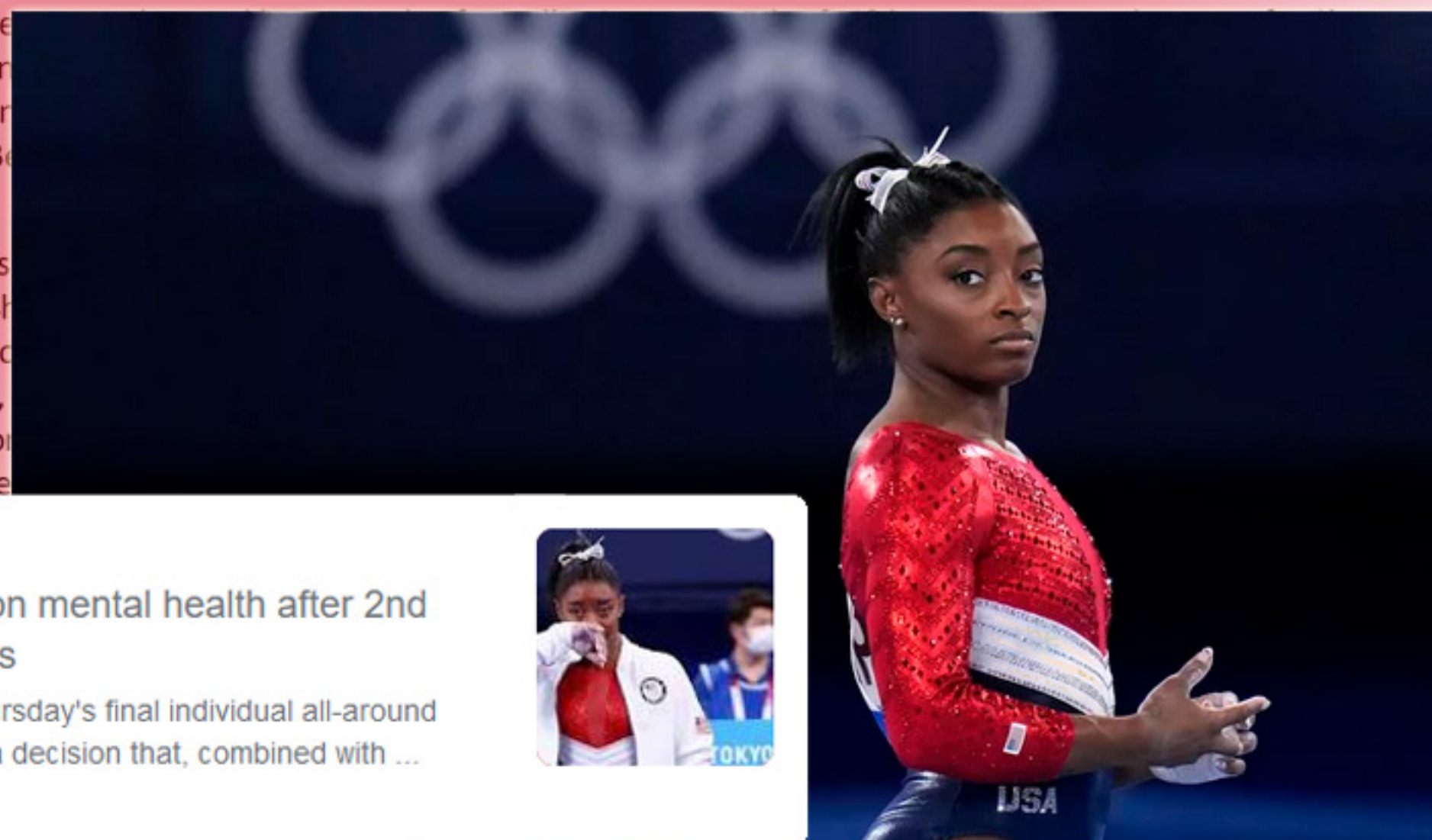
July 29, 2021 - 4:17 PM ET

Simone Arianne Biles born March 14, 1997, is an American artistic gymnast. She has won 25 Olympic and World Championship medals, Biles is the most decorated American gymnast and is one of the greatest and most dominant gymnasts of all time.

Biles was born on March 14, 1997, in Columbus, Ohio,[9] the third of four siblings.[10] Her birth mother, Sharon Biles, was unable to care for Simone or her other children, Kenya, Kenya, and Tevin. All four went in and out of foster care.

In 2000, Biles' maternal grandfather adopted her and her non's children in the north Houston area. In 2002, the couple officially adopted Simone and her two other children.[13][10][14] Biles holds Baptist faith. Biles and her family are Catholic.

In 2012, Biles made the choice to spend approximately 20 to 32 hours per week. She verbally committed to UCLA in Rio de Janeiro; in November 2014, she would turn professional and for enrolled at the University of the Pe



Biles at the 2016 Summer Olympics

### Personal information

Full name	Simone Arianne Biles
Born	March 14, 1997 (age 24) <sup>[1]</sup> Columbus, Ohio, U.S.
Hometown	Spring, Texas, U.S.
Residence	Spring, Texas, U.S.
Height	4 ft 8 in (142 cm) <sup>[2]</sup>
Discipline	Women's artistic gymnastics
Level	Senior international elite
Years on national team	2012–2016, 2018–present (US)
Gym	World Champions Centre (current) <sup>[3]</sup> Bannon's Gymnastix Inc. (2003–2014)
Head coach(es)	Laurent Landi

Good Morning America

### Simone Biles puts spotlight on mental health after 2nd withdrawal at Tokyo Olympics

Simone Biles will not compete in Thursday's final individual all-around competition at the Tokyo Olympics, a decision that, combined with ...

2 days ago



### Career-related injuries and health

In September 2016, Biles opened up about having attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) after her medical records were leaked online, revealing that she had been taking Ritalin (methylphenidate), used to treat the condition, during the Olympics. Having been diagnosed as a child, she had previously disclosed her condition to the World Anti-Doping Agency and obtained a medical exemption, allowing her to take the medication during competitions. In Biles's statement, she said that ADHD is "nothing to be ashamed of and nothing that I'm afraid to let people know."

### 2020 Summer Olympics

At the Olympic Games Biles performed the all-around during qualifications and helped the USA qualify to the team final in second place behind the athletes from Russia. Following her qualifications performance, Biles stated on Instagram that she was "[feeling] the weight of the world on [her] shoulders" and that she felt affected by the pressure of the Olympics. During warm-ups for the first rotation of the team final, Biles balked on her Amanar vault mid-air, performing 1.5 twists instead of the expected 2.5. She repeated this in the competition, balking and performing the 1.5 twist with a large lunge and near-fall on the landing, and scored just 13.766 with a difficulty score of 5.0 (rather than the Amanar's 5.8). She subsequently left the competition floor (although she returned to the floor a few minutes later) and withdrew from the rest of the team competition, citing mental health issues and explaining that she was inspired by fellow female Olympian Naomi Osaka, who had withdrawn from the Wimbledon competition that year for similar reasons. The USA team went on to win the silver medal behind the Russian Olympic Committee athletes.

On July 28, 2021, Biles withdrew from the finals of the individual all-around competition, again citing mental health concerns. Biles said that she experienced "the twisties", a psychological phenomenon causing a gymnast to lose air awareness while performing twisting elements



# EXPLAINER: How gymnastics evolved from 'exercising naked'

By CLAIRE GALOFARO today



TOKYO (AP) — The word gymnastics is derived from the ancient Greek “gymnazein,” meaning “to exercise naked.”

The sport, now among the Olympics’ most beloved events, was born millennia ago, as young men trained for war in the buff.

*In this July 29, 2021, file photo, Sunisa Lee, of the United States, performs on the balance beam during the artistic gymnastics women's all-around final at the 2020 Summer Olympics, in Tokyo. Gymnastics, now among the Olympics’ most beloved events, was born millennia ago, as young men trained for war in the buff. (AP Photo/Morry Gash, File)*

## BALANCE BEAM

The balance beam started off hundreds of years ago as a log suspended in the air. It has been refined over the years to a padded beam, 16 feet long, four feet high and four inches wide. It is considered the women’s event that requires the more focus and precision. A minuscule misstep can send a gymnast tumbling to the ground.







CNN

Suni Lee and an epochal moment for Hmong in America



PBS NEWSHOUR

What Sunni Lee's gymnastics gold win means to Hmong Americans



Star Tribune

Minnesota's Hmong community celebrates Sunni Lee's historic gold medal

A Minnesota native, Lee has spent years training to become an elite gymnast. A **Hmong American**, she “went to the gym every day for all the first-generation Americans who wanted to achieve success when their parents had come to the United States with nothing,” reported The New York Times. 18 hours ago

The **Hmong** people (RPA: *Hmoob*, Nyiakeng Puachue: "᠌᠌᠌ ᠌᠌᠌ ᠌᠌᠌", Pahawh Hmong: "᠌᠌᠌ ᠌᠌᠌ ᠌᠌᠌" Hmong pronunciation: [᠌᠌᠌]) are an ethnic group living mainly in southern China (Guizhou, Yunnan, Sichuan, Chongqing and Guangxi), Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, and Myanmar. They have been members of the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO) since 2007.<sup>[9]</sup> In China they are classified as a subgroup of the Miao people.

During the **First** and the **Second** Indochina Wars, France and the United States recruited thousands of Hmong people in Laos to fight against forces from North and South Vietnam and the communist **Pathet Lao** insurgents. The CIA operation is known as the **Secret War**.<sup>[10]</sup>

The Hmong traditions and legends indicate that they originated near the **Yellow River** region of **China**.<sup>[14]</sup> According to linguist **Martha Ratliff**, there is linguistic evidence to suggest that they have occupied some of the same areas of southern China for over 8,000 years.<sup>[15]</sup> Evidence from **mitochondrial DNA** in **Hmong–Mien**–speaking populations supports the southern origins of maternal lineages even further back in time, although it has been shown that Hmong-speaking populations had comparatively more contact with northern East Asians than had the Mien.<sup>[16]</sup>

The ancient town of **Zhuolu** is considered to be the birthplace of the widely proclaimed legendary Hmong king, **Chi You**. Today, a statue of Chi You has been erected in the town.<sup>[17]</sup> The author of the *Guoyu*, authored in the 4th to 5th century, considered Chi You's Jiu Li tribe to be related to the ancient ancestors of the Hmong, the San-Miao people.<sup>[18]</sup>

In 2011, Hmong DNA was sampled and found to contain 7.84% **D-M15** and 6%**N(Tat)** DNA.<sup>[19]</sup> The researchers posited a genetic relationship between Hmong-Mien peoples and **Mon-Khmer** people groups dating to the **Last Glacial Maximum** approximately 15-18,000 years ago.

Conflict between the Hmong of southern China and newly arrived Han settlers increased during the 18th century under repressive economic and cultural reforms imposed by the **Qing dynasty**. This led to **armed conflict** and large-scale migrations well into the late 19th century, the period during which many Hmong people emigrated to Southeast Asia. The migration process had begun as early as the late-17th century, however, before the time of major social unrest, when small groups went in search of better agricultural opportunities.<sup>[20]</sup>

The Hmong people were subjected to persecution and genocide by the Qing dynasty government. Kim Lacy Rogers wrote: "In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, while the Hmong lived in south-western China, their Manchu overlords had labeled them 'Miao' and targeted them for genocide when they defied being humiliated, oppressed, and enslaved."<sup>[21]</sup>

Since 1949, the **Miao** people (Chinese: 苗族; pinyin: *míáo zú*) has been an official term for one of the 55 official minority groups recognized by the government of the People's Republic of China. The Miao live mainly in southern China, in the provinces of Guizhou, Hunan, Yunnan, Sichuan, Guangxi, Hainan, Guangdong, and Hubei. According to the 2000 censuses, the number of 'Miao' in China was estimated to be about 9.6 million. The Miao nationality includes Hmong people as well as other culturally and linguistically related ethnic groups who do not call themselves Hmong. These include the Hmu, Kho (Qho) Xiong, and A Hmao. The White Miao (Bai Miao) and Green Miao (Qing Miao) are Hmong groups.

**Hmong**



Flower Hmong women in traditional dress at the market in Bắc Hà, Vietnam

Total population	
	9 to 11 million <sup>[1]</sup>
Regions with significant populations	
China	~2.7 million <sup>[2]</sup>
Vietnam	793,547 (2019) <sup>[3]</sup>
Laos	595,028 (2015) <sup>[4]</sup>
United States	327,000 (2019) <sup>[5]</sup>
Thailand	250,070 (2015)
Australia	3,438 (2011) <sup>[6]</sup>
France (French Guiana)	2,000 <sup>[7]</sup>
Canada	805 (1979) <sup>[8]</sup>
Languages	
Hmong, Chinese, Thai, Vietnamese, Lao, French, English, Burmese	
Religion	
Shamanism • Christianity • Buddhism	



## Han Chinese

汉族/漢族  
汉人/漢人




Total population


Circa 1.4 billion<sup>[1]</sup>


Regions with significant populations

 China (Mainland, Hong Kong and Macau, excluding Taiwan) 1,321,000,000 (>90% of the total population)<sup>[2]</sup>

 Taiwan >22,000,000 (>95% of the total population)<sup>[3][4]</sup>

Overseas Chinese (by descent)

 Thailand 9,393,000<sup>[5]</sup>

 Malaysia 6,650,000<sup>[6]</sup>

 Indonesia 6,500,000-7,670,000<sup>[7]</sup>

 United States 3,795,000-5,100,000<sup>[8][9]</sup>

The Han Chinese (UK: /hæn/,<sup>[39]</sup> US: /hɑːn/<sup>[40]</sup>),<sup>[41][42][43]</sup> Hanzu (simplified Chinese: 汉族; traditional Chinese: 漢族; pinyin: Hànzú; lit. 'Han ethnicity'),<sup>[44][45][46]</sup> or Han people (simplified Chinese: 汉人; traditional Chinese: 漢人; pinyin: Hànrén)<sup>[47][48][49][50][51][52][53]</sup> are an East Asian ethnic group and nation native to China. Historically, they were native to the Yellow River Basin region of modern China.<sup>[54][55][56][57][58]</sup> They constitute the world's largest ethnic group, making up about 18% of the global population and consisting of various subgroups speaking distinctive varieties of the Chinese language.<sup>[59][60]</sup> The estimated 1.4 billion Han Chinese people are mostly concentrated in the People's Republic of China (Mainland China), where they make up about 92% of the total population.<sup>[2]</sup> In the Republic of China (Taiwan), they make up about 97% of the population.<sup>[61][62]</sup> People of Han Chinese descent also make up around 75% of the total population of Singapore.<sup>[63]</sup>

The Han Chinese trace a common ancestry to the Huaxia, the initial confederation of agricultural tribes living along the Yellow River.<sup>[64][65]</sup> The term Huaxia refers to the collective Neolithic confederation of agricultural tribes Hua and Xia who settled along the Central Plains around the middle and lower reaches of the Yellow River in Northern China.<sup>[66][67][68][65]</sup> The tribes were the ancestors of the modern Han Chinese people who gave birth to Chinese civilization. In addition, the term Huaxia (literally, "the beautiful grandeur") was distinctively used to represent a "civilized" culture in contrast to what were perceived as "barbaric" foreigners around them.<sup>[69][67][70]</sup>

In many overseas Chinese communities, the term Hua people (华人; 華僑; Huárén), Hua Qiao (侨胞; 華僑; Huáqiáo) or Huazu (华族; 華族; Huázú), may be used for people of Han Chinese ethnicity as distinct from Zhongguo Ren (中国人; 中國人) which also refers to citizens of China, including people of non-Han ethnicity.<sup>[71][72][73]</sup> Han people (汉人; 漢人; Hànrén) may also be used for people of ethnic Chinese descent around the world.<sup>[74]</sup>

The Han Chinese are bound together with a shared history inhabiting an ancient ancestral territory for over four thousand years, deeply rooted with many different cultural traditions and customs.<sup>[75]</sup> The Huaxia tribes in northern China experienced a continuous expansion into Southern China over the past two millennia.<sup>[76][77]</sup> Huaxia culture spread southward from its heartland in the Yellow River Basin, absorbing various non-Chinese ethnic groups that became sinicised over the centuries at various points in China's history.<sup>[78][77][67]</sup>

The Han dynasty is considered to be one of the first great eras in Chinese history, as it made China the major regional power in East Asia and projected much of its influence on its neighbours, comparable to the contemporary Roman Empire in population size, geographical and cultural reach.<sup>[79][80][81]</sup> The Han dynasty's prestige and prominence influenced many of the ancient Huaxia to begin identifying themselves as "The People of Han".<sup>[69][82][83][84][85]</sup> To this day, the Han Chinese have since taken their ethnic name from this dynasty and the Chinese script is referred to as "Han characters".

*As part of "Seven Billion," the magazine's ambitious multimedia-driven attempt to comprehend the current state of the human race, Nat Geo went on a search for the most typical human face. After crunching the numbers, they discovered their candidate: a 28-year-old Han Chinese male.*

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/BL-CJB-13422>



# Introducing Prop 22 benefits

Thanks to Prop 22 passing in California, you're getting what so many drivers and delivery people have asked for: the flexibility and independence you want with access to the benefits and protections you deserve.

"Your voice is what mattered most, and we are proud to have stood beside you. Even though we've won the vote, we're still not done. In fact, we've only just begun to improve independent work together."

*Dara Khosrowshahi, CEO*

## A breakdown of your Prop 22 benefits

### Guaranteed minimum earnings

You can now plan and earn with more confidence knowing you'll always make a guaranteed minimum.

When you're active, you're now guaranteed *at least* 20% more than the pickup city's minimum wage—plus \$0.30 per mile for expenses.\*

There's no limit to how much you can make, but if you earn less than the guaranteed minimum over 2 weeks, we'll pay you the difference automatically.\*\*

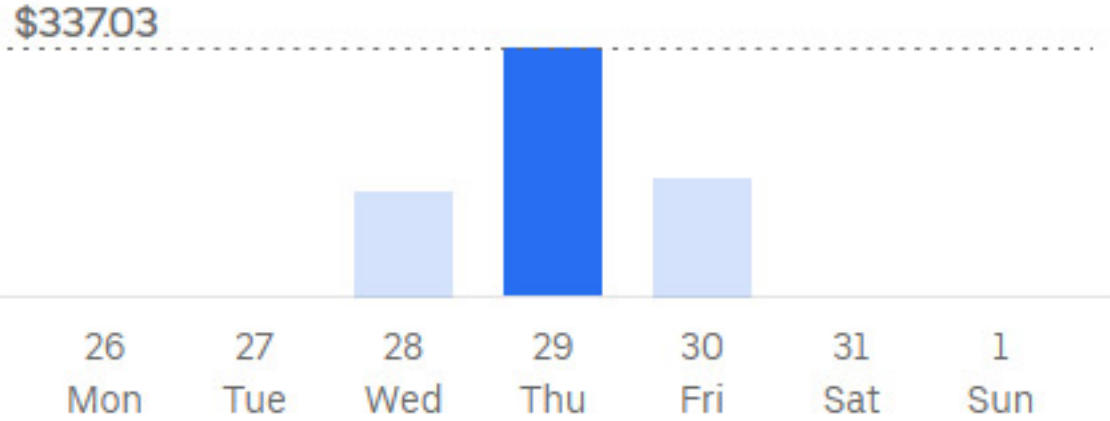
#### How it works



- When calculating your earnings guarantee, we calculate 120 percent of the pick up city's minimum wage for your active time plus the number of miles you drove during that active time, multiplied by \$.30. If you earn less than this guaranteed amount through your trip fares and applicable promotions, we'll pay you the difference. Tips, refunds for tolls and cleaning fees, cancellation fees, and referral payments are on top of your earnings guarantee.
- The \$0.30/mile figure does not apply if you deliver on foot or bicycle\*\*.
- The guarantee applies to active time, which starts when you accept a trip and ends when you complete it, for both rides and deliveries.
- The guaranteed minimum is just that: a minimum. *There's no limit to how much you can make.*

← Jul 26 - Aug 2 ▾

< \$337.03



### Stats

Online	Active
5h 55m	5h 17m
Trips	Points
12	23

[How we calculate stats](#)

[How we calculate the Prop 22 earnings guarantee](#)

✓ Added \$189.98 to meet the Prop 22 earnings guarantee



# Biden sees shortages to stop climate-change fueled wildfires

By JOSH BOAK yesterday



President Joe Biden speaks during a meeting with governors to discuss ongoing efforts to strengthen wildfire prevention, preparedness and response efforts, and hear firsthand about the ongoing impacts of the 2021 wildfire season in the South Court Auditorium in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building on the White House Campus in Washington, Friday, July 30, 2021. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

President Joe Biden is sounding the alarm about the need for more resources to fight a series of wildfires in western states, as climate change has worsened the spread and ferocity of the blazes.

“Our resources are already being stretched to keep up,” Biden told a bipartisan group of governors at a virtual meeting Friday. “We need more help.”

The president opened the meeting with a nod to Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, who sought the Democratic nomination for president against Biden by stressing the threats from climate change. The mix of intense heat, droughts and other events tied to rising average temperatures has turned the fires into a national challenge as the smoke is worsening air quality as far away as New York City.

“Jay, you’re beginning to convince the American people there is a thing called climate crisis,” the president said at the start of his remarks, before reeling through a series of troubling numbers.

It was the second meeting between Biden and the governors, and the situation has only worsened since the first, putting a strain on aircraft, hoses and other supplies.

“Since our last meeting, the number of large uncontained wildfires has nearly doubled to 66 fires,” Biden said. “The number of firefighters on the job to battle them has tripled. Over 3.4 million acres have already burned.”

The Washington governor took the opportunity to discuss the shortage of supplies to stop the fires. But he said his biggest worry is that Biden’s agenda to reduce carbon emissions and limit climate change won’t clear Congress.

“That’s going to ultimately decide whether these forests survive in the next century,” Inslee said.

Other governors attending the virtual meeting included: Oregon’s Kate Brown, Montana’s Greg Gianforte, Wyoming’s Mark Gordon, Idaho’s Brad Little, California’s Gavin Newsom and Minnesota’s Tim Walz.





# Freeing Britney requires reconsidering how society thinks about decision-making capacity

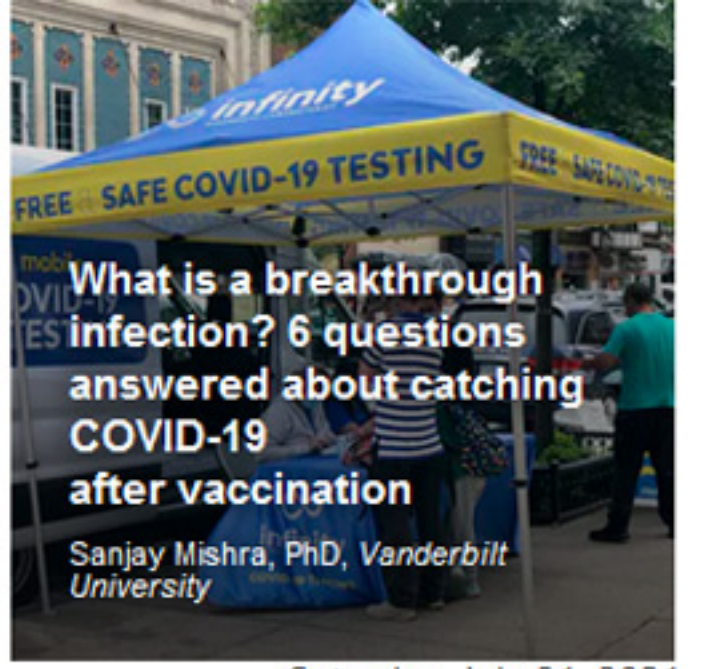
Elyn Saks, *University of Southern California*

<https://theconversation.com/us>



# Congress moves to reclaim its war powers

Sarah Burns, *Rochester Institute of Technology*



# What is a breakthrough infection? 6 questions answered about catching COVID-19 after vaccination

Sanjay Mishra, PhD, *Vanderbilt University*

Saturday, July 31, 2021



# TRAFFIC REPORT: 1 in 3 sex trafficking cases reported in the U.S. last year involved victims under 18. Sex trafficking isn't what you think: 4 myths debunked – and 1 real-world way to prevent sexual exploitation

Corinne Schwarz, *Oklahoma State University*



# 'Outing' of priest shines light on power – and partisanship – of Catholic media

Peter Cajka, *University of Notre Dame*



# Fasting may have become a health fad, but religious communities have been doing it for millennia

Iqbal Akhtar, *Florida International University*



# Kids set free to roam on their own feel more confident navigating in adulthood

Vanessa Vieites, *Rutgers University*



# Farmers markets are growing their role as essential sources of healthy food for rich and poor

Edna Ledesma, *University of Wisconsin-Madison* and Alfonso Morales, *University of Wisconsin-Madison*



# The Activision Blizzard lawsuit shows gamer culture still has a long way to go: 5 essential reads about sexual harassment and discrimination in gaming and tech

Eric Smalley, *The Conversation*



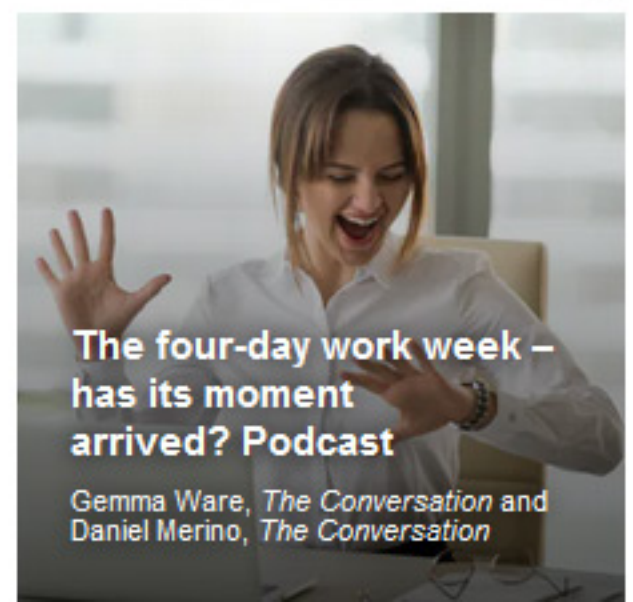
# The largest news agency in the US changes crime reporting practices to 'do less harm and give people second chances'

Maggie Jones Patterson, *Duquesne University* and Romayne Smith Fullerton, *Western University*



# Condo board leaders can help prevent the next Surfside-style disaster by setting aside more money

Patrick Hohman, *Bellarmino University*



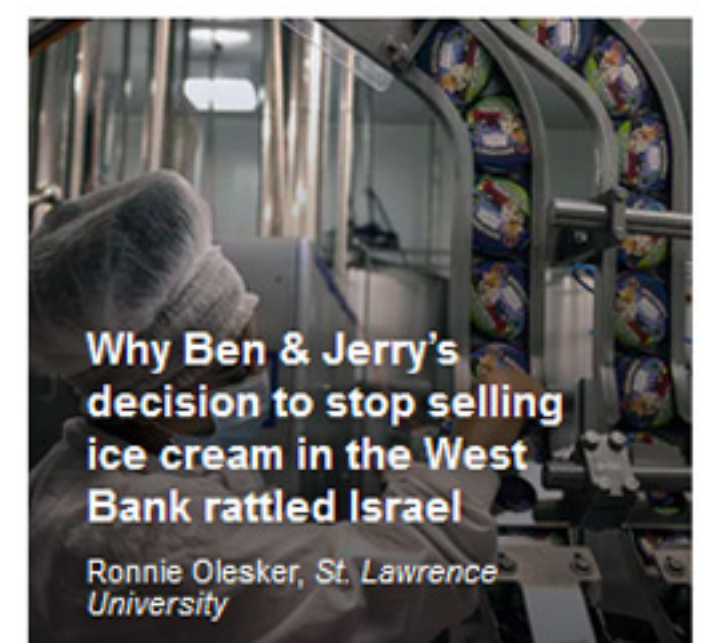
# The four-day work week – has its moment arrived? Podcast

Gemma Ware, *The Conversation* and Daniel Merino, *The Conversation*



# Here's why the CDC recommends wearing masks indoors even if you've been fully vaccinated against COVID-19

Peter Chin-Hong, *University of California, San Francisco*



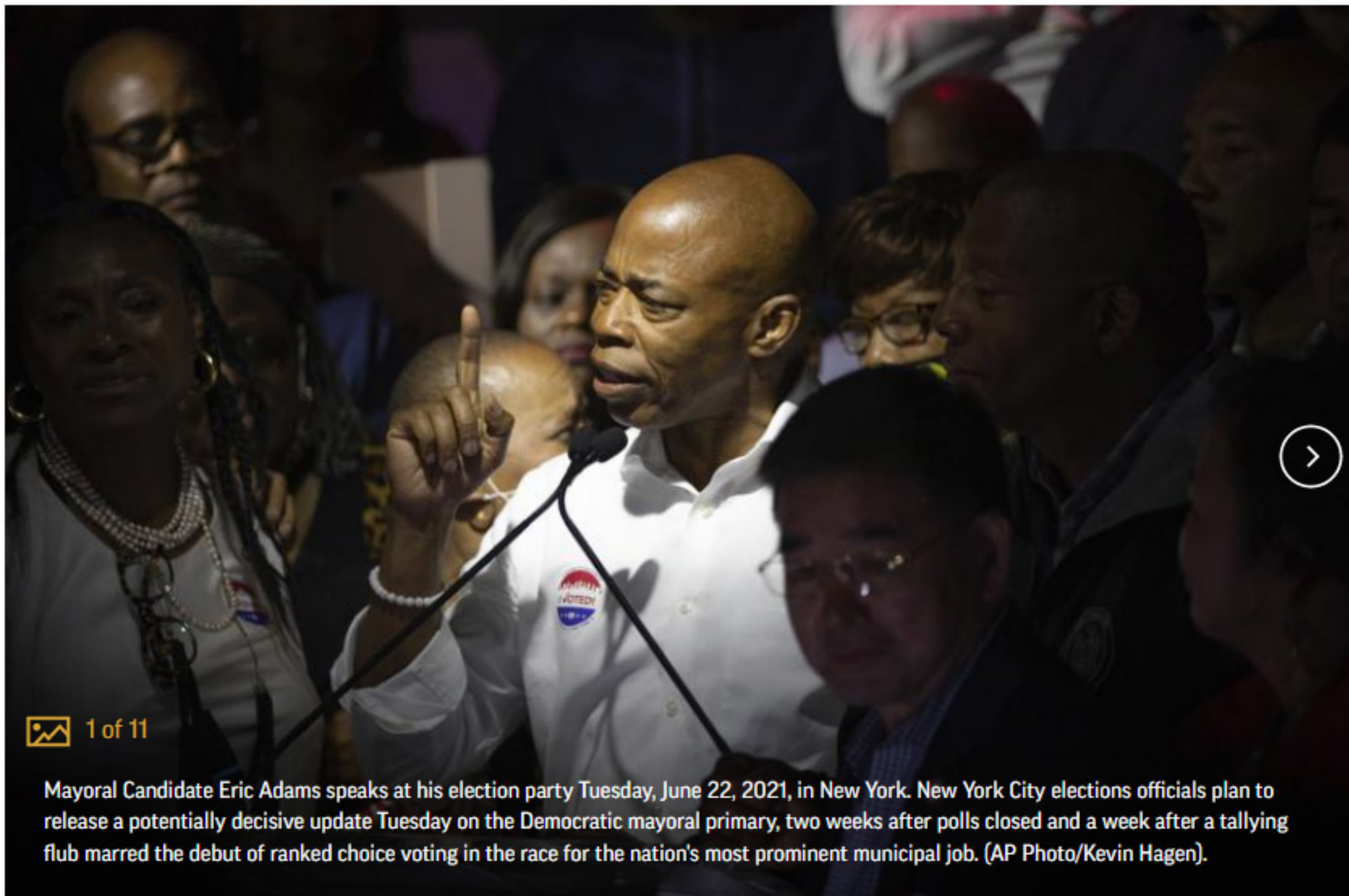
# Why Ben & Jerry's decision to stop selling ice cream in the West Bank rattled Israel

Ronnie Olesker, *St. Lawrence University*



# Eric Adams wins Democratic primary in NYC's mayoral race

By KAREN MATTHEWS July 6, 2021



1 of 11

Mayoral Candidate Eric Adams speaks at his election party Tuesday, June 22, 2021, in New York. New York City elections officials plan to release a potentially decisive update Tuesday on the Democratic mayoral primary, two weeks after polls closed and a week after a tallying flub marred the debut of ranked choice voting in the race for the nation's most prominent municipal job. (AP Photo/Kevin Hagen).

NEW YORK (AP) — Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams has won the Democratic primary for mayor of New York City after appealing to the political center and promising to strike the right balance between fighting crime and ending racial injustice in policing.

A former police captain, Adams would be the city's second Black mayor if elected. Adams will be the prohibitive favorite in the general election against Curtis Sliwa, the Republican founder of the Guardian Angels. Democrats outnumber Republicans 7-to-1 in New York City.

Adams, 60, is a moderate Democrat who opposed the "defund the police" movement. "If Black lives really matter, it can't only be against police abuse. It has to be against the violence that's ripping apart our communities," he told supporters the night of the primary.

But Adams is a study in contradictions who at different times has been a defender of Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, a registered Republican and a Democratic state senator thriving in a world of backroom deals. Adams speaks frequently of his dual identity as a 22-year police veteran and a Black man who endured police brutality himself as a teenager. He said he was beaten by officers at age 15. Adams became a police officer in 1984 and rose to the rank of captain before leaving to run for the state Senate in 2006.

Adams is a vegan who credits a plant-based diet with reversing his diabetes. He has a 25-year-old son, Jordan Coleman, with a former girlfriend. His current partner is Tracey Collins, an educator who holds an administrative job in the city's public school system.



# The U.S. Men's Fencing Team Wore Pink Face Masks To Protest Their Own Teammate

July 30, 2021 · 11:08 PM ET



VANESSA ROMO



**Ibtihaj Muhammad** ✓  
@IbtihajMuhammad



#TeamUSA men's epee team wore pink masks for their opening match at the Olympics as a show of support for sexual assault victims. Alen Hadzic— their teammate accused of rape and sexual assault— is on the left. Kudos to the team for taking a stand. #BelieveWomen



7:21 AM · Jul 30, 2021 from Old Greenwich, CT



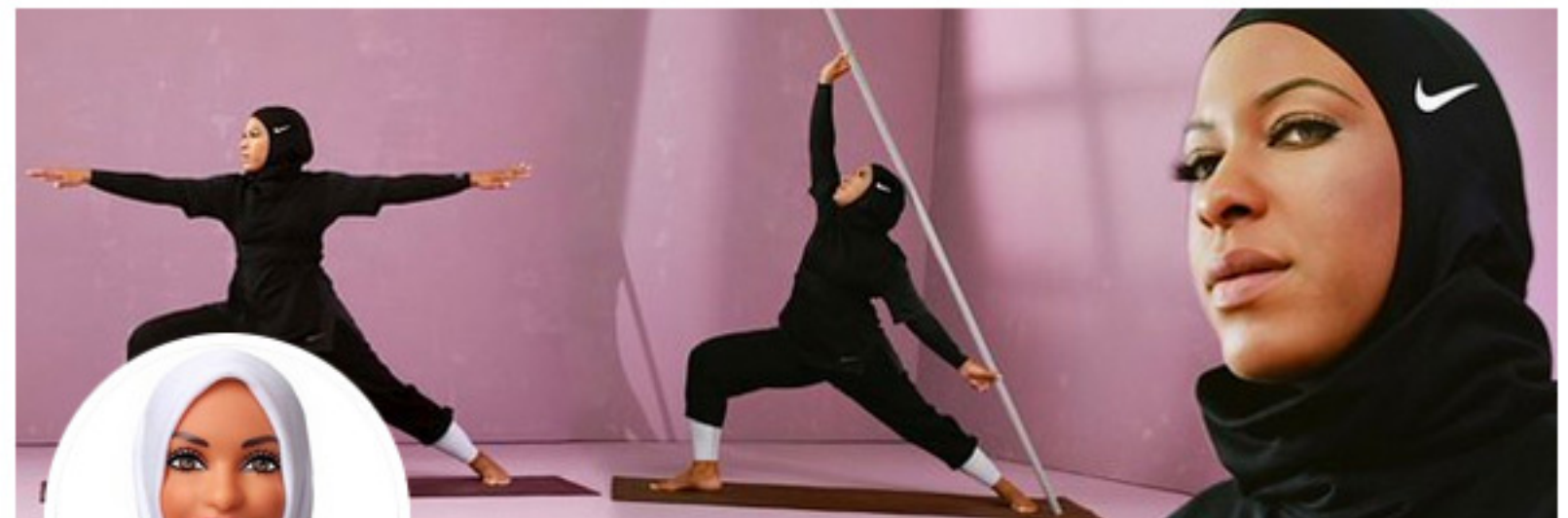
4.2K 52 Copy link to Tweet

The American fencing team is not happy to have Alen Hadzic representing the U.S. at the Tokyo Olympics.

Almost immediately after making it on to the roster, the 29-year-old was accused of sexual misconduct between 2013 and 2015 by three women.

Hadzic denies the allegations and successfully appealed a suspension that would have kept him off the U.S. team.

On Friday, the men's team conveyed their displeasure to the world, wearing pink face masks in support of sexual assault victims. It made for a striking image as Jake Hoyle, Curtis McDowald and Yeisser Ramirez appeared in the light-colored masks, while Hadzic was the odd-man-out in black.



Follow

**Ibtihaj Muhammad** ✓  
@IbtihajMuhammad

U.S. Olympic Medalist / NYT Best-selling Author / Shop my collection  
[LouellaShop.com](http://LouellaShop.com)

United States [ibtihajmuhammad.com](http://ibtihajmuhammad.com) Joined January 2012

421 Following 62.6K Followers





## Given The Choice Between Prison Life And Fighting Wildfires, These Women Chose Fire

NPR's Ailsa Chang talks with writer Jaime Lowe about her new book, *Breathing Fire*, which tells the stories of the incarcerated women who are part of California's wildfire crews.

July 30, 2021 · 3:48 PM ET



AILSAL CHANG



ALEJANDRA MARQUEZ JANSE

ASHLEY BROWN



As climate change makes fire seasons hotter and longer in the U.S., about 20,000 firefighters are currently working to contain blazes across the country. For decades now, some of California's incarcerated population have been among those doing this lifesaving work, at great risk to their own lives.

One of those people was Shawna Lynn Jones. In 2016, she was working in one of the state's fire camps and fighting the Mulholland Fire in Malibu when a boulder the size of a basketball struck her in the head. She died a day later, becoming the first incarcerated woman in the state to lose her life after battling a wildfire.

Her death became a catalyst for Jaime Lowe's new book, *Breathing Fire: Female Inmate Firefighters on the Frontlines of California's Wildfires*, which chronicles the life stories and challenges of incarcerated women like Jones, who are part of the state's wildfire crews. The book also takes a look at the state's history of mass incarceration, the origins of the fire-camp program and the impact of climate change in the state's wildfires.

Lowe spoke with All Things Considered host Ailsa Chang about the surprisingly positive experiences of some of the women in this program, the pay disparity between the incarcerated and civilian firefighters and the challenges they faced finding firefighting work upon release.



# Katie Ledecky

the greatest female swimmer of all time



In June 2021 Ledecky graduated with a bachelor of arts in psychology from Stanford University and qualified for the Summer Olympics in multiple events.



# Pentagon grappling with new vaccine orders; timing uncertain

By LOLITA C. BALDOR today

Saturday, July 31, 2021



United States Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin views the military honor guard at Camp Aguinaldo military camp in Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines Friday, July 30, 2021. Austin is visiting Manila to hold talks with Philippine officials to boost defense ties and possibly discuss the The Visiting Forces Agreement between the US and Philippines. (Roxela dela Pena/Pool Photo via AP)

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin is vowing he “won’t let grass grow under our feet” as the department begins to implement the new vaccine and testing directives. But Pentagon officials were scrambling at week’s end to figure out how to enact and enforce the changes across the vast military population and determine which National Guard and Reserve troops would be affected by the orders.



# Olympics 2020: Novak Djokovic denied bronze vs. Spain's Pablo Carreno Busta, throws racquet



Novak Djokovic fell again at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, losing in the bronze-medal match to Spain's Pablo Carreno Busta on Saturday. Clive Brunskill/Getty Images

TOKYO -- Novak Djokovic came to the Tokyo Olympics aiming for a Golden Slam. He'll leave without a medal and will need some time to recover from a draining performance in extreme conditions that didn't meet expectations.

Djokovic's frustration was evident in his on-court behavior as the match against Carreno Busta wore on.

Having saved a match point in the second-set tiebreaker, Djokovic threw his racket over five rows of seats into the stands after he couldn't get to a stop-volley winner from Carreno Busta to conclude a long rally in the opening game of the third.

A couple of games later, when Carreno Busta had broken his serve to take control of the decisive set, Djokovic again lost his cool and slammed his racket into the net post during a change of ends. He then picked up the mangled racket and tossed it into the photographers' pit.

"It's part of, I guess, who I am," Djokovic said. "I don't like doing these things. I'm sorry for sending this kind of message but we're all human beings and sometimes it's difficult to control your emotions."



*Serbia's Novak Djokovic smashes his racket during his Tokyo Games men's singles tennis match for the bronze medal against Spain's Pablo Carreño Busta at the Ariake Tennis Park in Tokyo on July 31.*

The Serbian slammed his racket into the net post after Carreño Busta broke his serve. He'd earlier launched a racket into the stands. Good thing there were no fans present. Though not the first, the second of Djokovic's antics earned him a verbal warning from the umpire.





# EXPLAINER: How does a grain of sand make it to the Olympics?

By JIMMY GOLEN 29 minutes ago

Saturday, July 31, 2021



*Feet and sand fly during the beach volleyball matches at the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo, Japan.*



# Justice Department says Russians hacked federal prosecutors

By ALAN SUDERMAN and ERIC TUCKER today

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Russian hackers behind the massive SolarWinds cyberespionage campaign broke into the email accounts some of the most prominent federal prosecutors' offices around the country last year, the Justice Department said.

The department said 80% of Microsoft email accounts used by employees in the four U.S. attorney offices in New York were breached. All told, the Justice Department said 27 U.S. Attorney offices had at least one employee's email account compromised during the hacking campaign.

The Justice Department said in a statement Friday that it believes the accounts were compromised from May 7 to Dec. 27, 2020. Such a timeframe is notable because the SolarWinds campaign, which infiltrated dozens of private-sector companies and think tanks as well as at least nine U.S. government agencies, was first discovered and publicized in mid-December.

The Biden administration in April announced sanctions, including the expulsion of Russian diplomats, in response to the SolarWinds hack and Russian interference in the 2020 U.S. presidential election. Russia has denied wrongdoing.

Jennifer Rodgers, a lecturer at Columbia Law School, said office emails frequently contained all sorts of sensitive information, including case strategy discussions and names of confidential informants, when she was a federal prosecutor in New York.

"I don't remember ever having someone bring me a document instead of emailing it to me because of security concerns," she said, noting exceptions for classified materials.

The Administrative Office of U.S. Courts confirmed in January that it was also breached, giving the SolarWinds hackers another entry point to steal confidential information like trade secrets, espionage targets, whistleblower reports and arrest warrants.

The list of affected offices include several large and high-profile ones like those in Los Angeles, Miami, Washington and the Eastern District of Virginia.

The Southern and Eastern Districts of New York, where large numbers of staff were hit, handle some of the most prominent prosecutors in the country.

"New York is the financial center of the world and those districts are particularly well known for investigating and prosecuting white-collar crimes and other cases, including investigating people close to the former president," said Bruce Green, a professor at Fordham Law School and a former prosecutor in the Southern District.

The department said all victims had been notified and it is working to mitigate "operational, security and privacy risks" caused by the hack. The Justice Department said in January that it had no indication that any classified systems were impacted.

The Justice Department did not provide additional detail about what kind of information was taken and what impact such a hack may have on ongoing cases. Members of Congress have expressed frustration with the Biden administration for not sharing more information about the impact of the SolarWinds campaign.

The Associated Press previously reported that SolarWinds hackers had gained access to email accounts belonging to the then-acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf and members of the department's cybersecurity staff whose jobs included hunting threats from foreign countries.



# Body Cam Footage Shows Deputy Overdose After Being Exposed to Fentanyl



BY JOSHUA ESPINOZA  
Find him on Twitter.

Aug 06, 2021



The San Diego County Sheriff's Department has released disturbing video of a rookie's near-death experience while examining a synthetic opioid.

The body cam footage, which was captured on July 3, shows Deputy David Faiivae in a parking lot while testing a white substance he believed to be fentanyl or cocaine. As Faiivae analyzed the powder, Corporal Scott Crane is heard warning the deputy to be extra cautious when handling the substance.

"That's stuff's no joke, dude," he said. "That's super dangerous."

Moments later, Faiivae is seen taking a few steps back before collapsing on the pavement.

On July 3, 2021, a patrol deputy with the San Diego County Sheriff's Department was exposed to Fentanyl while processing drugs at the scene of an arrest.



"I ran over to him. I grabbed him. He was OD'ing," Crane said in a PSA video about the dangers of fentanyl. "I went to my trunk, grabbed the Narcan."

Crane then sprayed the opioid-overdose antidote into the Faiivae's nostrils, but the deputy kept struggling to catch his breath.

"I got you. I'm not going to let you die," Crane told Faiivae as they waited for emergency personnel to arrive.

"Fire department got there, put him on the gurney," Crane recalled in the PSA video. "His eyes rolled back in his head, and he started to OD again. He was OD'ing the whole way to the hospital."

Faiivae survived the incident, but Crane said he most likely would've died had he been alone. Department officials say they hope the footage will raise awareness about the threat posed by fentanyl, which is 50 times more potent than heroin.

"Please take the time to share this video," Sheriff Bill Gore said. "It might save the life of your son, daughter, friend or loved one."



# Body Cam Footage Shows Deputy Overdose After Being Exposed to Fentanyl



BY JOSHUA ESPINOZA  
Find him on Twitter.

Aug 06, 2021



The Dangers of Fentanyl - San Diego County Sheriff's Department

from San Diego County Sheriff

**Medical experts are voicing skepticism over the video of a San Diego County Sheriff's deputy who reportedly accidentally overdosed on fentanyl.**

By: Jennifer Kastner

Posted at 7:33 PM, Aug 09, 2021

SAN DIEGO (KGTV) - Medical experts are voicing skepticism over the video of a San Diego County Sheriff's deputy who reportedly accidentally overdosed on fentanyl.

03:59

"I would say there's zero chance that it was caused by fentanyl exposure, in this case," said Professor Leo Beletsky with the UC San Diego School of Medicine. ABC 10News spoke to him on Monday about the body camera video that was released last week where a deputy is seen falling to the ground after reportedly coming into contact with the opioid fentanyl while he was processing drugs at a scene.

He was given Narcan to reverse the effects and has since been released from the hospital.

The Undersheriff said on Friday that he was wearing gloves at the time, but the thought was that he either inhaled or ingested the powder through the air or skin.

*Following the skepticism, the department released the incident report, lab results from the substance found at the scene, and dispatch report.*

On July 3, 2021, a patrol deputy with the San Diego County Sheriff's Department was exposed to Fentanyl while processing drugs at the scene of an arrest.

Professor Beletsky told ABC 10News in part that it's biologically impossible to overdose to that extent so quickly by touching the substance. He added that fentanyl would take much longer to overdose on, either through the skin or by breathing it in. "You would need to be in a room where lots of powder was constantly in the air for hours in order to start ingesting enough of it to experience these symptoms," he told ABC 10News.

"The symptoms being displayed are not consistent with an opioid overdose," said Medical Toxicologist Dr. Ryan Marino with the University Hospitals of Cleveland. He told ABC 10 News that an overdose would result in a loss of the airway. "The officer who is experiencing symptoms is breathing on his own. He is maintaining his airway. Even looking up close at his eyes which are open, which is atypical, he doesn't have the pinpoint pupils that we would expect to see. He never loses his coloring or kind of turns blue," he added.

Dr. Marino suggested that the deputy may have experienced an episode of severe panic.

According to the American College of Medical Toxicology, "The drug must enter the blood and brain from the environment. Toxicity cannot occur from simply being in proximity to the drug."

"[This type of video] gives people an erroneous idea of what a fentanyl overdose looks like," said Professor Beletsky who added, "I think it unnecessarily stresses out first responders and other people who may be in contact with someone who is overdosing."

Lab results released by the department show the powder contained methamphetamine and fentanyl plus flourofentanyl.

The department also sent 10News the following statement:

On August 5, the San Diego County Sheriff's Department released a public safety video related to the dangers of Fentanyl. We have received inquiries into the authenticity and accuracy of the video message. The video was created from an actual incident involving our deputy as he processed a white powdery substance that tested positive for Fentanyl.



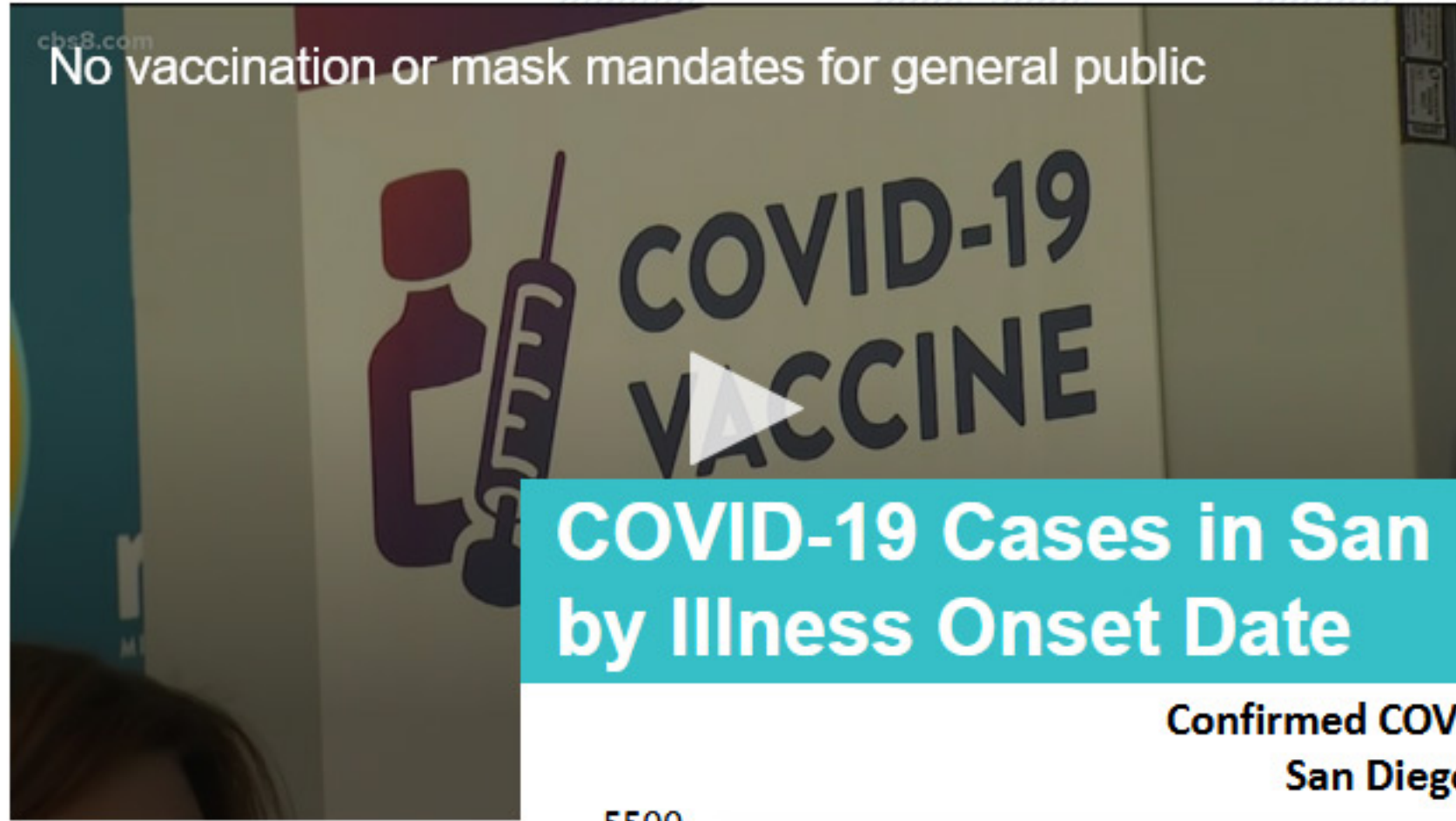
# San Diego Mayor: No vaccination or mask mandates for general public

With Delta variant cases on the rise across the country, federal and local leaders issued vaccination and mask requirements for government employees this week.

CHULA VISTA, Calif — Weighing in on a week of new COVID-19 protocols, San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria said the city is not requiring the general public to do anything different in terms of mandating vaccination or wearing masks. "Public Health orders are the jurisdiction of the county and state governments, and neither have indicated to us that a mandate of that nature is coming. In terms of mandates for the general public, I don't foresee those anytime soon," Gloria said.

The CDC recommended masks should be worn indoors regardless of vaccination status and reported the Delta variant is as contagious as chickenpox. "It is extremely concerning, and I want San Diegans to take this seriously," Gloria said.

More businesses are requiring customers show proof of vaccination. Urban Mo's Bar and Grill in Hillcrest made the announcement Friday that in order to attend its indoor shows and events, all must show proof of vaccination card and ID. "If they believe that is what is necessary to protect the public's health and keep their business successful, I think they should do that, and I certainly would support businesses that did," Gloria said.



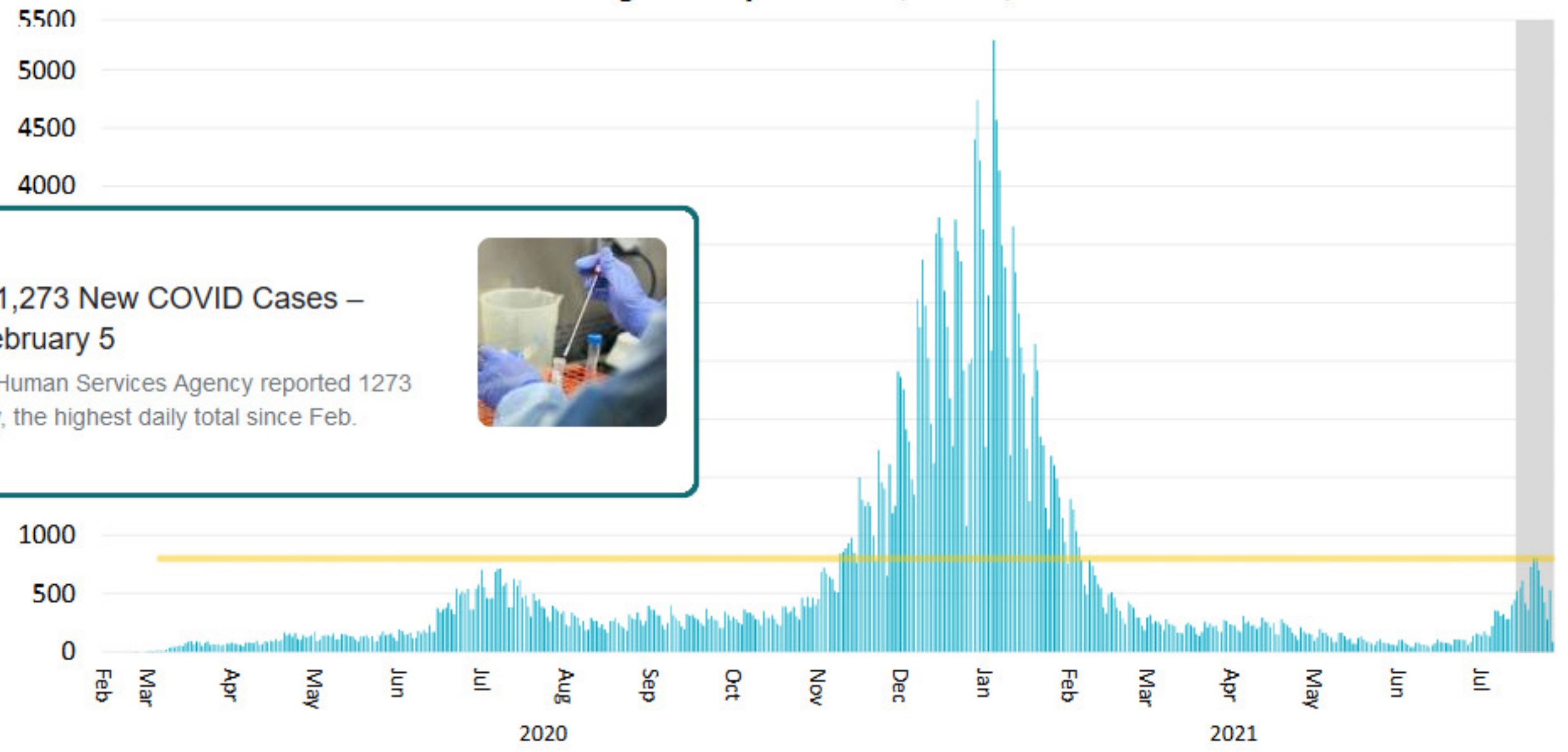
No vaccination or mask mandates for general public

## COVID-19 Cases in San Diego County by Illness Onset Date



Confirmed COVID-19 Cases by Date of Illness Onset\*  
San Diego County Residents, N=294,176

Illnesses that began during this time may not yet be reported.



Author: Heather Hope (Reporter)  
Published: 5:43 PM PDT July 31, 2021

**Times of San Diego**

**San Diego County Reports 1,273 New COVID Cases – Highest Daily Total Since February 5**

The San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency reported 1273 new cases of coronavirus on Friday, the highest daily total since Feb.

1 day ago







## The insect apocalypse: 'Our world will grind to a halt without them'

Insects have declined by 75% in the past 50 years - and the consequences may soon be catastrophic. Biologist Dave Goulson reveals the vital services they perform

**Dave Goulson**

Sun 25 Jul 2021 05.00 EDT

I am haunted by the knowledge that these creatures are in decline. It is 50 years since I first collected those caterpillars in the school playground, and every year that has passed there have been slightly fewer butterflies, fewer bumblebees – fewer of almost all the myriad little beasts that make the world go round. These fascinating and beautiful creatures are disappearing, ant by ant, bee by bee, day by day. Estimates vary and are imprecise, but it seems likely that insects have declined in abundance by 75% or more since I was five years old. The scientific evidence for this grows stronger every year, as studies are published describing the collapse of monarch butterfly populations in North America, the demise of woodland and grassland insects in Germany, or the seemingly inexorable contraction of the ranges of bumblebees and hoverflies in the UK.

In 1963, two years before I was born, **Rachel Carson** warned us in her book *Silent Spring* that we were doing terrible damage to our planet. She would weep to see how much worse it has become. Insect-rich wildlife habitats, such as hay meadows, marshes, heathland and tropical rainforests, have been bulldozed, burned or ploughed to destruction on a vast scale. The problems with pesticides and fertilisers, she highlighted, have become far more acute, with an estimated 3m tonnes of pesticides now going into the global environment every year.

Some of these new pesticides are thousands of times more toxic to insects than any that existed in Carson's day. Soils have been degraded, rivers choked with silt and polluted with chemicals. Climate change, a phenomenon unrecognised in her time, is now threatening to further ravage our planet. These changes have all happened in our lifetime, on our watch, and they continue to accelerate.

Few people seem to realise how devastating this is, not only for human wellbeing – we need insects to pollinate our crops, recycle dung, leaves and corpses, keep the soil healthy, control pests, and much more – but for larger animals, such as birds, fish and frogs, which rely on insects for food. Wildflowers rely on them for pollination. As insects become more scarce, our world will slowly grind to a halt, for it cannot function without them.

Increasingly, most of us live in cities, and grow up seeing few insects other than houseflies, mosquitoes and cockroaches, so the majority of us don't much like insects. Many people are terrified of them. They are often referred to as "creepy crawlies" or "bugs"; unpleasant, scuttling, dirty creatures, living in filth and spreading disease. Few therefore appreciate how vitally important insects are to our own survival, and fewer still how beautiful, clever, fascinating, mysterious and wonderful insects are.

*I imagine it's easy enough to get people interested in bees, but harder for other, less cute and obviously useful insects to appeal?*

It is tricky. There's a very small number of insects people are inclined to like – bees, butterflies, some moths, dragonflies and grasshoppers – but after that, you're really struggling. No one's ever going to start the Earwig Preservation Trust. So you need to explain to people that these insects are doing vital stuff, and that they're really fascinating. If people spent a little more time on their hands and knees, just looking at these things, they'd find they're not so revolting after all. Also, we shouldn't always look at insects from the perspective of what they do for us. They have as much a right to be here as we do.

*You stress that big changes are needed on an international scale, but there are things that individuals can do to help insects more locally.*

Absolutely. This is very different from a lot of these big environmental issues where people feel completely helpless. With climate change, if you walk rather than drive, you don't notice the planet getting any better. But plant some flowers in your garden and you actually can see butterflies turning up. It may be tiny, but you've done something positive, and it's worked. If we want to save the planet, start with what's right under our noses.



*First 'Time Crystal' Built Using Google's Quantum Computer*

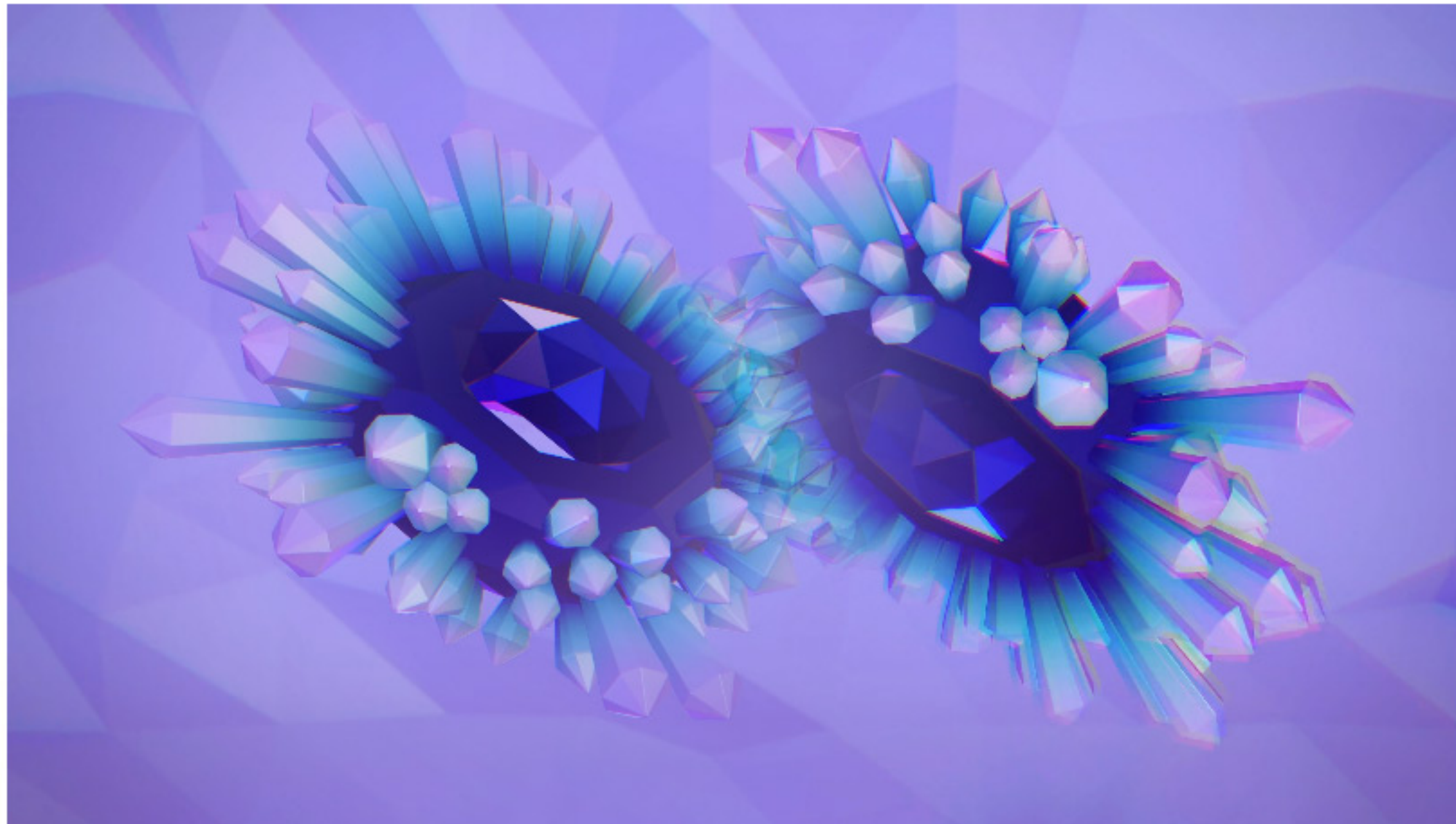
## **Eternal Change for No Energy: A Time Crystal Finally Made Real**

Natalie Wolchover | July 30, 2021

Like a perpetual motion machine, a time crystal forever cycles between states without consuming energy. Physicists claim to have built this new phase of matter inside a quantum computer.

In 2019, Google announced that its Sycamore quantum computer had completed a task in 200 seconds that would take a conventional computer 10,000 years. (Other researchers would later describe a way to greatly speed up the ordinary computer's calculation.)

In reading the announcement paper, Moessner said, he and his colleagues realized that "the Sycamore processor contains as its fundamental building blocks exactly the things we need to realize the Floquet time crystal."



**A time crystal flips back and forth between two states without burning energy.**

As *The Next Web* explains\*, we plan on using quantum computers for challenging problems. Examples include warp drives that could make fast interstellar travel possible. And medical technology that could cure virtually any disease.

\*<https://thenextweb.com/news/google-may-have-achieved-breakthrough-time-crystals>



# How Gravity Turns Me Upside Down

My favorite force belittles me—literally—but also inspires new ways to get high.



Follow

**KC Cole**  
@kccole314  
Writer. Science, art, politics, whatnot. A great deal like real life. See us at Categorically Not!  
[kccole.com](http://kccole.com) Joined January 2013  
189 Following 459 Followers

KC Cole Retweeted

**socialmantraa** @socialmantraa · Jul 29  
#Gravity reveals itself to us through what it does to things, myself included. But it's not a force, like magnetism. It's merely the #landscape of local #spacetime. And we know that landscapes matter a lot — not only in #physics. | @kccole314 @WIRED



How Gravity Turns Me Upside Down  
My favorite force belittles me—literally—but also inspires new ways to get high.  
[wired.com](http://wired.com)

2 1

KC Cole Retweeted

**WIRED** @WIRED · Jul 29  
There's no way to really ghost gravity.

Gravity's always been my favorite force. I've been cheering from the front lines as it's consistently exceeded expectations, mapping massive globs of invisible matter, bending light to magnify infant galaxies and glimpse Earth-size planets transiting stars. It twirls space and time around its little finger, gobbles stuff up and then spits it out scrambled, broadcasts news of collapsing stars and colliding black holes to Earth's very shores—giving physicists grist for yet another Nobel prize.

And yet, it belittles me. Literally, I'm sorry to say. Once a stately enough 5'6", I was recently measured at a relatively puny 5'2".

Gravity puts the "little" in little old lady, and it's seriously getting me down.

My physical self isn't the only thing in my life that's shrinking. So is the slice of time I have left, the sliver of knowable stuff I know. A lot of us feel that the number of people we can talk with has shrunk, due to the twin pulls of polarization and orthodoxy. Perhaps that's due to gravity's dark side. More than a decade ago, astronomers detected evidence of what is now called "dark energy," a not-yet-understood "negative pressure" that pulls things apart. It accounts for more of the total energy in the universe than everything gravity can grab put together.

## ABOUT ME

Somehow, I managed to make a life out of learning about, writing about and playing with incredibly cool stuff. It couldn't have happened without great mentors and a lot of good luck. I was never interested in science. Having spent much of grade school practicing "duck and cover" under my desk in case of nuclear strike, I was focused on stopping the insanity. Or at least, understanding it. So I studied political science (at Barnard), and then spent two years behind the Iron Curtain in order to meet the enemy (the USSR and its empire) face to face. (I actually watched U.S. astronauts land on the moon from a collective farm in the Soviet state of Kharkov.) I went to live in Czechoslovakia a year after the Russians invaded in 1968, and soon ran into a journalist who told me I should write about what I was seeing, so I gave it a shot. A series of serendipitous encounters and behind the scenes help got me a cover story in the New York Times Sunday Magazine on life in Czechoslovakia under Russian occupation. An accidental journalist, I began to write for anyone who would have me on everything from baby photographers to "seat strategy" (for planes and trains).

[...]



## At an extraordinary Olympics, acts of kindness abound

By SALLY HO today



*In this July 27, 2021, file photo, Claire Michel of Belgium is assisted by Lotte Miller of Norway after the finish of the women's individual triathlon competition at the 2020 Summer Olympics, in Tokyo, Japan. In an extraordinary Olympic Games where mental health has been front and center, acts of kindness are everywhere. The world's most competitive athletes have been captured showing gentleness and warmth to one another — celebrating, pep-talking, wiping away each another's tears of disappointment. (AP Photo/David Goldman, File)*

TOKYO (AP) — A surfer jumping in to translate for the rival who'd just beaten him. High-jumping friends agreeing to share a gold medal rather than move to a tiebreaker. Two runners falling in a tangle of legs, then helping each other to the finish line.

In an extraordinary Olympic Games where mental health has been front and center, acts of kindness are everywhere. The world's most competitive athletes have been captured showing gentleness and warmth to one another — celebrating, pep-talking, wiping away one another's tears of disappointment.

Kanoa Igarashi of Japan was disappointed when he lost to Brazilian Italo Ferreira in their sport's Olympic debut. Not only did he blow his shot at gold on the beach he grew up surfing, he was also being taunted online by racist Brazilian trolls.

The Japanese-American surfer could have stewed in silence, but he instead deployed his knowledge of Portuguese, helping to translate a press conference question for Ferreira on the world stage. The crowd giggled hearing the cross-rival translation and an official thanked the silver medalist for the assist.

"Yes, thank you, Kanoa," said a beaming Ferreira, who is learning English.

After the punishing women's triathlon last week in Tokyo, Norwegian Lotte Miller, who placed 24th, took a moment to give a pep talk to Belgium's Claire Michel, who was inconsolable and slumped on the ground, sobbing.

Michel had come in last, 15 minutes behind winner Flora Duffy of Bermuda — but at least she finished. Fifty-four athletes started the race but 20 were either lapped or dropped out.

"You're a (expletive) fighter," Miller told Michel. "This is Olympic spirit, and you've got it 100%."



*In this Aug. 2, 2021, file photo, Argentina goalkeeper Maria Belen Succi (1) comforts Germany's Charlotte Stapenhorst, right, after Argentina won their women's field hockey match at the 2020 Summer Olympics, in Tokyo, Japan.*



## Activists: Belarus Olympian plans to seek asylum in Poland

By GRAHAM DUNBAR 15 minutes ago



*Krystsina Tsimanouskaya, of Belarus, runs in the women's 100-meter run at the 2020 Summer Olympics, Friday, July 30, 2021. Tsimanouskaya alleged her Olympic team tried to remove her from Japan in a dispute that led to a standoff Sunday, Aug. 1, at Tokyo's main airport. An activist group supporting Tsimanouskaya said she believed her life was in danger in Belarus and would seek asylum with the Austrian embassy in Tokyo. (AP Photo/Martin Meissner)*

Amid Monday's drama, Tsimanouskaya missed the Olympic 200-meter heats that she was due to participate in. She already competed for Belarus on the first day of track events Friday at the National Stadium in Tokyo. She placed fourth in her first-round heat in the 100 meters, timing 11.47 seconds, and did not advance.

TOKYO (AP) — A Belarusian Olympic sprinter plans to seek asylum in Poland, an activist group said Monday, after the athlete alleged that her team's officials tried to force her to fly home, where she feared she wouldn't be safe from an autocratic government that recently was accused of diverting a plane in order to arrest a dissident journalist.

Athlete Krystsina Tsimanouskaya received a humanitarian visa from the Polish embassy in Tokyo, according to a Polish Foreign Ministry official. The Belarusian Sport Solidarity Foundation told The Associated Press that the group has bought her a plane ticket to Warsaw for Aug. 4.

The current standoff apparently began after Tsimanouskaya criticized how officials were managing her team — setting off a massive backlash in state-run media back home, where authorities relentlessly crack down on government critics. Tsimanouskaya said on her Instagram account that she was put in the 4x400 relay even though she has never raced in the event.

Tsimanouskaya was then apparently hustled to the airport but refused to board a flight for Istanbul and instead approached police for help. In a filmed message distributed on social media, she also asked the International Olympic Committee for assistance.

"I was put under pressure, and they are trying to forcibly take me out of the country without my consent," the 24-year-old runner said in the message.

The rapid-fire series of events brought international political intrigue to an Olympics that have been more focused on operational dramas, like maintaining safety during a pandemic and navigating widespread Japanese opposition to holding the event at all.

Belarus' authoritarian government has relentlessly targeted anyone even mildly expressing dissent since a presidential election a year ago triggered a wave of unprecedented mass protests. And it has also gone to extremes to stop its critics, including the recent plane diversion that European officials called an act of air piracy.

In this context, Tsimanouskaya feared for her safety once she saw the campaign against her in state media, according to the sports foundation, which she also contacted for help.



## Square Agrees to Acquire Afterpay for \$29 Billion in All-Stock Deal

The Wall Street Journal · 2 days ago



- [Why Jack Dorsey's Square paid a record \\$39 billion for Afterpay](#)

The Conversation AU · 3 hours ago

[View Full Coverage](#)



Derek Rose/AAP

## Why Jack Dorsey's Square paid a record \$39 billion for Afterpay

August 3, 2021 3:32am EDT

[Lien Duong](#), [Sonny Pham](#), Curtin University

The A\$39 billion (US\$29 billion) that Twitter founder Jack Dorsey's digital payments company Square is paying to acquire Australian upstart payments outfit Afterpay is the biggest takeover deal in Australian corporate history.

*A Senate inquiry decided last year no regulation was necessary, instead endorsing self-regulation. Afterpay and its rivals signed a voluntary code of conduct earlier this year.*



## Capitol police officer Kyle DeFreytag dead of suicide

New York Post · 6 hours ago



- **Four officers who responded to January 6 attack have died by suicide**

CNN · 7 hours ago

- **Third officer who responded to U.S. Capitol insurrection dies by suicide**

USA TODAY · 12 hours ago

- **VIDEO: Cheney says police faced 'unbelievable violence and cruelty' during Jan. 6 insurrection**

Oil City News · 13 hours ago

- **Washington, DC officer who responded to Capitol riot is third to die by suicide**

Fox News · 15 hours ago

[View Full Coverage](#)



Officer Kyle DeFreytag helped enforce the curfew put in place after the riots on January 6th.

Bensing-Thomas Funeral Home



<https://www.fordfoundation.org/about/people/darren-walker/>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darren\\_Walker](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darren_Walker)  
<https://youtu.be/KxgXR47iAs0>



**Born** August 28, 1959 (age 61)  
Lafayette, Louisiana, U.S.  
**Education** University of Texas, Austin (BA, BS, JD)  
**Occupation** President of Ford Foundation  
**Partner(s)** David Beitzel (died 2019)

**We are on a journey to shift the very foundations of philanthropy—to inspire transformative approaches to giving that can truly disrupt the staggering inequality taking over our planet. Fortunately, we are not alone.**



**Darren Walker** (born August 28, 1959) is a nonprofit executive who serves as president of the Ford Foundation. Walker is a fellow of the Institute for Urban Design, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and a board member of the Arcus Foundation, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, Friends of the High Line, and the Foundation for Art and Preservation in Embassies. Earlier in his career, Walker worked as a lawyer and investment banker. He has been a teacher of housing, law and urban development at the New York University School of Law and the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service.[8][9][10] He is co-chair of the New York Public Library Council. He is board of directors vice-chairman at the New York City Ballet. In 2018, Walker joined the board of directors of the Committee to Protect Journalists. In 2021 he was elected to the American Philosophical Society.

Walker was born in a charity hospital in Lafayette, Louisiana.[17] Walker was raised by a single mother in Ames and later Baytown, Texas, and was one of the country's first children to benefit from the Head Start Program. Walker said that his background "has given me an understanding of the need for investment in human capital and the centrality of private philanthropy making a difference in human lives." With financial support from a Pell Grant, Walker was admitted into the University of Texas at Austin. In 1982, he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in government and a Bachelor of Science in speech communication. In 1986, Walker graduated from the University of Texas School of Law with a Juris Doctor.

Walker is openly gay. His partner of 26 years, David Beitzel, died January 20, 2019, of a cardiac arrest due to an aortic dissection.



## Israel's Olympic gold victory raises Jewish identity debate

By ILAN BEN ZION today



JERUSALEM (AP) — Artem Dolgopyat fulfilled a lifelong dream when he won a gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics. But back home in Israel, his hopes of trading gold wedding bands with his longtime girlfriend seem to be an impossible dream.

The Ukrainian-born Israeli gymnast was hailed as a national hero for winning Israel's second-ever gold medal — and its first in artistic gymnastics. But the celebrations were tempered after his mother lamented that the country's authorities will not allow him to wed because he is not considered Jewish according to Orthodox law.

"The state doesn't allow him to marry," Dolgopyat's mother, Angela, told 103FM in an interview Sunday.

Her comments touched a raw nerve in this country, which has repeatedly struggled with balancing matters of religion and state since it was founded as a refuge for Jews 73 years ago.

Under its "Law of Return," anyone with at least one Jewish grandparent is eligible for Israeli citizenship. But while Dolgopyat's father is Jewish, his mother is not. Under "halacha," or Jewish religious law, one must have a Jewish mother to be considered Jewish.

This discrepancy has resulted in tens of thousands of people, many of them from the former Soviet Union, who live in the country and serve in its army but who are blocked from Jewish rituals such as weddings and funerals.

Israel does not have a system of civil marriage and Israeli law mandates that Jewish marriages must be conducted by a rabbi authorized by the Chief Rabbinate. Christian and Muslim couples must also get married within their faith.

Those who do not meet the Orthodox standards set by the rabbinate — including same-sex couples, interfaith couples, and Israelis not considered Jewish by halacha — cannot get married in Israel. Instead, they must travel abroad to marry.

Attempts to legalize civil marriage have repeatedly foundered due to opposition by politically powerful ultra-Orthodox parties.





Tokyo Olympic Games 2020

Aaron Timms

Mon 2 Aug 2021 05.00 EDT

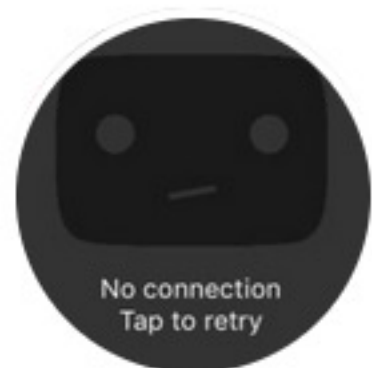
# NBC paid \$7.75bn for its Olympic rights ... and we got televisual vomit



▲ The women's 100m final was a brilliant spectacle but you might have had to wait to watch it. Photograph: Dylan Martinez/Reuters

US viewers have been able to see everything at any given moment while understanding fundamentally nothing about what's going on

Aaron Timms @aarontimms · Jun 2  
I'm a writer, you monsters! I create!





BUSINESS

## Amazon Warehouse Workers In Alabama May Get To Vote Again On A Union

Amazon's anti-union tactics may have tainted the spring's voting process sufficiently to scrap its results, according to the union. Workers had rejected unionization more than two-to-one.



*Patrick T. Fallon/AFP/Getty Images*

A federal labor official has found that Amazon's anti-union tactics tainted this spring's election sufficiently to scrap its results, according to the union that sought to represent the workers. The official is recommending a do-over of the unionization vote, the union said in a release.

Amazon is expected to challenge the recommendation, which has not been released publicly yet. A regional director from the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) is expected to rule within weeks on whether to schedule a new election. NLRB representatives did not immediately respond to NPR's inquiry on Monday.

The hearing provided additional insight into Amazon's anti-union tactics. One Bessemer worker testified that during mandatory meetings at the warehouse, managers said the facility could shut down if staff voted to unionize. Other workers said they were told that the union would waste their dues on fancy vacations and cars.



August 3, 2021 4:27 AM PDT Last Updated 34 minutes ago

## Europe

# Head of Belarusian exile group found hanged in Ukraine, police open murder case

Natalia Zinets, Margaryta Chornokondratenko



Vitaly Shishov, head of a Kyiv-based organisation that helps Belarusians fleeing persecution, is seen in Kyiv, Ukraine July 18, 2021. Picture taken July 18, 2021. RBC-Ukraine/Handout via REUTERS ATTENTION EDITORS - THIS IMAGE WAS PROVIDED BY A THIRD PARTY.

KYIV, Aug 3 (Reuters) - A Belarusian activist living in exile in Ukraine was found hanged in a park near his home in Kyiv early on Tuesday, and Ukrainian police said they had launched a murder case.

Shishov led the Belarusian House in Ukraine (BDU) group, which helps Belarusians find accommodation, jobs and legal advice.

"We were also repeatedly warned by both local sources and our people in the Republic of Belarus about all kinds of provocations, including kidnapping and liquidation," BDU said in a statement. "Vitaly treated these warnings stoically and with humour."

Ihor, 24, a fellow Belarusian exile who has known Shishov since last October, told Reuters that Shishov knew he was under surveillance, recounting instances of his car being followed or his girlfriend being approached by strangers while they were staging protests in Kyiv.

"Lukashenko's regime is at war, and he is at war. He is at war with anyone who can offer any resistance," said Ihor, who gave only his first name.

Shishov "did not suffer from any psychological disorder, he was always very sober-minded. That's why when he disappeared, we sounded the alarm because we knew he is not a person who could simply disappear, get drunk or party somewhere," Ihor added.

The organisation had said on Monday it was not able to contact Shishov. It said Shishov had left his residence at 9 a.m. (0600 GMT) and was supposed to have returned an hour later.

The Belarusian authorities have characterised anti-government protesters as criminals or violent revolutionaries backed by the West, and described the actions of their own law enforcement agencies as appropriate and necessary.

"It adds another level to our concerns about what is happening in Belarus," said Marta Hurtado, spokesperson for the U.N. human rights office, when asked about Shishov's death, though she said she did not know whether it was connected to politics.



## Appellate Court Says San Diego County Can Keep COVID-19 Outbreak Data Secret

Several public records attorneys said they're disappointed with the Fourth District Court of Appeal's ruling because of the message it sends to local officials and because of the evidence on which the case rested — the word of county Public Health Officer Wilma Wooten.



San Diego County Public Health Officer Wilma Wooten speaks at a press conference about the coronavirus pandemic. / Photo by Adriana Heldiz

Last month, a California appellate court ruled that San Diego County acted properly when it refused to release the specific location of COVID-19 outbreaks. The decision came in response to a lawsuit filed by Voice of San Diego, KPBS and the Union-Tribune. Although the ruling sets a narrow precedent limiting the public's right to access certain information during an emergency, open government advocates have expressed alarm over what it means long term. Several public records attorneys said they're disappointed with the Fourth District Court of Appeal's ruling because of the message it sends to local officials and because of the evidence on which the case rested — the word of county Public Health Officer Wilma Wooten. At its core is section 6255 of the California Public Records Act. Otherwise known as the catch-all exemption, it allows local governments to withhold information that officials have deemed sensitive. In doing so, officials will typically offer some version of a boilerplate phrase: "public interest in non-disclosure outweighs public interest in disclosure."

In other words, regular people may have a good reason to view a record, but officials have a more compelling reason for not sharing it. Reporters and open government advocates have long viewed the catch-all exemption as an escape valve for whatever officials decide, unilaterally, should be kept secret. When challenged, public agencies have the burden of proving that the records would cause harm if released. And for decades, judges have concluded that an official's best guess about what might happen in the future isn't good enough. Over the last year, Wooten has argued that the disclosure of specific business locations visited by three or more people who'd tested positive for COVID-19 would lead to a chilling effect on the contact tracing process. People would be less willing to talk to investigators and identify, say, a beloved restaurant or a church if they knew the information would then be broadcast at-large in a way that seemed punitive, she said. Wooten also argued that there isn't a correlation between visiting a specific location and getting COVID-19 because the coronavirus is "everywhere." She's obligated to give location information to local cities to help with their containment efforts but vowed only to publicly identify a specific location if, in her opinion, it constituted an ongoing threat. "It may satisfy curiosity but risks unfairly stigmatizing both locations and individuals linked to outbreak sites," she co-wrote in an op-ed for the U-T. Late last year, KPBS got its hands on outbreak location data for a roughly eight-month period in 2020 and found that many popular restaurant chains, like Olive Garden, Cheesecake Factory, Denny's and The Broken Yolk Cafe, experienced multiple outbreaks each.

The California Public Records Act is built around the principle that in a democracy we do not have to accept the unsubstantiated declarations of officials. As Aviles put it, "We have a right to see the information experts are relying on, so we can come up with our own independent review of how they're doing." Others were less critical of the ruling. Every case is limited to the facts, and the appellate court was more deferential to Wooten's testimony and expertise, said Abe Cisneros, another public records attorney. Lawmakers aren't able to anticipate and mediate every dispute over records, which is why the California Public Records Act has plenty of uncertainty. In the end, judges must determine what is and isn't a credible claim of harm. "The line between what's speculative and what's concrete is not as black and white when we're talking about a threat," Cisneros said. At the same time, he said, it would be disappointing if any public agency interpreted the ruling around outbreak data as a pretense to withhold other types of records. The media outlets intend to appeal the case to the California Supreme Court. But its odds of getting picked up, let alone overturned, are slim. "You're starting to see decisions that say the government exceeded its authority in some situations, or that some counties exceeded their authority with respect to churches," said Glen Smith, the litigation director for the First Amendment Coalition. "But in general, during an emergency, courts are going to be reluctant to second-guess government officials who are trying to deal with it in real time, unless it really impinges on iron-clad constitutional protections."



# KPBS Fires Veteran Newsroom Leaders Suzanne Marmion and Natalie Walsh



by Ken Stone

12 hours ago



Suzanne Marmion (left) and Natalie Walsh began work at KPBS in 2010 and 1993, respectively. Images via Twitter and San Diego State University.

In a move that shocked the newsroom, KPBS on Monday informed staff that two of its leaders — with a combined 39 years at San Diego’s public broadcasting station — were gone.

In a move that shocked the newsroom, KPBS on Monday informed staff that two of its leaders — with a combined 39 years at San Diego’s public broadcasting station — were gone.

Apparently fired were Suzanne Marmion, 50, director of news and editorial strategy, and executive producer Natalie Walsh, 54. KPBS declined to say why Marmion and Walsh had left, but confirmed their last day was Monday.

“I have no further comment regarding their departure,” said KPBS spokeswoman Heather Milne. “We do not discuss personnel matters.”

Marmion and Walsh didn’t respond to Facebook messages seeking comment. Immediate reaction was mixed.

But Pat Finn, a former producer at KPBS, said: “It is beyond upsetting that Suzanne Marmion and Natalie Walsh were fired. I believe that Natalie was given no specific reason or instance of any offense, which I would have thought was necessary.”

Marmion — a summa cum laude graduate of UC Berkeley with a master’s degree from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism — taught investigative and health reporting to journalists in Africa as well as multimedia storytelling at Columbia in New York City, said her KPBS bio.

Walsh earned a master’s degree in Mass Communications from San Diego State University, and a bachelor’s degree in political science from the University of Cincinnati.

The dual exits follow the February departure of Mark Sauer, a KPBS part-timer who previously led the newsroom to major recognition — and was named San Diego Journalist of the Year — for coverage of the Bob Filner sex-harassment saga.

Sauer, 68, had been stepping back from his management role in recent years and was moderator of Friday’s “KPBS Roundtable” show — formerly known as “Editor’s Roundtable.”

Sauer’s exit was never publicly explained. He said it was a “personal issue.”



AMERICA RECKONS WITH RACIAL INJUSTICE

## Missouri's Governor Pardons The St. Louis Lawyers Who Waved Guns At Black Lives Matter Protesters

Mark and Patricia McCloskey said they got their firearms out because they feared demonstrators who marched past the couple's home in a luxury enclave last year. The two pleaded guilty to misdemeanors.



Laurie Skrivan/AP

- **Prosecutors Say This Man Is In Prison For A Crime He Didn't Commit. Missouri Gov. Mike Parson Declined To Pardon Him**





Melissa DeRosa

American official

top The Washington Post

Cuomo report spotlights role of top aide Melissa DeRosa in trying to contain sexual harassment crisis

10 hours ago

<https://abcnews.go.com> > story

### Cuomo's top aide Melissa DeRosa reportedly subpoenaed in ...

Mar 27, 2021 — Cuomo's top aide **Melissa DeRosa** reportedly subpoenaed in sexual misconduct probe ... Cuomo accusers were asked about interactions with DeRosa, ...



**Born:** Albany, NY

**Parents:** Giorgio DeRosa, Melody A. DeRosa

**Siblings:** Jessica Davos, Joseph DeRosa

**Education:** Cornell University (2007–2009), Cornell University (2000–2004), Albany Academy for Girls (1995–2000)

From Karen Hinton: "Cuomo refused to hire a highly qualified woman for a HUD position because she was "not attractive enough" for him, he told me. He hired a white guy. This wasn't sexual. It was gender discrimination, not a trivial offense."



Follow

**Melissa DeRosa** ✓

@melissadderosa

Secretary to NY State Governor Andrew Cuomo, Chairwoman of the NYS Council on Women & Girls

New York, NY Joined August 2011

626 Following 57.4K Followers

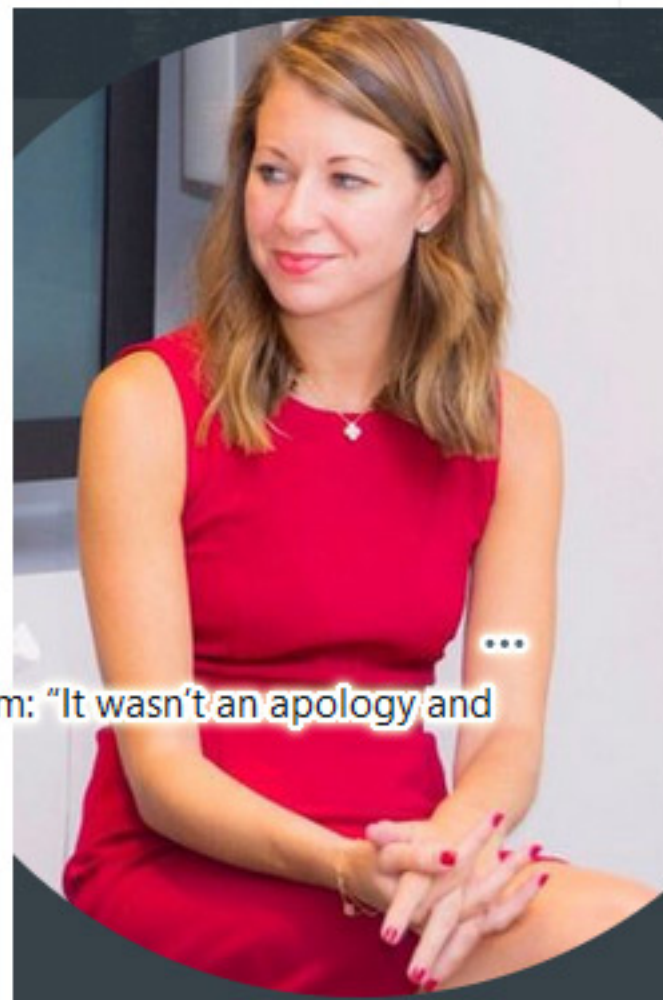
Charlotte Bennett Retweeted



**Good Morning America** ✓ @GMA · 55m

Former Cuomo aide on sexual harassment claim: "It wasn't an apology and he didn't take accountability for his actions."

@GStephanopoulos  
gma.abc/3rSzjQh



Pinned Tweet



**Charlotte Bennett** @\_char\_bennett\_ · 18h

We have the facts. @NYGovCuomo broke federal & state law when he sexually harassed me & other current & former staff. I do not want an apology — I want accountability and an end to victim-blaming. NYS Assembly Speaker @CarlHeastie, it's time you do the right thing: impeach him.

136

912

3.4K



Melissa DeRosa Retweeted



**Andrew Cuomo** ✓ @NYGovCuomo · 19h

Governor Cuomo Responds to Independent Reviewer Report:



14:11 402.1K viewers

**Andrew Cuomo** ✓ @NYGovCuomo

Gov. Cuomo's Response

3.9K

1.3K

2K





# Federal Judge Temporarily Blocks Texas And Gov. Abbott From Restricting The Transportation Of Migrants

Texas Public Radio | By [Dan Katz](#), [Paul Flahive](#), [Carolina Cuellar](#), [Angela Kocherga](#) | KTEP

Published August 3, 2021 at 8:23 PM CDT

A federal judge in El Paso issued a temporary restraining order stopping Texas Gov. Greg Abbott from carrying out his executive order restricting migrant travel in the state.

The Department of Justice asked for a temporary restraining order to keep Abbott from using state troopers to stop vehicles suspected of transporting migrants. District Judge Kathleen Cardone granted that request on Tuesday.

A Justice Department attorney in a hearing Monday argued Texas attempted to unlawfully create its own "immigration regime." Immigration policy is under the purview of the federal government.

Attorneys for the state told the judge that the governor's executive order is about COVID-19 health concerns and not immigration. The temporary restraining order is in effect until August 13, and the judge may extend it.

"The Court's recent order is temporary and based on limited evidence," Abbott's office said in a statement Tuesday. "We look forward to providing the Court with the evidence to support the Governor's Executive Order to protect Texans."

The case comes amid a resurgence of the coronavirus with the spread of the Delta variant. The Abbott administration has restrained Texas communities from instituting mask or vaccine mandates while focusing his COVID rhetoric on the border region.

There were more than 188,000 attempted crossings from Mexico into the U.S. in June, the highest in a decade.



POOL/REUTERS

Texas Governor Greg Abbott addresses former U.S. President Donald Trump as Trump attends a border security briefing with the governor to discuss security at the U.S. southern border with Mexico in Weslaco, Texas, U.S. June 30, 2021. Brandon Bell/Pool via REUTERS



# Tamyra Mensah-Stock Becomes 1st U.S. Black Woman To Win Wrestling Gold

August 3, 2021 · 2:10 PM ET

BILL CHAPPELL 



Team USA's Tamyra Mensah-Stock displays her gold medal Tuesday after the women's 68-kilogram freestyle wrestling final at the Tokyo Olympics.

*Tom Pennington/Getty Images*

U.S. wrestler Tamyra Mensah-Stock closed out her first Olympics in dominating style Tuesday, winning gold in the women's 68-kilogram freestyle final. She is only the second woman — and the first Black woman — to win an Olympic wrestling gold for the United States.

The top-seeded Mensah-Stock defeated second-seed Blessing Oborududu 4-1 after seizing points with two takedowns in the first period. Neither athlete scored a point in the second period despite Oborududu's increasingly desperate attempts.

## Both athletes make history

By winning silver, Oborududu became the first Nigerian athlete to win an Olympic medal in wrestling.

After the match, Mensah-Stock, 28, commented on the historic elements of her final with Oborududu.

"I'm like, 'Oh my gosh, look at us representing,'" Mensah-Stock said, according to [The Associated Press](#). "It's so freaking awesome. You're making history, I'm making history. We're making history. So it meant a lot."







*Given its 40-year history in the neighborhood, the Garden's new public education spaces will highlight landscape architecture's pivotal role in designing sustainable environments and the benefits of using indigenous pollinator plants.*

(left to right) Corianne Andrews, Landscape Architect at Spurlock, Robin Parry, Grant Coordinator, and Leigh Kyle, Principal, at Spurlock

The garden, which will be 40 years old this year, is one of 105 community gardens in the County and 27 in the City of San Diego. It is the oldest community garden in the city, providing a green belt in the culturally and economically diverse urban neighborhood of Bankers Hill, located just north of Downtown San Diego.

Juniper-Front garden is a 501(c)3 non-profit entity, serving the San Diego community. A 10-member volunteer Board of Directors leads the management of the Garden with five officers and five directors. More than a dozen community work teams of member gardeners handle a wide range of tasks required to maintain the Garden in optimal condition.

Covering 20,000 square feet, the Garden currently has 50 plots for individual gardeners, a community meeting space, and more than 12 shared community fruit trees. The garden has more than 75 people on their waitlist for plots.

Originally created for seniors, the Garden is now used by people of all ages and from all walks of life, from all over the world. Many of the members use sustainable gardening principles and their prize crops include tomatoes, peppers, leeks, fava beans, asparagus, strawberries, onions, squash, lettuce, spinach, Swiss chard and flowers galore.

By Delle Willett

The community garden at Juniper and Front streets is a haven for all who enter. More than a place to grow flowers, fruits and vegetables, this garden is good for the soul.

"The harvest enriches our tables, and the community of gardeners nourishes our spirit," said Robin Parry, Ph.D., grant coordinator of the Juniper-Front Community Garden.

In the 1970s, after the FAA declared the buildings situated on this parcel of land as hazardous to the official flight path for Lindbergh Field and required their removal, the San Diego Unified Port District purchased the property on which the Juniper-Front Community Garden is located.

Jane Illades, gardener

In 1981, the Garden's founding mother, Ethel Baron, partnered with the non-profit San Diego Senior Citizens Center who accepted sponsorship of the Garden, providing the required insurance coverage that allowed the Port of San Diego to enter into a lease agreement for the use of the property as a community garden, located at 2260 Front Street in San Diego.



(left to right) Robin Parry, gardener & Grant Coordinator, Rich Truffa, gardener, and Maria Teresa Bonafonte, gardener





← **Delle Willett**  
9 Tweets



**Delle Willett**  
@Delle1942

Mostly done Marketing and PR for the last 35+ years.

15 years with museums/botanical gardens, 15 with own agency. Versatile. Creative. Like being busy.

📍 San Diego 📅 Joined November 2009

45 Following 31 Followers

Tweets Tweets & replies Media Likes

-  **Delle Willett** @Delle1942 · Apr 11, 2020  
Can I follow directions?
-  **Delle Willett** @Delle1942 · Apr 11, 2020  
Trying my skills of following directions
-  **Delle Willett** @Delle1942 · Apr 11, 2020  
Ann, I'm trying my skills of following directions.
-  **Delle Willett** @Delle1942 · Apr 11, 2020  
Testing my ability to read directions
-  **Delle Willett** @Delle1942 · Jun 14, 2013  
Go away!
-  **Delle Willett** @Delle1942 · Apr 2, 2011  
Hi travelzoo!

— Delle Willett has been a marketing and public relations professional for over 30 years, advising clients including the San Diego Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy and others with an emphasis on conservation of the environment. She can be reached at [dellewillett@gmail.com](mailto:dellewillett@gmail.com).

The garden, which will be 40 years old this year, is one of 105 community gardens in the County and 27 in the City of San Diego. It is the oldest community garden in the city, providing a green belt in the culturally and economically diverse urban neigh-

Garden in optimal condition.

Covering 20,000 square feet, the Garden currently has 50 plots for individual gardeners, a community meeting space, and more than 12 shared community fruit trees. The garden has more than 75 people on their waitlist for plots.

Originally created for seniors, the Garden is now used by people of all ages and from all walks of life, from all over the world. Many of the members use sustainable gardening principles and their prize crops include tomatoes, peppers, leeks, fava beans, asparagus, strawberries, onions, squash, lettuce, spinach, Swiss chard and flowers galore.



(left to right) Robin Parry, gardener & Grant Coordinator, Rich Truffa, gardener, and Maria Teresa Bonafonte, gardener

“The spirit, Garden  
In the hazar  
the S  
Front  
Jane  
In 19  
San D  
the re  
lease  
2260



# Facebook Boots NYU Disinformation Researchers Off Its Platform And Critics Cry Foul

August 4, 2021 - 6:45 PM ET



Facebook cut off access to NYU researchers studying political ads and COVID misinformation, saying their work violated its terms of service.

Facebook has blocked a team of New York University researchers studying political ads and COVID misinformation from accessing its site, a move that critics say is meant to silence research that makes the company look bad.

The researchers at the NYU Ad Observatory launched a tool last year to collect data about the political ads people see on Facebook. Around 16,000 people have installed the browser extension. It enables them to share data on which ads they're shown and why those ads were targeted at them with the researchers.

"NYU's Ad Observatory project studied political ads using unauthorized means to access and collect data from Facebook, in violation of our terms of service," Mike Clark, Facebook's product management director, wrote in a blog post.

He said Facebook took action "to stop unauthorized scraping and protect people's privacy," to comply with an agreement it reached with the Federal Trade Commission in 2019, when it paid a \$5 billion penalty stemming from the Cambridge Analytica data privacy scandal. But on Wednesday, the researchers disputed Facebook's claim, saying they're not gathering private information about Facebook users.

"We really don't collect anything that isn't an ad, that isn't public, and we're pretty careful about how we do it," said Laura Edelson, a doctoral candidate at NYU who helps lead the research project and whose account Facebook disabled. She noted that the code for the browser extension is public and that it has been reviewed by outside experts.

Facebook says the browser extension violates its privacy rules because it collects information about advertisers, including their names, Facebook IDs and photos. The company says the data collected by the tool could also be used to identify information about other users who interacted with the ads but did not consent to share their information.

Damon McCoy, an associate professor at NYU who was also cut off from Facebook, said he believes the company is using privacy claims as a pretext because it's unhappy with the team's research.

"It feels like Facebook is trying to intimidate us, and not just us, but they're trying to send a message to other independent researchers that are trying to study their platform," he said. "We need transparency and accountability."

The Knight Institute, which is representing NYU's Edelson and McCoy, urged Facebook back in 2018 to create a "safe harbor" provision in its terms of service that would allow academics and journalists to research and collect data from its platform, while protecting users' privacy. But Krishnan said negotiations with the company ended in a stalemate.

Now, she said, the solution lies in Washington. She says Congress should "mandate transparency" on social media platforms and create a safe harbor law protecting research.

"We're not saying that Facebook doesn't have legitimate reasons for, in general, prohibiting scraping," she said. "But intentionally or not, those prohibitions are also impeding journalists' and researchers' ability to study, understand and report about the platform."



## POLITICS

[Far-Right Misinformation Is Thriving On Facebook. A New Study Shows Just How Much](#)



## TECHNOLOGY

[Facebook Keeps Data Secret, Letting Conservative Bias Claims Persist](#)



## UNTANGLING DISINFORMATION

[Facebook Calls Links To Depression Inconclusive. These Researchers Disagree](#)



## San Diego artists continue push to save murals slated for demolition at Logan Heights school

# Salvador "Sal" Barajas

### Wonder Wall: Legendary Chicano muralist Salvador Barajas transforms restroom wall in Chicano Park

BY DASHA VOVK SUN STAFF ON 06/04/2018

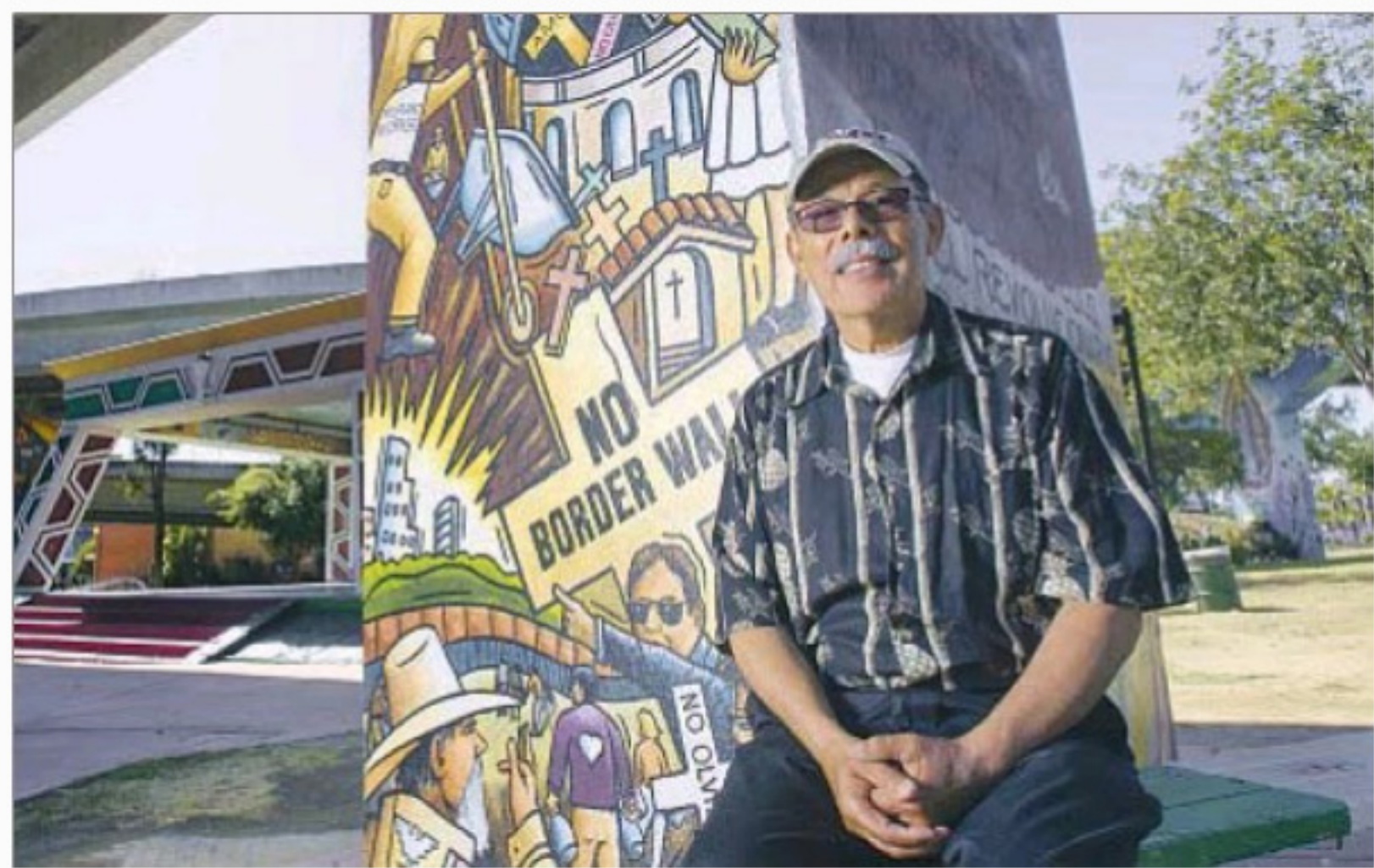
When Salvador Barajas painted his first mural in Chicano Park in 1974, it was an act of protest. When he finished his third Chicano Park mural this month, it was an act of love.



Chicano art master Salvador Barajas applies the finishing touches on his latest Chicano Park mural—his third.



Artist Salvador Barajas (2nd from right) along with supporters speaks to the press at Memorial Prep Middle School about the removal of his murals from the school



**THE NEW MURAL** is the first time Salvador "Sal" Barajas has put up his own work in San Diego's Chicano Park since 1973, when he helped paint a mural that features the leaders and history of the Chicano movement.



# Asia Wok Cross-Cultural Dome Art Project



## Salvador "Sal" Barajas

When you step inside Asia Wok, be sure to look up and feast your eyes on the magnificent dome. Designed and painted by local artist Sal Barajas, the art depicts representatives from the Samoan, Sudanese, Somali, Laotian, Mexican, Filipino, Kumaaya, and African American cultures all who live in the surrounding neighborhoods. Visit Asia Wok at Market Creek Plaza and take a look!



Sal Barajas (right) and Sal Jr., June 3, 2005



Asia Wok Chinese Food  
342 Euclid Ave, San Diego, CA 92114



# Xi Jinping's Capitalist Smackdown Sparks a \$1 Trillion Reckoning

After 40 years of allowing the market to play an expanding role in driving prosperity, China's leaders have remembered something important — they're Communists.

By **Tom Hancock** and **Tom Orlik**

August 1, 2021, 2:00 PM PDT

Xi Jinping smiled and hinted at a policy bombshell that would soon roil stock markets from Shanghai to New York.

It was mid-June, and the most powerful Chinese Communist Party leader since Mao Zedong was holding court at an after-school club for elementary students in the remote city of Xining.

Acknowledging the growing pressure on students and their parents to spend time and money on private tutoring, Xi promised to ease their burden.

Behind Beijing's actions lies a political and economic philosophy that is fundamentally foreign to most modern Western politicians and investors. Communist rulers see the economy as something that can thrive through state planning, even if that rides roughshod over the rights of entrepreneurs and their backers.

While Xi's comments went largely unnoticed by global investors at the time, the crackdown on tutoring companies that followed has become the starkest illustration yet of the Chinese president's commitment to a sweeping new vision for the world's second-largest economy — one where the interests of investors take a distant third place to ensuring social stability and national security.

Call it progressive authoritarianism. From exhausted couriers in the gig economy, to stressed parents struggling with ever-rising housing prices and tuition fees, to small businesses battling tech monopolies, Xi is swinging the cudgel of state power in support of the squeezed middle class. These challenges aren't unique to China, but the policy response has been.

Weeks after Xi's school visit, China said private education had been "hijacked by capital" and ordered tutoring companies to become non-profits, accelerating a selloff that at its most extreme erased \$1.5 trillion from Chinese stocks and dented the portfolios of some of the biggest names in global finance.

Combined with new requirements for data security reviews ahead of overseas IPOs, directives for food-delivery firms to pay staff a living wage and escalating curbs on unaffordable housing, the tutoring crackdown has triggered a growing realization that the old rules of Chinese business no longer apply, and left investors wondering which sector will be the next target for regulators.

For decades, even as they kept strict control over strategic sectors like banking and oil, China's leaders gave entrepreneurs and investors freedom to drive the adoption of new technologies and open up fresh opportunities for growth. Deng Xiaoping set the tone back in the mid-1980s when he said it was OK if some got rich first. Now, with growth slowing and relations with the U.S. increasingly hostile, they're emphasizing different goals: common prosperity and national security.

"This marks a watershed shift in China's policy priorities," said Liao Ming, Beijing-based founder of Prospect Avenue Capital, which manages \$500 million. "The government is going after industries that are creating the most social discontent."

And, true to their Communist roots, China's leaders have no problem trampling on the interests of venture capital, private equity or stock investors when they conflict with its long-term development plan. Liao said that focus is now on what has been dubbed the "three big mountains": the crushing burden of payments for education, healthcare and property.

For now, tech is still the main target. In a flurry of action Friday, authorities summoned the country's largest technology companies for a lecture on data security, vowed better oversight of overseas share listings and accused ride-hailing companies of stifling competition.



Part of Xi's motivation is desire for popular support ahead of the once-in-a-decade leadership transition next year, where he is expected to buck tradition and stay on as party chief for a third term.



## Study warns of 'irreversible transition' in ocean currents that could rapidly freeze parts of North America

DOYLE RICE | USA TODAY | 12 hours ago

- If the current system collapses, it would lead to dramatic changes in worldwide weather patterns.
- If this circulation shuts down, it could bring extreme cold to Europe and parts of North America.
- "It's one of those events that should not happen, and we should try all that we can to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible."



A beachgoer walks along the water as waves crash in Manasquan, N.J. A large system of ocean currents in the Atlantic – which includes the Gulf Stream – has been disrupted due to human-caused climate change, scientists reported in a new study published Thursday.

A large system of ocean currents in the Atlantic – which includes the Gulf Stream – has been disrupted due to human-caused climate change, scientists reported in a new study published Thursday. If that system collapses, it would lead to dramatic changes in worldwide weather patterns.

**The Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation, or AMOC**, transports warm, salty water from the tropics northward at the ocean surface and cold water southward at the ocean bottom. "The Atlantic Meridional Overturning really is one of our planet's key circulation systems," said the author of the study, Niklas Boers from the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany.

Findings from a similar 2018 study drew comparisons to the scientifically inaccurate 2004 disaster movie "The Day After Tomorrow," which used such an ocean current shutdown as the premise of the film. At the time, study authors said a collapse was at least decades away but would be a catastrophe.

A potential collapse of this ocean current system would have severe consequences around the globe, authors of the new study said.

If this circulation shuts down, it could bring extreme cold to Europe and parts of North America, raise sea levels along the U.S. East Coast and disrupt seasonal monsoons that provide water to much of the world, the Washington Post said.

It would also further endanger the Amazon rainforest and Antarctic ice sheets, according to the Guardian.

Researchers who study ancient climate change have also uncovered evidence that the AMOC can turn off abruptly, causing wild temperature swings and other dramatic shifts in global weather systems, the Post said.

August 3: There's a 'dead zone' in the Gulf of Mexico this summer that's bigger than Connecticut

July 20: What is La Niña? Does it bring more snow? How climate pattern could affect US weather.

The study was published Thursday in the peer-reviewed British journal Nature Climate Change.

Climate models have shown that the AMOC is at its weakest in more than 1,000 years, Reuters reported. However, it has not been known whether the weakening is due to a change in circulation or the loss of stability. Other climate models have said the AMOC will weaken over the coming century but that a collapse before 2100 is unlikely, Reuters said.



**Conrad Prebys** (August 20, 1933 – July 24, 2016) property developer, philanthropist based in San Diego, California.

Prebys was born in South Bend, Indiana, and graduated from Indiana University.[1][3] He moved to San Diego in 1965 and co-founded Progress Construction. He bought out his partner in 1980. Over the years, Prebys shifted his focus from construction to property ownership. As of 2015 he owned 81 properties in the greater San Diego area and had an estimated net worth of approximately US\$1 billion. Prebys owned many apartment buildings, which provided housing for thousands of families with children. His concern for the well-being of these children resulted in his support of local Boys & Girls Clubs, where these children participate in educational and recreational activities and receive guidance from caring adults. In appreciation for his generous contributions, Boys & Girls Club facilities in Escondido,[4] Ramona[5] and Santee[6] were named in his honor.

Prebys was a prolific philanthropist, and made major donations to biomedical research, higher education, and public broadcasting.[7][8] His donations helped to underwrite the Conrad Prebys Music Center at the University of California, San Diego and the La Jolla-based Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute, a nonprofit medical research institute.[9] Other major donations went to PBS's Masterpiece, the San Diego Zoo, San Diego State University, Indiana University,[10] the Salk Institute, and Scripps Health.

In support of San Diego State University (SDSU), Prebys donated \$20 million[11] to create endowed scholarships that now support costs of attendance for at least 150 students per year. Recipients of Prebys' scholarship funds include those pursuing bio-medical research, those practicing the creative and performing arts, those inducted into the Guardian Scholars and SDSU Honors programs, and those studying entrepreneurship and leadership. At the time, his was the single largest gift ever made to San Diego State University. The SDSU campus also recently named its student union the Conrad Prebys Aztec Student Union[12] in his honor.

In the summer of 2014, Prebys donated \$25 million to the Salk Institute for Biological Studies, to fund "cutting-edge biological research on a wide range of diseases.[13]" His gift was the institute's largest, enabling its researchers to pursue breakthrough medical therapies. **Prebys gave his all-time largest gift of \$100 million to the Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute in June 2015, to support its 10-year strategic vision to develop and implement innovative medical treatments that can have lasting, positive effects on the field of healthcare.** The gift resulted in the renaming of the institute, which is now known as the Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute. In October 2015, Prebys donated \$20 million to the Indiana University Kelley School of Business[14] to fund the construction of a new campus amphitheater and the Kelley School of Business Conrad Prebys Career Services Center,[15] which began construction in summer 2015. He visited the campus shortly after the gift was made public, where he was greeted with a warm welcome by students, faculty, and Kelley School of Business dean Idie Kesner. Many of the school's students created posters and cards to thank Prebys for his generosity and philanthropic vision for the forthcoming career services center that will bear his name.

Prebys graduated with distinction from Indiana University's Kelley School of Business in 1955 with a bachelor's degree in business. During his time as a student at Indiana University, Prebys was an active member in many student organizations including Delta Upsilon fraternity, Indiana University's Playbill theater group, the Scabbard and Blade Club, the Army ROTC, and Theta Alpha Phi - the national Theatre Honors Fraternity.

In June 2015 Prebys was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from San Diego State University's College of Business Administration.



## Conrad Prebys



Conrad Prebys was a property developer and philanthropist based in San Diego, California. Prebys was born in South Bend, Indiana, and graduated from Indiana University. He moved to San Diego in 1965 and co-founded Progress Construction. He bought out his partner in 1980. [Wikipedia](#)

**Born:** August 20, 1933, [South Bend, IN](#)

**Died:** July 24, 2016, [Scripps Mercy Hospital](#)

**Children:** [Eric Prebys](#)

**Siblings:** [Robert E. Prebys](#), [Theodore C. Prebys](#), [Ronald Prebys](#), [Paul Prebys](#)

Prebys Cardiovascular Institute

4.1 ★★★★★ (21) · Hospital

9888 Genesee Ave · (858) 626-4123

The Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center

4.8 ★★★★★ (105) · Performing arts theater

La Jolla, CA · (858) 459-3724

Conrad Prebys Aztec Student Union

4.6 ★★★★★ (138) · Student union

6075 Aztec Cir Dr · In San Diego State University ·



# COVID lung X-rays of San Diego patients show 'remarkable' impact of vaccines

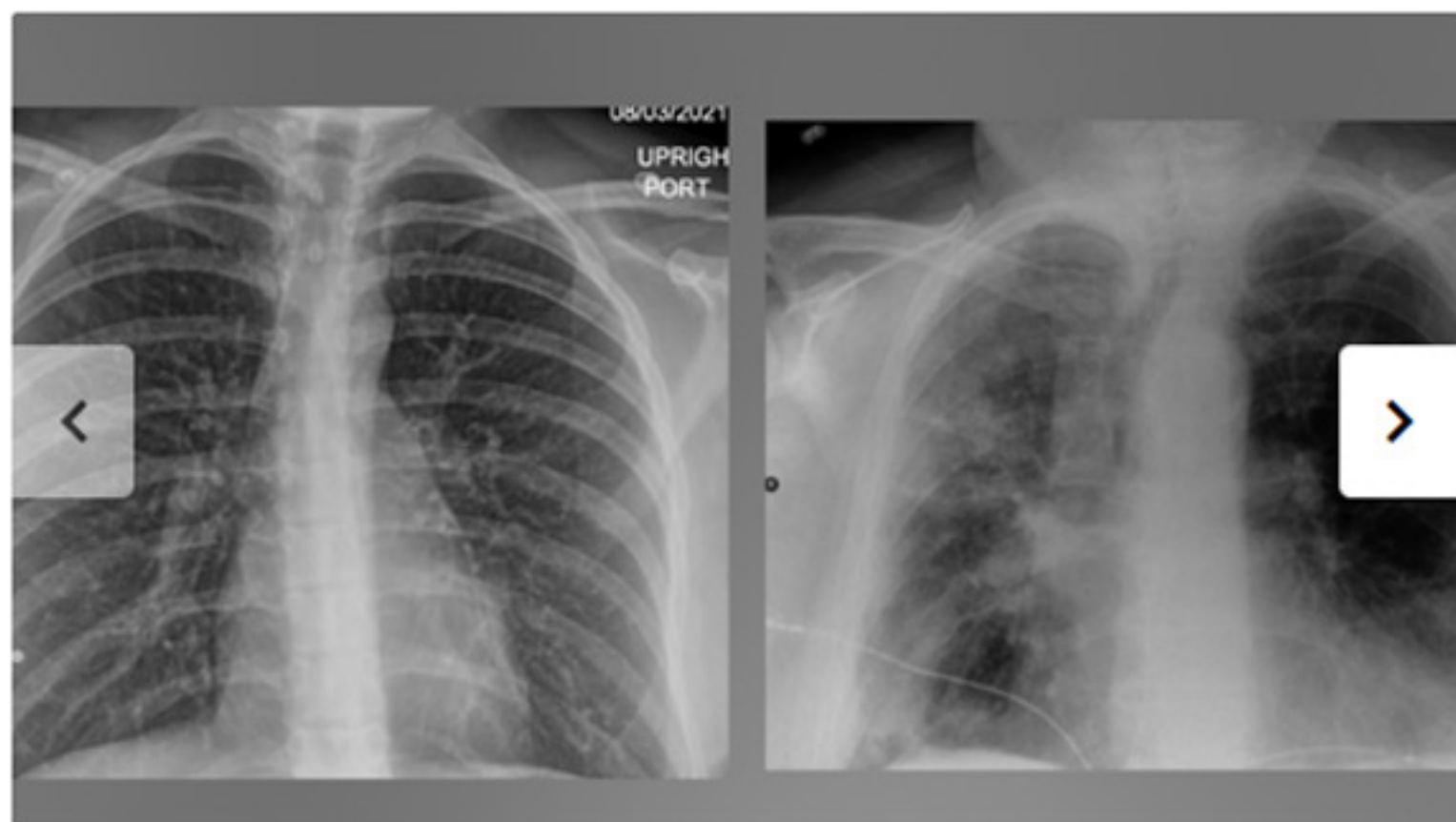


Photo by: UCSD Health



By: Michael Chen

Posted at 3:08 PM, Aug 05, 2021 and last updated 5:41 PM, Aug 05, 2021

SAN DIEGO (KGTU) - Side-by-side X-rays of COVID-19 positive lungs released to ABC 10News illustrate the impact vaccines can make.

Across the county, local hospitals are seeing a surge in COVID cases, including UC San Diego hospitals. UCSD Radiologist Dr. Albert Hsiao has been interpreting X-rays of COVID patients since the pandemic began.

He sent us ABC 10News two images. In the first image are the lungs of a vaccinated COVID patient. In another image are the lungs of an unvaccinated patient.

"The difference between the two images is really dramatically different," said Dr. Hsiao.

In the first image, the vaccinated person's lungs reveal a lot of black space, which means it's filled with air. The unvaccinated person's lung is much cloudier, which means the infection has taken over.

"Cloudy, white areas areas that you see, areas of the lung that are with filled with fluid or immune cells, or the virus itself," said Dr. Hsiao.

In contrast, Dr. Hsiao says the clearer X-ray show the vaccine at work. It recognizes the virus as a foreign invader and then fights it.

"The vaccine prevents the virus from replicating as rapidly, as freely in a vaccinated person as in an unvaccinated person. It allows the immune system to have a head start before virus gets out of control," said Dr. Hsiao.

Another set of side-by-side images sent to ABC 10News are from the same patients' lungs. An AI algorithm has identified and colored in the areas of infection. In these images, the unvaccinated person's lungs are filled with color.

That patient remains hospitalized. The vaccinated patient was sent home.

"These X-rays are an illustration how remarkable and effective the vaccines are in protecting us from this virus," said Dr. Hsiao.

It's not known if either patient's virus has been sequenced, but it's likely both are cases of the Delta variant. Across the country, the variant now makes up more than 90% of new cases.



# Afghan Taliban kill head of government media department

an hour ago

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The Taliban shot and killed the director of Afghanistan’s Government Information Media Center on Friday, the latest killing of a government official and one that comes just days after an assassination attempt on the acting defense minister.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told The Associated Press that the groups’ fighters had killed **Dawa Khan Menapal**, who ran the government’s press operations for the local and foreign media.

In a statement Mujahid put out later, he said Menapal “was killed in a special attack of Mujahideen” and was “punished for his deeds.”

Mujahid did not give any more details. The killing of government officials by the Taliban are not uncommon, and several recent attacks against civilians have been claimed by the Islamic State. The government most often holds the Taliban responsible.

The war between the Taliban and Afghanistan’s government forces has intensified over the past few months as U.S. and NATO troops complete their pullout from the war-torn country. The Taliban are now trying to seize provincial capitals after already taking smaller administrative districts.

The killing of Menapal occurred as weekly Friday prayers were being said, Interior Ministry Deputy Spokesman Said Hamid Rushan said. It was unclear where Menapal was at the time of the shooting.

Late Tuesday, a Taliban bombing attack targeting Afghanistan’s acting defense minister killed at least eight people and wounded 20 in a heavily guarded upscale neighborhood of Kabul. The deputy minister was unharmed.

The blast was followed by a gun battle that also left four militants dead. The Taliban said it was to avenge its fighters killed during government offensives in rural provinces.



**Dawa khan Menapal** ✓

@menapal1

Director of Government media and information center (GMIC)

Kabul Joined December 2015

1,575 Following 142.6K Followers



**Dawa khan Menapal** ✓ @menapal1 · Aug 2

#DefendAfghanistan





# San Diego hospitals fail to post prices as required by new federal rules, report finds



Hospitals are failing to post prices

By: [Derek Staahl](#)

Posted at 6:04 PM, Aug 05, 2021 and last updated 6:58 PM, Aug 05, 2021

SAN DIEGO (KGTV) -- Some of San Diego's largest hospitals are not complying with new federal regulations requiring medical centers to post their prices online for patients to review, according to a non-profit patient advocacy group.

Jacobs Medical Center at UC San Diego Health, Kaiser Permanente's Zion Medical Center, Sharp Memorial Hospital and Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center all lack key pricing information required by the law, according to Patient Rights Advocate.

Kaiser rejected the group's findings, while UCSD and Sharp sought to clarify them. Their statements appear in full below.

As of Jan. 1, roughly 6,000 hospitals were subject to a federal rule requiring hospitals to post the prices they charge patients and the various rates they have negotiated with insurers. Patient Rights Advocate randomly surveyed 500 hospitals nationwide and found 94 percent were not compliant with the new rule.

The group's initial report did not analyze hospitals in San Diego, Bakersfield, or Santa Barbara, so PRA reviewed six additional hospitals at ABC 10News' request. The group said all six were not compliant with the federal regulations, including Dignity Health Memorial Hospital in Bakersfield and the four San Diego hospitals mentioned above.

"They have to post all of these prices so that all of us can be well informed about what the costs are in healthcare," said PRA founder Cynthia Fisher. "It allows every patient to know what is a fair price before you get care."

The transparency rules have bipartisan support. They were first crafted by the Trump Administration. The Biden Administration is now seeking to strengthen the penalties on hospitals that don't comply, proposing to raise the fines from \$300 per day to a maximum of \$5,500 per day starting next year.

Kaiser called Patient Rights Advocate's findings "erroneous," saying certain aspects of the federal regulations should not apply to it because the organization operates differently than most hospitals. Kaiser is an integrated health system, acting as both a hospital and an insurance plan.

"Kaiser Permanente has complied with the required elements for price transparency," said spokeswoman Jennifer Dailard in a statement. "The patient rights advocacy group that conducted this survey is not a government entity with authority to interpret CMS requirements and erroneously categorized Kaiser Permanente as non-compliant for elements that should be deemed as non-applicable."

PRA said Kaiser's shoppable services file does not contain discounted cash rates, as required.

## ***Kaiser Permanente Statement***

"Kaiser Permanente has complied with the required elements for price transparency. The patient rights advocacy group that conducted this survey is not a government entity with authority to interpret CMS requirements and erroneously categorized Kaiser Permanente as non-compliant for elements that should be deemed as non-applicable. As a fully integrated system- health plan, hospitals and medical group all under a common umbrella - the Kaiser Permanente Plan Rates are our negotiated rate. Kaiser Permanente does not negotiate rates for other insurers to use our hospital services and does not have negotiated rates with other payers. Since there is only one Kaiser Permanente Plan rate, there is no negotiated minimum or negotiated maximum to include. Our standard charges file and shoppable services files are complete as they include all the information that is applicable in our integrated system. In addition, the regulation requires either a shoppable services list or a price estimation tool. Kaiser Permanente provided the shoppable services list."



## 2 coaches removed from Tokyo Olympics in Belarus case

By GRAHAM DUNBAR 7 minutes ago



*Belarusian Olympic sprinter Krystsina Tsimanouskaya, who arrived in Poland on Wednesday fearing reprisals at home after criticizing her coaches at the Tokyo Games, holds up an Olympic-related T-shirt with the slogan "I Just Want to Run" after her news conference in Warsaw, Poland, on Thursday, Aug. 5, 2021. Tsimanouskaya reached Poland by plane from Tokyo through Vienna, a circuitous route due to security concerns, days after she accused team officials of trying to force her to fly back to Belarus, where an authoritarian government has relentlessly pursued its critics. (AP Photo/Czarek Sokolowski)*

TOKYO (AP) — Two Belarus team coaches have been removed from the Olympics, four days after they were involved in trying to send sprinter Krystsina Tsimanouskaya back to their country.

The International Olympic Committee said Friday it has canceled and removed the credentials of Artur Shimak and Yury Maisevich. "The two coaches were requested to leave the Olympic Village immediately and have done so," the IOC said. It was done as an interim measure during a formal investigation "in the interest of the wellbeing of the athletes," the Olympic body said. Shimak and Maisevich continued to have contact with Belarusian athletes since Sunday after the IOC linked them to taking Tsimanouskaya in a car to the airport to put her on a plane to Belarus. Tsimanouskaya had criticized team coaches on social media and is now in Poland with a humanitarian visa. The IOC said Shimak and Maisevich "will be offered an opportunity to be heard" by its disciplinary commission investigating the case.

The Belarusian Olympic committee said both men will return to Minsk soon and "they reserve the right to appeal against the decision." Belarus has been in turmoil for a year since authoritarian president Aleksander Lukashenko claimed a sixth term after a state election widely viewed as rigged in his favor. The former Soviet republic has relentlessly pursued its critics. Lukashenko also led the Belarusian Olympic committee since the 1990s until this year. His son, Viktor, was elected to replace him. The IOC banned both Lukashenkos in December from attending the Tokyo Olympics after investigating complaints from athletes they faced reprisals and intimidation in a security crackdown after the election. Alexander Lukashenko was also unable to attend the 2012 London Olympics because of a European Union visa ban imposed during a previous crackdown that followed a disputed election. Still, the IOC's slate of sanctions against Belarus was criticized by activists there and international groups representing athletes who urged a full suspension of the national Olympic committee. That would have let Tsimanouskaya and the rest of the 103-member Belarusian team compete as independents under the Olympic flag.

Asked Friday about how Olympic officials had handled Belarus, IOC President Thomas Bach said it was "not in a position to change the political system in a country." "What our responsibility and our remit is is to protect the athletes as much and as far as we can," Bach said, describing the incident in Tokyo as a "deplorable case." In Belarus, Olympic officials said they were in close contact with the IOC and "shall continue to defend and protect the interests of all Belarusian athletes and coaches from any forms of discrimination, if any."

However, Belarus was also selected by the European group of national Olympic bodies to host the 2019 European Games. That multi-sport event brought about 4,000 athletes to compete in Minsk.



FRESH AIR

## The 'Dark Money' Effort To Win Elections 'At All Costs'

August 5, 2021 · 5:19 PM ET

Jane Mayer's latest investigation for 'The New Yorker' is about rich and powerful conservative groups that are exploiting Trump's false claims of widespread election fraud in order to promote alterations in the way that ballots are cast and counted. "The 2020 election is long since over in most people's minds, and settled and decided," Mayer says. "But these groups are doubling down in the money they're putting into and the effort they're putting into trying to push the idea of fraud — potentially in order to challenge the 2022 midterms, and the 2024 election."

MAYER: Well, I went out to Arizona to take a look at this audit. And what I discovered was it's not taking place in a vacuum. And it's actually not just an Arizona thing. It's being funded by out-of-state interests, deep-pocketed people who are allies of Donald Trump - that's specifically the audit. And it's taking place against a backdrop of this spreading belief that voter fraud is rife in America and that elections can't be trusted. And that is being spread by national groups that are - some of them, quite well known and established in Republican circles. And so I kept sort of peeling back the onion to try to figure out, where is this coming from? And the picture begin to clarify that, actually, there's a money stream. And an awful lot of it is coming from one single huge foundation in Milwaukee, Wis., which is funding all of these other groups that are pushing the idea that there's voter fraud is a serious problem in America and that we can't trust our elections. **And that one huge foundation is the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation in Milwaukee, Wis.**

GROSS: And the person who's fortune is behind this foundation, Harry Bradley, he was a founding member of the John Birch Society. So refresh our memory about the John Birch Society.



MAYER: Right. So what you're getting is the Bradley family, these two brothers that founded this company, the Allen-Bradley Company, they defined the far-right fringe. They were, you know, dedicated anti-communist zealots who feared that the United States government was run by communists. And they were, you know, fringe figures politically, but they were extraordinarily rich by the time they died. And their fortune has funded this far-right foundation.


The Bradley Foundation's former president, Michael S. Joyce, helped to create the Philanthropy Roundtable, a group of American philanthropists that, as of 2018, has 660 members (consisting of both individuals and organizations).[6]

In the August 2021 New Yorker magazine, Jane Mayer writes, "(...) the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation. Based in Milwaukee, the private, tax-exempt organization has become an extraordinary force in persuading mainstream Republicans to support radical challenges to election rules—a tactic once relegated to the far right. With an endowment of some eight hundred and fifty million dollars, the foundation funds a network of groups that have been stoking fear about election fraud, in some cases for years. Public records show that, since 2012, the foundation has spent some eighteen million dollars supporting eleven conservative groups involved in election issues."

**The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation**, based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is an American charitable foundation with more than \$800 million U.S. dollars in assets. It promotes American exceptionalism.[1][2]

The Foundation provides between \$35 million and \$45 million annually to a variety of causes, including cultural institutions, community-based nonprofit organisations in Milwaukee, and conservative groups. It has been particularly active in supporting education reform efforts, including school choice. Approximately 70% of the Foundation's giving is directed to national groups while 30% of the Foundation's giving is Wisconsin-based.

Bradley Foundation  

 [bradleyfdn.org](https://bradleyfdn.org)

The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is an American charitable foundation with more than \$800 million U.S. dollars in assets. It promotes American exceptionalism. [Wikipedia](#)





**Headquarters:** Milwaukee, WI

**Founded:** 1942

**Key people:** Art Pope (Chairman); Richard Graber (President and CEO)

**Type of business:** Private charitable foundation

People also search for [View 10+ more](#)

 Donors Trust	 State Policy Network	 John M. Olin Foundation	 Donors Capital Fund
---	---	--	--



The foundation describes itself as supporting limited government.<sup>[8]</sup> *The New York Times* described the Bradley Foundation as "a leading source of ideas and financing for American conservatives."<sup>[9]</sup>

In a 2018 interview, the Foundation's CEO **Richard Graber** described the Foundation's four major areas of funding as "constitutional order," education (in particular school choice), civil society, and arts and culture.<sup>[11]</sup> In the same interview, Richard Graber said that the foundation would deemphasize some topic areas on which it had previously made grants, including national security and foreign policy.<sup>[11]</sup> Between 2008 and 2011, the Bradley Foundation donated millions of dollars to three anti-Muslim groups: the David Horowitz Freedom Center (which received \$4.2 million), Frank Gaffney's Center for Security Policy (which received \$815,000) and Daniel Pipes' Middle East Forum (which received \$305,000).<sup>[10]</sup> The foundation's funding was criticized by the Council on American-Islamic Relations, which described the grant recipients as an "Islamophobic network."<sup>[10]</sup>

Organizations awarded grants by the Foundation have included FreedomWorks,<sup>[11]</sup> Americans for Prosperity,<sup>[11]</sup> The Heritage Foundation,<sup>[12]</sup> the Hoover Institution,<sup>[12]</sup> the Black Alliance for Educational Options<sup>[12]</sup> and the SEED Foundation.<sup>[12]</sup>

in the way that ballots are cast and counted. "The 2020 election is long since over in most people's minds, and settled and decided,"

Mayer says. "But the they're putting into the idea of fraud — p midterms, and the 2

**Richard William Graber** (born 1956)<sup>[1]</sup> is an American lawyer from Wisconsin and Republican politician, who served as United States Ambassador to the Czech Republic from 2006 to 2009. He was appointed by George W. Bush on September 14, 2006.<sup>[2]</sup> His office ended as Barack Obama became the new President of the United States on January 20, 2009. After two years, Norman L. Eisen was appointed as his successor.

Graber spent 20 years as a partner at the law firm of **Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren**, eventually becoming the firm's CEO. In 2010, he joined **Honeywell** as vice president of global relations. In 2016, Graber became president and CEO of the **Bradley Foundation**.<sup>[3]</sup>

MAYER: Well, I went out ered was it's not taking p

thing. It's being funded by out-of-state interests, deep-pocketed people who are allies of Donald Trump - that's specifically the audit. And it's taking place against a backdrop of this spreading belief that voter fraud is rife in America and that elections can't be trusted. And that is being spread by national groups that are - some of them, quite well known and established in Republican circles. And so I kept sort of peeling back the onion to try to figure out, where is this coming from? And the picture begin to clarify that, actually, there's a money stream. And an awful lot of it is coming from one single huge foundation in Milwaukee, Wis., which is funding all of these other groups that are pushing the idea that there's voter fraud is a serious problem in America and that we can't trust our elections. **And that one huge foundation is the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation in Milwaukee, Wis.**

GROSS: And the person who's fortune is behind this foundation, Harry Bradley, he was a founding member of the John Birch Society. So refresh our memory about the John Birch Society.

MAYER: Right. So what you're getting is the Bradley family, these two brothers that founded this company, the Allen-Bradley Company, they defined the far-right fringe. They were, you know, dedicated anti-communist zealots who feared that the United States government was run by communists. And they were, you know, fringe figures politically, but they were extraordinarily rich by the time they died. And their fortune has funded this far-right foundation.

"(...) the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation. Based in Milwaukee, The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation. Based in Milwaukee, foundation

**Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren s.c.** is a large American law firm founded in 1894. The firm serves as attorneys and business law counselors to public and privately held corporations, financial institutions, family-owned businesses, retirement plans, exempt organizations and individuals.

groups involved in election issues."

**The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation**, American charitable foundation with more t It promotes American exceptionalism.<sup>[1][2]</sup>

The Foundation provides between \$35 millic of causes, including cultural institutions, con in Milwaukee, and conservative groups. It ha ing education reform efforts, including schoo Foundation's giving is directed to national gr giving is Wisconsin-based.



### Richard Graber



**United States Ambassador to the Czech Republic**

**In office**

October 12, 2006 – January 20, 2009

**Preceded by** William J. Cabaniss

**Succeeded by** Mary Thompson-Jones

**Chair of the Wisconsin Republican Party**

**In office**

1999–2006

**Preceded by** David W. Opitz

**Succeeded by** Reince Priebus

**Personal details**

**Born** Richard William Graber 1956 (age 64–65)

**Political party** Republican

**Children** 2

**Education** Duke University (BA) Boston University (JD)



## Survivors of acid attacks in Mexico unite to push for change

By MARÍA VERZA and GINETTE RIQUELME today



1 of 15

Esmeralda Millan, who survived an acid attack by her ex-partner three years ago when she was 23, poses for a portrait at her grandmother's home in the state of Puebla, Mexico, Tuesday, June 22, 2021. Millan's attacker was arrested and jailed on charges of attempted femicide the same year of the attack, which has forced her to have 43 operations to regain some mobility, and she awaits another on her eye. (AP Photo/Ginnette Riquelme)

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Elisa Xolalpa has had three daughters and found a job she enjoys since a former boyfriend tried to destroy her life by tossing acid on her when she was 18. Two decades later, she is still seeking justice.

Survivors of acid attacks like Xolalpa are banding together and raising their voices in Mexico despite the country's sky-high violence — especially toward women and staggering levels of impunity.

"I thought I was the only one," said the 38-year-old, who grows flowers on Mexico City's south side. "But we're not alone anymore."

Earlier this year, the Carmen Sánchez Foundation formed here to provide support and lobby for legal reforms for survivors of acid attacks. It has registered 29 such attacks so far, five already in 2021, but believes that is only a fraction of the real number.

Survivors want the attacks classified as attempted femicide, aid with the innumerable surgeries that follow and psychological support. They want to be seen even though their faces hurt.

Dousing someone in acid means wanting to dissolve a person physically and psychologically. It is always premeditated, according to the United Nations. In Xolalpa's case, she was tied to a post. The acid dissolved the ropes, but also her clothes and her body as she ran half-naked for help. She has had 40 surgeries to repair her body.

ASTI documents about 1,500 acid attacks per year, but says the real number could be higher. Only three of Mexico's 32 states have classified acid attacks on women as attempted femicide. Violence against women in Mexico extends far beyond acid attacks making it more difficult to gain attention. In the first half of the year, 1,879 women were murdered in Mexico and more than 33,000 injured, according to federal government data. More than 10,000 rapes were reported and nearly 24,000 cases of domestic violence.

"They consider us their property and act under the reasoning that 'if you're not going to be mine, you're not going to be anyone's,'" Herrera said. In June, Xolalpa and other women protested in front of the capital's prosecutor's office to pressure for resolution of their cases. Meanwhile, new cases keep surfacing.

Xolalpa said we can't allow the violence to be normalized and that's a message she wants to teach her daughters.

"I have to turn this pain into something else," she said. For now, that means demanding justice and not being silent.



## Richard Trumka, longtime president of AFL-CIO, dies at 72

By BRIAN SLODYSKO and THOMAS BEAUMONT yesterday



*In this April 4, 2017 file photo, AFL-CIO president Richard Trumka listens at the National Press Club in Washington. The longtime president of the AFL-CIO labor union has died. News of Richard Trumka's death was announced Thursday by President Joe Biden and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer. Trumka was 72 and had been AFL-CIO president since 2009, after serving as the organization's secretary-treasurer for 14 years. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)*

WASHINGTON (AP) — Richard Trumka, the powerful president of the AFL-CIO who rose from the coal mines of Pennsylvania to preside over one of the largest labor organizations in the world, died Thursday. He was 72.

The federation confirmed Trumka's death in a statement. He had been AFL-CIO president since 2009, after serving as the organization's secretary-treasurer for 14 years. From his perch, he oversaw a federation with more than 12.5 million members and ushered in a more aggressive style of leadership.

"The labor movement, the AFL-CIO and the nation lost a legend today," the AFL-CIO said. "Rich Trumka devoted his life to working people, from his early days as president of the United Mine Workers of America to his unparalleled leadership as the voice of America's labor movement."

President Joe Biden eulogized Trumka from the White House and said the labor leader had died of a heart attack while on a camping trip with his son and grandkids. He said he spoke with Trumka's widow and son earlier in the day.

"He wasn't just a great labor leader. He was a friend," Biden told reporters Thursday. "He was someone I could confide in, and you knew, whatever he said he would do, he would do."

A burly man with thick eyebrows and a bushy mustache, Trumka was the son and grandson of coal miners. He was born in 1949 in the small southwest Pennsylvania town of Nemaquin and worked for seven years in the mines before earning an accounting degree from Penn State and then a law degree from Villanova University. Trumka was tough and combative, a throwback to an old guard of union leaders from the labor movement's heyday. But he rose in a distinctly different era, as union membership declined and labor struggled to retain political power. He often focused on making the case for unions to the white, blue-collar workers who had turned away from Democrats — and speaking bluntly to them.

Trumka met with President Donald Trump on trade and health care issues, but their relationship remained contentious. He called Trump a "fraud" who had deceived the working class. Trump criticized Trumka as ineffectual. "No wonder un-," in part because of his long-standing relationship with Biden.

At age 43, Trumka led a nationwide strike against Peabody Coal in 1993. During the walk-off, he stirred controversy.

Asked about the possibility the company would hire permanent replacement workers, Trumka told The Associated Press, "I'm saying if you strike a match and you put your finger on it, you're likely to get burned." Trumka insisted he wasn't threatening violence against the replacements. "Do I want it to happen? Absolutely not. Do I think it can happen? Yes, I think it can happen," he said.

As AFL-CIO president, he vowed to revive unions' sagging membership rolls and pledged to make the labor movement appeal to a new generation of workers who perceive unions as "only a grainy, faded picture from another time."

"We need a unionism that makes sense to the next generation of young women and men who either don't have the money to go to college or are almost penniless by the time they come out," Trumka told hundreds of cheering delegates in a speech at the federation's annual convention in 2009.

That year, he was also a leading proponent during the health care debate for including a public, government-run insurance option, and he threatened Democrats who opposed one.

"We need to be a labor movement that stands by our friends, punishes its enemies and challenges those who, well, can't seem to decide which side they're on," he said.



## Allyson Felix wins 11th medal, more than any other U.S. athlete in Olympic track history

BY LI COHEN, CHRISTOPHER BRITO

UPDATED ON: AUGUST 7, 2021 / 10:29 AM / CBS NEWS

Allyson Felix is now the most decorated U.S. track athlete in Olympic history. She won her 11th medal on Saturday, just one day after becoming the most-decorated woman in Olympic track history when she won bronze in the 400.

Carl Lewis had previously held the title as most decorated U.S. track athlete, since 1996.

Of Felix's 11 medals, seven are gold and three are silver.



Allyson Felix of Team United States competes in the Women's 4 x 400m Relay Final on day fifteen of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games at Olympic Stadium on August 07, 2021 in Tokyo, Japan.





# Dan Rather Thinks He Knows Why Joe Biden Wore A Tan Suit And It Involves Fox News

Others suggested Barack Obama's special day could have been behind the president's sartorial choice.

By Lee Moran

> YES WE TAN

BIDEN'S FASHION ECHOES GOP FREAKOUT OVER TAN SUITS



Chris D. Jackson @ChrisDJackson



@POTUS @JoeBiden whispers low into the phone: "hey Barack, do you still have that tan suit? I want to try something on Friday..."



2:24 PM · Aug 6, 2021



60 3 Copy link to Tweet

President Joe Biden donned a tan suit to deliver the July jobs report on Friday. The outfit drew instant comparisons to what conservatives faux slammed former President Barack Obama for wearing to a press conference in August 2014.

Seven years ago, right-wingers and personalities on Fox News flipped out over Obama's sartorial choice — as evidenced in a montage of old footage aired by MSNBC's Ari Melber: With Biden, though, the critical response was more muted. "Today, for some reason ... we're not hearing the same kind of ridiculous faux outrage on the right," said Melber. "Maybe they're embarrassed because it didn't work last time."





**Cleta B. Deatherage Mitchell** (born September 16, 1950) is an American lawyer, politician and conservative activist.<sup>[1]</sup> Elected in 1976, Mitchell served in the [Oklahoma House of Representatives](#) until 1984, representing District 44 as a member of the [Democratic Party](#). In 1996, she registered as a Republican.<sup>[2]</sup> Since then, she has worked as a Republican lawyer and conservative activist.

After Democratic candidate Joe Biden won the 2020 presidential election, Mitchell aided Donald Trump in his efforts to overturn the election results and pressure election officials to "find" sufficient votes for him to win.<sup>[2]</sup> After participating in a [telephone call](#) in which Trump appeared to pressure Georgia Secretary of State [Brad Raffensperger](#) to alter the election results, Mitchell resigned as a partner at [Foley & Lardner](#).<sup>[3][4]</sup>

### Attempt to overturn the 2020 election

Mitchell is chair of the conservative activist group Public Interest Legal Foundation, which is known for making claims of voter fraud.<sup>[22]</sup> She has claimed that Democrats engage in a "very well-planned-out assault" on election systems.<sup>[22]</sup> Prior to the 2020 election, she organized legal efforts to challenge mail-in ballots cast in the election.<sup>[23]</sup>

After Joe Biden won the 2020 election and President Donald Trump refused to concede, Mitchell claimed that dead people voted in the election.<sup>[24]</sup>

On January 2, 2021, she participated in the hour-long telephone conversation between Trump and Georgia's Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, during which Trump pressured Raffensperger to investigate thinly supported claims disputing the results of the 2020 presidential election that allegedly were based on doctored videos and unsubstantiated rumors from right-wing media. Following that telephone call Mitchell accused Raffensperger, of saying things "that are simply not correct" about the presidential results in Georgia.<sup>[25][26]</sup> On January 4, the law firm of Foley & Lardner released a statement saying the firm's policy is not to represent parties seeking to contest the results of the 2020 election, that they are "aware of, and concerned by" Mitchell's participation in the telephone call, and were "working to understand her involvement more thoroughly".<sup>[27]</sup> The next day, she resigned from Foley & Lardner. The firm then issued a statement that said Mitchell "concluded that her departure was in the firm's best interests, as well as in her own personal best interests".<sup>[19]</sup> She blamed a purported "massive pressure campaign in the last several days mounted by leftist groups via social media" for her resignation.<sup>[28]</sup>

In 2021, Mitchell took a central role in coordinating Republican efforts to tighten voting laws. FreedomWorks put her in charge of a \$10 million initiative to push for voting restrictions and train conservatives in local elections. [

**Terry GROSS:** So one of the groups supported by money from the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation is called True the Vote. And Cleta Mitchell is its legal counsel, just to show these interconnections. So tell us about that group, True the Vote.

True the Vote is a conservative vote-monitoring organization based in Houston, Texas whose stated objective is stopping voter fraud.

**Cleta Mitchell**



Member of the  
[Oklahoma House of Representatives](#)  
from the 44th district

In office

1976–1984

Preceded by [Mina Hibdon](#)

Succeeded by [Carolyn Thompson Taylor](#)

#### Personal details

<b>Born</b>	<span>Cleta B. Deatherage</span> <div>September 16, 1950 (age 70)</div> <span><span></span></span> <a href="#">Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, U.S.</a>
<b>Political party</b>	<span><span></span></span> <a href="#">Democratic</a> (Until 1996) <span><span></span></span> <a href="#">Independent</a> (1996) <span><span></span></span> <a href="#">Republican</a> (1996–present)
<b>Spouse(s)</b>	<span><span></span></span> <a href="#">Duane Draper</a> (1973–1982) <span><span></span></span> <a href="#">Dale Mitchell</a> (1984–present)
<b>Education</b>	<a href="#">University of Oklahoma</a> (BA, JD)



## Zuckerberg's cash fuels GOP suspicion and new election rules

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI 19 minutes ago

*The Republican attorney general of Louisiana last year ordered his state's election offices to turn down grants from the nonprofit, the **Center for Tech and Civic Life**, which distributed \$350 million of the Zuckerberg money.*

DENVER (AP) — When Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg donated \$400 million to help fund election offices as they scrambled to deal with the coronavirus pandemic late last summer, he said he hoped he would never have to do it again. Republican legislatures are granting him that wish. At least eight GOP-controlled states have passed bans on donations to election offices this year as Republicans try to block outside funding of voting operations. The legislation often comes as part of Republican packages that also put new limits on how voters can cast ballots and impose new requirements on county or city-based election officials.

The response is spurred by anger and suspicion on the right that Zuckerberg's money benefited Democrats in 2020. Conservatives have long accused the tech mogul's social media platform of censoring right-wing voices as part of its campaign against misinformation. Zuckerberg's money was largely distributed through a nonpartisan foundation that had liberal roots. Conservative groups cite analyses that the money went disproportionately to Democratic-leaning counties in key states such as Florida and Pennsylvania.

"People saw that, and looked around, and they were increasingly concerned about why would you have a billionaire funding our elections through the backdoor," said Jessica Anderson, executive director of the conservative group Heritage Action, which has pushed the bans in several states. But many election officials say that effort short-sighted and fueled by paranoia. Election offices, they argue, are chronically underfunded and now cannot benefit from donations that still flow to so many other branches of government, including police, schools and libraries.

Furthermore, they say there is no sign of favoritism in the distribution of the grants from Zuckerberg and his wife, Priscilla Chan. Elections are more expensive in populous urban areas, and especially more so last year, when states scrambled to shift to mail voting to deal with the pandemic. Metro areas had to buy expensive equipment to open and sort mail ballots, a task that smaller, more GOP-leaning counties could do by hand or with less gear.

A spokesman for Zuckerberg declined to address the wave of new legislation. Election officials have long complained they were underfunded, but never more so than last year when they had to instantly revamp their entire operations at the peak of the pandemic. There was a huge shift to mail voting, while even in-person voting required new protective measures, and hazard pay for poll workers.

Democrats pushed for an extra \$2 billion for election offices in the initial coronavirus aid bill in April but only got \$400 million. After a spring and summer of troubled primaries and partisan deadlock over more funding, Zuckerberg stepped in. He and Chan donated a total of \$400 million to election offices — \$350 million in the form of grants to local offices that were distributed through CTCL.

The selection of CTCL raised eyebrows among some conservatives because of the group's roots. Some of its founders, including Epps-Johnson, once were at the New Organizing Institute, which provided data and training to liberal activists. Still, CTCL has become respected among election officials and includes a Republican, Pam Anderson, former elected clerk of a suburban Denver-area county, on its board. In an interview, she said the group was "100% nonpartisan."

Other Republican election officials have also vouched for the impartiality of the program. "I don't see why governments should be barred from trying to work with the private sector in securing grant funds," said Brian Mead, a Republican election director in Licking County, Ohio, outside Columbus, which received \$77,000 from CTCL. "If we can work with the private sector and secure funds where we save our taxpayers money, I think that's a good thing," Mead said.

That did not mollify conservatives, especially after the initial grants went to major, Democratic-voting cities. In Pennsylvania, one of the central battlegrounds of the presidential election, Philadelphia, with an annual election budget of \$12.3 million, received \$10 million from CTCL. The conservative Foundation for Government Accountability found that in Pennsylvania, Democratic-voting counties received an average of \$4.99 per voter, while Republican-voting ones got \$1.12 per voter.

In Florida, the differential was also dramatic, with one-third of the \$18 million in total money going to Democratic-leaning Palm Beach County, and an additional \$2.4 million for Miami-Dade County, which backed Democrat Joe Biden, albeit more narrowly than expected. Republican Donald Trump won the state.

"If Charles Koch was doing this, well, for many of these people the shoe would be on the other foot," said Hayden Dublois, a researcher at the Foundation for Government Accountability, referring to the conservative billionaire.

In some states, including Georgia and Texas, the new laws require all donations to local election offices to be distributed by the secretary of state. In Arizona, Kansas, Iowa and elsewhere, they are banned altogether.

Anderson, the Republican CTCL board member, said that will do real damage. "If you want to block this funding, then I want to ask if the legislators are funding elections?" Anderson said. "Because so many states don't."





## The Women of 'Escaping Polygamy': See Their Impressive Lives Today

MISC Oct 14, 2017 11:30 am  
By Nicole Fabian-Weber

When *Escaping Polygamy* premiered in 2014, people were shocked with how Andrea Brewer, Jessica Christensen, and Shanell DeRieux lived. The three girls grew up in a polygamist group in Salt Lake City known as the Order, all with Daniel Kingston as their father. Initially, Andrea and Jessica broke free from the Order, and eventually Shanell followed suit.

*The Latter Day Church of Christ is considered a Mormon fundamentalist denomination by some in the Latter Day Saint movement, although it did not split from the mainstream LDS church. Also known as the LDCJC, it is a religious organization created by members of the Davis County Cooperative Society or DCCS in 1977. The Cooperative itself was established in 1935. There are approximately 3,500 members,[6] some of whom are known to practice polygamy. The Apostolic United Brethren (AUB) is a Mormon fundamentalist group that promotes polygamy. The AUB has had a temple in Mexico, since at least the 1990s, an endowment house in Utah since the early 1980s and several other locations of worship to accommodate their members in Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana.*

When *Escaping Polygamy* premiered in 2014, people were shocked with how Andrea Brewer, Jessica Christensen, and Shanell DeRieux lived. The three girls grew up in a polygamist group in Salt Lake City known as the Order, all with Daniel Kingston as their father. Initially, Andrea and Jessica broke free from the Order, and eventually Shanell followed suit.

Years after the girls escaped the polygamous cult, they began filming the A&E docu-series *Escaping Polygamy*. The show, which has had three seasons, documents the women meeting with others who are trying to escape polygamist families and doing everything in their power to help them break free.

Since the series first started airing, Andrea, Jessica, and Shanell have all come a long way. The women have grown more confident and have each come into their own, fulfilling their dreams and pursuing life outside of their polygamist past. Here's what the cast of *Escaping Polygamy* is up to today.

Andrea, who's the third of 12 children to Daniel and his sixth wife Heidi Mattingly Foster, left the Order when she was 12. With the help of her aunt, who filed a protective order against Daniel for both she and her sister Jessica, Andrea was placed in foster care and eventually adopted. Currently, Andrea is in law school in Seattle, pursuing a career in public service law. Andrea continues to speak out against polygamy on her Twitter, and is usually happy to answer any questions anyone asks her about her old life on social media.

When she was 14, Jessica was engaged to her 42-year-old uncle to be his third wife, but with the help of her aunt, managed to escape before they were married. Jessica, who's the oldest of Daniel and Heidi's children, was adopted the day after her 18th birthday and currently is married with two adorable daughters. She's pursuing a masters in social work and continues to fight against polygamy. Also, according to Jessica's Instagram, she's a pretty big foodie and fitness fanatic.

Shanell is the second child of Daniel and his seventh wife, Shirley Snow. When she was 18, she married one of her first cousins. During the marriage, Shanell's then-husband was verbally and physically abusive, so she made the brave decision to leave both her husband and the Order. After she left, she was shunned by her father, but her mother has supported her fully. Today, she's remarried and has two daughters. Like her half-sisters, she's not shy about speaking out against the Order and polygamy on social media. In fact, her Twitter bio reads, "I'm not just going to sit down and shut up."



# 'I didn't choose to get married': Utah woman who was raised in a polygamist family details how her parents forced her to cross state lines to legally marry her first cousin as a teenager

- Shanell DeRieux, now 29, was just 18 years old when she traveled to Grand Junction, Colorado, with her family to marry her first cousin
- She was joined by her parents and 16-year-old half-sisters, who also married their cousins at the Mesa County Courthouse on July 3, 2008
- Her father John Daniel Kingston signed as a witness to the weddings
- While it's illegal to marry a cousin in Utah unless both parties are 55 years of age or older and unable to reproduce, it is legal in Colorado
- DeRieux was born and raised as a member of the Davis County Cooperative Society, a polygamist sect also known as the Kingston Group or The Order
- After leaving the organization, DeRieux and her half-sisters Andrea Brewer and Jessica Christensen now star on the Lifetime reality series *Escaping Polygamy*

By ERICA TEMPESTA FOR DAILYMAIL.COM

PUBLISHED: 17:54 EDT, 7 May 2019 |



© KDVR  
Pressure: Shanell DeRieux, now 29, was just 18 years old when she traveled to Grand Junction, Colorado, with her family to marry her first cousin



© KDVR  
Parental consent: Her father John Daniel Kingston (front and center) signed as a witness to the weddings



jess.lifeloveliberty

Follow

1,118 posts 23.3k followers 240 following

Jessica Christensen

#BlessedMom / # / # / #MSW / #EnjoyNOW / #EmotionalPhysicalHealthyLife / #EscapingPolygamy / #HopeAfterPolygamy Nonprofit hrbt.io/pulse/jess.lifeloveliberty



**Reminder as we get into hotter weather: she's not dressed like a slut, you just think like a rapist.**

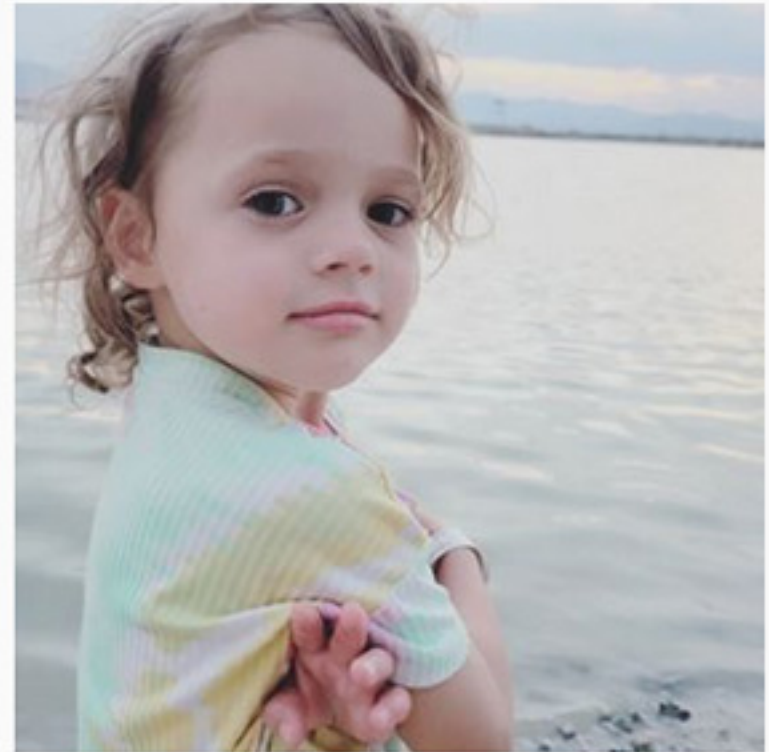
 jess.lifeloveliberty #PSA sharing this from another post because rape culture is real and it doesn't change without us changing our internal thoughts and approach to holding rapist accountable rather than victims. #rapeculture #challengeyourthinking #protectvictimsnotrapists

6w

1,592 likes

JUNE 24

More posts from jess.lifeloveliberty



True belonging doesn't require us to change who we are; it requires us to be who we are. -Brene' Brown



## Blowing the whistle at 23: Escaping polygamy and the Kingston clan

BY DANI LEVY

MAY 31, 2019 / 3:38 PM / CBS NEWS



Picture this: You're 23 years old, married to your college sweetheart and raising two kids. Then, you find out that your cousins, members of the polygamous cult you escaped from, allegedly tried to pay an "enforcer" to do something to you — something dangerous. The specifics are unclear, but according to the government, their intent was to intimidate and cause you harm.

"I didn't ever think that there would be physical threats until... I saw things that were pointing to me and [my husband], that they were paying somebody off to do something to us." If it sounds far-fetched, I understand. I was in disbelief when I first heard it, too. But that's what happened to Mary Nelson and her husband Bryan after they blew the whistle on her cousins for allegedly ripping off \$511 million from the government in a fraudulent tax credit scheme. She told her story to me and my colleagues in an interview for CBS's series "Whistleblower."

Knowing she may have been in danger, does she regret blowing the whistle? Not at all. "These people are not who they say they are," Mary said, referring to the Kingston clan, also known as The Order — the sect to which her family belongs. She, like some members of law enforcement, calls them an "organized crime family."

"It's supposedly God's kingdom here on Earth," she told "Whistleblower" host Judge Alex Ferrer. Mary fled The Order in 2013 with Bryan's help, and proceeded to tell the FBI and IRS about what she calls widespread fraud encouraged by the group's leaders. Her information led to that \$511 million indictment against her cousins.

The Order tries to provide "everything that you could ever need to interact in your daily life," including schools, grocery stores, hardware stores, and an ever-powerful central bank. They also "didn't let us really interact with the outside world because they were scared that we would see behind all their lies. We would see the real truth, and we would see how things really work in the world."

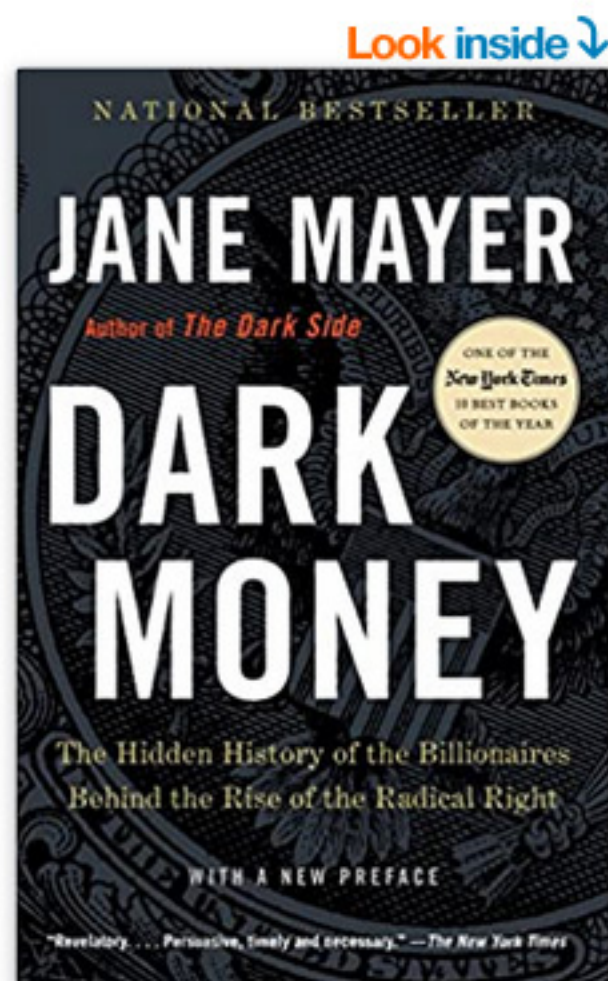
"Some people think, well, I want to just leave. But they don't have anything. They have five, six kids. They don't have a house," Mary said. "And they threaten you and say, if you leave, we're going to take all your kids, and we're going to take your house, and we're going to take your car, and you don't have anything." Mary says that's because The Order owns everything — the homes, the cars, and the money that you make. After Mary left, she says her parents declined to turn over the \$17,000 she earned from years of working in the group's bank — they called it a wedding present that she would have received had she married the person they wanted for her.

The group derides the "evil forces of the world" like feminism and enforces a law of "one above another," placing women at the mercy of their husbands and girls at the mercy of their fathers. And if she didn't love the person they expected her to marry? Mary says The Order tells young girls, "You should love that person just because you know that that's what the Heavenly Father wants you to do." Mary says it's this kind of manipulation and brainwashing that really bothers her. Her mother, the fifth of her father's 18 wives and his half-sister, was born into the group. While her father bought dinner or groceries on occasion, it was largely up to her mother to provide for her 15 siblings. "The women grow up knowing that's their responsibility."

Her father works, but like her mother, gives his earnings to the central bank. Leaders claim the money is meant to help build God's Kingdom here on earth, but Mary doesn't agree. Her dad — one of the group's leaders — "has access to all the money that he wants," she said. "He'll draw out a few thousand dollars a week, maybe even more, and he'll buy the newest Apple products. He'll buy computers and all kinds of electronics. And people out there are struggling to put food on their table." Meanwhile, Mary says the leaders encourage women to use their children to steal money from the government, by filing fraudulent tax returns or applications for collegiate financial aid and welfare. The leaders expect them to turn over this "income" to the business office, where they may never see a penny of it again.

When Ferrer asked if the women realize they're being controlled and manipulated, Mary said they were clueless. "They don't have any idea. That's the way they were taught," she added. "They were you were taught from a very, very young age that you fit in with your husband. You fit in with your dad. You do exactly what they say. You don't question it because if you do, you're going against the Lord's work."





## Dark Money: The Hidden History of the Billionaires Behind the Rise of the Radical Right Paperback – Illustrated, January 24, 2017

by [Jane Mayer](#) (Author)

★★★★★ 3,228 ratings

Who are the immensely wealthy right-wing ideologues shaping the fate of America today? From the bestselling author of *The Dark Side*, an electrifying work of investigative journalism that uncovers the agenda of this powerful group.

In her new preface, Jane Mayer discusses the results of the most recent election and Donald Trump's victory, and how, despite much discussion to the contrary, this was a huge victory for the billionaires who have been pouring money in the American political system.

Why is America living in an age of profound and widening economic inequality? Why have even modest attempts to address climate change been defeated again and again? Why do hedge-fund billionaires pay a far lower tax rate than middle-class workers? In a riveting and indelible feat of reporting, Jane Mayer illuminates the history of an elite cadre of plutocrats—headed by the Kochs, the Scaifes, the Olins, and the Bradleys—who have bankrolled a systematic plan to fundamentally alter the American political system. Mayer traces a byzantine trail of billions of dollars spent by the network, revealing a staggering conglomeration of think tanks, academic institutions, media groups, courthouses, and government allies that have fallen under their sphere of influence. Drawing from hundreds of exclusive interviews, as well as extensive scrutiny of public records, private papers, and court proceedings, Mayer provides vivid portraits of the secretive figures behind the new American oligarchy and a searing look at the carefully concealed agendas steering the nation. *Dark Money* is an essential book for anyone who cares about the future of American democracy.

National Book Critics Circle Award Finalist

*LA Times* Book Prize Finalist

PEN/Jean Stein Book Award Finalist

Shortlisted for the Lukas Prize

**Jane Meredith Mayer**<sup>[2]</sup> (born 1955)<sup>[3][4]</sup> is an American [investigative journalist](#) who has been a staff writer for *The New Yorker* since 1995.<sup>[1]</sup> She has written for the publication about money in politics; government prosecution of [whistleblowers](#); the United States [Predator drone](#) program; Donald Trump's ghostwriter, [Tony Schwartz](#);<sup>[5]</sup> and Trump's financial backer, [Robert Mercer](#).<sup>[6]</sup> In 2016, Mayer's book *Dark Money*—in which she investigated the history of the right-wing billionaire network centered on the [Koch brothers](#)—was published to critical acclaim.<sup>[7]</sup>

**Jane Mayer**



Mayer at the 2008 [Texas Book Festival](#)

<b>Born</b>	Jane Meredith Mayer 1955 (age 65–66) <a href="#">New York City, New York, U.S.</a> <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Alma mater</b>	<a href="#">Yale University</a> (B.A.)
<b>Occupation</b>	Journalist, author
<b>Spouse(s)</b>	<a href="#">William B. Hamilton</a> (m. 1992)
<b>Children</b>	<a href="#">Katherine Hamilton</a>
<b>Parent(s)</b>	<a href="#">Meredith Nevins Meyer</a> <a href="#">William Mayer</a>
<b>Family</b>	<a href="#">Allan Nevins</a> (grandfather)



## **'Dark Money' Is Funding The 2020 Election Challenge — And Could Challenge 2024**

August 5, 2021 12:28 PM ET :: Terry Gross with Jane Mayer

GROSS: You know, as I was reading your article, I was thinking, well, Jane Mayer has written so much about the Koch Foundation. Like, where do the Kochs figure into this, because I'm not seeing them yet? And, like, sure enough (laughter), FreedomWorks, which is one of the groups that they fund, figures into this story. And Cleta Mitchell, the woman we talked about earlier on in the interview, she is affiliated with FreedomWorks. So tell us about that connection and what FreedomWorks is up to.

MAYER: Yeah. I mean, FreedomWorks is a sort of a libertarian, anti-regulatory group. And it was originally founded by the Kochs. It broke off from them. But at any rate, it was kind of big in the Tea Party movement. And what interested me was - and it's now hired Cleta Mitchell. It's given her some kind of perch there. But, you know, these - this organization that sort of prides itself on busting regulations is now calling for more regulations. But they want regulations on voters at this point. So she's heading up a project there.

I mean, all these groups - the thing that's interesting is this election - the 2020 election, as we know, is long since over in most people's minds and settled and decided. But these groups are doubling down in the money they're putting into and the effort they're putting into trying to push the idea of fraud, potentially in order to challenge the 2022 midterms and the 2024 election, at least according to people I interviewed, who - that's what they're looking at. And they see this thing moving forward.

GROSS: I want to introduce one more character into the story, and that's Leonard Leo, who's the founder of the Federalist Society, whose mission has been for years to bring up conservative lawyers through the ranks and then get them promoted to the position of judges at various levels. And they've been very successful. What has his role been in this new movement?

MAYER: So Leonard Leo is deep in the thick of this, but kind of beneath the surface. And he has an organization that was called the Judicial Education Project. And lo and behold, it popped up with a new name in 2020 that was called the Honest Elections Project. It's actually the same group. And it started litigating and challenging in Pennsylvania, in particular, challenging - it was arguing that the state legislature had the right to decide how the election was run. It seems to be a forerunner of this argument that legislatures should have plenary power to decide how elections are administered and maybe even decided. So Leonard Leo's groups are right in the thick of this thing.

GROSS: I'm wondering how much of what you found in your investigation for this new article was kind of hidden, and how much of it is people who are really proud of what they're doing and it's totally on the surface in public?

MAYER: Well, you know, a lot of these people, including Leonard Leo, declined to talk about what they're doing. You would think if they were proud of it, they might come forward and lay out why they think this is worth doing. But instead, they seem to be kind of beneath the surface, lurking. And the money is dark money. It's money that's secret money because it's not disclosed. It's coming from organizations that claim they're charities, and so they don't have to reveal their donors.

GROSS: I don't know if you can answer this question 'cause I don't know if you can really know somebody else's motivations. But based on your reporting and your observations, how much of this, you know, so-called election subversion movement is being organized by people who truly believe that elections have been fraudulent and that you can't trust the vote, that you have to have state legislatures appoint electors in presidential elections? And how much of it is being run by people who just want more power for their conservative agenda, and the way to get it is to control elections?

MAYER: You know, I mean, that was a question that I was somewhat obsessed with, too. I think it's fascinating to know - you know, does Cleta Mitchell really believe this, or is this just instrumental and useful? And it's just very, very hard to tell. I spent a lot of time talking to her. And, you know, in the end, I think it's interesting to know, but the impact is the same. Whether she believes it or she's just using it, either way, it's affecting American elections. And so it's very hard to know. I mean, Bill Gates, the Maricopa County supervisor who I interviewed and spent a lot of time with, he basically says in the end of this story, you know, the sad thing from his standpoint is an awful lot of Americans who are just, you know, good people are getting gulled from his point of view. They're getting - they believe all of this misinformation about there being voter fraud. And he said, you know, the people at the top, they know better. He thinks they have to know.

GROSS: Are you surprised at how relatively big and relatively powerful this election subversion movement is?

MAYER: Yeah. It's worse than I thought it was. I mean, I thought it was just a few fringe figures in a few states. I didn't really realize till I started digging into it that it really is a national movement funded by very deep pockets.

GROSS: Jane Mayer, thank you so much for joining us again. It's always great to talk with you, and thank you for your great reporting.

MAYER: Thanks so much, Terry. Wonderful to be with you.



## One person told me, 'I'm not gonna get it. It's all fake.'

California

### 'I wear my mask and hope for the best': life in one of California's least vaccinated counties

People in remote areas of the state still resist the vaccine, either out of concern for its development, or inconvenience - or politics

**Dani Anguiano in Susanville, California**

🐦 @dani\_anguiano

Sat 7 Aug 2021 06.00 EDT

With Covid-19 cases surging across [California](#) last month, Bill Canterbury decided it was time to get the vaccine.

For months, the Lassen county resident had worn his mask and waited. Worried by news reports about rare but severe side effects, he put off getting a shot. When his wife was vaccinated earlier in the year, he monitored her closely, just to be sure.

Then came the Delta variant.

"I waited until the wire with the variants," Canterbury said. "I just waited until I wasn't afraid. There was so much crap about the vaccine."



San Francisco may be first major US city to hit herd immunity, experts say

➔ [Read more](#)

Canterberry is not alone in this rural, largely conservative region of 30,000 in north-eastern California. With just 27% of residents older than 12 fully vaccinated, [according to New York Times data](#), Lassen county has one of the lowest vaccination rates in the state. Local officials have said the county vaccination rate is higher than the data suggests, hovering near 56% for

residents 16 and older. But even those numbers would put the area well below the statewide rate.



▲ Isaac and Susan Roop, who the town of Susanville is named for. Photograph: Dani Anguiano/The Guardian



Meanwhile, life in the county has largely returned to normal after opening back up in April, residents said. The county has not put in place further restrictions since the rise of the Delta variant, though the county office of education has [said](#), unlike other small districts, that it plans to enforce a state mask mandate in schools.

Still, some residents worry about what lies ahead. In recent weeks, [wildfires raging nearby](#) have covered the community in thick smoke and ash, making the air hazardous and casting a shadow of uncertainty in the area.

Margie Teeter, who has lived in Susanville for 43 years and owns a bookstore in the uptown district, said most everyone she knows is vaccinated, but that there is still extreme resistance among some people in the area.

Some people simply deny that there were nearly 6,000 Covid cases in the county, she said. "One person told me 'I'm not gonna get it. It's all fake.'"

Susanville, Teeter says, is a welcoming place with friendly people - the sort of town where customers helped her move her store three different times over the years - but she worries for her community given some local opposition to vaccines and Covid safety measures.

"We're watching the news and it's scary," she said. "What's this town gonna do? They're not gonna wear masks."



# Die Hard Trump Supporters Increasingly Demand Violence If He Isn't Reinstated, Homeland Security Warns

**"Conspiracy theories associated with reinstating former President Trump have included calls for violence if desired outcomes are not realized," a bulletin sent to states from the Department of Homeland Security said**

By **PETER WADE** 

*In This Article: Capitol Police, Capitol Riot, conspiracy theories, Donald Trump, Homeland Security, January 6th, Mike Lindell*

The Department of Homeland Security issued a warning on Friday: believers in the false conspiracy theory that Trump will be reinstated have increased their calls for violence if the former president isn't back in the White House soon.

"Some conspiracy theories associated with reinstating former President Trump have included calls for violence if desired outcomes are not realized," the DHS bulletin, obtained by ABC News, said.

The bulletin went on to say that the recent increase in "public visibility" of liars like the My Pillow guy, Mike Lindell, is the reason for the uptick in violent online chatter.

Lindell continues to relentlessly push the Big Lie that the election was stolen, going so far as to say that he expects the Supreme Court to unanimously rule in favor of reinstating Trump as president in August.

## Related Stories

[Trump Proudly Announces New Plan to Con Supporters Out of Their Money](#)

[Kinzinger Supports Subpoenas for McCarthy and Jordan in Capitol Attack Investigation](#)


"Over the last few days what has occurred is there's been much more public visibility, meaning the discussions and these theories have migrated away from being contained within the conspiracy and extremist online communities, to where they're being the topic of discussion on web forums, or more public web forums, and even within the sort of media ecosystem," a senior DHS official told ABC News.

The drunk-on-Trump crowd has been triggered so much that Homeland Security says they are concerned about the calls for violence increasing further.


"As public visibility of the narratives increases, we are concerned about more calls to violence... Past circumstances have illustrated that calls for violence could expand rapidly in the public domain and may be occurring outside of publicly available channels. As such, lone offenders and small groups of individuals could mobilize to violence with little-to-no warning," the bulletin said.

The DHS added that although they do not have specifics of an imminent threat, their "reporting indicates that the timing for these activities may occur during August 2021, although we lack information on specific plots or planned actions."


Also on Friday, the U.S. Capitol Police said they were aware of an upcoming rally at the Capitol that a former data chief for Trump's 2016 campaign, Matt Braynard, is promoting. Appearing on Steve Bannon's podcast, Braynard talked about the #JusticeForJ6 rally, which is planned for September 18, in support of people who have been arrested in connection with the January 6th attack. "We're going back to the Capitol, right where it started. And it's going to be huge," Braynard told Bannon.

**S SuckItMAGAts** · 12 hours ago   
How is this talk of "reinstating" Trump and overturning elections not being prosecuted as sedition?


Reply  51  6

**M misc1972** · 12 hours ago   
Replying to SuckItMAGAts  
Democrats aren't up to the task. They insist on governing as if the last administration didn't happen.


Reply  26  4

**J Jimmyjimjim** · 11 hours ago   
Replying to SuckItMAGAts  
I suggest you ask a constitutional lawyer. Sedition is a high bar to pass unless you are suggesting using a kangaroo court.

Reply  12  2

**B BlueBeer** · 14 minutes ago   
Replying to SuckItMAGAts  
Probably because of - what's that thing called? - oh yeah, the First Amendment.

Reply  


**MC My Comment** · 11 hours ago   
Replying to SuckItMAGAts  
All the ducks are getting in a row. Financial fraud. Election fraud. The hammer will soon be coming down.

Reply  6  1



# There's a religious revival going on in China – under the constant watch of the Communist Party

August 6, 2021 8:39am EDT

 **Mario Poceski**, University of Florida



*The Chinese government has promoted a revival of Confucianism, along with traditional religious practices, as part of its nationalist agenda. Muslim Uighur communities in Turkey and other nations have protested the Chinese government's oppression of Uighurs in far-western Xinjiang province. As it celebrates its 100th anniversary, the Chinese Communist Party seeks to project the image of a unified nation returning to global political and economic dominance. But at home it faces manifold problems and is engaged in a balancing act: affirming its dual role as a guardian and curator of traditional Chinese culture and religion, but in a manner that enhances rather than undermines its power and authority.*

The Chinese Communist Party is celebrating the 100th anniversary of its founding in 1921. For most of those decades, the party sought to restrict or obliterate traditional religious practices, which it considered part of China's "feudal" past.

But since the late 1970s, the party has slowly permitted a multifaceted and far-reaching revival of religion in China to take place. More recently, current Chinese president and Communist Party leader Xi Jinping has endorsed continued party tolerance for religion as filling a moral void that has developed amid China's fast-paced economic growth. This support does come with caveats and restrictions, however, including the demand that religious leaders support the Communist Party.

Atheism remains the official party ideology, with members banned from professing religious faith. The party's aggressive efforts to obliterate all religious beliefs and practices reached a high point during the tumultuous decade of the Cultural Revolution, from 1966 to 1976. All temples and churches were shut down or destroyed. Any form of religious activity was prohibited, even as there was forceful promotion of the cult of Mao (Zedong), which assumed the role of an officially sanctioned religion.

As part of major reforms and a loosening of social controls, initiated in the late 1970s, the party has slowly accepted a range of behaviors and traditions that fulfill religious needs or provide spiritual outlets. Buddhism, Taoism, Catholicism, Islam and Protestantism – the five officially recognized religions – have staged comebacks, albeit with varying success.

There are increasing numbers of local temples, associations, pilgrimages and festivals, and growing numbers of Buddhist, Christian and Taoist clergy. Many religious sites are open for private worship and communal service and frequented by people from all walks of life. Local governments are often keen to restore and promote religious establishments, largely to stimulate tourism and local economic development. A 2020 study by the Pew Research Center found that 48.2% of China's population had some form of religious affiliation. The exact data is debatable, and it is difficult to conduct reliable research in China. But these results suggest that many Chinese participate in various activities that can be labeled religious.

Traditionally, most Chinese people don't subscribe to a single faith or construct a narrow religious identity. They engage with varied beliefs and practices, a pattern of religious piety dating back centuries to ancient imperial China. That encompasses aspects of Buddhism, Confucianism and Taoism, as well as many practices termed "popular religion." These range from visiting temples, attending pilgrimages and festivals, praying and offering incense, ancestor worship, and veneration of various celestial divinities. There are also the popular practices of geomancy or feng shui, an ancient art of harmonizing humans with their surroundings, and divination or fortunetelling. These rich traditions often have regional variations.

The Communist Party has also stopped criticizing the teachings of Confucius, the famous philosopher and educator of the sixth and fifth centuries B.C. For much of the 20th century, Confucian teachings were rejected as discredited relics of an imperial past. But that changed over recent decades, as the party sought to reposition itself as the guardian of Chinese traditions. This contributed to a significant revival of Confucianism. Confucianism's time-honored ethical framework offers guideposts to navigating the often-harsh realities of life in a highly competitive society. But the party has also found it useful to harness aspects of Confucianism that resonate with its core interests, such as obedience to authority and respect for the leader.

Authorities keep firm administrative control over all forms of religious expressions and organizations, by whatever means they deem prudent or necessary. As we know from the reports of Western scholars and journalists, that control ranges from subtle forms of domination and co-option of religious groups to outright bans or repressions. China tends to treat religions perceived as potentially threatening to the established order harshly, especially if suspected of foreign ties or secessionist tendencies. For instance, for decades China has strictly regulated Buddhism in Tibet, as it has pursued policies aimed at suppressing the cultural and national identities of the Tibetans. That contrasts with more relaxed attitudes towards the form of Buddhism practiced by the Han majority.

The party has explained its recent, ruthless campaign to repress the Uighurs, a Muslim minority in Xinjiang – a nominally autonomous region in Northwest China – as intended to counteract terrorism and separatism. According to leaked documents, since 2014 up to a million Uighurs have been interned in "re-education camps." It's part of a hardline policy of secularization and "Sinicization," which implies assimilating the Uighurs into the majority Han culture, at a loss of their religious and ethnic identities.



# MARIO POCESKI | Professor of Buddhist Studies & Chinese Religions

## Education

PhD in East Asian Languages & Cultures (Buddhist studies), University of California, Los Angeles, 2000

## Background

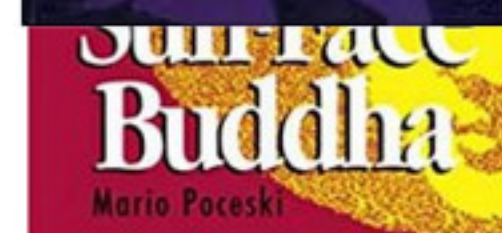
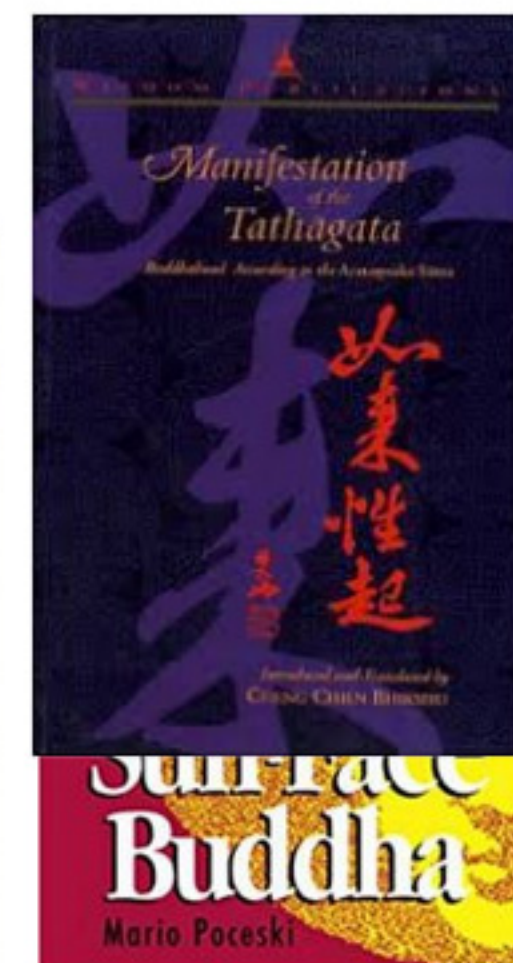
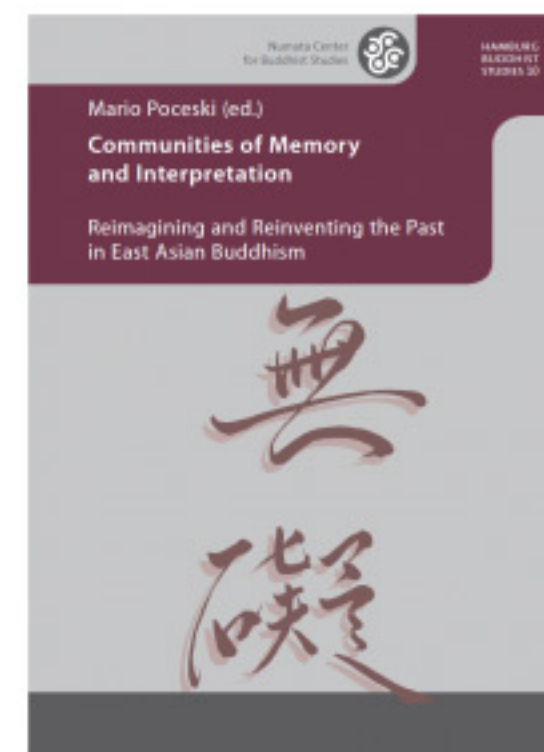
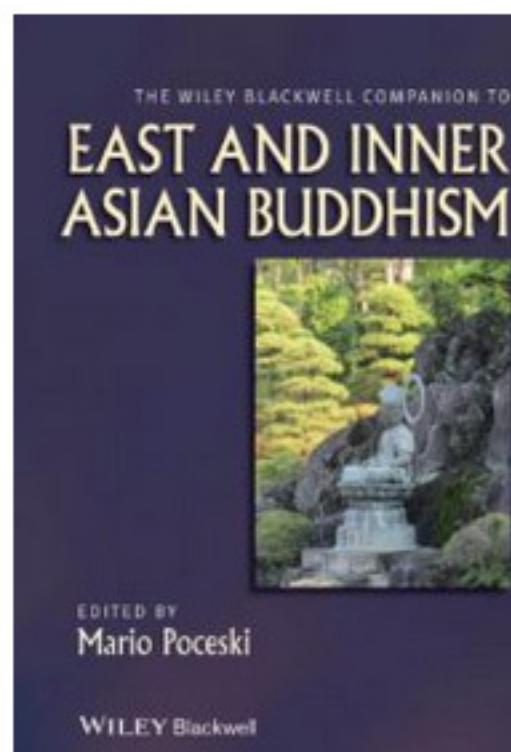
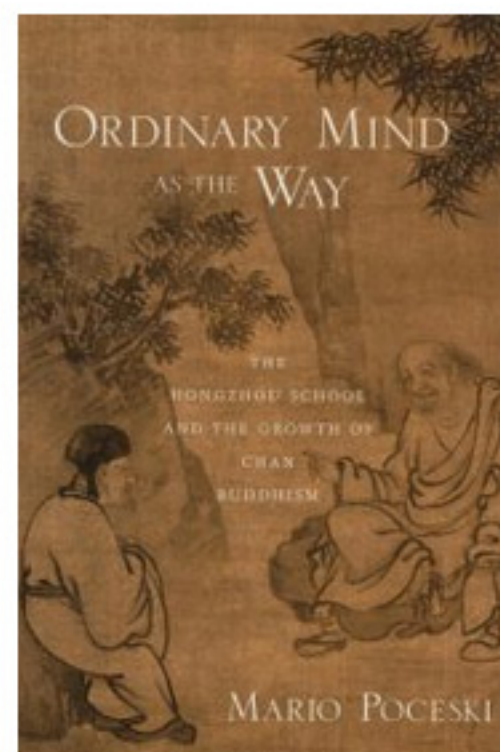
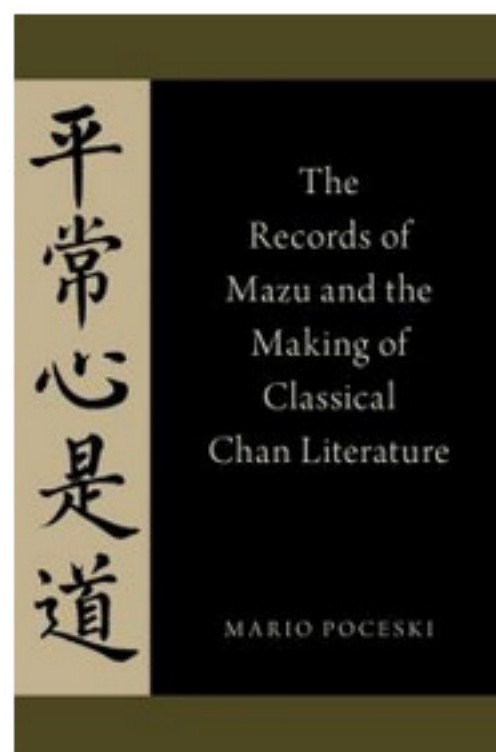
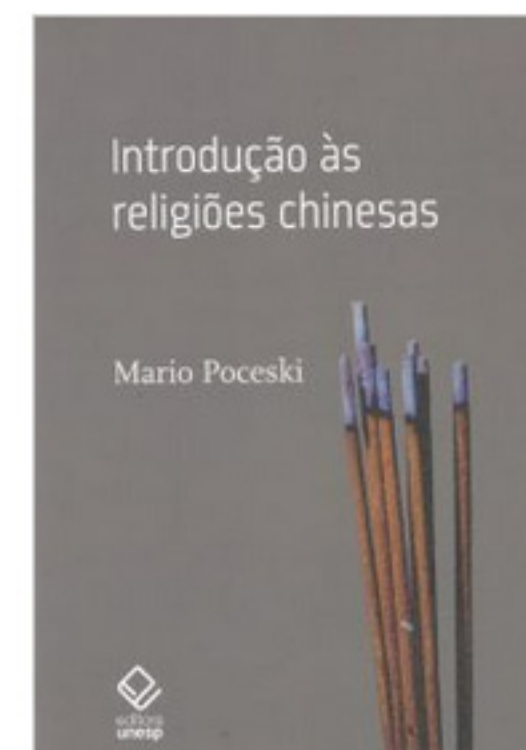
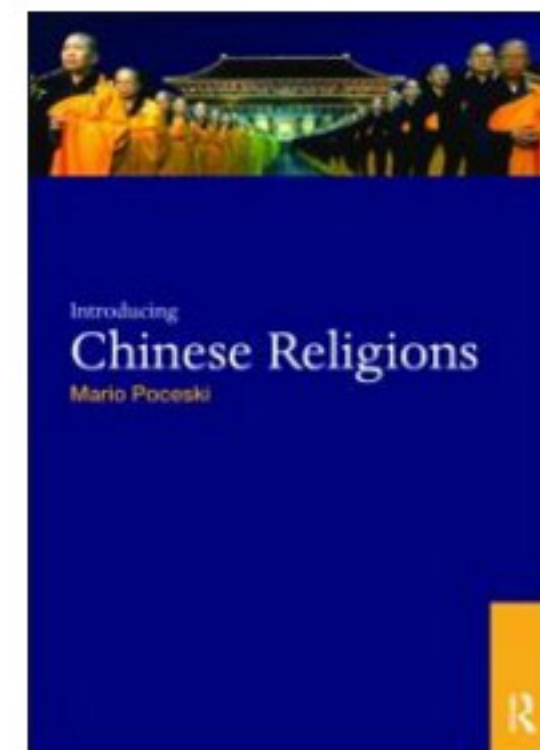
**Mario Poceski** is a professor of Buddhist studies and Chinese religions at the University of Florida. He received a PhD in East Asian Languages and Cultures (specialization in Buddhist studies) from the University of California, Los Angeles (2000), and has spent extended periods as a visiting professor or fellow at Komazawa University (Japan), Stanford University, National University of Singapore, University of Hamburg (Germany), Fudan University (China), and University of Erlangen-Nuremberg (Germany). He is a recipient of several prestigious fellowships, including Alexander von Humboldt and Fulbright-Hays. Prof. Poceski's numerous publications include *Communities of Memory and Interpretation: Reimagining and Reinventing the Past in East Asian Buddhism* (Hamburg 2018, ed.), *The Records of Mazu and the Making of Classical Chan Literature* (Oxford 2015), *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to East and Inner Asian Buddhism* (Blackwell 2014, ed.), *Introducing Chinese Religions* (Routledge 2009), and *Ordinary Mind as the Way: The Hongzhou School and the Growth of Chan Buddhism* (Oxford 2007).

## Main Research Focus

Chinese Buddhist history, literature, and doctrine, especially during the Tang era (618–907)

## Other Research and Teaching Interests

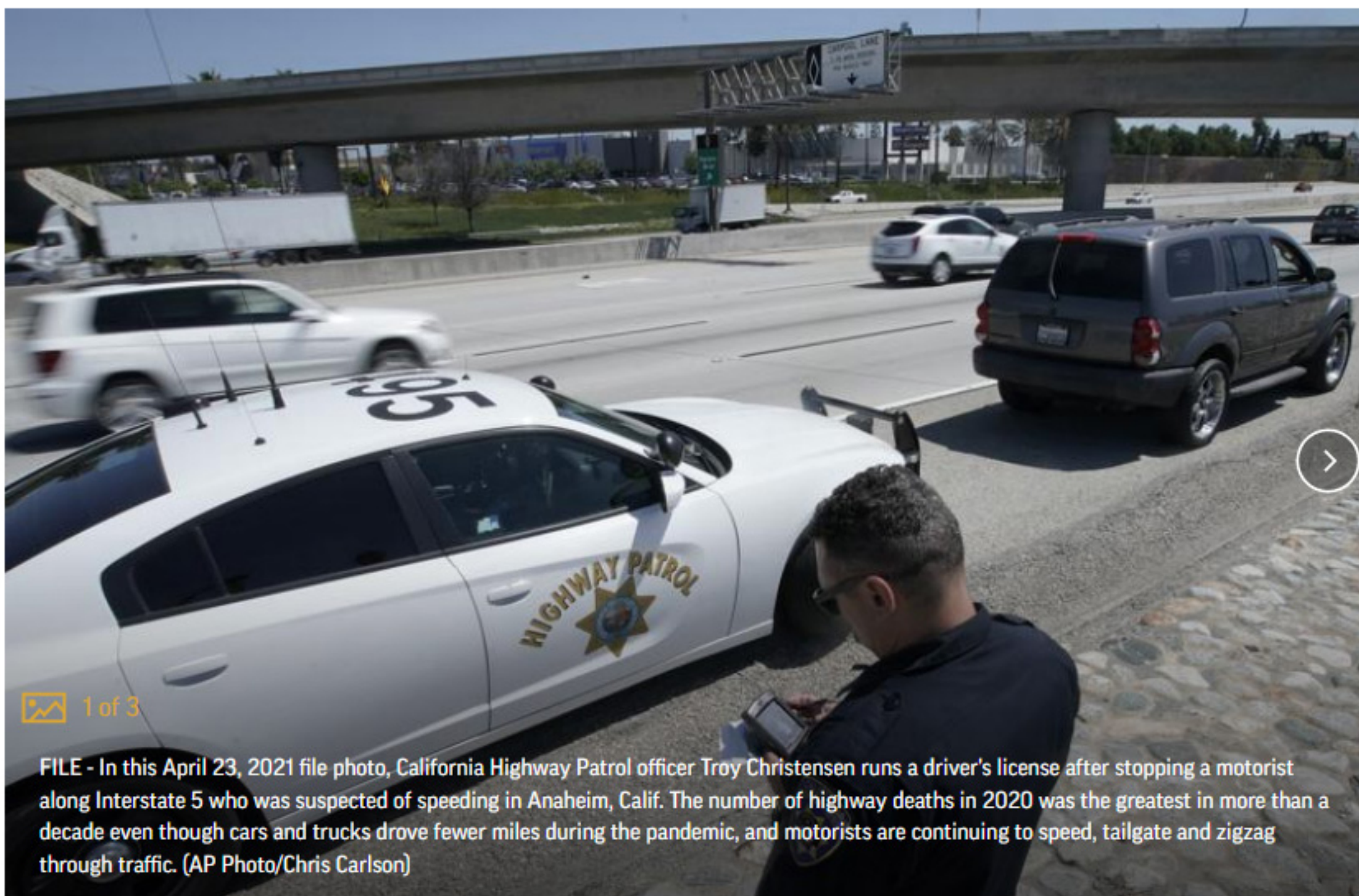
Chan/Zen Buddhism | history of Chinese religions | Japanese and Korean Buddhism | religious pluralism | monastic cultures and institutions | Buddhist doctrines | Buddhism and globalization | contemplative life and practice | Chinese history





# Pandemic set off deadly rise in speeding that hasn't stopped

By DAVID SHARP today



1 of 3

FILE - In this April 23, 2021 file photo, California Highway Patrol officer Troy Christensen runs a driver's license after stopping a motorist along Interstate 5 who was suspected of speeding in Anaheim, Calif. The number of highway deaths in 2020 was the greatest in more than a decade even though cars and trucks drove fewer miles during the pandemic, and motorists are continuing to speed, tailgate and zigzag through traffic. (AP Photo/Chris Carlson)



PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — Motorists put the pedal to the metal during the pandemic and police are worried as roads get busy with the final stretch of summer travel.

The latest data shows the number of highway deaths in 2020 was the greatest in more than a decade even though cars and trucks drove fewer miles during the pandemic.

“Summer is an incredibly dangerous time. And it culminates with Labor Day, that last hurrah,” said Pam Shadel Fischer of the Governors Highway Safety Association.

Traffic data indicates the higher death toll was related to higher average speeds in conjunction with more of those on the roads driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol and a slight decline in seat-belt use.

Motorists do not seem to be slowing down.

In places like California’s Los Angeles County, heavy congestion can slow motorists down naturally. But those flashing blue lights remain the best antidote for speeding and bad behavior, said Fischer, from the Governors Highway Safety Association.

“High visibility enforcement works,” she said. “When people see police officers, they will think twice about what they’re doing.”



# Major Report Warns Climate Change Is Accelerating And Humans Must Cut Emissions Now

August 9, 2021 - 4:00 AM ET



The U.N. has released the most comprehensive global climate science report ever. It is unequivocal: Humans must stop burning fossil fuels or suffer catastrophic impacts.

- climate science
- sea level rise
- united nations intergovernmental panel on climate change
- united nations
- global warming
- climate change

'Nothing's safe' as wildfire tears through California town



Associated Press · 3 days ago

Global climate change is accelerating and human emissions of greenhouse gases are the overwhelming cause, according to a landmark report released Monday by the United Nations. There is still time to avoid catastrophic warming this century, but only if countries around the world stop burning fossil fuels as quickly as possible, the authors warn.

The message to world leaders is more dire, and more unequivocal, than ever before.

[...]

It's unclear how the U.S. will achieve the goal it has already set, let alone an accelerated goal. The infrastructure package Congress is currently considering includes some investments in cleaner electricity, public transit and electric appliances and vehicles. Meanwhile, other major economies including China and India are **not** on track to reduce their emissions this decade.

## WEATHER

California's Dixie Fire Is Now The 2nd Largest In State History



People evacuate from from a wildfire north of Athens, Greece on Friday. A climate-driven heat wave helped create conditions for the fire to burn out of control. Scientists warn that humans are running out of time to curb greenhouse gas emissions and avoid catastrophic global warming.



EDITOR'S PICK



*Dake Kang/AP*

ENVIRONMENT

# Climate Change Is Accelerating, And Humans Must Cut Emissions Now, A Major Report Warns

The U.N. has released the most comprehensive global climate science report ever. It is unequivocal: Humans must stop burning fossil fuels or suffer catastrophic impacts.





What might seem like small changes, like a degree of warming, can have big consequences. AP Photo/John McConnico

## IPCC climate report: Profound changes are underway in Earth's oceans and ice – a lead author explains what the warnings mean

August 9, 2021 4:04am EDT

Robert Kopp, Rutgers University

*Humans are unequivocally warming the planet, and that's triggering rapid changes in the atmosphere, oceans and polar regions, and increasing extreme weather around the world, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warns in a new report.*

*The IPCC released the first part of its much anticipated Sixth Assessment Report on Aug. 9, 2021. In it, 234 scientists from around the globe summarized the current climate research on how the Earth is changing as temperatures rise and what those changes will mean for the future.*

*We asked climate scientist Robert Kopp, a lead author of the chapter on Earth's oceans, ice and sea level rise, about the profound changes underway.*

### What are the IPCC report's most important overall messages in your view?

At the most basic level, the facts about climate change have been clear for a long time, with the evidence just continuing to grow.

### What are scientists most concerned about right now when it comes to the oceans and polar regions?

Global sea level has been rising at an accelerating rate since about 1970, and over the last century, it has risen more than in any century in at least 3,000 years.

### Are the oceans or ice nearing any tipping points?

"Tipping point" is a vague term used in many different ways by different people. The IPCC defines tipping points as "critical thresholds beyond which a system reorganizes, in a way that is very fast or irreversible" – for example, a temperature rise beyond which climate dynamics commit an ice sheet to massive loss.

### What do scientists know now about hurricanes that they didn't realize when the last report was written?

Since the last IPCC assessment report in 2013, there has been increasing evidence that hurricanes have grown more intense, and intensified more rapidly, than they did 40 years ago. There's also evidence that hurricanes in the U.S. are moving more slowly, leading to increased rainfall.

[...]

The IPCC uses a transparent process to produce its report – the authors have had to respond to over 50,000 review comments over the three years we've spent writing it. The governments also weigh in, having to approve every line of a concise Summary for Policy Makers that accurately reflects the underlying assessment – oftentimes making it clearer in the process.

I'm very pleased that, as with past reports, every participating government has signed off on a summary that accurately reports the current state of climate science.



The plan was hatched 65 years ago by a teenager who is credited with saving the Games from disaster. His anonymous letter created a new Olympic tradition.



## Why The Olympic Athletes Don't March Behind Their Own Flag At The Closing Ceremony

August 8, 2021 - 1:27 PM ET

BILL CHAPPELL



When the Olympics end, athletes don't repeat the highly regimented parade of the opening ceremony. For the closing, they sort of wander in, mingling with other nationalities. It's all part of a plan hatched 65 years ago by a teenager. Despite being credited with saving the Games from disaster, for decades, few people knew his name.

In the closing ceremony, the athletes walk "en masse and in no particular order," officials for the Tokyo Games say, making the final parade much more casual and easygoing than the highly scripted opener. In Sunday's ceremony, Olympians wandered in, chatting with other delegations and pausing to take photos together, blending national colors.

So, why did the often stodgy Olympics decide to accept randomness?

"The idea of having all the athletes parade in no order comes from a young Chinese man, John Ian Wing, an apprentice carpenter in Australia for the 1956 Games in Melbourne," Tokyo organizers said in their notes for the closing ceremony. "Before these Games, the athletes had always marched behind their flag-bearer, as at the Opening Ceremony."

John Ian Wing is the man who convinced Olympics officials to have athletes march together, in a show of unity at the end of the 1956 Summer Olympics. Wing later moved to London, where he remained involved with the Olympic movement.

*Kirk McKoy/Los Angeles Times via Getty Images*



## Why did I just order on Postmates and an "Uber eats partner"

Apr 25, 2021 — The only thing that sucks with the integration, which I had no idea that it happened, was **delivering** alcohol. Postmates app was way easier and faster to ...

**Uber eats** drivers are taking **postmates orders** - Reddit Apr 19, 2021

1st **uber eats delivery order** thru **postmates** app - Reddit Apr 21, 2021

[More results from www.reddit.com](#)

### Why did Postmates partner with Uber Eats? ^

Uber views Postmates as **a way to accelerate its path to profitability** and bolster its presence in the Western U.S., where the smaller company has a strong foothold. ... From a customer perspective, Uber Eats and Postmates will remain separate entities with their own apps and marketplaces. Nov 30, 2020

## Uber Eats completes Postmates acquisition - Restaurant ...

Search for: [Why did Postmates partner with Uber Eats?](#)

### Is Uber getting rid of Postmates? ^

San Francisco: **Uber has agreed to acquire the food delivery start-up Postmates for \$2.65 billion** as it aims to expand its presence in on-demand food delivery while its core ride-hailing business struggles. The companies announced the all-stock deal on Monday morning. May 4, 2021

## Postmates Uber Eats Merger is Real: Should Drivers Rejoice ...



*Nov. 30, 2020 :*

Uber Eats completed its acquisition of fellow third-party delivery company Postmates on Monday in a \$2.65 billion all-stock transaction, solidifying Uber as the second-largest food delivery provider in the U.S.

The two companies came to an agreement in July after Postmates decided not to pursue an IPO and a deal between Uber and Grubhub fell through. It brings together two of the largest delivery companies, consolidating the industry under three major players: Uber Eats, DoorDash and Grubhub. In doing so, the deal drew scrutiny from the Department of Justice, which asked to take a closer look at whether it violated antitrust law but ultimately approved the transaction.

Uber views Postmates as a way to accelerate its path to profitability and bolster it



*From The Closing Ceremony Of The Tokyo Olympics...*



Silver medalist Brigid Kosgei, left, of Team Kenya, gold medalist Peres Jepchirchir, center, of Team Kenya and bronze medalist Molly Seidel of Team United States pose during the medal ceremony for the Women's Marathon Final during the Closing Ceremony of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

Naomi Baker/Getty Images



COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

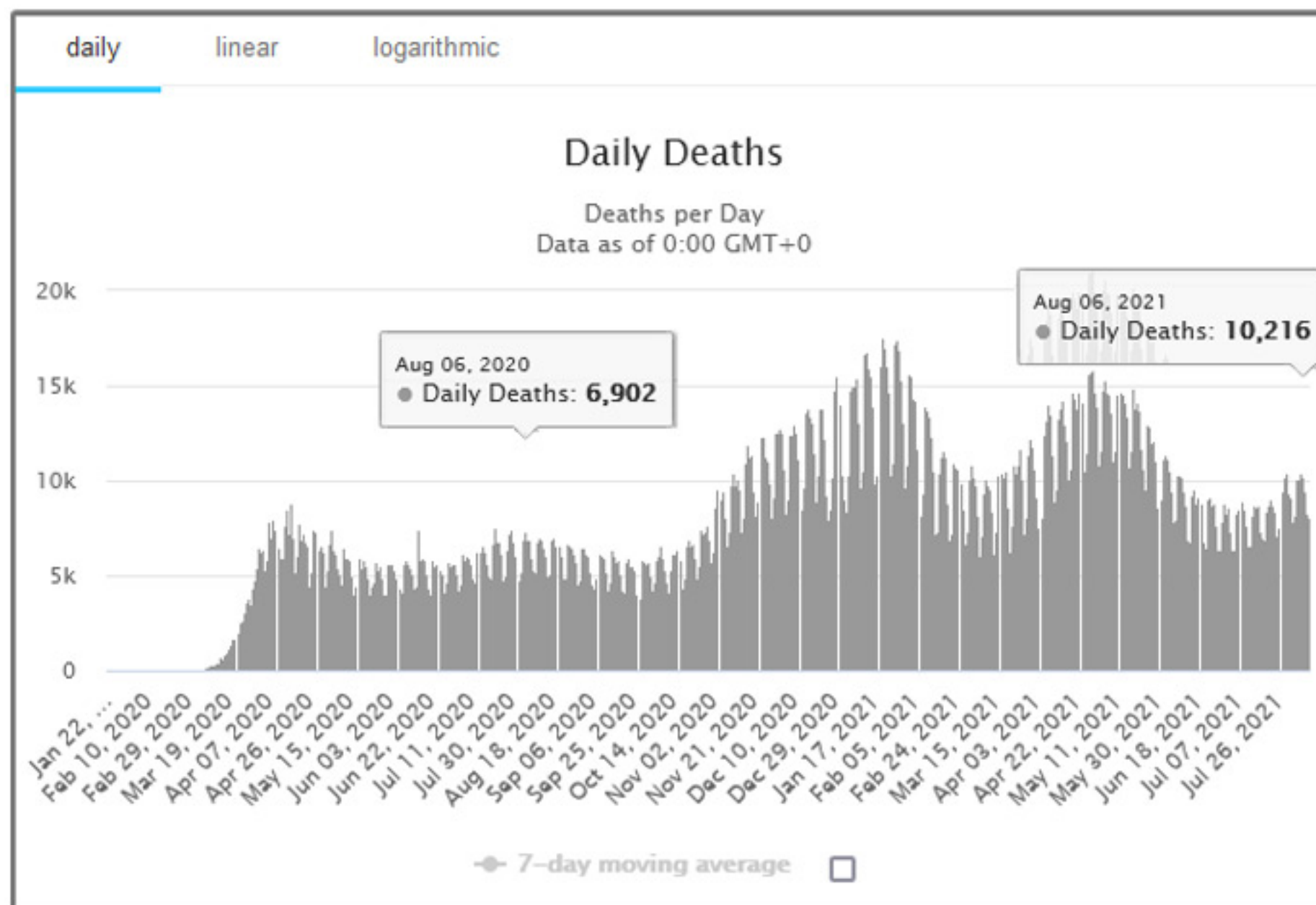
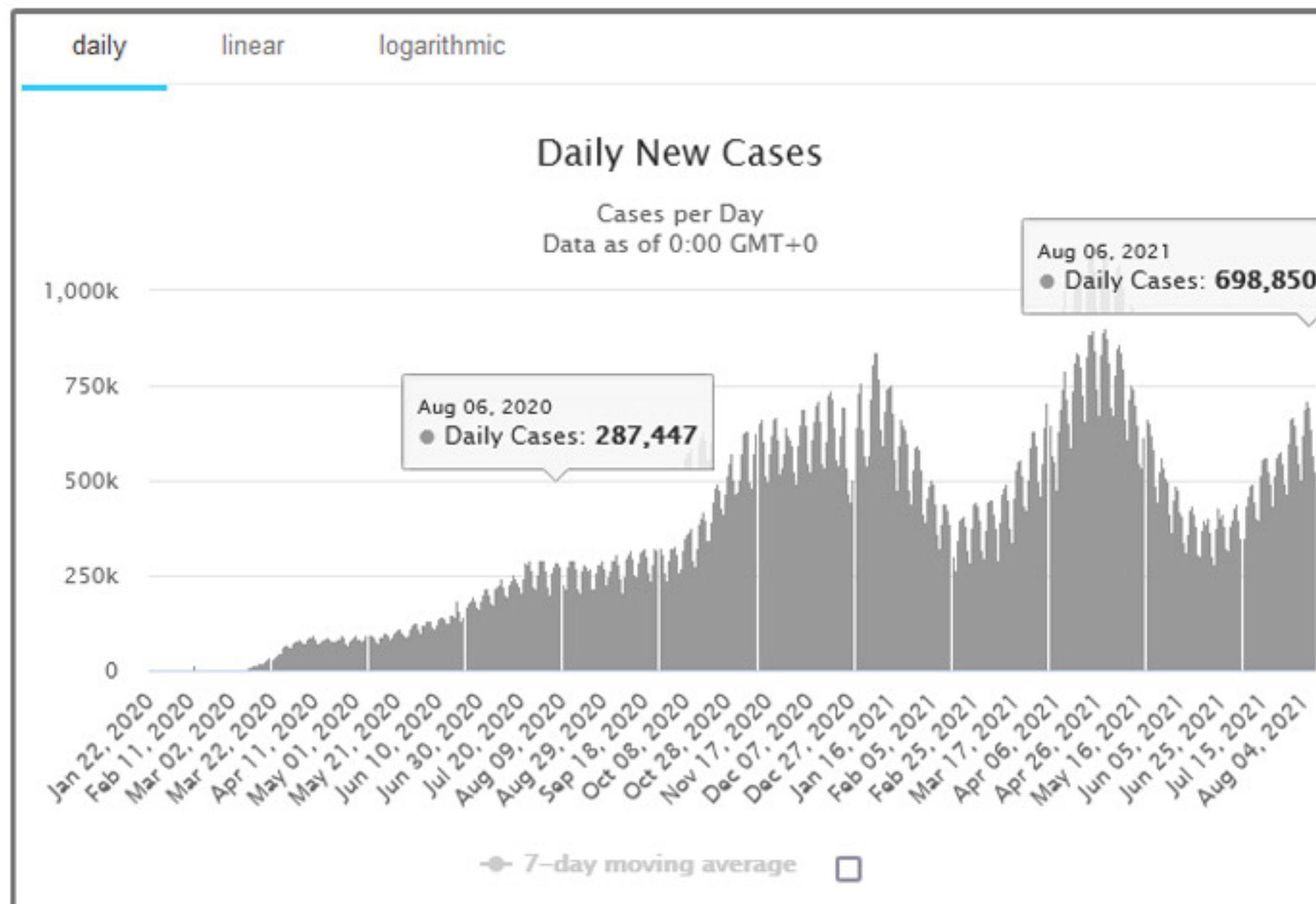
Last updated: August 10, 2021, 11:48 GMT

# Coronavirus Cases:

# 204,313,984

## Deaths:

# 4,320,346







**CNBC**

Kathy Hochul to become New York's first female governor, replacing Andrew Cuo...

4 hours ago



Kathleen Courtney Hochul is an American politician and lawyer serving as Lieutenant Governor of New York since 2015. She will serve as the 57th governor of New York following Andrew Cuomo's resignation, scheduled for August 24, 2021. She will become the first female governor of New York State. [Wikipedia](#)

**Born:** August 27, 1958 (age 62 years), [Buffalo, NY](#)

**Spouse:** [William J. Hochul Jr.](#) (m. 1984)

**Party:** [Democratic Party](#)

**Office:** Lieutenant Governor of New York since 2015

**Previous office:** Representative, [NY 26th District](#) (2011–2013)

**Education:** [The Catholic University of America](#) (1983), [MORE](#)

**Children:** [Caitlin Hochul](#), [William Hochul](#)

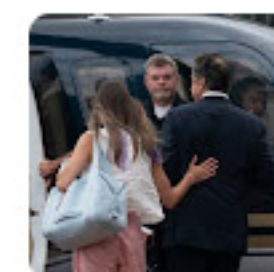
### Big win for \$1T infrastructure bill: Dems, GOP come together

12 minutes ago



### Gov. Andrew Cuomo resigns over sexual harassment allegations

52 minutes ago



### Dry California tourist town to guests: 'Please conserve'

5 hours ago



### Hospitals run low on nurses as they get swamped with COVID

1 hour ago





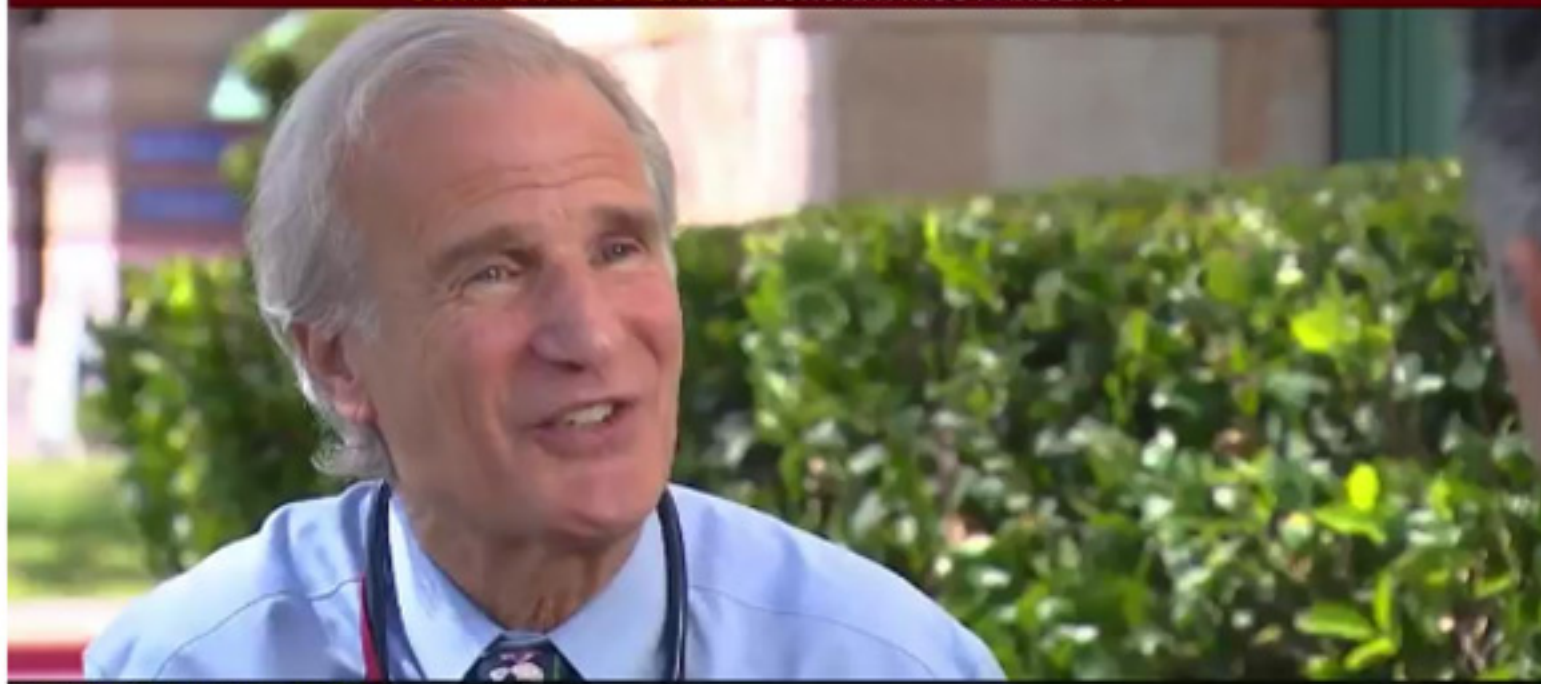
## RADY CHILDRENS HOSPITAL

# COVID-19 Cases Among San Diego Children Remain Low, Unlike Other U.S. Cities

Doctors at Rady Children's remain strong proponents of face masks in school to help keep coronavirus transmission rates low

By Artie Ojeda • Published August 9, 2021 • Updated 4 hours ago

CONTINUING COVERAGE: CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC



CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

COVID CASES IN CHILDREN

GET LOCAL UPDATES AT [NBC7.com/Newsletters](https://www.nbc7.com/newsletters)

4:01 80°  
INLAND  
TOMORROW



Doctors at Rady Children's remain strong proponents of face masks in school to help keep coronavirus transmission rates low, reports NBC 7's Artie Ojeda.

Last week, eight young patients were admitted to Rady Children's Hospital in San Diego with COVID-19, but the Medical Director of Infectious Disease at the hospital said local case rates among children are low and not cause for alarm.

"While the numbers are increasing in the community, and we really want them to decrease, those numbers haven't caused a huge increase in hospitalizations for children in San Diego. Our community is doing a pretty good job," Dr. John Bradley, MD said.

Unlike other parts of the country where COVID-19 cases in children are escalating, **Dr. Bradley attributes the low rates in San Diego to the high number of adults who've been vaccinated.**

To date, 72% of eligible San Diegans are now fully vaccinated.

"If there's widespread COVID in the adult community, we will be seeing it in children as we are now. So if we get more of the adults vaccinated, then they'll be less of a source of COVID to infect children," Bradley said.

Among the eight admitted to Rady Children's last week, none developed serious symptoms and left the hospital within a day. One of the patients was 2 years old, but most were over 12. The hospital accepts patients up to 20 years old.

But with school having started or soon to begin in many districts, there is concern that rates among children could escalate.

Dr. Bradley said the solution is face masks, and he's a strong advocate of face masks in school.

"If they wear masks, any child with even mild symptomatic disease, or asymptomatic disease, will not be able to spread it. And if they can't spread it to other children, those kids can't take it home and infect their parents, their grandparents," said Bradley.

Bradley is well aware of the "Let Them Breathe" movement and parents who reject the effectiveness of masks.

"I'm sorry. The science is really clear and everyone who studied this prospectively and in an appropriate scientific way comes to the same conclusion. Masks work. They're not 100%, and kids will be taking off their mask. I mean, they're not 100, but they work, they don't cause disease. They're safe," said Bradley.

"I actually don't understand why these people don't think that masks aren't safe and they're not protecting us from more spread of COVID in the community," he added.



## Major Retailers Requiring Masks In San Diego County: See The List

Following new CDC guidance on face coverings, many retailers are once again directing employees and customers to mask up.



**Kristina Houck**, Patch Staff

Posted Mon, Aug 9, 2021 at 7:46 am PT



New mask requirements come as the highly contagious delta variant continues to sweep across the nation. (David Allen/Patch)

**SAN DIEGO, CA** — As coronavirus cases and hospitalizations spike throughout the United States, many retailers in San Diego and other cities are re-implementing mask mandates to help curb the spread of coronavirus.

New mask requirements come as the highly contagious delta variant continues to sweep across the nation. The variant, which originated in India, now accounts for more than 93 percent of all new cases in the United States, according to data released last week by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Many retailers attribute revised mandates to the CDC's new mask guidance, which recommends all vaccinated and unvaccinated people wear masks in public indoor settings or when in areas with "substantial" or "high" transmission; however, most stop short of requiring fully vaccinated customers to wear face coverings. Find out what's happening in San Diego with free, real-time updates from Patch.

The CDC defines "substantial" transmission as 50 to 99.99 cases per 100,000 people over seven days, while "high" transmission is defined as more than 100 cases per 100,000 during that span.

Here's a look at which retailers in San Diego County now require masks and who should wear them, according to a list compiled by AARP and various news outlets:

**Apple > Who Has To Mask Up:** Citing a company memo to employees, Bloomberg reported that Apple reinstated a mask requirement for shoppers and staff at most of its U.S. retail outlets.

**AT&T > Who Has To Mask Up:** Employees, customers and visitors are required to wear masks regardless of vaccination status.

**Bed Bath & Beyond > Who Has To Mask Up:** A mask mandate remains in place for shoppers and employees but exempts fully vaccinated customers "in U.S. locations where permitted by local order or law."

**CVS > Who Has To Mask Up:** Face coverings are required for employees and customers who are not fully vaccinated, and optional for those who are.

**Home Depot > Who Has To Mask Up:** The retailer issued a mask requirement for "all associates, contractors and vendors" at its U.S. stores. All customers will be asked to wear masks.

**Kohl's > Who Has To Mask Up:** Kohl's requires all employees in counties with a substantial or high risk of transmission to wear masks while in store. The company has also requested that customers in these areas wear masks.

**Lowe's > Who Has To Mask Up:** Lowe's employees are required to wear masks at all locations. Meanwhile, customers are encouraged to also wear masks.

**McDonald's > Who Has To Mask Up:** McDonald's has mandated that all customers and employees wear masks at locations in areas with high or substantial rates of COVID-19 transmission.

**Nordstrom > Who Has To Mask Up:** The retailer requires face masks where mandated and for those who aren't vaccinated.

**Starbucks > Who Has To Mask Up:** Starbucks "strongly recommends" customers wear facial coverings regardless of vaccination status. Masks are required where mandated by local law or regulation. Starting Aug. 5, all store partners must wear face coverings.

**Target > Who Has To Mask Up:** Target requires face coverings for all team members and strongly recommends face coverings for all customers in areas with a substantial or high risk of transmission.

**TJX Companies (parent company of T.J.Maxx, Marshalls and HomeGoods) > Who Has To Mask Up:** The parent company of T.J.Maxx, Marshalls, Sierra and HomeGoods requires all employees and unvaccinated customers to wear face coverings, which remain optional for fully vaccinated customers.

**Verizon > Who Has To Mask Up:** The company says masks "may be required" at Verizon locations and that its outlets follow "CDC guidelines and legal requirements."

**Walgreens > Who Has To Mask Up:** Employees regardless of vaccination status are required to mask up. Customers and employees who are not vaccinated are asked to continue wearing masks.

**Walmart > Who Has To Mask Up:** All employees must wear face coverings regardless of vaccination status. Masks are encouraged for fully vaccinated customers and required for those unvaccinated.

**Whole Foods > Who Has To Mask Up:** Masks are required for unvaccinated customers and employees. Masks are optional for vaccinated customers and employees.



# Prince Andrew Is Sued By A Woman Who Says He Sexually Assaulted Her When She Was 17

August 9, 2021 · 6:40 PM ET

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Virginia Giuffre, who says she was trafficked by sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, has filed a lawsuit against Britain's Prince Andrew, saying he assaulted her when she was 17.

**NEW YORK** — One of Jeffrey Epstein's longtime accusers sued Prince Andrew on Monday, saying he sexually assaulted her when she was 17. Lawyers for Virginia Giuffre filed the lawsuit in Manhattan federal court.

In a statement, Giuffre said the lawsuit was brought under the Child Victims Act to allege she was trafficked to him and sexually abused by him. "I am holding Prince Andrew accountable for what he did to me," she said. "The powerful and rich are not exempt from being held responsible for their actions. I hope that other victims will see that it is possible not to live in silence and fear, but to reclaim one's life by speaking out and demanding justice.

"I did not come to this decision lightly," she added. "As a mother and a wife, my family comes first — and I know that this action will subject me to further attacks by Prince Andrew and his surrogates — but I knew if I did not pursue this action, I would be letting them and victims everywhere down."

In late 2019, Prince Andrew told BBC Newsnight that he never had sex with Giuffre, saying, "It didn't happen." He said he has "no recollection" of ever meeting her and told an interviewer there are "a number of things that are wrong" about Giuffre's account, which alleges the encounter occurred in 2001.

"I can absolutely categorically tell you it never happened," Andrew said.



## EUROPE

[Prince Andrew Admits Visiting With Sex Offender Epstein Was 'The Wrong Thing To Do'](#)



## MEDIA

[A Dead Cat, A Lawyer's Call And A 5-Figure Donation: How Media Fell Short On Epstein](#)

According to the lawsuit, which sought unspecified compensatory and punitive damages, the prince abused Giuffre on multiple occasions when she was under the age of 18. It said that on one occasion, the prince sexually abused her in London at the home of Ghislaine Maxwell when Epstein, Maxwell and Prince Andrew forced her to have sexual intercourse with the prince against her will.

On another occasion, Prince Andrew sexually abused Plaintiff in Epstein's New York mansion when Maxwell forced Giuffre and another victim to sit on Andrew's lap as he touched her, the lawsuit said. The lawsuit also alleged that Andrew sexually abused Giuffre on Epstein's private island in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

During each of the alleged acts, Giuffre was given "express or implied threats" by Epstein, Maxwell, and/or Andrew to engage in sexual acts with the prince, the lawsuit said. It said that she "feared death or physical injury to herself or another and other repercussions for disobeying" the trio because of their "powerful connections, wealth, and authority," the lawsuit said.

The lawsuit added that Andrew knew her age at the time based on communications with Epstein and Maxwell. It said he went ahead anyway "for the purpose of gratifying his sexual desires."

Maxwell, 59, has pleaded not guilty to sex trafficking charges in Manhattan federal court, where she faces trial in November.

Epstein, 66, took his own life in a federal jail in Manhattan in August 2019, a month after he was arrested on sex trafficking charges.

As part of its continuing probe into Epstein and his encounters with women and teenage girls, Manhattan federal prosecutors formally requested to speak with Andrew.

The request, similar to issuing a subpoena, was made under the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty, an agreement between the two countries to share evidence and information in criminal cases.



## Anti-vaxxers gain power on right, triggering new fears

By Reid Wilson - 07/14/21

<https://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/562997-anti-vaxxers-gain-power-on-right-triggering-new-fears>

In a study published last month Timothy Callaghan, an assistant professor at Texas A&M University's School of Public Health found about 1 in 12 Americans say they always identify as an anti-vaxxer, and a much higher proportion, 22 percent, identifies with the movement on at least some occasions.

[<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/21565503.2021.1932528>],

## Inside one network cashing in on vaccine disinformation

By MICHELLE R. SMITH and JOHNATAN REISS | May 13, 2021

<https://apnews.com/article/anti-vaccine-bollinger-coronavirus-disinformation-a7b8e1f33990670563b4c469b462c9bf>

Charlene and Ty Bollinger are part of an ecosystem of for-profit companies, non-profit groups, YouTube channels and other social media accounts that stoke fear and distrust of COVID-19 vaccines, resorting to what medical experts say is often misleading and false information.

## The Anti-Vaxx Movement Is More Organized and Powerful Than Ever

Jackie Kucinich | Mar. 27, 2019

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/the-anti-vaxxer-movement-is-getting-more-organized-and-powerful-than-ever-before>

Funding is on the rise and so are the attempts to affect legislation, disrupt hearings, and elect like-minded lawmakers.

## How Antivax PACs Helped Shape Midterm Ballots

Megan Molteni | Science | 11.05.2018 07:00 AM

<https://www.wired.com/story/vaccine-choice-pacs-shaping-the-ballot/>

With political action committees, the modern antivaccine movement is taking its fight for medical freedoms to the campaign trail. And that has public health experts worried.

## Texans for Vaccine Choice (TFVC)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Texans\\_for\\_Vaccine\\_Choice](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Texans_for_Vaccine_Choice)

Texans for Vaccine Choice (TFVC) is an anti-vaccine Facebook group turned political action committee in Texas which advocates for personal belief exemptions to vaccination requirements, based on personal experience of their children and friends being damaged. Andrew Wakefield, the disgraced former medical researcher and originator of the MMR autism hoax, and infectious disease specialist Peter Hotez, both describe TFVC's lobbying as very effective, with the rate of Texas students opting out of at least one vaccine at least doubling in around five years and over 50,000 Texas schoolchildren not being vaccinated.



An anti-vaccine rally at the Arizona state capitol on May 18. Jesse Rieser for TIME



Buggywhip Drive and Bar Bit Road



### Bar Bit Rd & Buggywhip Dr

Spring Valley, CA 91978  
Intersection

- Directions
- Save
- Nearby
- Send to your phone
- Share

- Add a missing place
- Add your business
- Add a label

#### Photos



Restaurants Hotels Attractions Transit Parking

Map data ©2021 Google United States Terms Privacy Send feedback 100 ft



LAW

## The Texas Supreme Court Says Democratic Lawmakers Can Be Arrested For Evading House Votes

The state's highest court says law enforcement can round up rogue legislators and bring them back to the state Capitol's House Chambers.

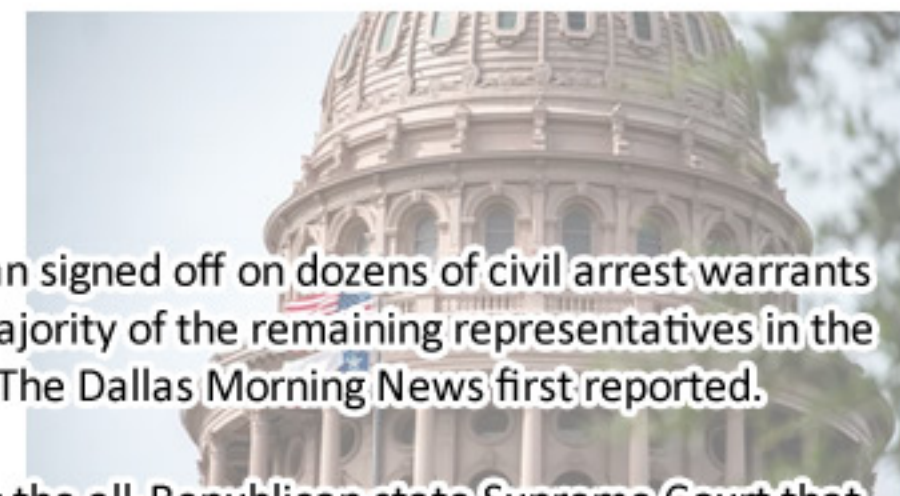
### Texas House Speaker Signs Arrest Warrants For Democrats Still Refusing To Return

August 10, 2021 · 8:00 PM ET

JACLYN DIAZ



VANESSA ROMO



Republican House Speaker Dade Phelan signed off on dozens of civil arrest warrants for Democrats late Tuesday, after a majority of the remaining representatives in the chamber voted to authorize this step, The Dallas Morning News first reported.

The move came hours after a ruling by the all-Republican state Supreme Court that said law enforcement can round-up rogue legislators and bring them back to the state Capitol's House Chambers. The state Supreme Court's decision undid an earlier lower court ruling that said lawmakers couldn't be arrested.

The 52 warrants seeking the arrest of the fugitive Democrats will be delivered to the House sergeant-at-arms on Wednesday, according to Phelan's spokesman Enrique Marquez who spoke to The Dallas Morning News.

Critically, it wouldn't take many arrests for the House to return to business, the newspaper reported. A quorum is reached when two-thirds of the 150 members are in the chamber. Since Monday, 96 House members have recorded themselves as present, leaving it just four votes short of a quorum.

On Monday, state Rep. Gina Hinojosa called out Democrats that had returned to the chamber and urged her party colleagues still absent to stay away.

Texas Republicans maintain the bill is meant to re-enforce election integrity, but there's been no evidence of significant voter fraud in the state or elsewhere.

Some members headed to Washington, D.C. to avoid returning to Austin and lobbied for federal voting reforms while there. A federal bill would limit the state's ability to enact local legislation.

Many Texas Democrats remain defiant against efforts to bring them back. But after a month away from Austin, reports indicate that solidarity among members of the party has begun to fray.

Rep. Ana-Maria Ramos tweeted a picture Monday of state Rep. James Talarico and other Democrats on the floor of the House and said: "You all threw us under the bus today! Why?"

At least one member of the Republican Party in Texas this week objected to the direction his colleagues were heading.

State Rep. Lyle Larson tweeted after the chamber voted to arrest his Democratic colleagues: "Have we got to the point where we believe our own bull shizz so much that we arrest our own colleagues. Civil discourse took a nasty turn today."



Republican Texas Speaker of the House Dade Phelan, seen here, and Gov. Greg Abbott brought the suit against House Democrats to the Supreme Court.



<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-58182658>

<https://www.cnbc.com/2021/08/12/chinas-tech-giants-generate-billions-but-squeezed-small-businesses.html>

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-08-12/china-hits-back-at-arrogant-trudeau-as-huawei-battle-heats-up>

## China says crackdown on business to go on for years

By Peter Hoskins

Business reporter, Singapore

🕒 6 hours ago

The Chinese government has unveiled a five-year plan outlining tighter regulation of much of its economy. It says new rules will be introduced covering areas including national security, technology and monopolies in the world's second largest economy. The 10-point plan, which runs to the end of 2025. The plan also said the Chinese government aims to tackle monopolies and "foreign-related rule of law".

Beijing has already launched anti-monopoly investigations into some of the country's biggest technology firms and taken action against a wide range of other businesses. In April, technology giant Alibaba accepted a record \$2.8bn (£2bn) fine after an investigation found that it had abused its dominant market position for years. Also in July, some of the country's biggest online platforms - Kuaishou, Tencent's messaging tool QQ, Alibaba's Taobao and Weibo - were ordered to remove inappropriate child-related content.

This week, Chinese authorities said they had increased their scrutiny of after-school tuition services offered by individual teachers. During a recent inspection, one person and six institutions were punished for offering unlicensed after-school tutoring that broke regulations, the Beijing Municipal Education Commission said in a statement Monday. The move came as tutoring firms had changed how they operated after a government crackdown on the industry. Last month, Beijing unveiled a massive overhaul of China's \$120bn private tutoring sector, under which all institutions offering tuition on school curricula will be registered as non-profit organisations. The new rules said: "Curriculum subject-tutoring institutions are not allowed to go public for financing; listed companies should not invest in the institutions, and foreign capital is barred from such institutions."

Meanwhile, this week China's banking and insurance watchdog stepped up its regulation of online insurance companies, according to the Caixin news agency. The China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission ordered the firms to stop improper marketing and pricing or face "severe punishment."

## China's tech giants generate billions for investors — but small businesses are being squeezed

PUBLISHED WED, AUG 11 2021-9:54 PM EDT



Evelyn Cheng

@CHENGEVELYN

- A slew of regulatory actions by Beijing caught investors in Chinese companies by surprise, as authorities increasingly focus on promoting "common prosperity," analysts said.
- Resentment toward tech companies is growing in China, especially from small businesses that feel squeezed by digital behemoths.

## China Slams 'Arrogant' Trudeau as Huawei Battle Heats Up

Bloomberg News

August 11, 2021, 8:06 PM PDT

Updated on August 11, 2021, 9:48 PM PDT

- ▶ Embassy condemns Canadian premier's criticism of spy trial
- ▶ Beijing advances cases as extradition fight enters final stage



GETTY IMAGES

China is this year celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Communist Party

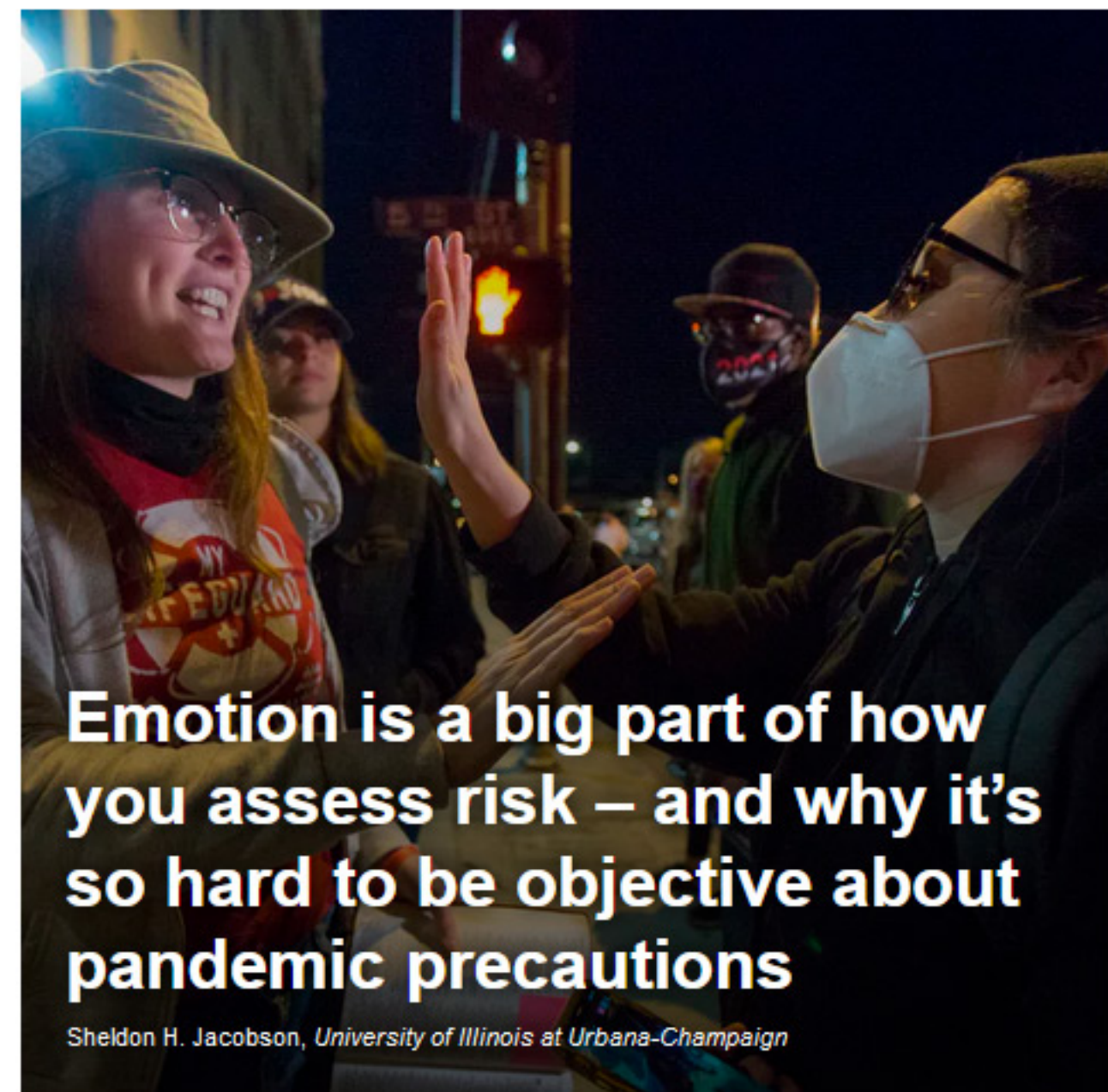




As a sociologist of religion, I've long been interested in why religious institutions are exempt from certain taxes and what that means in potential lost revenue for the U.S. In 2012, I examined this issue and estimated that in total, churches in the U.S. get out of paying around US\$71 billion in taxes annually.



As a philosophy professor, I'm interested in the continuing relevance of Orwell's ideas, including those on totalitarianism and socialism.




Risk is a function of logical and physical factors, both qualitative and quantitative. A computer could combine them all into a measure that captures the likelihood, benefits and cost of an event occurring.

But people are prone to assess risk emotionally. This tendency explains why many view flying as riskier than driving, even though the reverse is true.



# A Former College Professor Accused Of Serial Arson Is Denied Bail In California

Updated August 11, 2021 - 5:39 PM ET

BILL CHAPPELL 



Investigators say they've linked the Ranch Fire, pictured here shortly after its discovery, and other blazes to Gary Maynard, a former college professor. He is charged with starting only the Ranch Fire.

U.S. Forest Service

Firefighters battling the Dixie Fire have also been facing a second enemy: a serial arsonist who went on a spree of setting fires in July and August — and who sought to trap fire crews with his fires, according to agents from the U.S. Forest Service. They allege former college professor Gary Maynard is the culprit, citing their tracking of his movements and other evidence.

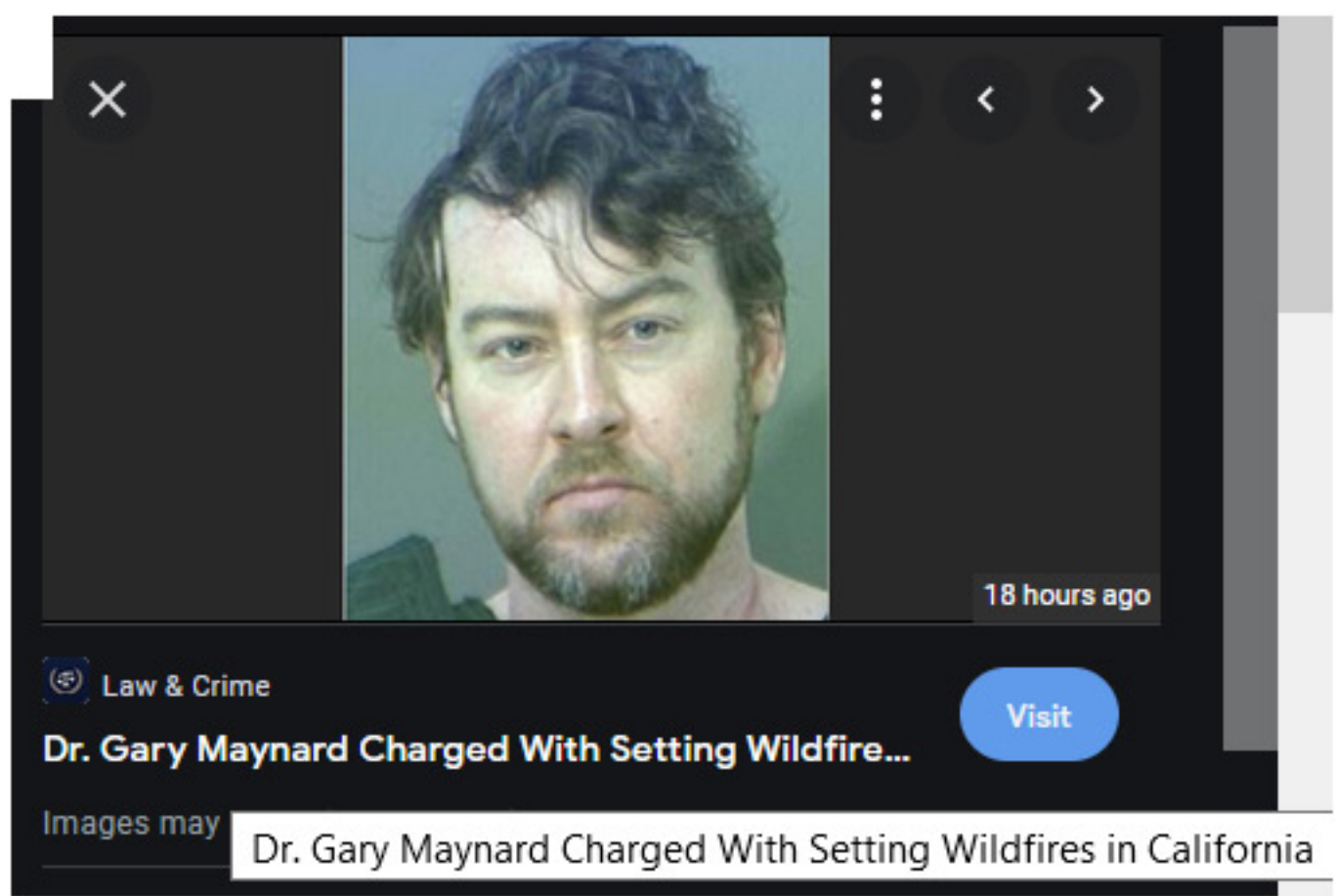
"Where Maynard went, fires started. Not just once, but over and over again," the government said in a court memorandum arguing for Maynard to be denied bail.

While court documents allege that Maynard is connected to more than a half-dozen dangerous fires in Northern California, he is currently charged with starting only the Ranch Fire. That blaze broke out on Saturday morning in a remote area where, according to court records, Maynard had just camped for the night. It's one of three fires that officials said Maynard set in recent days — all of them close to the Dixie Fire's northeastern footprint.

He entered the evacuation zone and began setting fires behind the first responders fighting the Dixie fire," the U.S. attorney's office in Sacramento said in court papers. It added, "Maynard's fires were placed in the perfect position to increase the risk of firefighters being trapped between fires."

Maynard's alleged offenses "show that he is particularly dangerous, even among arsonists," the federal prosecutors said.

If it weren't for the surveillance federal agents were conducting on Maynard, the fires would have been much worse and the risk to firefighters would have been greater, the document said.



Law & Crime

Dr. Gary Maynard Charged With Setting Wildfire...

18 hours ago

Visit

Images may Dr. Gary Maynard Charged With Setting Wildfires in California



## California dad killed his kids over QAnon and 'serpent DNA' conspiracy theories, feds claim

Authorities say Matthew Taylor Coleman confessed to murdering his two young children in Mexico and told investigators he thought they would "grow into monsters."

Aug. 11, 2021, 4:47 PM PDT

By Doha Madani, Andrew Blankstein and Ben Collins

A California surfing school owner who was [charged with killing his two children in Mexico](#) is a follower of [QAnon and Illuminati conspiracy theories](#) who thought the children "were going to grow into monsters so he had to kill them," federal officials alleged.

Matthew Taylor Coleman, 40, was charged Wednesday with foreign murder of U.S. nationals in connection with the death of his 2-year-old son and his 10-month-old daughter, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of California. Authorities said Coleman confessed to the killings and told the FBI that he used a spear fishing gun to stab them.

A criminal complaint alleges that he told the FBI that he killed his children because he believed they "were going to grow into monsters" and that conspiracy theories led him to believe that his wife had passed down her "serpent DNA" to the children.



— Forensic technicians at the scene where two young U.S. children were found dead in Rosarito, Mexico, on Monday. Reuters

Coleman's wife, identified only by her initials, contacted Santa Barbara police after her husband had taken the kids out on Saturday but didn't tell her where they were going, the complaint said. She grew concerned after he failed to respond to her messages, and, knowing that her husband didn't have a car seat with him, she called police.

A missing person's report was filed Sunday, and officers asked her to use Apple's Find My iPhone feature to see whether she could find Coleman, the complaint said. The program showed Coleman's last known location in Rosarito, Mexico, it said.

Police alerted the FBI to the investigation as it became a case of suspected parental kidnapping. Coleman was detained Monday after an inspection by border protection agents of his van upon his re-entry into the U.S., where agents didn't see his children and found blood in the vehicle, authorities said.

The complaint alleges that Coleman confessed to the killings upon being interviewed Monday and gave authorities the location of the murder weapon and the discarded bloody clothing. He also identified two bodies recovered by Mexican authorities as those of his children, it said.

A judge ordered that Coleman be held without bond Wednesday and scheduled his arraignment for Aug. 31.

### California Man Claims QAnon Made Him Kill His Children, F.B.I. Says

The New York Times · 1 hour ago

- California dad killed his kids over QAnon and 'serpent DNA' conspiracy theories, feds claim

NBC News · 11 hours ago

[View Full Coverage](#)





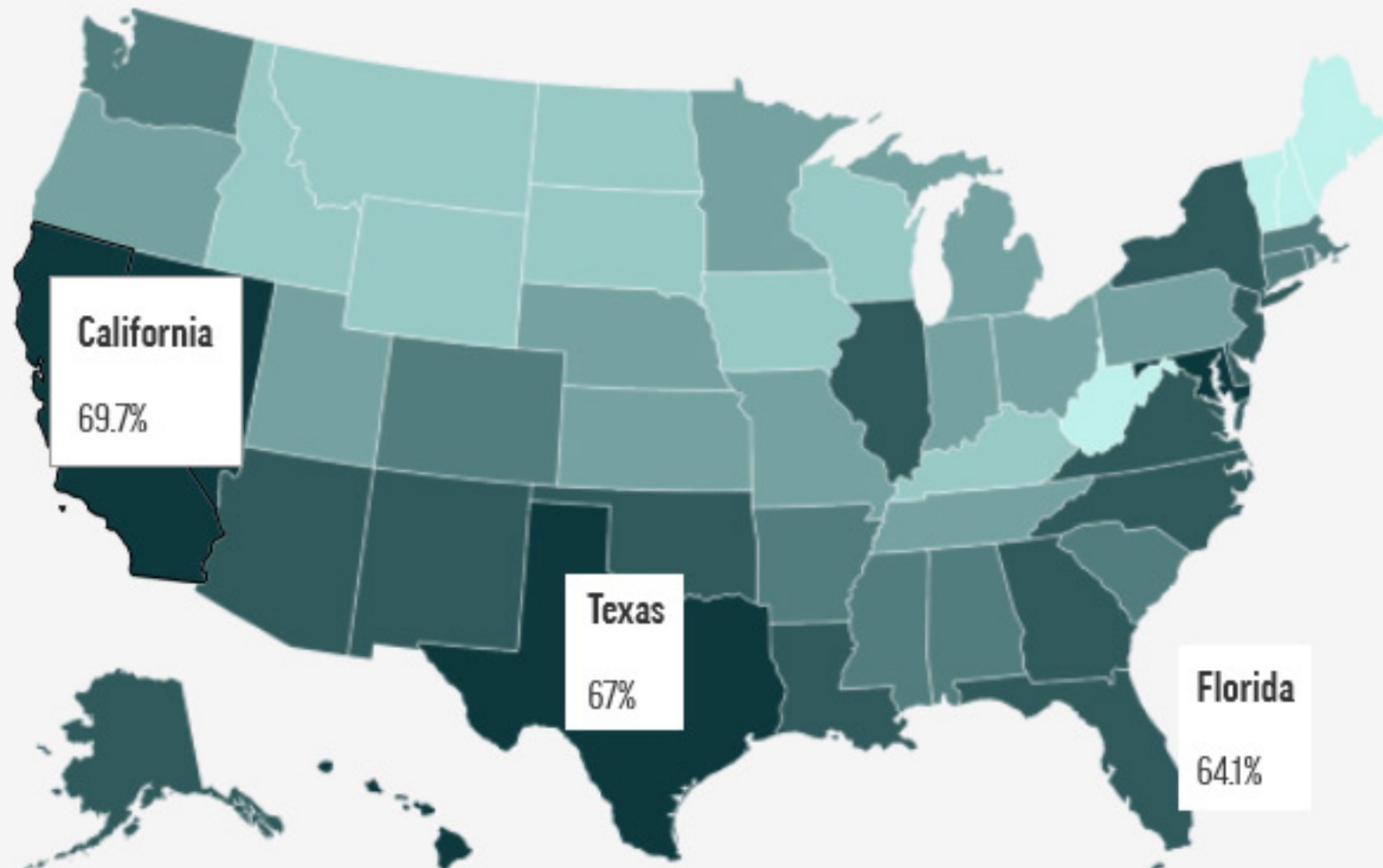
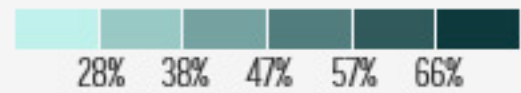
# Census data: US is diversifying, white population shrinking

By MIKE SCHNEIDER today

The fastest-growing U.S. metropolitan area was The Villages in central Florida, which grew 39% from about 93,000 people to about 130,000. The largest retirement community in the nation is dominated by Republican voters and is a must-stop for GOP candidates. Though the Florida Constitution prohibits drawing districts to favor a political party, Republicans leaders may nonetheless try to take advantage of the new population figures. Because of its growth, Florida is gaining a U.S. House seat, giving lawmakers more leeway in line-drawing.

## Diversity Index by state in 2020

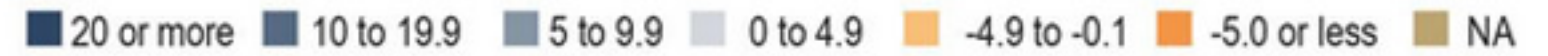
The U.S. Census uses the Diversity Index to compare the degree of racial and ethnic variability in a population. The greater the number the more diverse the population is.



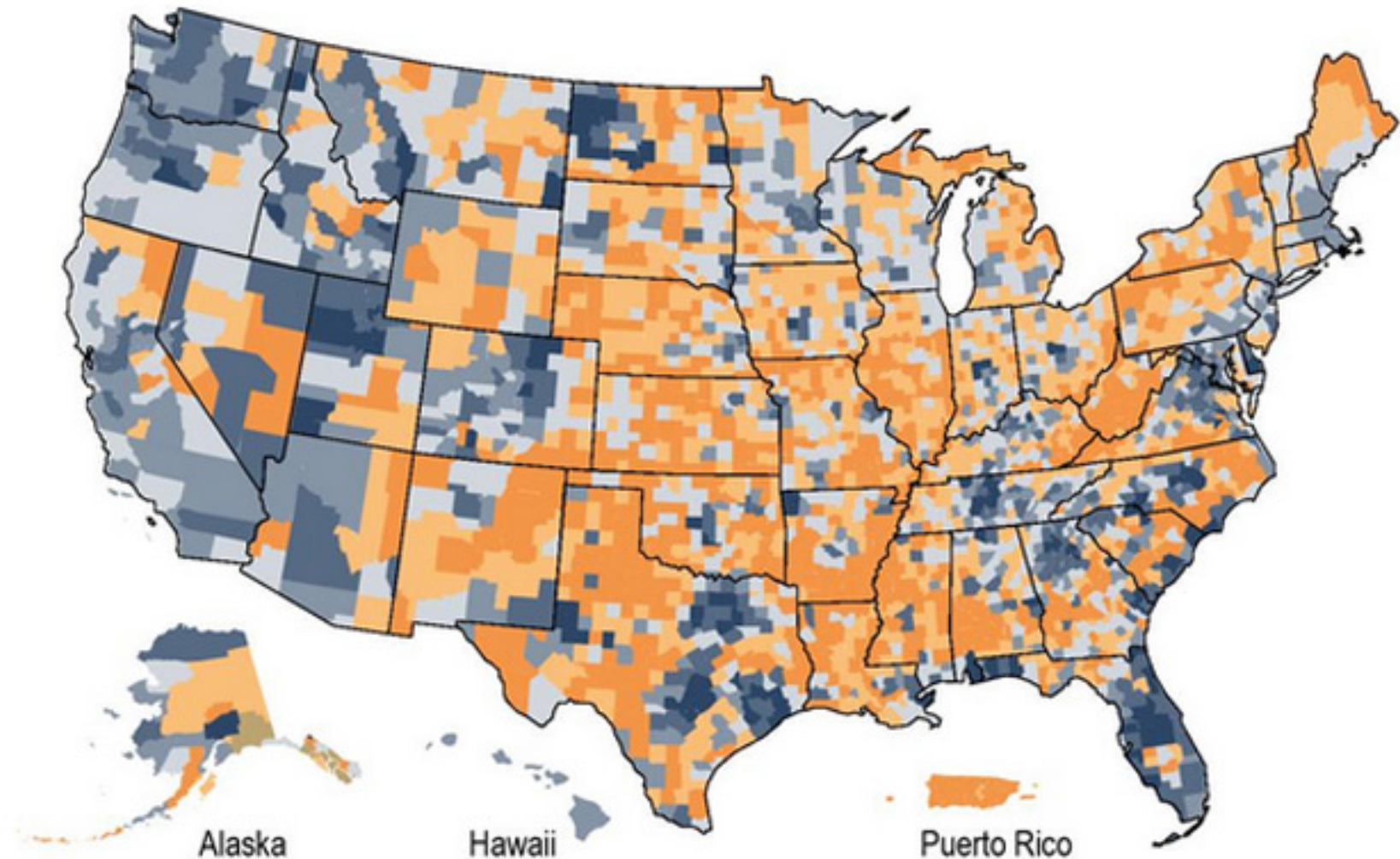
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

AP

## Percentage change in population 2010-2020



County data



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

AP

No racial or ethnic group dominates for those under age 18, and white people declined in numbers for the first time on record in the overall U.S. population as the Hispanic and Asian populations boomed this past decade, according to the 2020 census data.

People who identify as a race other than white, Black, Asian, American Indian, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander — either alone or in combination with one of those races — jumped to 49.9 million people, surpassing the Black population of 46.9 million people as the nation's second-largest racial group, according to the Census Bureau.

But demographers said that may have to do with Hispanic uncertainty about how to answer the race question on the census form, as well as changes the Census Bureau made in processing responses and how it asked about race and ethnicity in order to better reflect the nation's diversity.



## **Broward leads nation in new COVID hospitalizations; Miami-Dade**

[3rd](https://www.local10.com/news/local/2021/08/12/broward-leads-nation-in-new-covid-hospitalizations-miami-dade-3rd/)  
<https://www.local10.com/news/local/2021/08/12/broward-leads-nation-in-new-covid-hospitalizations-miami-dade-3rd/>

Christina Vazquez, Reporter, Updated: August 13, 2021 1:17 am

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. – COVID-19 hospitalizations keep rising off the chart in Florida, and when you dig through the data, it shows concerning numbers particularly in South Florida.

Broward County led the nation in confirmed COVID-19 admissions from Aug. 3-9, metrics from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services show. Miami-Dade County had the third-most admissions in that week-long span. Harris County, Texas, ranked No. 2, with Los Angeles County fourth and Orange County, Florida, fifth. Palm Beach County had the eighth-most.

“Our numbers are horrible,” Broward County Mayor Steve Geller said. “The number of children cases are horrible and they are also rapidly increasing.” He’s pleading with community members to wear masks and get vaccinated against the virus.

“If you are not going to do the patriotic thing of getting a vaccine or wearing the mask, then do it to protect the children,” Geller said.

“The folks who are actually vaccinated are being protected to the tune of 90+ percent. The folks who are unvaccinated continue to fill the hospitals.”

“We realize very, very well that the data is absolute,” said Dr. O’Neil Pyke, chief medical officer at Jackson North Medical Center. “The folks who are actually vaccinated are being protected to the tune of 90+ percent. The folks who are unvaccinated continue to fill the hospitals.”

Pyke says that of those patients “at least one out of five” is intubated and put on a ventilator because of respiratory failure.

The mostly unvaccinated COVID-19 patients they are treating during this surge continue to skew younger.

“We’ve had folks in their 20s, in their 30s, and that group is probably the fastest-growing group among the COVID patients who are very sick requiring hospitalization,” Pyke said.

Memorial Healthcare System in Broward says that, as of Thursday morning, they were on the cusp of having more COVID-19 patients in their care than at any other time during the pandemic.

*(R) Kay Ellen Ivey, Alabama governor*  
*(R) Asa Hutchinson, Arkansas governor*  
*(R) Ron DeSantis, Florida governor*  
*(R) Brian Kemp, Georgia governor*  
*(D) John Bel Edwards, Louisiana governor*  
*(R) Tate Reeves, Mississippi governor*  
*(D) Steve Sisolak, Nevada governor*  
*(R) Greg Abbott, Texas governor*

## **These 8 states make up half of US Covid-19 hospitalizations. And the surge among the unvaccinated is overwhelming healthcare workers**

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/08/13/health/us-coronavirus-friday/index.html>

By Travis Caldwell, CNN, Updated 6:20 AM EDT, Fri August 13, 2021

Eight states, many of which have lagged the national average for vaccinations, have Covid-19 patients that account for at least 15% of their overall hospitalizations: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada and Texas, according to a CNN analysis of HHS data. Of all Covid-19 hospitalizations, these eight states’ combined totals make up approximately 51% of patients, despite accounting for only around 24% of the nation’s population, according to Census data.

The percentages of Covid-19 patients in ICUs are even worse, with Florida, Louisiana and Mississippi approaching half of ICU beds in use for such patients, according to HHS data Thursday. Louisiana and Mississippi each announced on Thursday their highest number of Covid-19 hospitalizations since the start of the pandemic.





### Broward leads nation in new COVID hospitalizations; Miami-Dade

3rd <https://www.local10.com/news/local/2021/08/12/broward-leads-nation-in-new-covid-hospitalizations-miami-dade-3rd/>

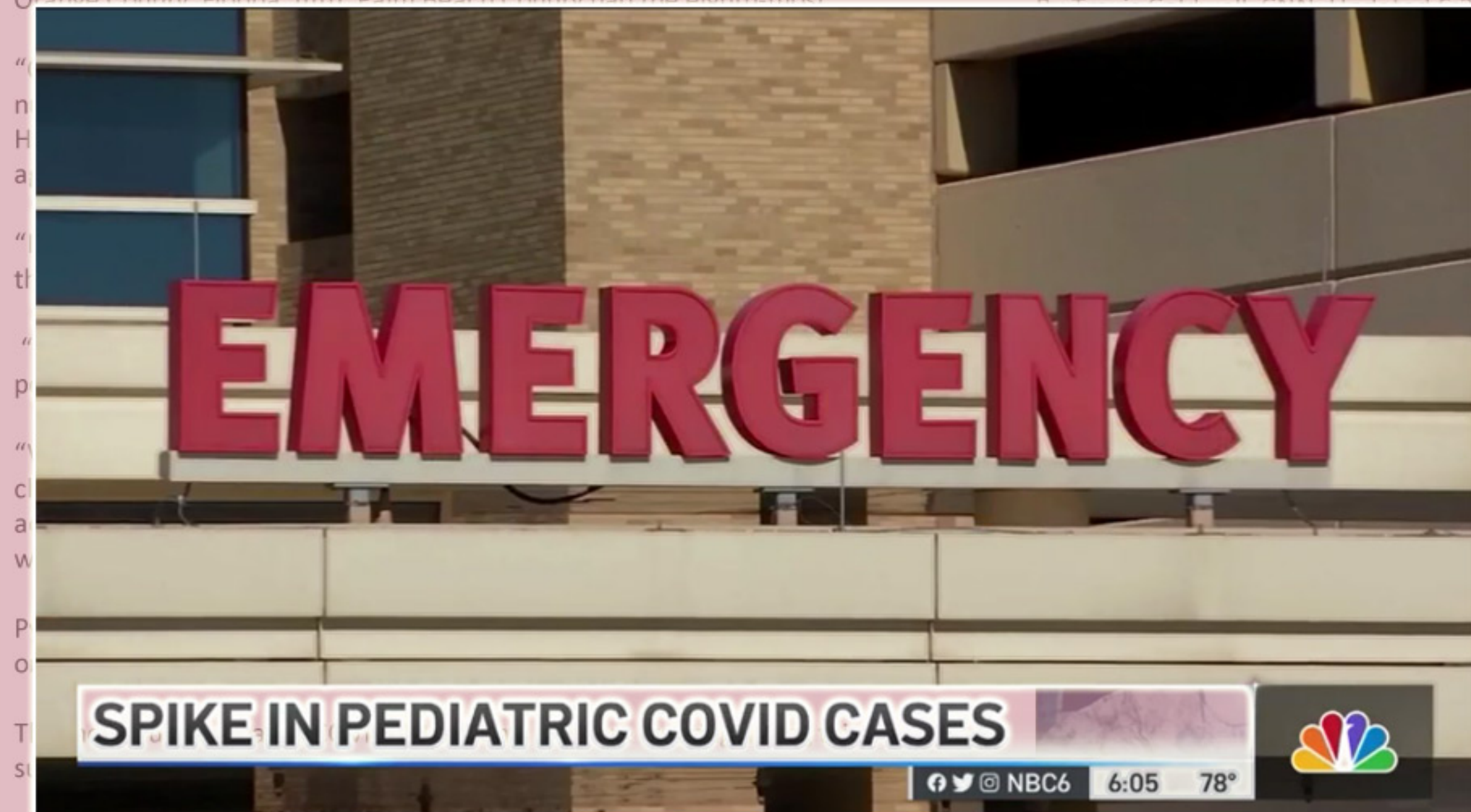
COVID-19 News, Reporter, Updated: August 13, 2021 1:17 am

# As COVID Hits Florida's Children, DeSantis Stands Firm, Says 'Deal With' It

Broward County led the nation in confirmed COVID-19 admissions from Aug. 3- Florida's governor, conceding case levels are higher than some anticipated, stands by opposition to school mask mandates — a practice an advisor told him was "child abuse" and "destroying the country." Miami-Dade County had the third most admissions in that week, behind Harris County, Texas, ranked No. 2, with Los Angeles County fourth and Orange County, Florida, fifth. Palm Beach County had the eighth-most

- (R) Kay Ivey, Alabama governor
- (R) Asa Hutchinson, Arkansas governor
- (R) Ron DeSantis, Florida governor
- (R) Brian Kemp, Georgia governor
- (D) John Bel Edwards, Louisiana governor
- (R) Tate Reeves, Mississippi governor
- (R) Greg Abbott, Texas governor

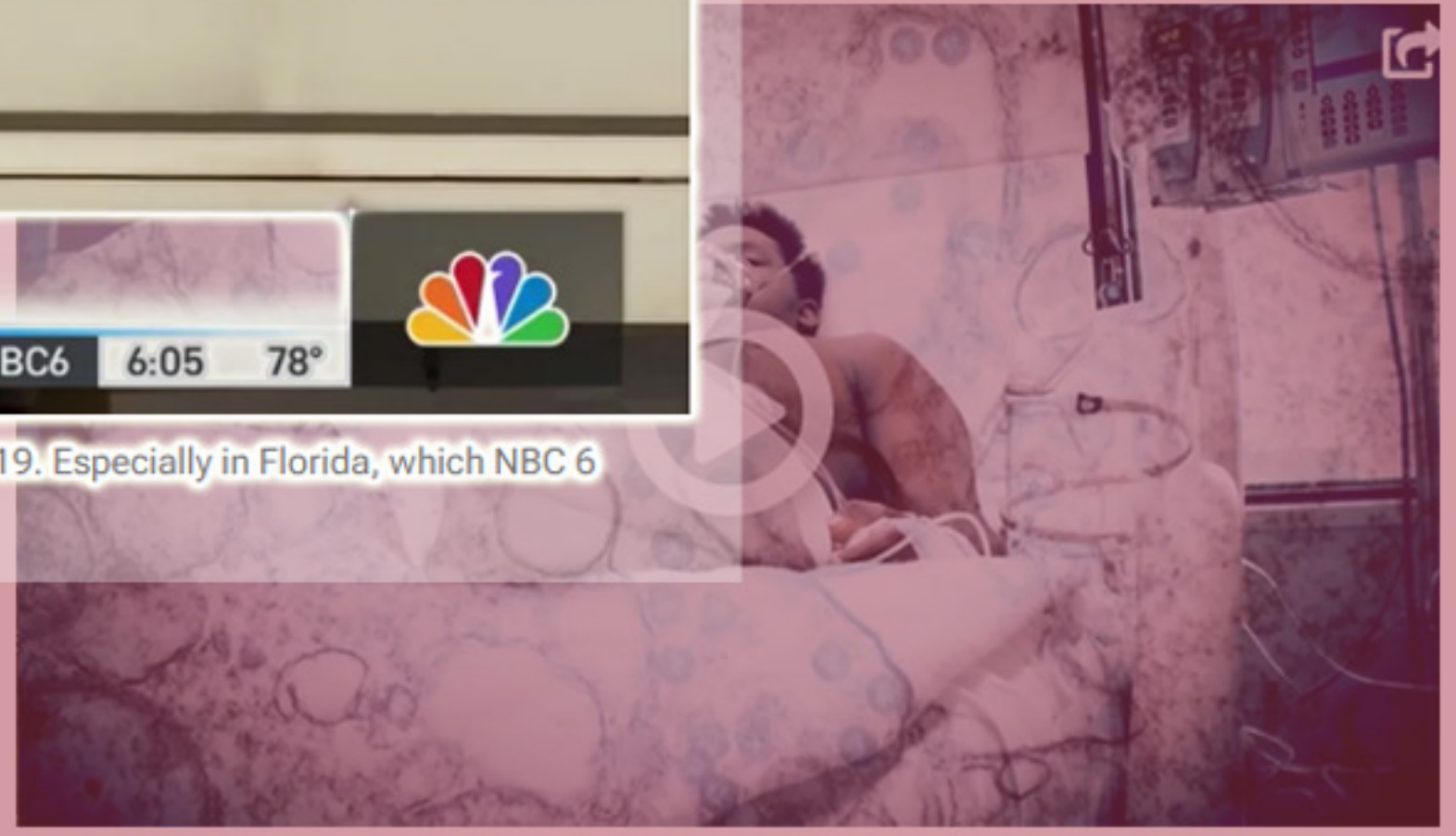
These 8 states make up half of US Covid-19 hospitalizations. And the is overwhelming healthcare workers



"We're seeing a rapid increase in the number of children getting sick during this wave of COVID-19. Especially in Florida, which NBC 6 Investigator Tony Pipitone found, is setting off alarms across the country. requiring hospitalization," Pyke said.

Memorial Healthcare System in Broward says that, as of Thursday morning, they were on the cusp of having more COVID-19 patients in their care than at any other time during the pandemic.

AM EDT, Fri August 13, 2021  
ed the national average for vaccinations, or at least 15% of their overall hospitalizations. Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada and HHS data. Of all Covid-19 hospitalizations, take up approximately 51% of patients, 6 of the nation's population, according to in ICUs are even worse, with Florida, half of ICU beds in use for such patients, iana and Mississippi each announced on d-19 hospitalizations since the start of the





# PBS And Ken Burns Vow To Do Better On Diversity But Critics Aren't Convinced

August 12, 2021 - 1:34 PM ET



Filmmaker Ken Burns has produced and directed historical documentaries for more than 30 years. In March, 140 documentary filmmakers signed [a letter](#) to PBS executives, suggesting the service may provide an unfair level of support to white creators.

As the creator of popular documentaries for public television like *Baseball* and *The Civil War*, Ken Burns often seems like the face of documentary filmmaking at PBS.

So, when Burns faced journalists at a virtual press conference Wednesday, he was asked a probing question: Does he "take umbrage" at being considered an example of "white producer privilege" after more than 140 filmmakers signed an open letter to PBS citing him as an example of how the service unfairly highlights white creators?

"I didn't take it personally at all," said Burns, speaking during PBS' portion of the Television Critics Association's summer press tour, touting his upcoming four-part series on boxing champion Muhammad Ali. "We will take this on and we will figure out how to make it right and do a better job. I personally commit to that. ... How could you possibly take umbrage at the idea there could be more empowerment, there could be more representation, there could be more stories told?"

“

I have, throughout my professional life, tried to tell the story of this country in an inclusive way. ... But I do not accept that only people of a particular background can tell certain stories about our past, particularly in the United States of America.

Filmmaker Ken Burns

"I didn't take it personally at all," said Burns, speaking during PBS' portion of the Television Critics Association's summer press tour, touting his upcoming four-part series on boxing champion Muhammad Ali. "We will take this on and we will figure out how to make it right and do a better job. I personally commit to that. ... How could you possibly take umbrage at the idea there could be more empowerment, there could be more representation, there could be more stories told?"

His response — saying, essentially, we do a good job, but we'll work hard to do better — mirrors the reaction at the Public Broadcasting Service.

On Tuesday, PBS revealed \$11 million in grants for diversity initiatives, including funding for mentoring programs, a series of short-form videos on science and technology issues featuring Black and Hispanic communicators and several new digital series featuring a diversity of creators. The service also hired a new senior vice president of diversity, equity and inclusion.



# Noncompete Agreements Are Everywhere, Even Neighborhood Yoga Studios

August 13, 2021 · 5:00 AM ET



**For many, yoga is a source of calm and healing. Those who teach do so because they love the practice, often finding it spiritually rewarding. But it's also a business. And sometimes, a cutthroat one.**

Eighteen years ago, when Justine Cohen opened the Down Under School of Yoga in Boston, poaching was rampant, she says. "Teachers walking in with clipboards and gathering names and then opening literally upstairs or next door," says Cohen.

Soon after, she began using noncompete agreements to restrict where her teachers could teach, either while employed at Down Under or after. She saw the agreements as a way to professionalize an unregulated industry. They were part of her employment contracts until this spring, when she faced a backlash. An open letter shined a light on noncompetes

In May, more than two dozen former teachers of the Down Under School of Yoga posted an open letter to Facebook and Instagram. It described the limits that the studio's contract put on teachers, restricting them from teaching at other yoga studios, fitness centers and private homes within several miles of Down Under's three locations while employed and for one year after leaving the studio.

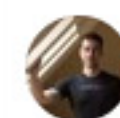
*"What I want to tell all teachers is, noncompetes are usually used as a scare tactic," says Sterling.*

"For many of us, this meant that the act of leaving Down Under threatened our very livelihood as yoga teachers because of the fear of non-compete restrictions," the letter stated. "This has caused significant pain and heartache for dozens of former Down Under yoga teachers, many who were forced to stop teaching yoga altogether after leaving Down Under to make ends meet."

Einat Peled-Katz, one of the teachers who signed the open letter, says yoga teachers may be especially susceptible to harm from noncompetes because they don't view their practice as a business. She says they're often reluctant to talk about fair treatment and compensation.

Enforceable or not, noncompetes serve as a deterrent

The Kims both happen to be lawyers. Callie used to negotiate noncompete provisions for corporate executives, the kind of highly paid people who could take company secrets to a competitor. But the noncompetes they encountered in the yoga and barre world were too broad, they say, and ultimately unenforceable. "The real crux of the issue is that you have to have a legitimate business interest that you are protecting," says Callie Kim. "It cannot just be you don't want competitors."



**Ben Chused Yoga**  
about 3 months ago



This is important. Especially if you are a yoga teacher or a yoga student in the Boston area.

Please read every word of the letter below.

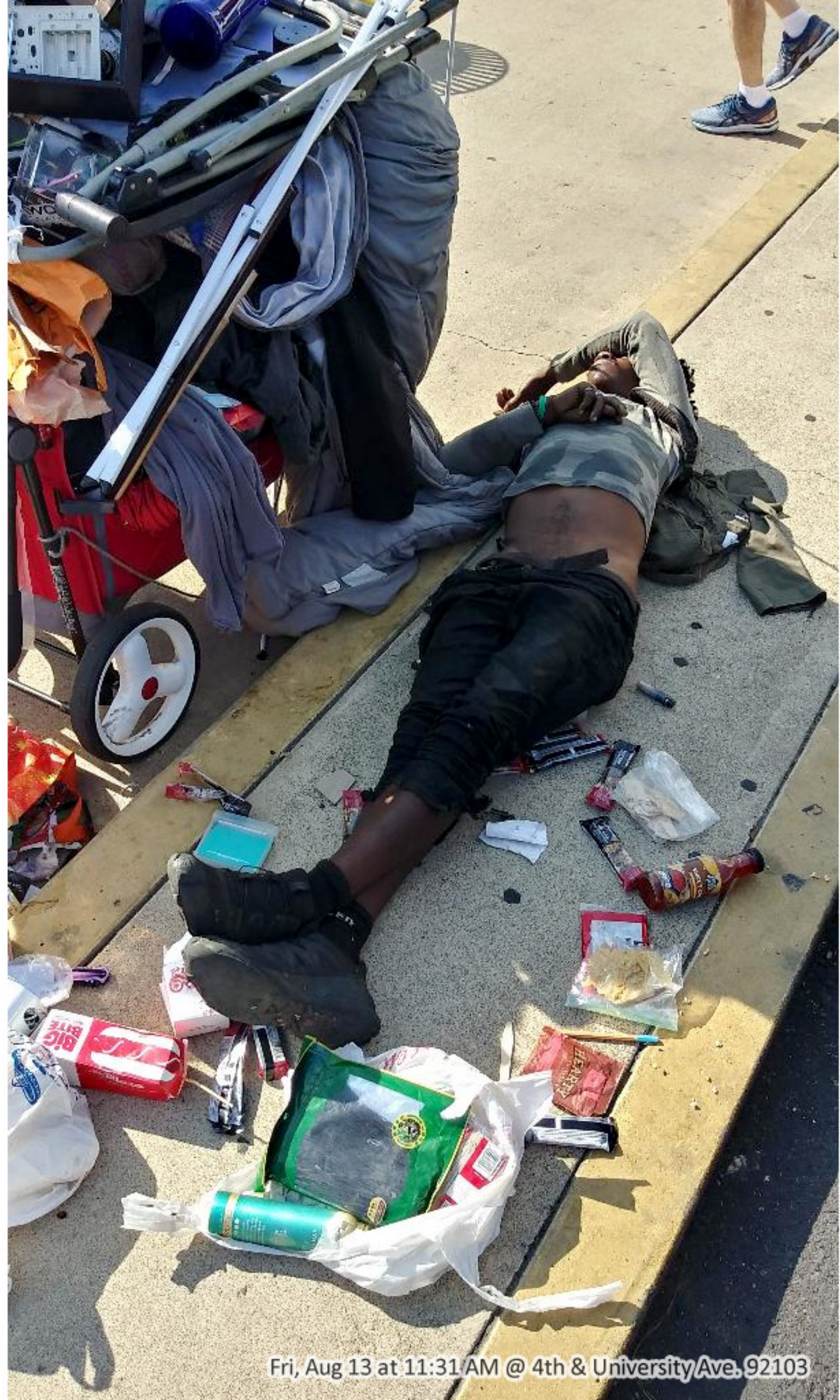
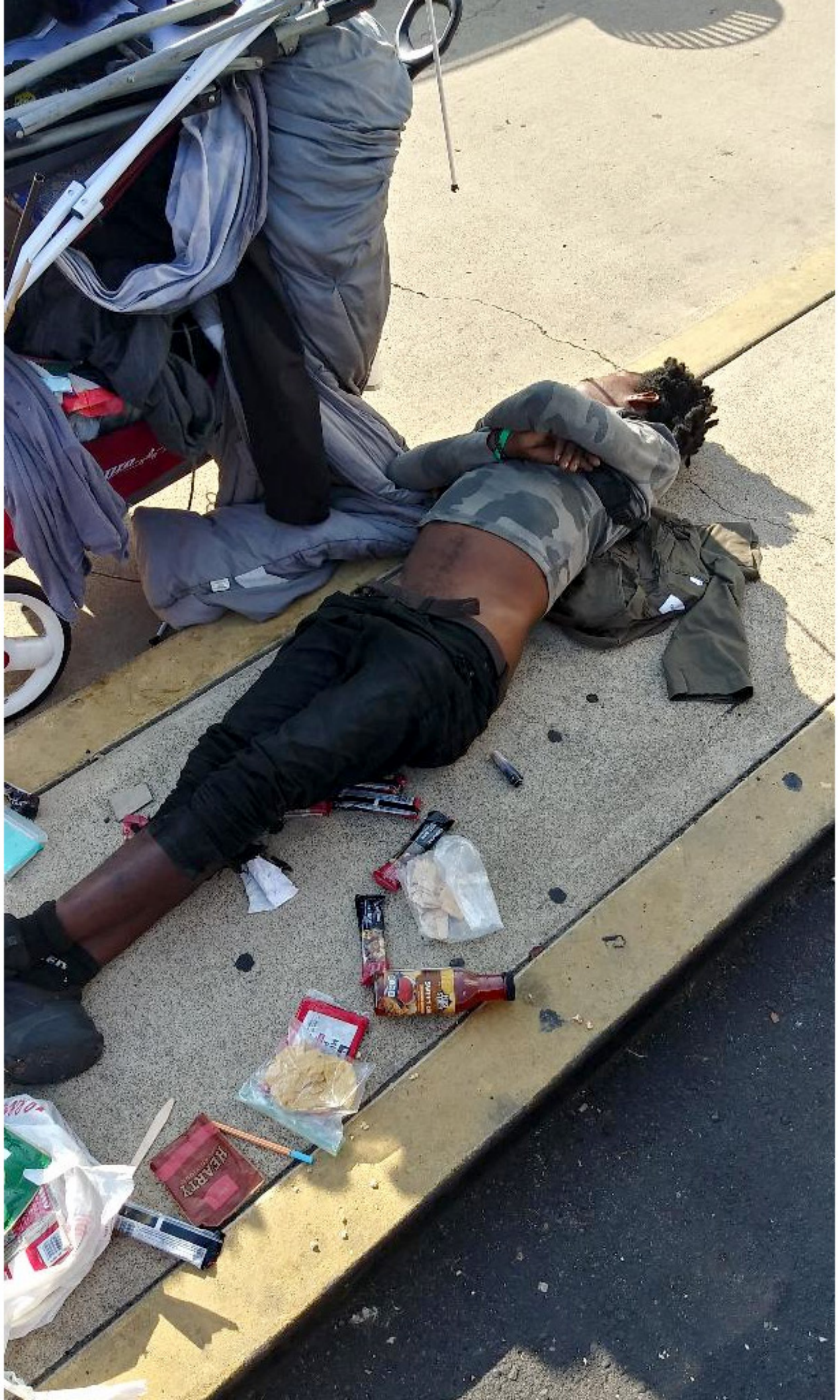
I walked out of [Down Under School of Yoga](#) 5 years ago after teaching my last class, completely heartbroken. I had invested so much in that community, but I knew I had no other choice and that I would never step foot in that space again. ... [See More](#)

But Cory Sterling, founder of the law practice Conscious Counsel, says 80% of the noncompetes he sees in yoga and other wellness practices would not hold up in court, if it ever got there. She wrote to former teachers still bound by the noncompete and told them: It's gone.

She then turned to her current teachers to rewrite the contract. They came up with a new system where teachers choose their level of commitment to the studio. Those who want to teach exclusively for Down Under have the opportunity to earn more money.

"Ninety-five percent of them actually picked the most committed level," Cohen says, adding that with the new system, she no longer needs a noncompete. That chapter is over.





Fri, Aug 13 at 11:31 AM @ 4th & University Ave. 92103



## ***She Quit Being an ICU Nurse to Make Six Figures on OnlyFans***

**AMERICAN WOMAN**



Handout

Marlow Stern

Updated Aug. 14, 2021 5:26AM ET

**Allie Rae was working in the neonatal intensive care unit of a hospital, tending to sick babies. When they found her OnlyFans, they gave her an ultimatum: delete it or quit.**

Nursing is always where I saw myself,” explains Allie Rae. Rae worked 14-hour days in the neonatal intensive care unit, which she describes as “taxing on my body” and “emotionally draining.” But she loved her work. To blow off steam—and entertain herself—Rae began posting revealing shots of herself on Instagram and The Chive, under the alias “Allie Rae.”

In December 2020, after nearly nine years on the job, six nurses in her unit stumbled across some of her photos online and reported them to their boss. “They informed my manager about that and I was called into the office about their social media policy,” shares Rae. “It got uncomfortable, where I felt people were concentrating more on my performance outside of the hospital versus my performance in the hospital.”

Given that she was using an alias, wasn’t identifying where she worked, and wasn’t posting anything too risqué, Rae was let off with a warning. Three months later, in March 2020, the nosy nurses found Rae’s OnlyFans. “They subscribed and paid to my OnlyFans account to screenshot it and bring it to my manager,” recalls Rae. “It was like Mean Girls for adults.” “They got the director involved and it was, ‘You need to get rid of this account or we can’t have you working here.’ That really bothered me,” Rae admits.

So she quit.

“The stigma against people in the sex-work industry and OnlyFans ran a really good nurse out of the hospital,” says Rae. “I didn’t even need the money—I was making more money on OnlyFans than I was as a nurse and was only doing it because I loved it—but once I became ‘the girl who does OnlyFans,’ it tore me apart.”

“I posted a couple of photos and by the end of the day, I had 20 subscribers,” she remembers. “So, I posted every day—or every other day—and by the end of our first month, we’d made \$8,000, which surpassed my monthly nursing salary. And it was COVID, so it wasn’t the most pleasant time at work. To see that much money come in with such little effort...,” she mutters, trailing off. “This was a completely new frontier. I was just your typical girl,” she adds. “As far as how it felt, my husband and I were married very young, so it was liberating.”

What started as a handful of nude photos has grown to include far racier images and pay-per-view videos—including Rae masturbating and performing sex acts with her husband. She calls her OnlyFans a “behind-the-scenes version of our life.”

“We try to provide a fly-on-the-wall experience, and I think that’s been a huge part of our success during the pandemic,” Rae explains. “It’s a full-time job for me now, but I never want it to feel like I’m ‘selling myself’ online. It’s just us having fun and enjoying ourselves.”

Despite her riches, Rae misses nursing—and is still haunted by the way she was cruelly pushed out of the hospital.

“I didn’t like the way I was looked at and treated, and the way that I was labeled. Everything shifted,” she maintains. “But nursing takes a toll on you, and after I got past the fact of, ‘How could everyone be so mean?’ I realized that I could spend more time with my kids, make them breakfast every morning, and am there for dinner every night. These were things I could never do as a nurse working 14-hour days. So, there were a lot of positives that came out of it.”

“That being said, I do mourn it a bit,” she continues. “That will come back a lot, because I did have a passion for what I did—doing something meaningful. It’s the purpose that I’ll miss the most. I won’t say that what I do now is empty, because I do give a lot of advice to people struggling with their relationships... but I do miss nursing. The wound is still fresh.”

She also finds it strange just how much more she’s making on OnlyFans compared to her far busier nursing days. “It’s very, very little money for saving a life every day—especially in the NICU,” she says, with a deep sigh. “That really opened my eyes. There’s definitely an underappreciation for nurses.”



# She Quit Being an ICU Nurse to Make Six Figures on OnlyFans

AMERICAN WOMAN



Handout

Marlow Stern

Updated Aug. 14, 2021 5:26AM ET

Allie Rae was working in the neonatal intensive care unit of a hospital, tending to sick babies. When they found her OnlyFans, they gave her an ultimatum: delete it or quit.

## Controversies

A BBC Three documentary alleged that a third of Twitter profiles globally advertising 'nudes4sale' (or similar) belong to underage individuals, many of whom used OnlyFans to share their content. In August 2020, Forensic News reported that the company is facing multiple allegations of fraud and theft after content creators and users said they had money stolen from their accounts.[33] Forensic News later reported that Radvinsky's previous business ventures had been flagged by banks for indicators of money laundering. There have been conflicting reports on the safety of the OnlyFans site in terms of personal safety and economic security. Creators have been stalked and harassed by clients, sometimes resulting in the leaking of the creator's personal information.[35] Contributors to the site are hypothetically able to choose when and what they post and who receives it; however, the spike in users has caused competition and has forced contributors to post content that may be outside of their comfort zone to compete with others.

In May 2021 the BBC reported that OnlyFans was "failing to prevent underage users from selling and appearing in explicit videos" after an investigation. This included reports from UK Police, schools and Childline.



## OnlyFans

onlyfans.com

OnlyFans is a content subscription service based in London, England, United Kingdom. Content creators can earn money from users who subscribe to their content—the "fans". It allows content creators to receive funding directly from their fans on a monthly basis as well as one-time tips and the pay-per-view feature. [Wikipedia](#)

**Headquarters:** London, England, United Kingdom

**Founded:** September 2016; 4 years ago

**Date launched:** 2016

**CEO:** : [Tim Stokely](#);

**Created by:** [Tim Stokely](#), [Timothy Stokely](#)

Friday, August 20, 2021

### OnlyFans says it will ban sexually explicit content

CNN · 8 hours ago

- [OnlyFans to Bar Sexually Explicit Videos Starting in October](#)

Bloomberg · 15 hours ago

## Content genres

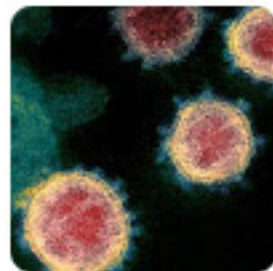
As pornography is allowed on OnlyFans, the website is mainly used by pornographic models,[7][38] both amateur and professional, but it also has a market with chefs, fitness enthusiasts, and musicians.[39] Users must be at least 18 years old to register, regardless of the content consumed. In March 2020, at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of OnlyFans content creators increased by 40%, and the number of users on the site increased from 7.5 million to 85 million.[36][40]



Yahoo Entertainment

### First Case Of The Lambda Covid Variant Reported In Los Angeles, But It's Not Yet Much Of A Match For Delta

4 hours ago



The Dallas Morning News

### The lambda variant, a new, little-understood version of the coronavirus, has arrived in Dallas

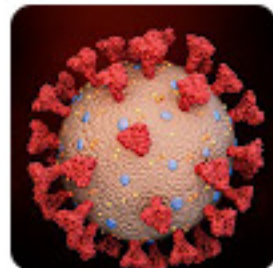
19 hours ago



The Hill

### Study says new Lambda variant could be vaccine-resistant | TheHill

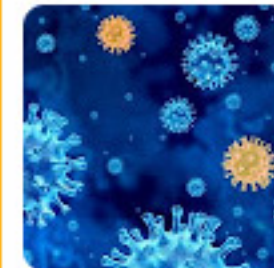
17 hours ago



Pacifica Tribune

### The Lambda COVID variant is in California: 5 things to know

19 hours ago



"Our results suggest that the resistance of the Lambda variant against antiviral humoral immunity was conferred by the RSYLTPGD246-253N mutation," the report concludes.



South China Morning Post

### Delta variant drives Covid-19 surge in southern US as unvaccinated are urged to get shots

3 days ago



11Alive

### New study compares vaccine effectiveness

3 days ago

### Delta variant causing COVID-19 cases to spread 'like wildfire' in Washington

KING5.com · 8 hours ago

- EDITORIAL: We need more details released about COVID cases in San Juan County

SanJuanIslander.com · Yesterday · Opinion

[View Full Coverage](#)



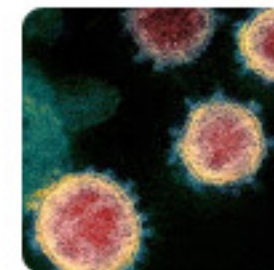
### First Case Of The Lambda Covid Variant Reported In Los Angeles, But It's Not Yet Much Of A Match For Delta

Yahoo Entertainment · 4 hours ago

- Study says new Lambda variant could be vaccine-resistant | TheHill

The Hill · 17 hours ago

[View Full Coverage](#)



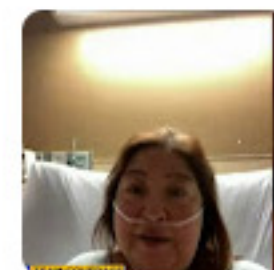
### Houston woman catches COVID-19 twice, once after being fully vaccinated, as hospitals see spike in patients

KPRC Click2Houston · 8 hours ago

- 'Dire straits': Doctor says morale in Utah hospitals as low as ever; state reports 897 new cases

KSL.com · 16 hours ago

[View Full Coverage](#)

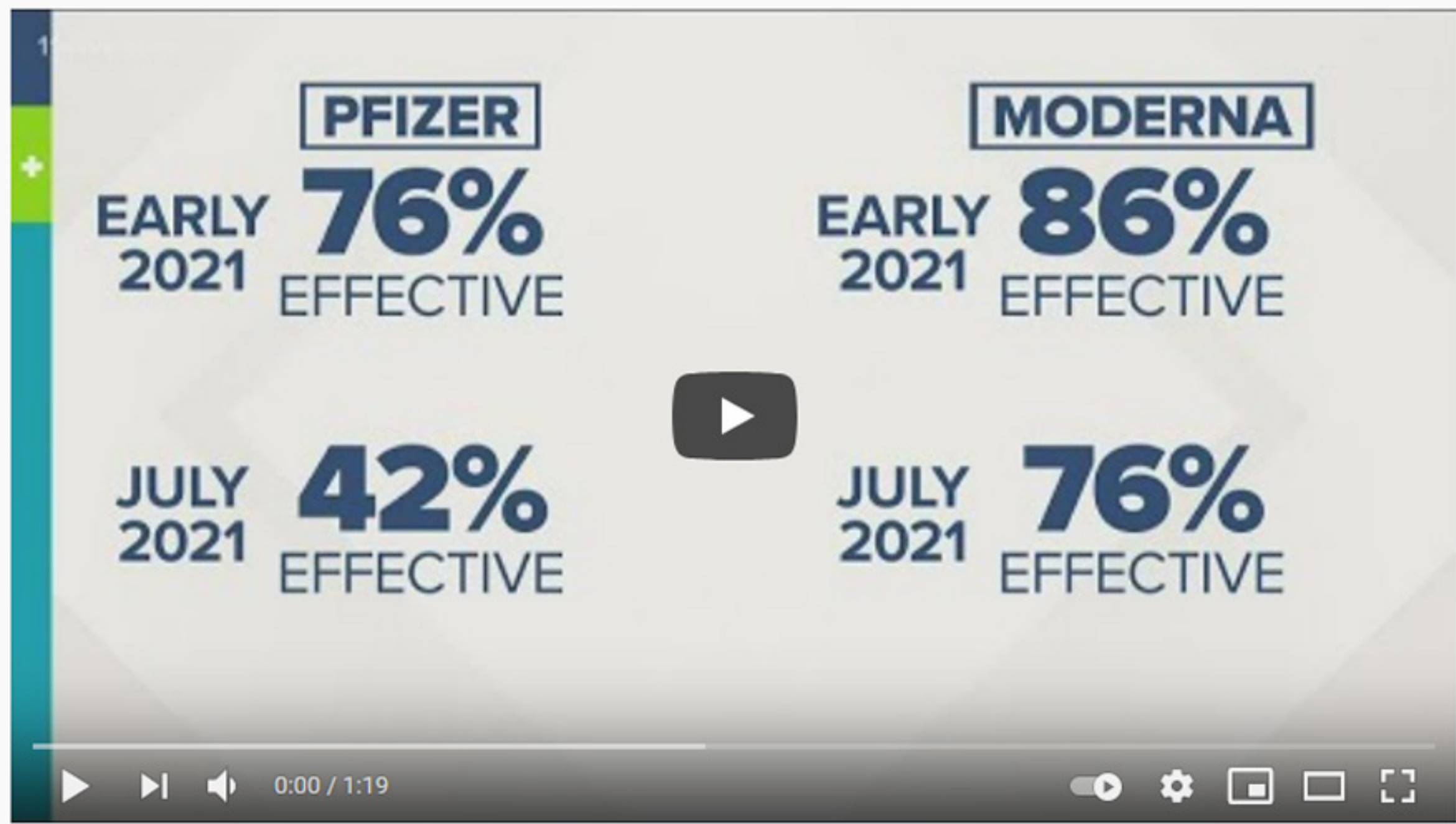


The lambda variant, a COVID-19 mutation first identified in Peru that is quickly popping up worldwide, has been highlighted by governing bodies like the World Health Organizations (WHO) as a variant of interest. But a new study suggests that it may be resistant to some vaccines. A preprinted whitepaper published in late July focused on the mutation that distinguishes the lambda variant, denoted as C.37, within its S protein, found in the cell's binding receptor. The mutation at this location on the virus is associated with being resistant to immunization efforts. Using data from the Global Initiative on Sharing All Influenza Data database, researchers found three mutations within the lambda spike protein that could mean resistance to antibodies induced in humans by vaccines.

The RSYLTPGD246-253N mutation, along with two other mutations identified when synthesizing the COVID-19 samples, specifically resists immunity from antibodies generated by the human body. Notably, the study sampled genome sequences from South American countries like Chile, Peru and Argentina, where the lambda variant is the dominant strain. Chile's primary vaccine is developed by Sinovac, rather than the common Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna shots used in the U.S.

The study is not peer reviewed.





### COVID-19 vaccine

Get the latest information from the CDC.

[LEARN MORE](#)

### New study compares vaccine effectiveness

889 views • Aug 11, 2021

7 1 SHARE SAVE ...



**11Alive** ✓  
601K subscribers

When it comes to the Delta variant, some COVID vaccines may work better than others.



## Melbourne (Izard County)

<https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/melbourne-903/>

New jobs and growth came to the area when Arkansas Aircraft opened an aircraft parts assembly facility near Melbourne in 1964. The company assembled parts for Douglas Aircraft. On October 10, 1966, a new 45,800-square-foot building was opened in Melbourne. By the 1970 census, the town's population had almost doubled. In 1989, a new 100,000-square-foot building was opened. At peak employment, the facility employed more than 400. Douglas soon absorbed Arkansas Aircraft, which was then merged into McDonnell Douglas Aircraft. In 1997, the plant was unionized as Local 1482 of the United Auto Workers (UAW), the only union in Izard County. That same year, the company merged once again, becoming Boeing Company. An economic downturn and outsourcing of labor resulted in the plant's closure in 2006. Buildings of former companies are now home to Broadwing, a small aircraft company, and an off-road vehicle division of Bad Boy Motors. Other major area employers that closed in the early twenty-first century were the White River Shirt Company and the Columbia Floor Company.

### Boeing gives building to Melbourne

<https://www.areawideneews.com/story/1426207.html>

Thursday, May 4, 2006, JOSEPH PRICE Staff Writer

*Search is under way to find new tenant*

The Boeing facility in Melbourne closed April 13. The plant opened its doors in Melbourne as Douglas Aircraft in the 1960s. Boeing officials announced its closing in February. Boeing said the plant was unnecessary to Boeing's current manufacturing. The Melbourne facility served as a repair station for Boeing doors and flight control. It provided maintenance, repair and overhaul services. Boeing transferred the remaining work from the Melbourne facility to its operations in Salt Lake City.

<https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/media/james-smith-mcdonnell-jr-113/>

## James McDonnell

James Smith McDonnell of Altheimer (Jefferson County), aerospace industrialist who made McDonnell-Douglas into the second-largest military and commercial aviation corporation in the United States; 1965.



*Courtesy of Special Collections, University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville*



### New Owners:

New Owners: Steven Hendrickson, right, director of state and local government relations for Boeing, discusses handing over the deed and keys of the former Boeing facility to Melbourne Mayor Mike Cone and Task Force for Economic Development member Karla Rush April 28. Photo/Kim Whitten

The former Boeing plant in Melbourne has a new owner, or to be more precise, 1,562 new owners.

Ownership of the plant officially changed when Boeing Director of State and Local Government Relations Steven Hendrickson handed the keys and the deed of the plant to Melbourne Mayor Mike Cone at the Izard County Clerk's Office April 28. With that, the city of Melbourne now owns the former Boeing plant.





# Jane Mayer's Conspiracy Theory of Lies

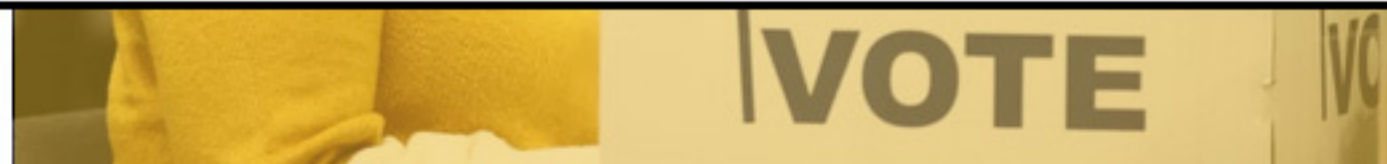
By ART POPE & RICK GRABER | August 12, 2021 6:30 AM



<https://www.npr.org/transcripts/1024741930>

## 'Dark Money' Is Funding The 2020 Election Challenge — And Could Challenge 2024

August 5, 2021 12:28 PM ET :: Terry Gross with Jane Mayer



A woman fills in a ballot at the Fairfax County Government Center in Fairfax, Va., November 3, 2020. (Hannah McKay/Reuters)

### The journalist uses deception to tar the reputation of perfectly respectable philanthropic endeavors.

Jane Mayer, author of *Dark Money*, purports to expose another plot by the Right to take over American politics and governance. This time, the so-called “dark money” trail leads to The Bradley Foundation, a private grant-making organization that we lead as chair and president. Mayer paints a story in *The New Yorker* that The Bradley Foundation is orchestrating and funding an “aggressive assault on democracy” by sowing doubt about the 2020 election results, paving the way for state legislatures to restrict voting laws, and laying the groundwork to challenge future election results. In her piece and subsequent media interviews, she states that “since 2012, the foundation has spent some eighteen million dollars supporting eleven conservative groups involved in election issues.” Using this number is designed to mislead readers. Mayer appears to include all funding to a grantee even if election issues play a relatively small role in their work.

In addition, the Foundation does not make “dark money” grants. All grants are publicly disclosed on a quarterly basis. It’s also absurd to suggest that the Foundation started making election-related grants in 2012 somehow knowing there would be a presidential election in 2020 with one candidate making allegations of fraud, as if we had a crystal ball. Bradley’s grants can never be used for political purposes — much less to overturn elections. All grants are made to nonprofits that are required to meet IRS guidelines that prevent them from engaging in political activity.

What does The Bradley Foundation fund with its grants? In 2020, Bradley gave only \$500,000 in grants to groups doing election-integrity work, all of which is routinely disclosed. It’s a significant sum, but nowhere near Mayer’s invented figure. It pales in comparison to the hundreds of millions of dollars some groups on the left poured into election issues. It’s also small compared with the more than \$10 million we gave to local arts, education, and community groups during that same period. His giving is in keeping with our longtime mission to advance the principles of a free and vibrant society, and in turn preserve our constitutional democracy. We support efforts that encourage voter participation and give Americans the confidence that their votes matter. Unfortunately, Mayer is not alone in perpetuating a false and dishonest media narrative that fuels greater distrust. In an era of cancel culture, even questioning whether the election system can be improved gets one labeled “conspiracy theorist.” There are many genuine and valid reasons to want to ensure the integrity of elections.

The right to vote for candidates whose ideals best represent one’s own is a bedrock of the American experiment. Fair elections at every level, whether for school board, state representative, or U.S. president, are integral to the preservation of our republic. If our election system has integrity, we continue to have faith in the democratic process, regardless of who wins or loses an election. Currently, concerns about election integrity are bipartisan and nationwide. According to a recent poll, only 55 percent of Democrats say they “completely trust” the election process. Clearly, there is work to be done to restore confidence. It is reasonable for every election to go through a postmortem about what can be improved, but last year’s election merited even greater scrutiny. The pandemic and an increasingly polarized electorate guaranteed that 2020 would be an unprecedented election year.

And that it was.

Nearly half of voters cast a ballot by mail or absentee. Compare that with 2016, when only about a quarter of votes were cast by mail. Or the widespread ballot harvesting that occurred, which opens the door for activists on both sides of the aisle to tamper with or throw out someone’s ballot. Or the hundreds of millions of dollars from the Center for Tech and Civic Life that were given to the country’s most populous cities, which overwhelmingly vote left.

To be clear, questioning and assessing whether there are vulnerabilities within the election system is not equivalent to saying there’s rampant voter fraud or that the election was rigged. Rather, it’s a recognition that changing voting rules can — and have in previous elections — lead to numerous problems. Lost ballots, stolen ballots, and ballots sent to outdated voter rolls are all issues with common-sense solutions that still make it easy for people to vote.

As citizens of this exceptional country, our goal should be to have an election system that encourages voter participation, ensures that each person’s vote counts, and instills faith in the process. Sadly, Ms. Mayer’s inflamed and inaccurate reporting makes achieving that goal much more difficult.

**Art Pope is Chair of The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation. Rick Graber is President and CEO of The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation.**



## Marine vanguard lands in Kabul as US speeds up evacuations

By ROBERT BURNS, MATTHEW LEE and ELLEN KNICKMEYER today



Pentagon spokesman John Kirby speaks during a briefing at the Pentagon in Washington, Friday, Aug. 13, 2021.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The first forces of a Marine battalion arrived in Kabul at week's end to stand guard as the U.S. speeds up evacuation flights for some American diplomats and thousands of Afghans, spurred by a lightning Taliban offensive that increasingly is isolating Afghanistan's capital.

Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said "elements" of a battalion were now in Kabul, the vanguard of three Marine and Army battalions that the U.S. was sending to the city by the end of the weekend to help more Americans and their Afghan colleagues get out quickly.

The Taliban, emboldened by the imminent end of the U.S. combat mission in the country, took four more provincial capitals Friday, heightening fears they would move soon on the capital, which is home to millions of Afghans. "Clearly from their actions, it appears as if they are trying to get Kabul isolated," Kirby noted at a Pentagon briefing.

The remainder — 3,500 to 4,000 troops from a combat brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division — were bound for Kuwait. Kirby said the combat troops would be a reserve force on standby "in case we need even more" than the 3,000 going to Kabul.

The temporary buildup of troops for U.S. evacuations highlights the stunning pace of the Taliban takeover of much of the country, less than three weeks before the U.S. is set to officially end nearly 20 years of combat in Afghanistan.



A Taliban fighter stands guard over surrendered Afghan security member forces in the city of Ghazni, southwest of Kabul, Afghanistan, Friday, Aug. 13, 2021. The Taliban have completed their sweep of the country's south on Friday, as they took four more provincial capitals in a lightning offensive that is gradually encircling Kabul, just weeks before the U.S. is set to officially end its two-decade war. (AP Photo/Gulabuddin Amiri)

President Joe Biden has remained adamant about ending the U.S. mission on Aug. 31, insisting the American and NATO mission that launched on Oct. 7, 2001, has done what it could to build up a Kabul-based Afghan government and military that could withstand the Taliban when Western troops finally withdrew.

Friday's latest significant blow was the Taliban capture of the capital of Helmand province, where American, British and other allied NATO forces fought some of the bloodiest battles in the past 20 years. Hundreds of Western troops died there during the course of the war, in fighting that often succeeded in knocking back Taliban fighters locally, only to have the Taliban move back in when a Western unit rotated out.

The U.S. had already withdrawn most of its troops, but had kept about 650 troops in Afghanistan to support U.S. diplomatic security, including at the airport.

As of Thursday, the U.S. had flown 1,200 Afghans — former American employees and their families whose visas are farthest along in the approval process — to Fort Lee, Virginia. The number of Afghans flown out under the special visa program is going to "grow very quickly in the coming days," Price said Thursday.

The viability of the U.S.-trained Afghan army was looking increasingly dim. A new military assessment says Kabul could come under Taliban pressure as soon as September and, if current trends hold, the country could fall to the Taliban within a few months.



# A Quarter-Million People Have Fled Their Homes As Violence In Afghanistan Escalates

August 13, 2021 - 5:53 PM ET

DEEPA SHIVARAM



Internally displaced Afghans who have fled from northern provinces due to fighting between the Taliban and Afghan security personnel take refuge Friday in a park in Kabul.

Rahmat Gul/AP

Since May, nearly 250,000 people have been forced from their homes; 80% of them are women and children, said Shabia Mantoo, a spokesperson for the U.N. refugee agency.

The conflict "has accelerated much faster than we all anticipated and the situation has all the hallmarks of a humanitarian catastrophe," World Food Programme spokesperson Tomson Phiri said.

One in two children under age 5 in the country are suffering from severe acute malnutrition, said Mustapha Ben Messaoud, chief of field operations for UNICEF.

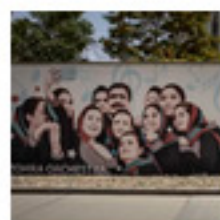
And with the COVID-19 pandemic still surging, U.N. officials also report seeing 100 deaths per day and 2,000 new positive cases of the coronavirus per day.

A report released last month from the United Nations also showed an increase in women and children killed and injured in May and June, which coincides with U.S. and other international troops starting to depart the region.

Without a de-escalation of violence, Mantoo said, Afghanistan is on track to have the highest number of documented civilian casualties in a single year since the U.N. began keeping records in 2009.

Just weeks before U.S. troops are scheduled to leave Afghanistan, the Taliban captured three more provincial capitals Friday and are encroaching on Kabul, the country's capital.

Reports say the Taliban — which already control an estimated two-thirds of Afghanistan — could take Kabul within 30 days and could gain control of the entire country within a few months.



## WORLD

[U.S. Embassy In Kabul Tells Staff To Destroy Sensitive Material And Evacuate](#)



## ASIA

[Taliban Sweep Across Afghanistan's South, Taking At Least 3 More Cities](#)



## SAN DIEGO POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

# SDPD Sgt. Calls on Officers to 'Risk it All' to Fight Pandemic Rules; San Diego NAACP Wants Investigation

NAACP's San Diego Branch wants an FBI investigation.

By **Dana Griffin** • Published August 13, 2021 • Updated on August 13, 2021

A controversial anti-vaccine thread in an online forum is causing concern because it involves members of the San Diego Police Department. The post calls on hundreds of officers "willing to risk it all" to fight city and state pandemic-related rules.

In the post, a police sergeant allegedly claims he and a growing number of officers have vowed to "never take the vaccine, be tested or wear masks -- unless by choice."

A local activist named Tasha Williamson posted screenshots of the thread on Facebook. It's said to have come from a forum on the San Diego Police Officers Association website. In the post, the sergeant claims he and a growing number of officers are vowing to "Never take the vaccine, be tested or wear masks – unless by choice. Titled "(Vaccine Mandate) Will You Stand? 1776 again!!!...", the post by the officer claims he and another "God fearing patriot" within the department are building up a coalition of officers who will "stand up for our God given freedoms and are willing to risk it all."

The writer claims there is a sinister agenda plaguing our country, that vaccines are deadly and masks are demoralizing. Writing "This is the hill to die on, because I promise you if 'We the People' lose this fight there won't be another hill to fight on," he adds later, "For those who have taken the vaccine, been tested or choose to wear the mask, I support you 100% as you used your free will to make those decisions. Now I ask you to stand with your colleagues free will as well."

Our redesigned local news and weather app is live! Download it for iOS or Android — and sign up for alerts.

The officer claims to have 16 years in the department, "a family, single income and a mountain of debt," adding that losing "this job would be devastating." But, he writes, he refuses to bow down to what he calls tyranny.

The post ends with a cryptic tag often associated with QAnon conspiracy theories.

Concerned about the post, the NAACP's San Diego Branch is now calling for an FBI investigation.

"I was a little bit stunned when I saw that," replied branch vice-president Brian Bonner when asked for his first reaction to the post, adding later, "I am disturbed that we have somebody who now believes more about personal and 2nd Amendment rights than his obligation to protect and serve, which includes not exposing the public to infectious diseases, which is a real concern now."

In the post, the sergeant also said there will be posts in the future with further direction, but, according to a leaked San Diego Police Officers Association email, the forum has been temporarily suspended.

"Members should know that topics of conversation on the forum are not private, and could be used against individuals in disciplinary actions and harm the ability of the SDPOA to bargain with the city over working conditions," the email said, in part.

The San Diego Police Officers Association declined to comment for this story, but the San Diego Police Department said it is aware of the post, that they are reviewing the situation as a personnel matter and that the sergeant is just one of nearly 2,000 officers in the department.

Read the full SDPD statement here:

*"The San Diego Police Department is aware of the social media comment posted by an SDPD member regarding COVID-19 vaccinations. This post was made by one individual. SDPD currently employs approximately 1,950 sworn members and always encourages safe workplace practices.*

*SDPD is reviewing this as a personnel matter to determine if the officer violated department policy.*

*SDPD holds its members to the highest standards. Any department member found to be in violation of SDPD's policies or procedures will be held accountable.*

*SDPD strongly encourages all of its members to get vaccinated and continues to make COVID-19 vaccine readily available."*





*Paula Bronstein/Getty Images*

ASIA

## 4 Reasons A Potential Taliban Takeover In Afghanistan Matters To The World

The Taliban is moving toward Afghanistan's capital, Kabul. It's not clear if the Taliban will be able to seize control of the entire country, but the speed of their advance has many inside and outside the country alarmed at the prospect.

▪ **Afghan Girls Fear For Their Future As Taliban Gain Foothold, Education Minister Says**



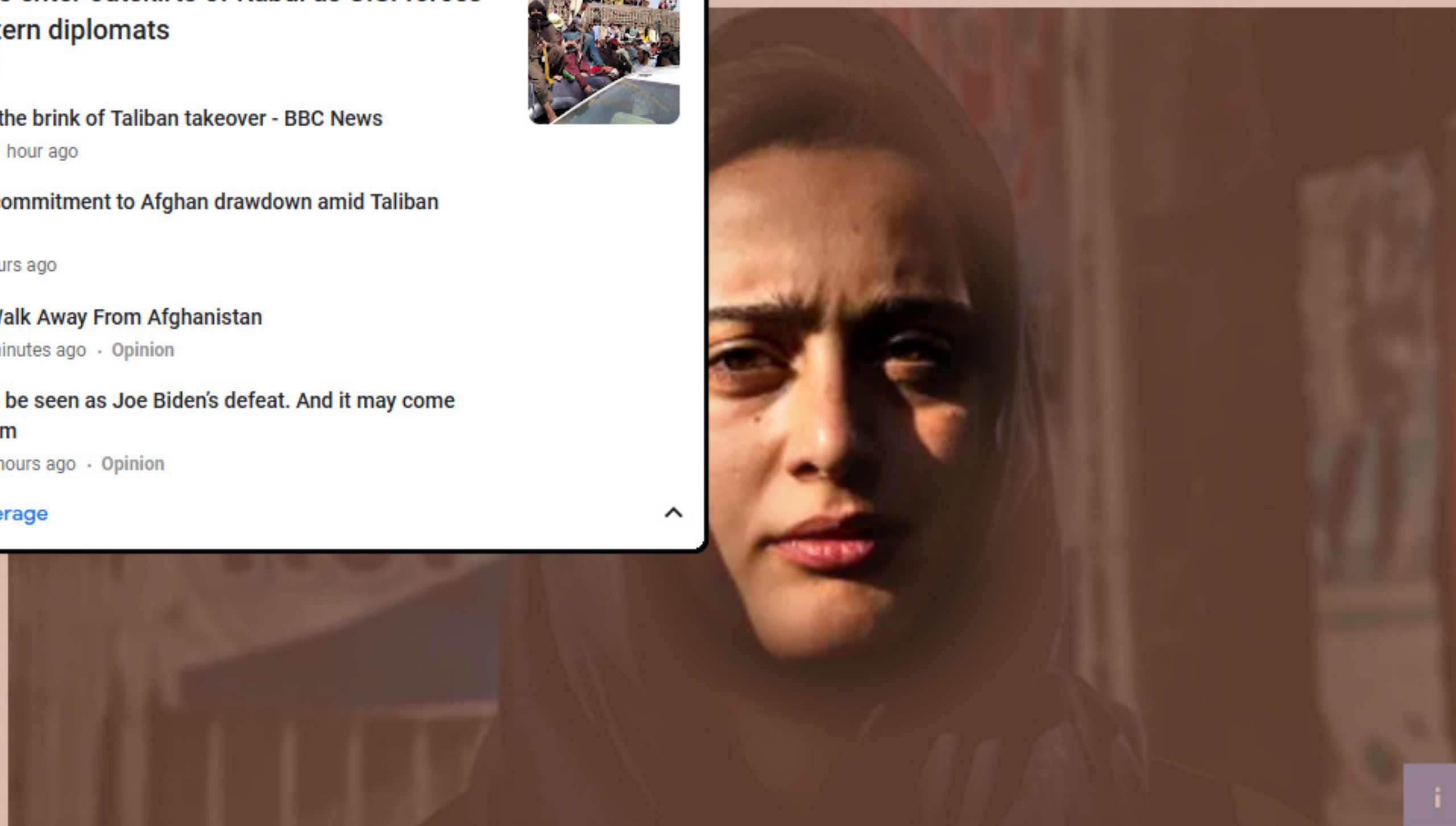
## Taliban fighters enter outskirts of Kabul as U.S. forces evacuate Western diplomats

CNBC · 2 hours ago



- **Afghanistan on the brink of Taliban takeover** - BBC News  
BBC News · 1 hour ago
- **Biden restates commitment to Afghan drawdown amid Taliban offensive**  
POLITICO · 18 hours ago
- **The U.S. Can't Walk Away From Afghanistan**  
Bloomberg · 17 minutes ago · Opinion
- **Afghanistan will be seen as Joe Biden's defeat. And it may come back to haunt him**  
The Guardian · 7 hours ago · Opinion

[View Full Coverage](#)



Paula Bronstein/Getty Images

ASIA

## 4 Reasons A Potential Taliban Takeover In Afghanistan Matters To The World

The Taliban is moving toward Afghanistan's capital, Kabul. It's not clear if the Taliban will be able to seize control of the entire country, but the speed of their advance has many inside and outside the country alarmed at the prospect.

- **Afghan Girls Fear For Their Future As Taliban Gain Foothold, Education Minister Says**





As displaced Afghans flee to remaining strongholds and are evacuated into makeshift camps, some worry 20 years of educational progress for women and girls will disappear if the Taliban takes power.

Paula Bronstein/Getty Images

WORLD

## Afghan Girls Fear For Their Future As Taliban Gain Foothold, Education Minister Says

NPR's Ailsa Chang talks with Rangina Hamidi, Afghanistan's acting minister of education, about what it's like on the ground in Kabul during the Taliban's latest military surge in the country.

***My assessment of the past 20 years is that the international community made some really major mistakes in the decisions that they made in terms of who they aligned themselves with in Afghanistan. And I remember very vividly and very loudly in my youth days, I was speaking loud and clear and screaming to the international forces, as they align themselves with warlords and drug lords, that the results of this relationship are not going to be pretty. And unfortunately, that fear has proven to be true.***

Rangina Hamidi, Afghanistan's acting education minister





Ms. Rangina Hamidi was born in Kandahar, Afghanistan. In 1981 she emigrated to Pakistan and then to the USA with her family. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia in Religious Studies and Women & Gender. Rangina is married and has one daughter and currently lives in Kabul.

Ms. Hamidi returned to Afghanistan in 2003 and took up residence in Kandahar. For two decades, Ms. Hamidi has worked tirelessly to better the lives of Afghan citizens through development projects, advocacy, and, most importantly, education. Examples of Ms. Hamidi's accomplishments include the establishment of a full value-chain model of an all women's social enterprise

in Kandahar whose products have reached Europe, the Middle East, Americas as well as other parts of the world. In this endeavor, Ms. Hamidi designed and implemented a holistic and full-environment approach to bring value to Afghan women at each part of the value chain. Most recently, Ms. Hamidi successfully led the Mezan International School to integrate and implement a world-class and internationally accredited curriculum with a solid foundation of Islamic education, Afghan history, Afghan values, and multi-lingual education.

Ms. Hamidi is well versed in child development, educational psychology, educational management, Islamic pedagogy, curriculum, business administration, development in conflict-affected countries, and gender issues from an Islamic perspective.

She has been recognized internationally for her work with women. She was selected as one of 18 finalists for the CNN 2007 Hero Award and chosen as a "Personality of the Week" by Radio Free Europe. She has contributed to numerous publications and radio programs, including TIMES Asia Magazine, The Globe and Mail, Der Spiegel, Business Week, The Guardian, The Telegraph, NPR, BBC, and Voice of America. Her latest publication is a book that she has co-authored entitled "Embroidering within Boundaries: Afghan Women Creating a Future."

Ms. Hamidi serves on the advisory boards of Open Society Afghanistan (OSA), Afghan Women Chamber of Commerce & Industries (AWCCI), Medica Afghanistan (MA), the Afghanistan Institute for Civil Society (AICS) and is a council member of the US-Afghan Women's Council.

[http://www.afghan-bios.info/index.php?option=com\\_afghanbios&id=2803&task=view&total=2746&start=909&Itemid=2](http://www.afghan-bios.info/index.php?option=com_afghanbios&id=2803&task=view&total=2746&start=909&Itemid=2)

Rangina Hamidi, fourth daughter of five of late Ghulam Haider Hamidi (Mayor of Kandahar City; assassinated 20110727), was born 1978 in Kandahar Province and escaped her native Afghanistan in 1981, at the age of three, during the Soviet occupation. She moved first to Pakistan and then, in 1988, to the United States. Settling with her family in Virginia, Rangina earned a Bachelors degree in Religious Studies and Gender Studies from the University of Virginia and worked for the Institute for International Public Policy, an affiliate of the United Negro College Fund.

Rangina returned to Kandahar, in 2003. With a personal commitment to help lead change in Afghanistan she assumed the leadership of the Women's Income Generation (WIG) Project for Afghans for Civil Society (ACS), a development organization dedicated to the social development of Southern Afghanistan. 2012 she came back to the United States due to the deteriorating safety situation in her homeland. Rangina Hamidi runs an embroidering business. (20130213) Rangina Hamidi was voted out as minister of Education, with 114 only voting out of 242 in favor. (20201201)

She holds a US Passport. She speaks Pashtu and English.

## Afghan Girls Fear For Their Future As Taliban Gain Foothold, Education Minister Says

NPR's Ailsa Chang talks with Rangina Hamidi, Afghanistan's acting minister of education, about what it's like on the ground in Kabul during the Taliban's latest military surge in the country.



Rangina Hamidi is the founder and president of Kandahar Treasure. She has served as the manager of the women's Income Generation Project for Afghans for Civil Society and lives in Kandahar.

[Google Books](#)

**Born:** [Kandahar, Afghanistan](#)

**Organization founded:** [Kandahar Treasure](#)



# Pelosi takes step to quell moderates' budget rebellion

By ALAN FRAM an hour ago



FILE - In this Aug. 10, 2021, file photo House Speaker Nancy Pelosi speaks at a press event regarding the Emergency Rental Assistance program in San Francisco. Moderate House Democrats say they'll sink a crucial fiscal blueprint outlining \$3.5 trillion in social and environment spending unless a separate infrastructure bill is approved first. Nine of them have written Pelosi saying they "will not consider voting" for the budget resolution unless the separate, \$1 trillion infrastructure measure is first enacted into law. (AP Photo/Nick Otto, File)

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is proposing a procedural vote this month that would set up future passage of two economic measures crucial to President Joe Biden's domestic agenda, a move Democratic leaders hope will win votes from unhappy party moderates.

In a letter Sunday to Democratic lawmakers, Pelosi, D-Calif., suggested that the House will take a single vote that would clear an initial hurdle for both a budget resolution and a separate infrastructure bill. The budget blueprint would open the gate for Congress to later consider a separate, \$3.5 trillion, 10-year bill for health, education and environment programs.

Nine centrist Democrats said Friday they would oppose the budget resolution until the House first approves a \$1 trillion package of road, railway and other infrastructure projects. That compromise measure, which the Senate approved last week with bipartisan support, is the top priority for moderates, who want to bank a quick win by sending it to Biden for his signature.

By forcing the House to vote on moving both measures an initial step forward together, Democratic leaders hope moderates will be forced to abandon their threat — at least for now — and join the rest of the party in pushing its economic and social agenda toward eventual passage.

In the face of solid Republican opposition, Democrats can lose no more than three defectors to pass legislation through the closely split House. Democrats are calling the House back from summer recess on Aug. 23. The chamber will also vote that week on revised legislation addressing federal oversight of many states' election laws, Pelosi wrote, another Democratic priority. That measure seems likely to pass the House but get bogged down in the 50-50 Senate.

Pelosi praised the Senate's infrastructure measure, but suggested the House might not rubber-stamp it. She said that legislation is not "inclusive of the totality of President Biden and Congressional Democrats' vision to Build Back Better." She said House lawmakers "are reviewing the bill."

Progressive Democrats' No. 1 goal is approval of \$3.5 trillion worth of spending boosts and tax cuts for health care, education, social safety net and climate change programs. Much of it would be paid for by raising taxes on wealthy individuals and large corporations.

Democratic moderates, including many from swing districts who face dicey prospects in next year's elections, think that bill's price tag is too high and are nervous that the GOP will pound them with campaign accusations of backing tax increases.



# What The New Census Data Shows About Race Depends On How You Look At It

August 13, 2021 · 5:01 AM ET

CONNIE HANZHANG JIN

RUTH TALBOT



HANSI LO WANG

Over the past decade, the United States continued to grow more racially and ethnically diverse, according to the results of last year's national head count that the U.S. Census Bureau released this week.

There are many ways to slice the data and change how the demographic snapshot looks. Since the 2000 count, participants have been able to check off more than one box when answering the race question on census forms. But breakdowns of the country's racial and ethnic makeup often don't reflect a multiracial population that has increased by 276% since the 2010 census. They focus instead on racial groups that are made up of people who marked only one box, with multiracial people sometimes lumped together in a catchall group.

Using the new 2020 census results, here's what a breakdown with a catchall group for multiracial people looks like:

## The 2020 U.S. Racial And Ethnic Makeup By Residents With One Race Reported

This breakdown puts residents who said they identified with two or more racial categories into an independent group. It also groups together people who identified as Hispanic or Latino, which federal standards do not consider a racial category. How that group should be represented is a subject of much debate.

One □ = 150,000 people



Note: Population numbers are rounded to the nearest thousand.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau  
Credit: Connie Hanzhang Jin and Ruth Talbot/NPR

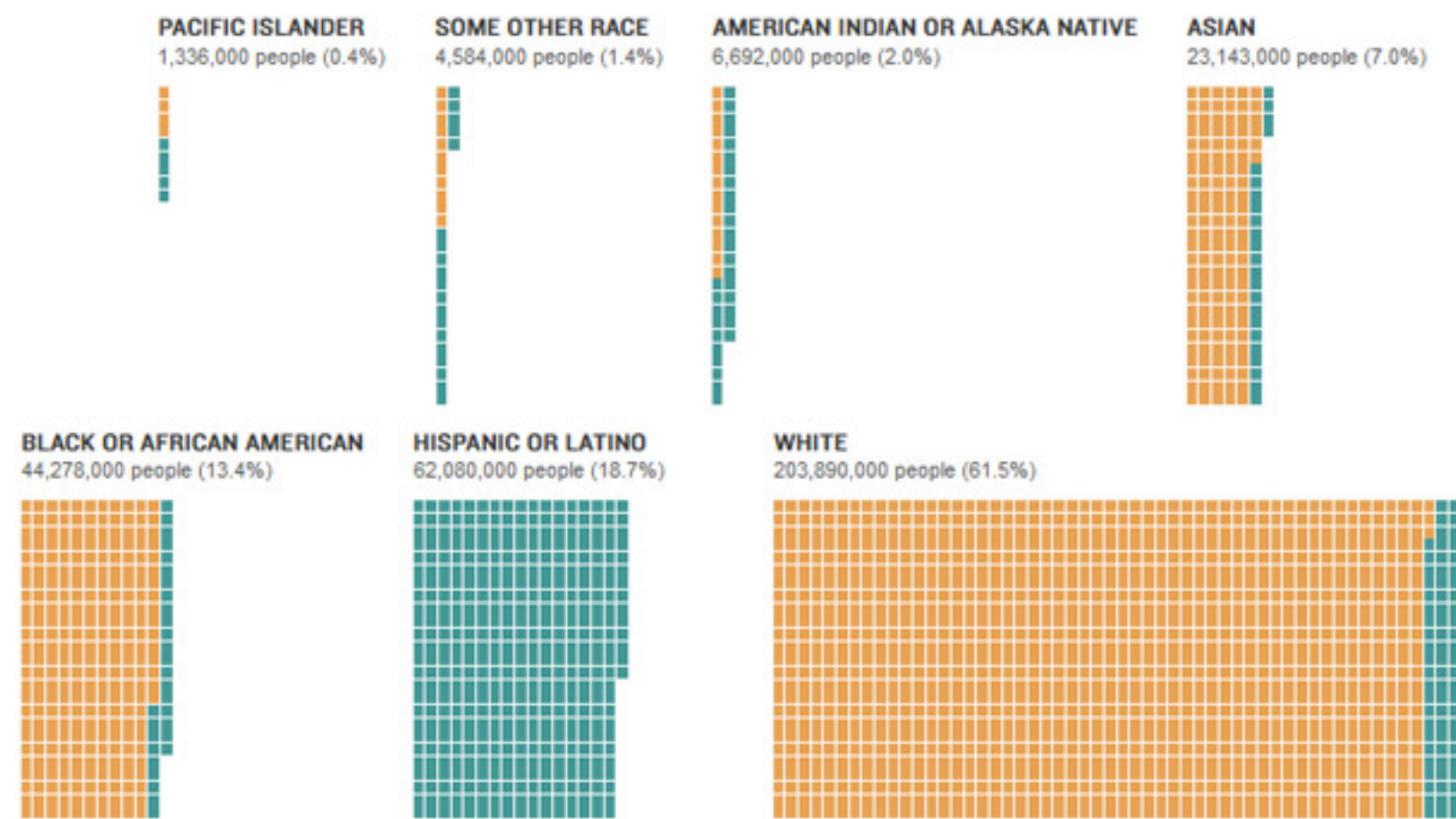
*Any analysis of this data represents a different way of understanding race and ethnicity in the U.S., where count after count people have made clear that their identities often cannot fit neatly into check boxes on census forms.*

A different kind of breakdown can show how racial groups are becoming more heterogeneous. This graphic shows the number of people who said they identified with each race, regardless of how many races they chose. For example, if a person said they identified as Black and Asian, they would appear in both racial categories.

## The 2020 U.S. Racial And Ethnic Makeup By Residents Including Every Race Reported

This breakdown does not include a catchall group for multiracial people because it distributes people who identified with two or more racial categories across the groups. It also groups together people who identified as Hispanic or Latino, which federal standards do not consider a racial category. How that group should be represented is a subject of much debate. The percentages represent the share of the total U.S. population.

Legend: Alone (orange square), In combination (teal square)  
One □ = 150,000 people



### Notes

Some people are counted multiple times depending on how they identified. Because of the overlaps, the percentages add up to more than 100%. The "Hispanic or Latino" group is considered "in combination" because Latinos can be of any race according to federal standards. Population numbers are rounded to the nearest thousand.

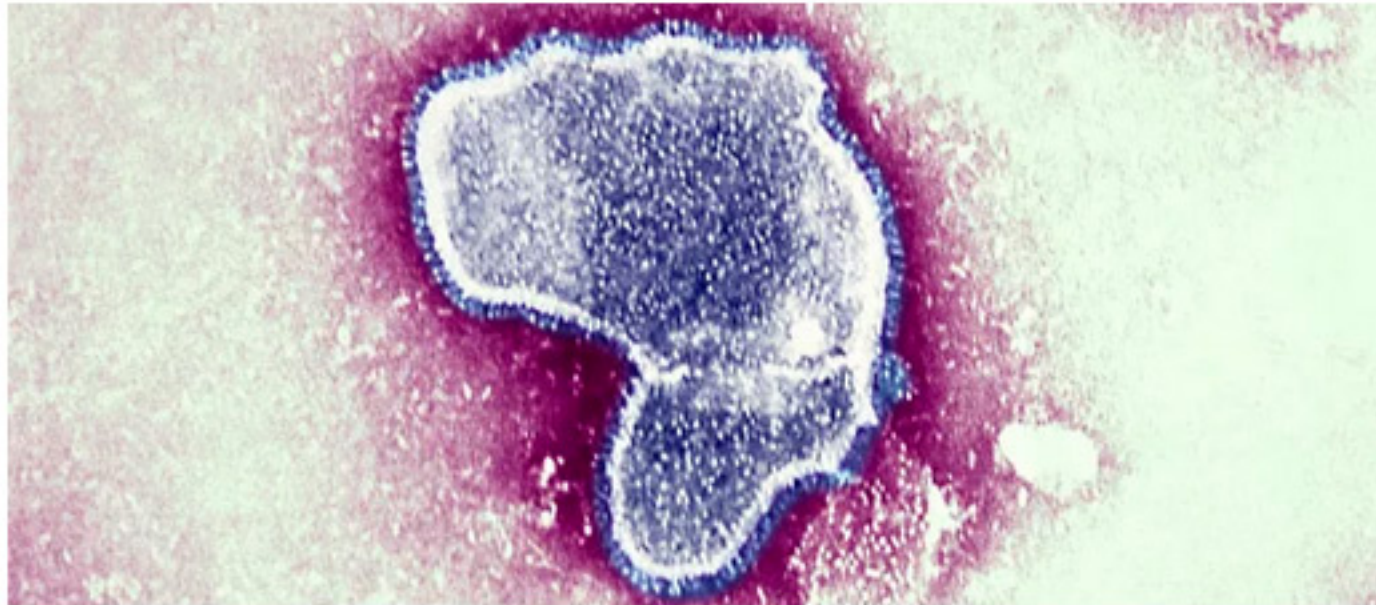


# As Children's COVID Cases Surge, There's Another Virus On The Rise

August 14, 2021 - 7:00 AM ET



VANESSA ROMO



At the moment there is little data available on the impact of contracting COVID-19 and the respiratory syncytial virus (pictured), and whether together they can make a person sicker. But health officials worry it could put young patients — who are not eligible for the coronavirus vaccine — at greater risk.

Early versions of COVID-19 largely spared children but the delta variant proved to be much less discriminating, and has led to more child hospitalizations. Now, health care workers on the front lines say there is another frightening prospect looming: a surge in children diagnosed with a combination of COVID-19 and respiratory syncytial virus.

Pediatric hospitals in Texas — and around the country — are reporting unseasonably early outbreaks of RSV, a respiratory virus that mostly manifests as a mild illness with cold-like symptoms in adults but that can cause pneumonia and bronchiolitis in very young children. The CDC reports it can be life-threatening in infants and young adults.

5 Ways To Stop Summer Colds From Making The Rounds In Your Family Shots - Health News

5 Ways To Stop Summer Colds From Making The Rounds In Your Family

At Texas Children's Hospital in Houston on Thursday, 25 of 45 hospitalized pediatric patients were diagnosed with RSV as well as COVID-19. "A hospitalization rate much higher than for either virus alone," according to officials.

At the moment there is little data available on the impact of contracting both viruses and whether the two together can make a person sicker. But health officials worry it could put young patients — who are not eligible for the vaccine — at greater risk.

## RSV infections are surging months earlier than normal

RSV infections typically occur in the late fall, winter and early spring, the CDC explains.

"But last year, during all of the COVID-19 outbreaks and all of our social restriction measures, we did not see RSV the way we normally see it," Dr. Pia Pannaraj, an infectious diseases specialist at Children's Hospital in Los Angeles told NPR.

That meant infants and young children who would have gotten it last year, didn't. Now, as many states have lifted mask mandates and other restrictions, Pannaraj says, doctors are starting to see a resurgence of the virus.

In Texas, the spike began in the final week of June. "This is definitely earlier than normal," she said.

The absence of widespread RSV last season means that "babies up until about a year and a half or two years of life are at risk," Pannaraj explained, saying that parents and doctors will have to be extra vigilant for symptoms, including coughing, lack of appetite, and excessive sleeping and lethargy. They can also suddenly stop breathing.

In many ways, she noted, they're similar symptoms to COVID-19. "So [parents and physicians] need to look out for both of those infections."

## It's not just a Texas thing

Pannaraj says the RSV surge began in southern states, many of which are in the fourth wave of the pandemic. But there is now evidence of a spread across the country, including Los Angeles. "And it's on its way up," she said, adding that it is difficult to project if the number of cases will peak where they do during non-pandemic times.

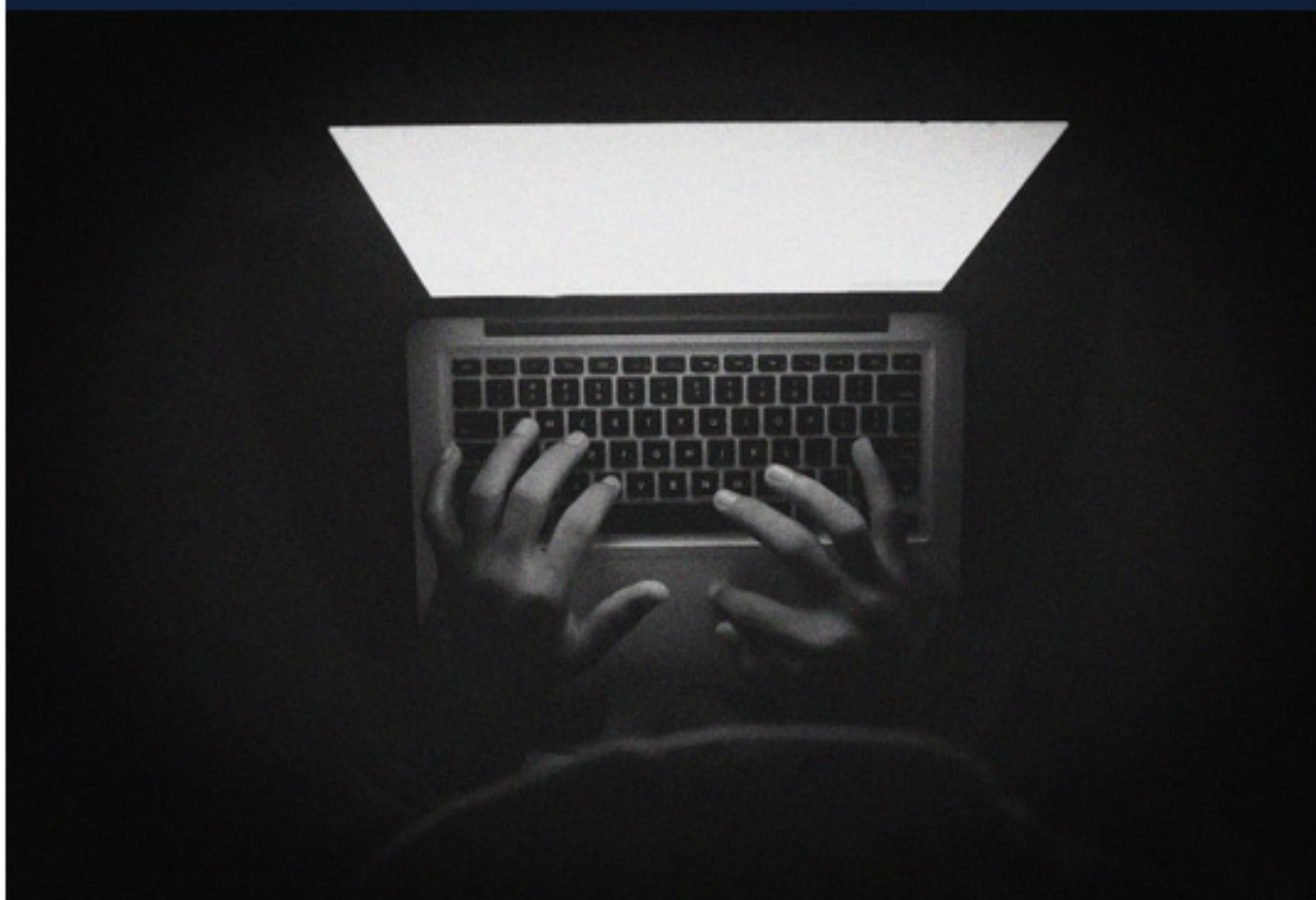
At this point, she noted, some states have already reported cases as high as they would typically be in the winter. Other states have experienced short-lived spikes that go up and down. It's likely officials will see a decline in RSV infections in places that are renewing indoor masking mandates and social distancing, she said.

So far Southern California has not seen many co-infections — meaning a person has both COVID-19 and RSV, according to Pannaraj. "But that doesn't mean that it won't happen," she remarked. "In fact, we probably have to assume that it will happen."



## 'Easy money': How international scam artists pulled off an epic theft of Covid benefits

Russian mobsters, Chinese hackers and Nigerian scammers have used stolen identities to plunder tens of billions of dollars in pandemic aid, officials say.

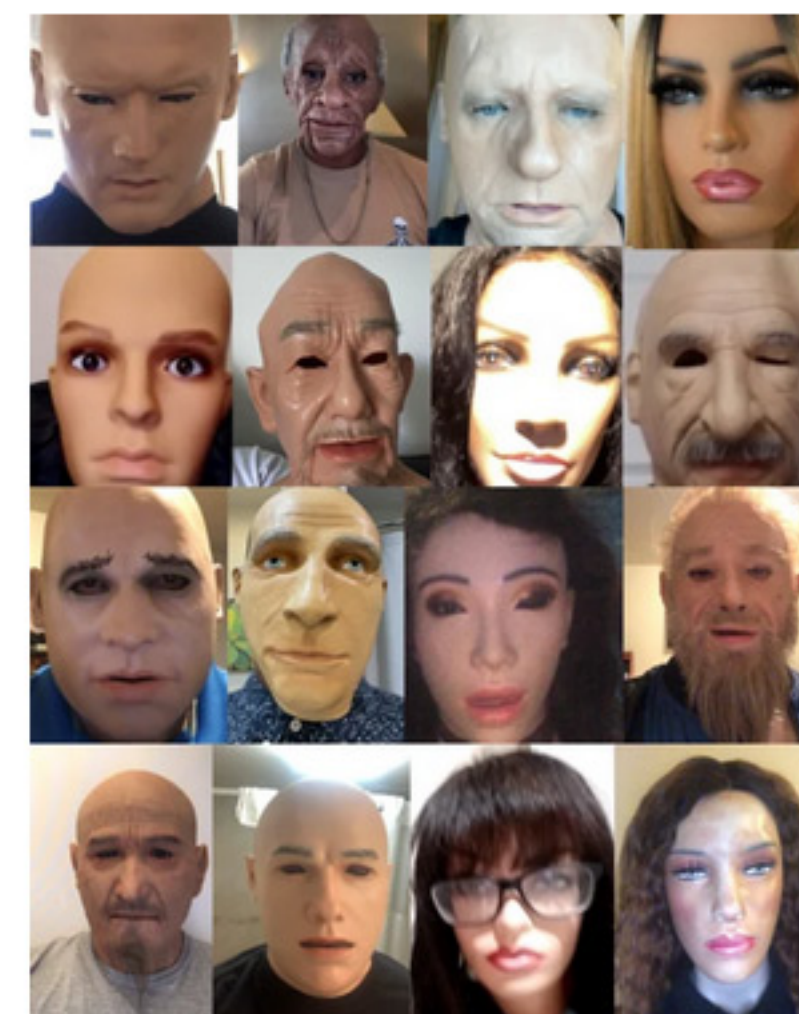


— Foreign criminal organizations have used stolen identities to plunder tens of billions of dollars in federal Covid-19 benefits.

Towfiq Barbhuiya / Getty Images/EyeEm

Among the ripest targets for this cyber theft have been jobless programs. The federal government can't say for sure how much of the more than \$900 billion in pandemic-related unemployment relief has been stolen, but credible estimates range from \$87 to \$400 billion--at least half of which went to foreign criminals, law enforcement officials say.

Those staggering sums dwarf, even on the low end, what the federal government spends each year on intelligence collection, food stamps, or K-12 education.



— Examples of criminals wearing masks trying to defeat identity verification software and steal Covid-19 unemployment benefits, assembled by ID.me, a company that has contracts to help with unemployment claimant verification in 27 states. ID.me



CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

## 3 Florida Educators Die Of COVID-19 Within 24 Hours As Schools Prepare To Reopen

Less than a week before schools are set to reopen in Broward County, Fla., local union officials say three educators have died of complications from the coronavirus. None of them were vaccinated.



*Johnny Louis/Getty Images*

- 2 Days Into The School Year, A Florida District Asked 440 Students To Quarantine
- **Florida's Governor Says School Leaders' Salary May Be Withheld If They Require Masks**



## 'We know who you are.' Group threatens doctors, others wearing masks outside Williamson Co. school board meeting

By: [Caroline Sutton](#)

Posted at 1:37 PM, Aug 11, 2021 and last updated 8:10 AM, Aug 12, 2021

FRANKLIN, Tenn. (WTVF) —



Williamson Co., TN, School Board Meeting /Matt Masters, Williamson Home Page

Photo by: [Matt Masters/Williamson Home Page](#)

A group of anti-mask protesters shouted at pro-mask people leaving the Williamson County School Board meeting on Tuesday, August 10, 2021.

FRANKLIN, Tenn. (WTVF) — While a heated debate was happening inside a Williamson County School Board meeting, a group of anti-mask protesters collected outside. The group was seen heckling - and at some points threatening - people as they left the meeting, some of whom were doctors and nurses asking the board to reinstate the mask mandate.

In one video, captured by Matt Masters with the Williamson Home Page, several members of the group were seen following a man to his car, shouting "we will find you" and "we know who you are" at him. During the public comment portion of the meeting, the parent asked the board to reinstate a mandate. "There is a place in hell for you guys. There is a bad place in hell and everybody's taking notes, buddy," one man yelled. Another man is seen trying to calm the group, while also shouting "you can leave in peace, but we know who you are."

At one point in the night, a Williamson County Sheriff's Office sergeant spoke to the group, asking them to remain peaceful.

"We are here for everybody's safety, we are here for y'all just as much as we are here for everybody else. OK? We are here, we are away from our families, some of us are on a 17, almost an 18-hour day, and that's me. So I'm here for y'all. I'm here for y'all. We want everything to be peaceful. I am begging y'all to be peaceful," he said.

## Man stabbed at Los Angeles City Hall COVID vaccine protest

 Rebecca Falconer



Anti-vaccination protesters surround a counter protester during an anti-vaccination rally near City Hall in Los Angeles, California, on Saturday. Photo: [David McNew/AFP via Getty Images](#)



**LAPD HQ** @LAPDHQ · 15h

LAPD is monitoring a protest at the south lawn of the LA City Hall. We are on scene to maintain order after a fight broke out. We are aware of 1 male that was stabbed & is being treated by LAFD. No arrests have been made but investigation is on going.



1.7K

447

728





# Taliban sweep into Afghan capital after government collapses

By AHMAD SEIR, RAHIM FAIEZ, TAMEEM AKHGAR and JON GAMBRELL 17 minutes ago



Taliban fighters take control of Afghan presidential palace after the Afghan President Ashraf Ghani fled the country, in Kabul, Afghanistan.

(AP Photo/Zabi Karimi)



# Kabul airport plunges into chaos as Taliban patrol capital

By AHMAD SEIR, TAMEEM AKHGAR, KATHY GANNON and JON GAMBRELL 33 minutes ago



Hundreds of people run alongside a U.S. Air Force C-17 transport plane as it moves down a runway of the international airport, in Kabul, Afghanistan, Monday, Aug. 16, 2021. Thousands of Afghans have rushed onto the tarmac of Kabul's international airport, some so desperate to escape the Taliban capture of their country that they held onto an American military jet as it took off and plunged to death.

**Bagram Airfield**-BAF also known as Bagram Air Base is an Afghan military base, and formerly the largest U.S. military base in Afghanistan. As part of the US withdrawal from Afghanistan, the Bagram Air Base was handed back to the Afghan government on **1 July 2021**. **U.S. troops left the base entirely after nearly 20 years. The last remaining U.S. troops left the base by shutting off the electricity and slipping away in the night without notifying the Afghan Armed Forces. The base was looted by local civilians soon after US forces left the area. The Afghan National Army later took control of the area and arrested some looters.**

**On 15 August 2021, Afghan troops stationed there gave up their positions to the Taliban, losing control of the airfield.**

Bagram Airport is 60.7 km from Kabul.

U.S. troops took positions to guard the active runway, but the crowd stormed past them and their armored vehicles. Gunshots rang out. As one U.S. Air Force Boeing C-17 Globemaster III tried to take off, a helicopter did low runs in front of it to try to drive people off the runway.

Videos showed a group of Afghans hanging onto the plane just before takeoff and several falling through the air as the airplane rapidly gained altitude over the city.

Senior American military officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the ongoing operation, told The Associated Press that the chaos left seven dead, including several who fell from the flight. Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said U.S. forces killed two people he described as carrying weapons in the melee. He said 1,000 more U.S. troops would be deployed to secure the airfield and back up the 2,500 already there.

All flights at the airport — both military and civilian — were halted until Afghan civilians could be cleared from the runway, Kirby added.



Hundreds of people run alongside a U.S. Air Force C-17 transport plane, some climbing on the plane, as it moves down a runway of the international airport, in Kabul, Afghanistan, Monday, Aug. 16, 2021. Thousands of Afghans have rushed onto the tarmac at the airport, some so desperate to escape the Taliban capture of their country that they held onto the American military jet as it took off and plunged to death (Verified IIGC via AP)

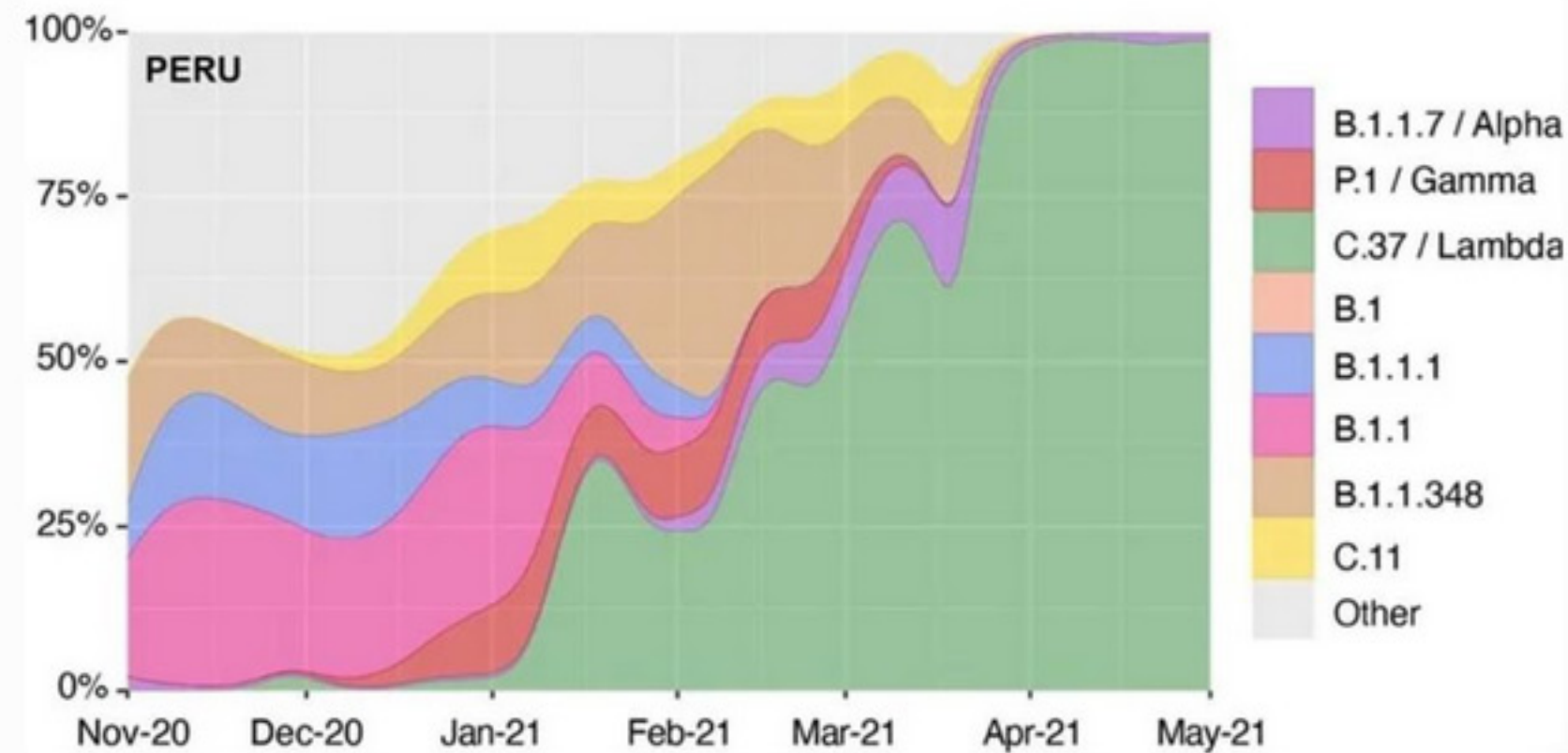


Aug 10, 2021, 08:55am EDT | 185,704 views

# It Is Time To Pay Close Attention To The Lambda Variant Now Devastating South America



William A. Haseltine Contributor  
Healthcare



Rise of Lambda variant in Peru NEWS.MEDICAL.NET

## Lambda Variant of COVID-19 Might Be Resistant to Vaccines

July 30, 2021  
Frank Diamond

*Investigators in Chile conclude that the lambda COVID-19 variant is not only more infectious than standard SARS-CoV-2, but could also possibly shrug off vaccines. The first case in the United States has been spotted at Houston Methodist Hospital.*

## The Lambda COVID variant is in California: 5 things to know



BY BARBARA FEDER OSTROV  
AUGUST 13, 2021

More recently, two highly publicized laboratory studies from Japan and Chile – both in preprint and not yet peer-reviewed – have suggested that lambda may be more infectious and less susceptible to current vaccines than the original coronavirus. The Japanese researchers suggested that WHO’s current “variant of interest” designation for lambda may underplay its potential threat.

Is lambda here in California? What about other states?

Yes and yes. Since September 2020, the lambda variant has accounted for 152 genetically sequenced COVID-19 cases in California, according to the state Department of Public Health. The first case was found in September, with another 10 in March, 88 in April, 43 in May, eight in June and, most recently, two cases in July.

The state agency declined to identify the counties where the cases occurred.

Commercial and government laboratories test for variants by sequencing the genome of the coronavirus that caused a particular COVID-19 case and looking for mutations and changes in the virus’ characteristic spike protein.

Still, not every COVID-19 case is genetically sequenced to determine whether it was caused by a variant, so the number of lambda-caused cases could be higher. Nationwide only about 15 of every 1,000 cases are sequenced.

At least 1,311 sequenced lambda cases have been reported in at least 40 states since the start of the pandemic, with 18 cases identified in the past four weeks, according to the public virus genetic sequence database GISAID. Just one-tenth of 1 percent of the cases that are genetically sequenced involve lambda, according to GISAID.



**The Monroe Doctrine** was a United States policy that opposed European colonialism in the Americas. It argued that any intervention in the politics of the Americas by foreign powers was a potentially hostile act against the United States. It began in 1823; however, the term "Monroe Doctrine" itself was not coined until 1850.

The Monroe Doctrine was issued on December 2, 1823, at a time when nearly all Latin American colonies of Spain had achieved, or were at the point of gaining, independence from the Spanish Empire. It stated that further efforts by various European states to take control of any independent state in the Americas would be viewed as "the manifestation of an unfriendly disposition toward the United States." [3] At the same time, the doctrine noted that the U.S. would recognize and not interfere with existing European colonies nor meddle in the internal affairs of European countries.

President James Monroe first stated the doctrine during his seventh annual State of the Union Address to the Congress. The doctrine asserted that the New World and the Old World were to remain distinctly separate spheres of influence. [4] The separation intended to avoid situations that could make the New World a battleground for the Old World powers so that the U.S. could exert its influence undisturbed. [5] By the end of the 19th century, Monroe's declaration was seen as a defining moment in the foreign policy of the United States and one of its longest-standing tenets. The intent and effect of the doctrine persisted for more than a century, with only small variations, and would be invoked by many U.S. statesmen and several U.S. presidents, including Ulysses S. Grant, Theodore Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy, and Ronald Reagan.

After 1898, the Monroe Doctrine was reinterpreted in terms of multilateralism and non-intervention by Latin American lawyers and intellectuals. In 1933, under President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the U.S. went along with this new reinterpretation, especially in terms of the Organization of American States.

..... Some people questioned the intentions behind the Monroe Doctrine. Diego Portales, a Chilean businessman and minister, wrote to a friend: *"But we have to be very careful: for the Americans of the north [from the United States], the only Americans are themselves"*.



Gillam's 1896 political cartoon, Uncle Sam stands with rifle between the Europeans and Latin Americans



Roosevelt added the Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine in 1904, asserting the right of the U.S. to intervene in Latin America in cases of "flagrant and chronic wrongdoing by a Latin American Nation" to preempt intervention by European creditors. This re-interpretation of the Monroe Doctrine went on to be a useful tool to take economic benefits by force when Latin nations failed to pay their debts to European and US banks and business interests. This was also referred to as the Big Stick ideology because of the phrase from president Roosevelt to "speak low and carry a big stick". The Roosevelt corollary provoked outrage across Latin America.

### Criticism

Historians have observed that while the Doctrine contained a commitment to resist further European colonialism in the Americas, it resulted in some aggressive implications for American foreign policy, since there were no limitations on the US's own actions mentioned within it. Historian Jay Sexton notes that the tactics used to implement the doctrine were modeled after those employed by European imperial powers during the 17th and 18th centuries. American historian William Appleman Williams, seeing the doctrine as a form of American imperialism, described it as a form of "imperial anti-colonialism". **Noam Chomsky argues that in practice the Monroe Doctrine has been used by the U.S. government as a declaration of hegemony and a right of unilateral intervention over the Americas.**



American poses with dead Haitian revolutionaries killed by US Marine machine gun fire, 1915.



The U.S.-supported Nicaraguan contras



Spanish-American War, the result of U.S. intervention in the Cuban War of Independence



**The Monroe Doctrine** was a United States policy that opposed European colonialism in the Americas. It argued that any intervention in the politics of the Americas by foreign powers was a potentially hostile act against the United States. It began in 1823; however, the term "Monroe Doctrine" itself was not coined until 1850.

The Monroe Doctrine was issued on December 2, 1823, at a time when nearly all Latin American colonies of Spain had achieved, or were at the point of gaining, independence from the Spanish Empire. It stated that further efforts by various European states to take control of the Americas would be viewed as "the manifestation of a hostile policy of the United States." [3] At the same time, the U.S. promised not to interfere with existing European colonies in the Americas.

President James Monroe first announced the doctrine in his 1823 State of the Union Address to the Congress. He stated that the Americas and the Old World were to remain separate, with the separation intended to avoid a ground for the Old World powers to be undisturbed. [5] By the end of the 19th century, a defining moment in the foreign policy of the United States. The intent and effect of the doctrine persisted for more than a century, with only small variations, and would be invoked by many U.S. statesmen and several U.S. presidents, including Ulysses S. Grant, Theodore Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy, and Ronald Reagan.

After 1898, the Monroe Doctrine was reinterpreted in terms of multilateralism and non-intervention by Latin American lawyers and intellectuals. In 1933, under President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the U.S. went along with this new reinterpretation, especially in terms of the Organization of American States.

..... Some people questioned the intentions behind the Monroe Doctrine. Diego Portales, a Chilean businessman and minister, wrote to a friend: *"But we have to be very careful: for the Americans of the north [from the United States], the only Americans are themselves"*.



American poses with dead Haitian revolutionaries killed by US Marine machine gun fire, 1915.



The U.S.-supported Nicaraguan contras



Spanish-American War, the result of U.S. intervention in the Cuban War of Independence

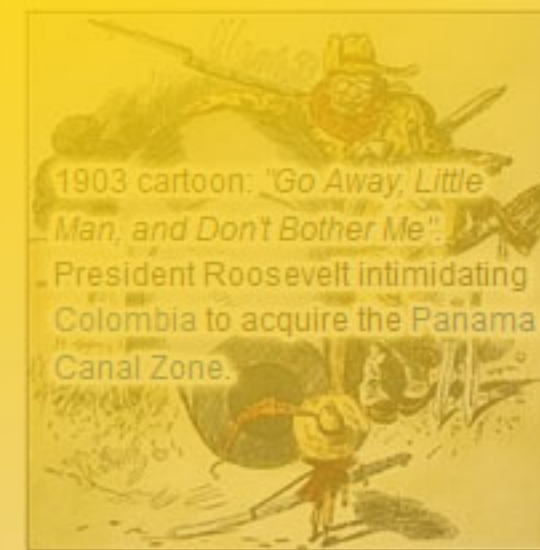


and Latin Americans

210816, Monday

I understand and share your concern for the hordes of immigrants flooding over our southern board. I can only encourage you to take a deep dive into the complex actions and consequences of the Monroe Doctrine. And as a corollary, the history of the rise and fall of empires. The United States of America is no exception to this history. We are in fact reaping what we have sown.

{Remembering the Fall of Saigon, today, as we look on with horror at the Fall of Kabul.}



### Criticism

Roosevelt added the Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine in 1904, asserting the right of the U.S. to intervene in Latin America in cases of "flagrant and chronic wrongdoing by a Latin American Nation" to preempt intervention by European creditors. This re-interpretation of the Monroe Doctrine went on to be a useful tool to take economic benefits by force when Latin nations failed to pay their debts to European and US banks and business interests. This was also referred to as the Big Stick ideology because of the phrase from president Roosevelt to "speak low and carry a big stick". The Roosevelt corollary provoked outrage across Latin America.

Historians have observed that while the Doctrine contained a commitment to resist further European colonialism in the Americas, it resulted in some aggressive implications for American foreign policy, since there were no limitations on the US's own actions mentioned within it. Historian Jay Sexton notes that the tactics used to implement the doctrine were modeled after those employed by European imperial powers during the 17th and 18th centuries. American historian William Appleman Williams, seeing the doctrine as a form of American imperialism, described it as a form of "imperial anti-colonialism". **Noam Chomsky argues that in practice the Monroe Doctrine has been used by the U.S. government as a declaration of hegemony and a right of unilateral intervention over the Americas.**





The Guardian picture essay

## The last nomad hippies - a photo essay

The hippy movement may have been in decline since its 1960s heyday, but there are still Europeans who choose an alternative lifestyle. During the pandemic, when many people are considering whether there might be a different way to live rather than returning to old ways, journalist Roberto Palomo journeys through Portugal with some of those who are living outside established society



Jade Lotus, from London, swims naked on the ocean near Praia do Amado, Portugal.



A mobile clothing stall in a truck converted into a house in the Praia do

The pandemic has made many of us question the values of today's society. I wondered if these nomadic hippies already had some of the answers.





*"You have the watches. We have the time."*



<https://www.newsweek.com> > 10-years-afghan-war-ho... ⋮

## 10 Years of Afghan War: How the Taliban Go On - Newsweek

Oct 2, 2011 — It's summed up in an expression often attributed to a captured Taliban fighter:  
**"You have the watches. We have the time."**



## As the Taliban seized cities, they sent women home

*The Taliban told female employees at some banks to not return to their jobs, raising concerns over their futures.*



The Taliban says women's right to work will be decided as per 'the Islamic system' [File: Mohammad Shoib/Reuters]

16 Aug 2021

In early July, as Taliban fighters were seizing territory from government forces across Afghanistan, some of them walked into the offices of Azizi Bank in Kandahar and ordered nine women working there to leave.

The gunmen escorted them to their homes and told them not to return to their jobs. Instead, they explained that male relatives could take their place, according to three of the women involved and the bank's manager.

"It's really strange to not be allowed to get to work, but now this is what it is," Noor Khatera, a 43-year-old woman who worked in the accounts department of Azizi Bank told Reuters.

"I taught myself English and even learned how to operate a computer, but now I will have to look for a place where I can just work with more women around."

In early July, as Taliban fighters were seizing territory from government forces across

The incident is an early sign that some of the rights won by Afghan women over the 20 years since the hardline movement was toppled could be reversed.

### **'Someone please stop this'**

Two days after the episode at Azizi Bank, a similar scene played out at a branch Bank Milli, in Herat, according to two female cashiers who witnessed it.

Three Taliban fighters carrying guns entered the branch, admonishing female employees for showing their faces in public. Women there quit, sending male relatives in their place.

Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid did not respond to a request for comment about the two incidents. Spokespeople for the two banks did not respond to requests for comment.

On the broader question of whether women would be allowed to work in banks in areas it controls, Mujahid added that no decision had yet been made.

"After the establishment of the Islamic system, it will be decided according to the law, and God willing, there will be no problems," he said.

"The Taliban will regress freedom at all levels and that is what we are fighting against," an Afghan government spokesperson said.

"Women and children are suffering the most and our forces are trying to save democracy. The world should understand and help us."

Scores of educated Afghan women took to social media to appeal for help and express their frustration.

"With every city collapsing, human bodies collapse, dreams collapse, history and future collapse, art and culture collapse, life and beauty collapse, our world collapses," Rada Akbar wrote on Twitter. "Someone please stop this."





Tue, Aug 17 at 10:37 AM, 1280 Park Blvd, 92101



The Afghanistan Papers: A secret history of the war

## Overwhelmed by Opium

*The U.S. war on drugs in Afghanistan has imploded at nearly every turn*

By Craig Whitlock Dec. 9, 2019

Since 2001, the United States has spent about \$9 billion on a dizzying array of programs to deter Afghanistan from supplying the world with heroin. In dozens of interviews, however, key players in the anti-narcotics campaign acknowledged that none of the measures have worked and that, in many cases, they have made things worse.

This series is the basis for a book, “The Afghanistan Papers: A Secret History of the War,” by Washington Post reporter Craig Whitlock. The book can be ordered [here](#).

Mohammed Ehsan Zia, a former Afghan cabinet minister in charge of rural development programs, told U.S. government interviewers that the United States and other NATO countries never settled on an effective strategy and just threw money at the opium problem. He said they constantly changed policies and relied on a carousel of consultants who were ignorant about Afghanistan.

“Foreigners read ‘Kite Runner’ on [the] plane and believe they are an expert on Afghanistan and then never listen,” Zia said, referring to the best-selling novel about an Afghan boy haunted by oppression and ethnic strife. “The only thing they are experts in is bureaucracy.”

**Afghanistan dominates the global opium markets. Last year, it produced 82 percent of the world’s supply, according to estimates by the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime.**

**Defying U.S. efforts to curtail it, Afghan opium production has skyrocketed over the course of the 18-year war. Last year, Afghan farmers grew poppies — the plant from which opium is extracted to make heroin — on four times as much land as they did in 2002.**

With business booming, the opium industry has tightened its stranglehold on the Afghan economy, corrupted large sectors of the Afghan government and provided the Taliban a rising source of revenue, U.S., European and Afghan officials said in the interviews.

### U.S. Opioid Dispensing Rate Maps

<https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/rxrate-maps/index.html>

*The data in the maps show the geographic distribution in the United States, at both state and county levels, of retail opioid prescriptions dispensed per 100 persons per year from 2006–2019.*

**After a steady increase in the overall national opioid dispensing rate starting in 2006, the total number of prescriptions dispensed peaked in 2012 at more than 255 million and a dispensing rate of 81.3 prescriptions per 100 persons.**

The overall national opioid dispensing rate declined from 2012 to 2019, and in 2019, the dispensing rate had fallen to the lowest in the 14 years, for which we have data at 46.7 prescriptions per 100 persons (total of more than 153 million opioid prescriptions).

However, in 2019, dispensing rates continued to remain very high in certain areas across the country.

In 5% of U.S. counties, enough opioid prescriptions were dispensed for every person to have one.

While the overall opioid dispensing rate in 2019 was 46.7 prescriptions per 100 people, some counties had rates that were six times higher than that.





# Bob Dylan Hit With Bogus Lawsuit Claiming Molestation in NYC April-May 1965: Not Possible, He Wasn't There

■ Celebrity ■ Music

by **Roger Friedman** - August 16, 2021 5:51 pm

0 18535



\*\*\*EXCLUSIVE\*\*\*

**UPDATE** "Swanky room at the Chelsea Hotel? Bob couldn't afford a room at the Chelsea Hotel!" TMZ described the legal papers filed by "JC" below and said it happened in Dylan's "swanky hotel room." A friend of Dylan from that time was who around 24/7 laughed when he heard this. He also reminded me to look **at the calendar and schedule** of Dylan shows. Bob and Joan Baez, who were a couple, were on the road together for all of the time "JC" says she was with Dylan at the Chelsea. This fellow was with him the whole time.

I told JC's lawyer, Daniel Isaacs, about the schedule and asked to respond. I'm waiting for an answer.

**EARLIER** On April 26, 1965 Bob Dylan arrived in London. He didn't return to the United States until June 2nd.

In April, he was mostly on the West Coast. All of this is **recorded in calendars** tracking Dylan's whereabouts because he was a young superstar.

Yet this afternoon comes news of a complaint filed by a 68 year old woman who says Dylan groomed and molested her in New York at the Chelsea Hotel in April and May 1965 when she was 12 years old.

TMZ called it his "ritzy apartment" at the Chelsea, a notably run down place even in 1965.

But the calendars speak for themselves. And in London, Dylan was filmed on tour by DA Pennebaker for the famous documentary, "Don't Look Back."

So the lawsuit or complaint or whatever it is is bogus.

But this is the environment we've created, where accusations fly and celebrities are dubbed guilty before anyone checks the facts.

Despite the travel schedule being easily available, the "victim" — who calls herself "JC" — says she was "groomed" by Dylan in April and May 1965 at the Hotel Chelsea.

The complaint states: "between April and May of 1965 the defendant, Dylan, exploited his status as a musician by grooming J.C. to gain her trust and to obtain control over her as part of his plan to sexually molest and abuse J.C."

Um, not possible if Dylan wasn't even there. He was singing "It Ain't Me, Babe" in London.

Stay tuned...





## Moderna says its Covid vaccine booster produced 'robust' immune response against delta

PUBLISHED THU, AUG 5 2021-7:03 AM EDT UPDATED THU, AUG 5 2021-9:18 AM EDT



Berkeley Lovelace Jr.  
@BERKELEYJR

- Moderna said its Covid-19 vaccine booster shot produced a "robust" antibody response against the highly contagious delta variant.
- In a phase two trial, Moderna is testing a 50-microgram dose of three vaccine booster candidates in previously vaccinated individuals.

Moderna said its Covid-19 vaccine booster shot produced a "robust" antibody response against the highly contagious delta variant, according to details of a study released Thursday with the company's second-quarter earnings report.

In a phase two trial, Moderna is testing a 50-microgram dose of three vaccine booster candidates in previously vaccinated individuals. The booster shots produced a promising immune response against three variants, including delta, with antibody levels approaching those seen in previously unvaccinated people who received two 100-microgram doses, the company said.

The data has been submitted to a peer-reviewed journal for publication, it said.

The company's second-quarter financial results beat Wall Street's expectations on earnings and revenue. Here's how Moderna did compared with what Wall Street expected, according to average estimates compiled by Refinitiv:

The new data on boosters comes as the delta variant spreads across several countries, including the United States. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has said the variant is as contagious as chickenpox and may make older people sicker, even if they've been fully vaccinated.

In slides that accompanied the earnings report Thursday, Moderna said it expects the variant will lead to an increase in breakthrough infections, which occur in vaccinated individuals.



A medical worker from Parrish Medical Center holds a vial of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine at a drive through vaccination clinic for employees of Port Canaveral, workers at local hotels and restaurants, and residents of the Port Canaveral community.

"While we see durable Phase 3 efficacy through 6 months, we expect neutralizing titers will continue to wane and eventually impact vaccine efficacy," the company said. "Given this intersection, we believe dose 3 booster will likely be necessary prior to the winter season."

People in the U.S. are already finding ways to secure booster shots amid concerns about delta. Still, the World Health Organization on Wednesday called on wealthy nations to stop the distribution of Covid booster shots, citing vaccine inequity around the world.

Moderna also said Thursday a final analysis of its phase three study found the two-dose vaccine was 93% effective, with efficacy "remaining durable" through six months after the second dose. By comparison, Pfizer and BioNTech said their vaccine efficacy declined to around 84% six months after the second shot.

Moderna, which was founded in 2010, was the second company to gain U.S. authorization for its Covid vaccine behind Pfizer-BioNTech. Moderna's Covid vaccine generated \$4.2 billion in sales in the three months ended June 30, according to the earnings report.

The company said it aims to produce 800 million to 1 billion Covid vaccine doses this year. It has signed vaccine contracts worth \$20 billion in sales this year and has agreements worth \$12 billion in 2022.



# Redistricting Commission looking to redraw San Diego City Council District 1

BY ASHLEY MACKIN-SOLOMON | LA JOLLA LIGHT  
AUG. 16, 2021 6:27 AM PT

As the city of San Diego prepares for its next round of redistricting, could City Council District 1, which includes Carmel Valley, be cut in half?

The first of a series of online meetings was held Aug. 11 to provide an overview of the process and collect feedback from residents. Much of that feedback suggested moving the northernmost communities of District 1 – such as University City, Carmel Valley and UC San Diego – to District 6, its eastern neighbor. La Jolla, one suggested, could be grouped in with other coastal communities such as Pacific Beach and Point Loma.

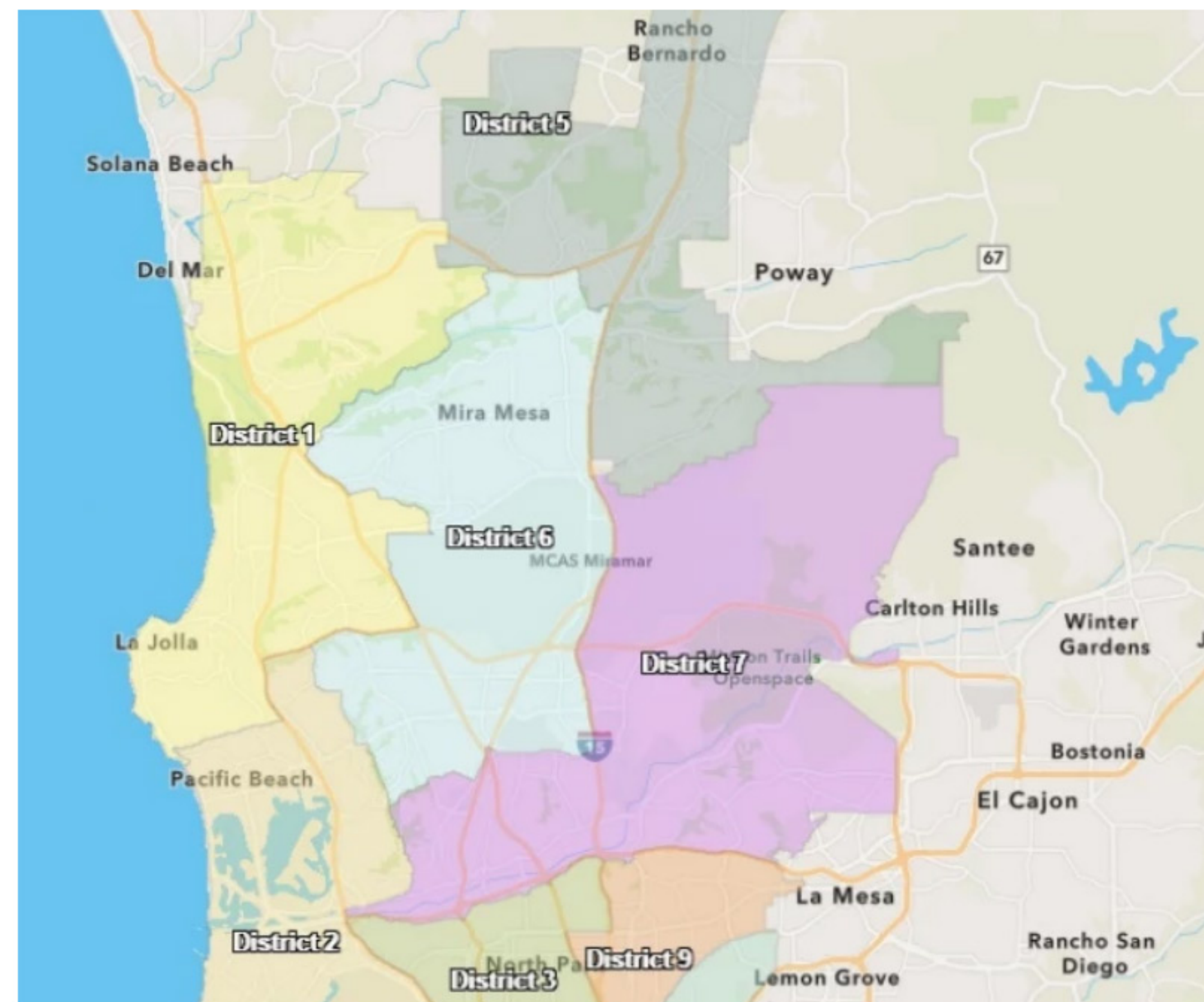
*Redistricting involves redrawing the borders of the nine San Diego City Council districts, and is done once every 10 years in accordance with federal law and the city charter.*

Redistricting Commissioner Roy MacPhail explained the need for redistricting comes at the beginning of each decade, to reflect movements in population. “Our task is to use 2020 Census data to evaluate the nine existing City Council districts and to re-draw those boundary lines to make sure each district contains about one-ninth of our city’s population.” With an estimated city population of 1.54 million people, that would mean approximately 171,000 people per council district.

**However, the United States Census Bureau has not yet released the exact data needed to determine population and redistrict accordingly.**

The redistricting commission has monthly meetings on Zoom that are open to the public at 3 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month. Those with feedback can email comments at [Redistricting2020@san Diego.gov](mailto:Redistricting2020@san Diego.gov).

A map of the current San Diego City Council District 1 (in yellow) as it relates to the surrounding council districts (Courtesy of the San Diego Redistricting Commission)

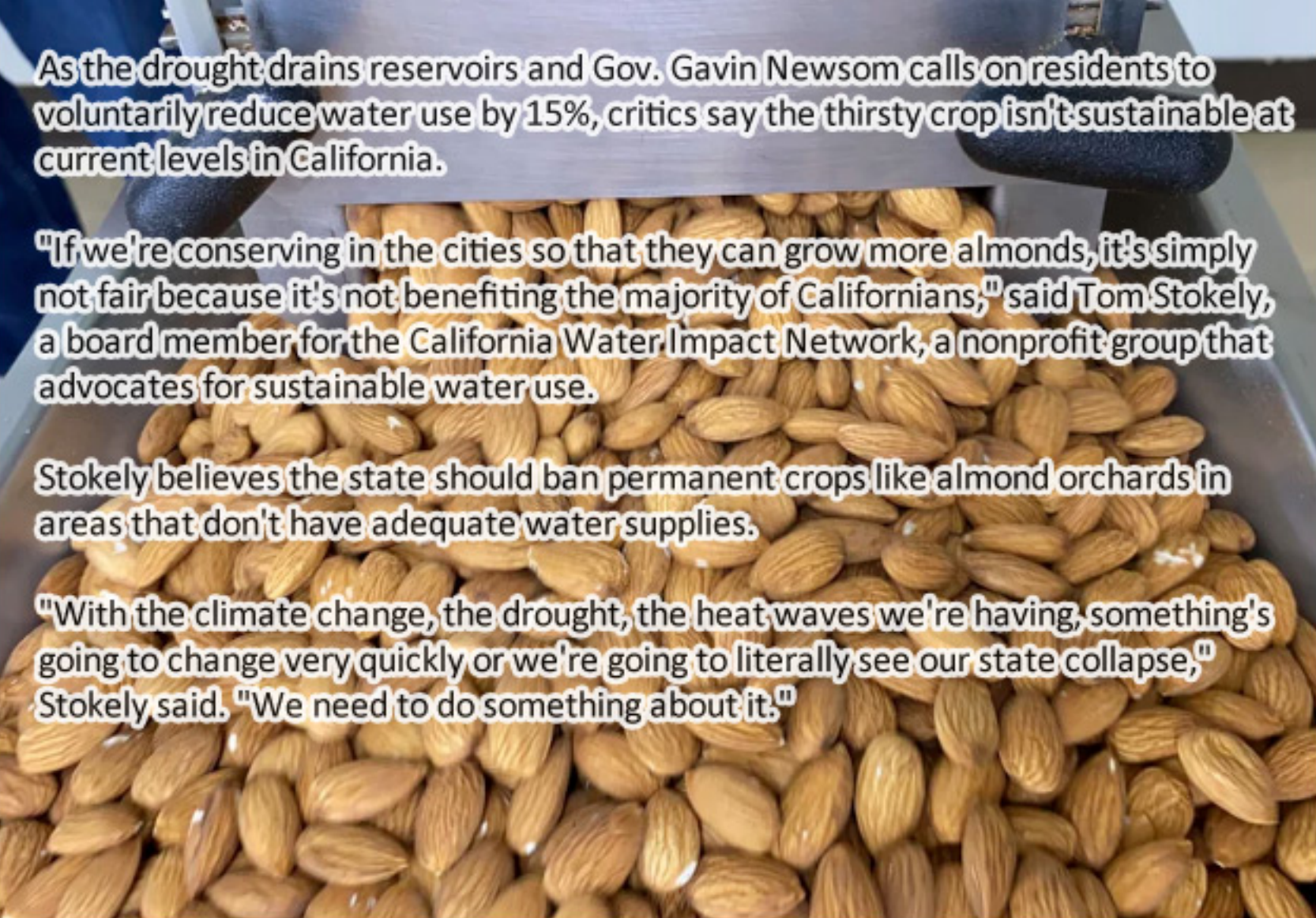




# Climate Change In California Is Threatening The World's Top Almond Producer

August 17, 2021 · 12:09 PM ET

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



As the drought drains reservoirs and Gov. Gavin Newsom calls on residents to voluntarily reduce water use by 15%, critics say the thirsty crop isn't sustainable at current levels in California.

"If we're conserving in the cities so that they can grow more almonds, it's simply not fair because it's not benefiting the majority of Californians," said Tom Stokely, a board member for the California Water Impact Network, a nonprofit group that advocates for sustainable water use.

Stokely believes the state should ban permanent crops like almond orchards in areas that don't have adequate water supplies.

"With the climate change, the drought, the heat waves we're having, something's going to change very quickly or we're going to literally see our state collapse," Stokely said. "We need to do something about it."

California's deepening drought threatens its \$6 billion almond industry, which produces about 80% of the world's almonds.

A historic drought across the U.S. West is taking a heavy toll on California's \$6 billion almond industry, which produces roughly 80% of the world's almonds. More growers are expected to abandon their orchards as water becomes scarce and expensive.

Almond orchards are thirsty permanent crops that need water year-round, clashing with a worsening drought and intensifying heat waves tied to climate change. Scientists say climate change has made the American West much warmer and drier in the past 30 years and will keep making weather more extreme.

California almond production grew from 370 million pounds (nearly 168 million kilograms) in 1995 to a record 3.1 billion pounds (1.4 billion kilograms) in 2020, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. During that period, land planted with almond trees grew from 756 square miles (1,958 square kilometers) to 2,500 square miles (6,475 square kilometers).

In May, the USDA projected that California's almond crop would hit a record 3.2 billion pounds (1.5 billion kilograms) this year, but in July, it scaled back that estimate to 2.8 billion pounds (1.3 billion kilograms), citing low water availability and record heat.

"A lot of growers are having to go through a stressful time to make the water they have left to keep their trees alive," said Richard Waycott, president and CEO of the Almond Board of California, which represents more than 7,600 growers and processors.

Almonds are California's top agricultural export. The industry ships about 70% of its almonds overseas, fueled by strong demand in India, East Asia and Europe, according to the board.

As almond prices rose during a previous drought that California declared from 2012 to 2016, farmers and investors planted hundreds of square miles of new orchards in areas that lack reliable water supplies.

"All of this increase in almonds and this increase in water demand, it's been done at a time when there's virtually no increase in water supply," said David Goldhamer, a water management specialist at the University of California, Davis. "The water embodied in the production of those almonds is being exported out of this country."

The almond boom has run into the second major drought that California has declared in a decade. The U.S. Drought Monitor reported that 88% of the state was in "extreme drought" as of last week, with the Central Valley facing the worst conditions.

The drought has drained reservoirs that supply water to Central Valley farms. In early August, Shasta Lake, the state's largest, was only 30% full, while Lake Oroville, the second largest, was only 24% full, according to the California Department of Water Resources.

State and federal officials have reduced water for agriculture, forcing many farmers to leave fields fallow or switch to higher-value crops that use less water.



# Northern California wildfire triples in size, forcing thousands to evacuate

By Aya Elamroussi, CNN

Updated 9:25 AM EDT, Wed August 18, 2021



A vehicle destroyed by the Caldor Fire in Grizzly Flats, California, on August 17, 2021.

Ethan Swope/AP



## China Sees Risks in Stepping Into Afghanistan After U.S. Withdrawal

Beijing worries Taliban rule could be destabilizing for its restive Xinjiang region but is wary of getting tangled up in a volatile situation



Taliban fighters riding in a pickup truck in Kabul on Monday, a day after the group captured the capital.

By [Chao Deng](#)

Aug. 17, 2021 10:49 am ET

TAIPEI—Chinese state media has mocked the U.S.'s chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan as the latest sign of America's declining global prestige, but China is approaching its own plans for engaging with the country under Taliban rule with caution.

On Tuesday, China's Foreign Ministry cited portrayals in U.S. media of a new "Saigon moment." China's state-run Xinhua News Agency the day before tweeted side-by-side photos of helicopters evacuating U.S. government employees from Saigon and Kabul with the words "history repeats itself."

Still, after largely being a bystander during two decades of heavy U.S. presence in its Western neighbor, China's leadership appears to be wary of stepping into a volatile political situation where it has little experience, experts say.

Beijing's biggest concern is potential ripple effects of Taliban rule, with its history of Islamic extremism, in China, where authorities have used tight border controls and draconian measures to control the minority Muslim Uyghur population in the northwestern Xinjiang region.

Unlike the U.S., which has a range of concerns, including the Taliban's treatment of women and Afghans aligned with the former government, as well as the group's potential support for al Qaeda and other terrorist organizations, Beijing has signaled a narrow focus on its own security interests.

Chinese authorities are concerned about the Taliban's historic ties to Uyghur militants, particularly the East Turkestan Islamic Movement, a largely defunct Uyghur separatist group that Beijing partly blames for ethnic tensions in Xinjiang.

Though there is scant evidence of Uyghurs training abroad and returning to China to stage terrorist attacks, Chinese authorities have raised the existence of the East Turkestan Islamic Movement to justify its suppression of ethnic Uyghurs. In recent years, the government set up internment camps in Xinjiang to detain more than one million Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities.

When it comes to potential collaboration with the U.S., Beijing will want to know whether Washington is a reliable counterterrorism partner, including what its stance is on East Turkestan Islamic Movement, said NYU's Mr. Rubin. But with the U.S. withdrawing from Afghanistan, China could naturally be working more closely with regional players to secure common security interests.

Unlike the U.S. and other Western embassies that have rushed to evacuate personnel, the four countries have kept their embassies open, signaling an intent to keep the lines of communication open with the Taliban. On Sunday, the Chinese Embassy in Kabul said it had asked various factions in Afghanistan to ensure the safety of Chinese citizens.

In the days since the Taliban captured Kabul on Sunday, China's Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying has referred to the situation in dispassionate terms, describing the Afghan government's collapse as a "major change" for the country and citing the Taliban's pledges to set up an "open and inclusive" Islamic government.

On Tuesday, China's Foreign Ministry criticized the U.S. role in Afghanistan as destructive and noted that President Biden recently argued that the U.S. mission in the country wasn't nation building. Still, Ms. Hua gave no hint that Beijing was eager to step into such a role.

China's Communist Party-controlled tabloid Global Times on Monday rejected speculation that China sought to fill the power vacuum by sending in its own troops. "The most China can do is to evacuate Chinese nationals if a massive humanitarian crisis occurs, or to contribute to postwar reconstruction and development," it said.





# Why did a military superpower fail in Afghanistan?

Arie Perliger, *University of Massachusetts Lowell*



## Afghanistan: Taliban victory inevitable despite the trillions the US poured in

Natasha Lindstaedt, *University of Essex*

Afghanistan's strategic location, and the support for the Taliban from neighbouring countries, means the current Taliban advances were unavoidable.



## As the Taliban returns, 20 years of progress for women looks set to disappear overnight

Azadah Raz Mohammad, *The University of Melbourne* and Jenna Sapiano, *Monash University*

The Taliban have given every indication women and girls will face violence and repression as they back control of Afghanistan.



## Afghanistan only the latest US war to be driven by deceit and delusion

Gordon Adams, *American University School of International Service*



## America's moral responsibility for the tragedy unfolding in Afghanistan

Michael Blake, *University of Washington*



## Will recent political instability affect Haiti's earthquake response? We ask an expert

Louise K. Comfort, *University of Pittsburgh*



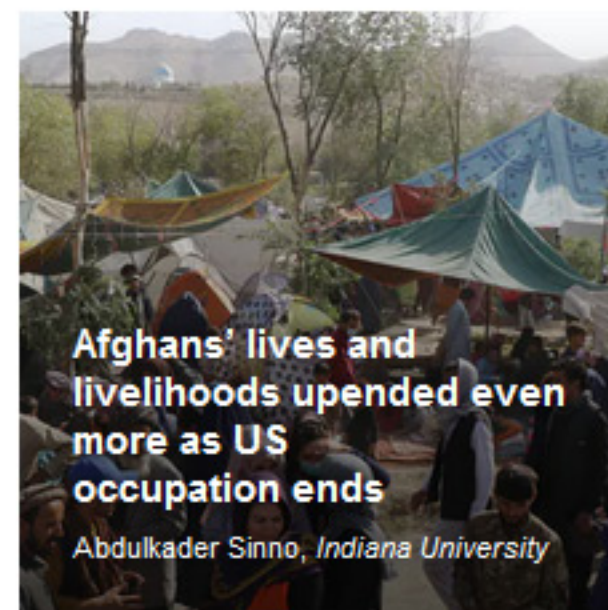
## US history shows spending on infrastructure doesn't always end well

Richard White, *Stanford University*



## With climate change, seemingly small shifts have big consequences

Kevin Trenberth, *National Center for Atmospheric Research*



## Afghans' lives and livelihoods upended even more as US occupation ends

Abdulkader Sinno, *Indiana University*



## Certified Organic

## Organic food has become mainstream but still has room to grow

Kathleen Merrigan, *Arizona State University*



## Schools can reopen safely – an epidemiologist describes what works and what's not worth the effort

Brandon Guthrie, *University of Washington*



## Florida sanctions school districts for mandating that students wear masks

NBC News · 13 hours ago

- **Florida state school board takes steps against two districts over mask mandates**

CNN · 10 hours ago

 [View Full Coverage](#)



## Parent ripped mask off teacher at Eanes ISD in Austin

The Washington Post · 3 hours ago

- **Texas Gov. Greg Abbott tests positive for Covid-19**

CNN · 13 hours ago

 [View Full Coverage](#)





# Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: FDA Authorizes Monoclonal Antibodies for Treatment of COVID-19

November 21, 2020

Today, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) for casirivimab and imdevimab to be administered together for the treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19 in adults and pediatric patients (12 years of age or older weighing at least 40 kilograms [about 88 pounds]) with positive results of direct SARS-CoV-2 viral testing and who are at high risk for progressing to severe COVID-19. This includes those who are 65 years of age or older or who have certain chronic medical conditions.

In a clinical trial of patients with COVID-19, casirivimab and imdevimab, administered together, were shown to reduce COVID-19-related hospitalization or emergency room visits in patients at high risk for disease progression within 28 days after treatment when compared to placebo. The safety and effectiveness of this investigational therapy for use in the treatment of COVID-19 continues to be evaluated.

Casirivimab and imdevimab must be administered together by intravenous (IV) infusion. Casirivimab and imdevimab are not authorized for patients who are hospitalized due to COVID-19 or require oxygen therapy due to COVID-19. A benefit of casirivimab and imdevimab treatment has not been shown in patients hospitalized due to COVID-19. Monoclonal antibodies, such as casirivimab and imdevimab, may be associated with worse clinical outcomes when administered to hospitalized patients with COVID-19 requiring high flow oxygen or mechanical ventilation.

“The FDA remains committed to advancing the nation’s public health during this unprecedented pandemic. Authorizing these monoclonal antibody therapies may help outpatients avoid hospitalization and alleviate the burden on our health care system,” said FDA Commissioner Stephen M. Hahn, M.D. “As part of our Coronavirus Treatment Acceleration Program, the FDA uses every possible pathway to make new treatments available to patients as quickly as possible while continuing to study the safety and effectiveness of these treatments.”

Monoclonal antibodies are laboratory-made proteins that mimic the immune system’s ability to fight off harmful pathogens such as viruses. Casirivimab and imdevimab are monoclonal antibodies that are specifically directed against the spike protein of SARS-CoV-2, designed to block the virus’ attachment and entry into human cells.

“The emergency authorization of these monoclonal antibodies administered together offers health care providers another tool in combating the pandemic,” said Patrizia Cavazzoni, M.D., acting director of the FDA’s Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. “We will continue to facilitate the development, evaluation and availability of COVID-19 therapies.”

The data supporting this EUA for casirivimab and imdevimab are based on a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trial in 799 non-hospitalized adults with mild to moderate COVID-19 symptoms. Of these patients, 266 received a single intravenous infusion of 2,400 milligrams casirivimab and imdevimab (1,200 mg of each), 267 received 8,000 mg casirivimab and imdevimab (4,000 mg of each), and 266 received a placebo, within three days of obtaining a positive SARS-CoV-2 viral test. The prespecified primary endpoint for the trial was time-weighted average change in viral load from baseline. Viral load reduction in patients treated with casirivimab and imdevimab was larger than in patients treated with placebo at day seven. However, the most important evidence that casirivimab and imdevimab administered together may be effective came from the predefined secondary endpoint of medically attended visits related to COVID-19, particularly hospitalizations and emergency room visits within 28 days after treatment. For patients at high risk for disease progression, hospitalizations and emergency room visits occurred in 3% of casirivimab and imdevimab-treated patients on average compared to 9% in placebo-treated patients. The effects on viral load, reduction in hospitalizations and ER visits were similar in patients receiving either of the two casirivimab and imdevimab doses.

Under the EUA, fact sheets that provide important information about using casirivimab and imdevimab administered together in treating COVID-19 as authorized must be made available to health care providers and to patients and caregivers. These fact sheets include dosing instructions, potential side effects and drug interactions. Possible side effects of casirivimab and imdevimab include: anaphylaxis and infusion-related reactions, fever, chills, hives, itching and flushing. The EUA was issued to Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc.

The FDA, an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, protects the public health by assuring the safety, effectiveness, and security of human and veterinary drugs, vaccines and other biological products for human use, and medical devices. The agency also is responsible for the safety and security of our nation’s food supply, cosmetics, dietary supplements, products that give off electronic radiation, and for regulating tobacco products.

## Monoclonal antibody



A monoclonal antibody is an antibody made by cloning a unique white blood cell. All subsequent antibodies derived this way trace back to a unique parent cell. Monoclonal antibodies can have monovalent affinity, binding only to the same epitope.

[Wikipedia](#)



# The Taliban are sitting on \$1 trillion worth of minerals the world desperately needs

By [Julia Horowitz](#), CNN Business

Published 6:39 AM EDT, Wed August 18, 2021



London CNN Business — The swift fall of Afghanistan to Taliban fighters two decades after the United States invaded the country has triggered a political and humanitarian crisis. It's also causing security experts to wonder: What's going to happen to the country's vast untapped mineral wealth?

Afghanistan is one of the poorest countries in the world. But in 2010, US military officials and geologists revealed that the country, which sits at the crossroads of Central and South Asia, was sitting on mineral deposits worth nearly \$1 trillion that could dramatically transform its economic prospects.

Supplies of minerals such as iron, copper and gold are scattered across the country. There are also rare earth minerals and, perhaps most importantly, what could be one of the world's biggest untapped deposits of lithium — an essential but scarce component in rechargeable batteries and other technologies vital to tackling the climate crisis.

"Afghanistan is certainly one of the regions richest in traditional precious metals, but also the metals [needed] for the emerging economy of the 21st century," said Rod Schoonover, a scientist and security expert who founded the Ecological Futures Group.

Security challenges, a lack of infrastructure and severe droughts have prevented the extraction of most valuable minerals in the past. That's unlikely to change soon under Taliban control. Still, there's interest from countries including China, Pakistan and India, which may try to engage despite the chaos.

Even before President Joe Biden announced that he would withdraw US troops from Afghanistan earlier this year, setting the stage for the return of Taliban control, the country's economic prospects were dim.

"If Afghanistan has a few years of calm, allowing the development of its mineral resources, it could become one of the richest countries in the area within a decade," Said Mirzad of the US Geological Survey told *Science* magazine in 2010. Even more obstacles. That calm never arrived, and most of Afghanistan's mineral wealth has remained in the ground, said Mosin Khan, a nonresident senior fellow at the Atlantic Council and former Middle East and central Asia director at the International Monetary Fund.

While there has been some extraction of gold, copper and iron, exploiting lithium and rare earth minerals requires much greater investment and technical know-how, as well as time. The IEA estimates that it takes 16 years on average from the discovery of a deposit for a mine to start production.

## An opportunity for China?

State-backed projects motivated in part by geopolitics could be a different story. China, the world leader in mining rare earths, said Monday that it has "maintained contact and communication with the Afghan Taliban."

"China, the next-door neighbor, is embarking on a very significant green energy development program," Schoonover said. "Lithium and the rare earths are so far irreplaceable because of their density and physical properties. Those minerals factor into their long-term plans."

Should China step in, Schoonover said there would be concerns about the sustainability of mining projects given China's track record. "When mining isn't done carefully it can be ecologically devastating, which harms certain segments of the population without a lot of voice," he said. Beijing could be skeptical of partnering on ventures with the Taliban given ongoing instability, however, and may focus on other regions. Khan pointed out that China has been burned before, having previously tried to invest in a copper project that later stalled.

"I believe they will prioritize other emerging/frontier geographies well before Taliban-led Afghanistan," said RK Equity partner Howard Klein, who advises investors on lithium.



# Movement for Black Lives: Feds targeted BLM protesters

By **KAT STAFFORD** yesterday



The federal government deliberately targeted Black Lives Matter protesters via heavy-handed criminal prosecutions in an attempt to disrupt and discourage the global movement that swept the nation last summer in the wake of the Minneapolis police killing of George Floyd, according to a new report released Wednesday by The Movement for Black Lives.

Movement leaders and experts said the prosecution of protesters over the past year continues a century-long practice by the federal government, rooted in structural racism, to suppress Black social movements via the use of surveillance tactics and other mechanisms.

“The empirical data and findings in this report largely corroborate what Black organizers have long known intellectually, intuitively, and from lived experience about the federal government’s disparate policing and prosecution of racial justice protests and related activity,” the report stated.

The report, which was first shared with The Associated Press, argues that as the uprisings in the summer of 2020 increased, so did police presence, the deployment of federal agents and prosecution of protesters.

Titled “Struggle For Power: The Ongoing Persecution of Black Movement By The U.S. Government,” the report details how policing has been used historically as a major tool to deter Black people from engaging in their right to protest and weaken efforts to draw attention to issues impacting Black Americans. It also drew a comparison to how the government used Counterintelligence Program techniques to “disrupt the work of the Black Panther Party and other organizations fighting for Black liberation.”

“We want to really show how the U.S. government has continued to persecute the Black movement by surveillance, by criminalizing protests, and by using the criminal legal system to prevent people from protesting and punishing them for being engaged in protests by attempting to curtail their First Amendment rights,” said Amara Enyia, The Movement for Black Lives’ policy research coordinator.

“It is undeniable that racism plays a role,” Enyia said. “It is structurally built into the fabric of this country and its institutions, which is why it’s been so difficult to eradicate. It’s based on institutions that were designed around racism and around the devaluing of Black people and the devaluing of Black lives.”

Makia Green, a liberation organizer and co-conductor of the Washington D.C.-based group Harriet’s Wildest Dreams, fully supports the report’s findings and calls for action. Green believes President Joe Biden needs to fulfill his campaign pledges of supporting Black Americans and addressing the root causes of white supremacy, by pushing for amnesty for protesters. Green said Congress also needs to support legislation to overhaul the criminal justice system.

“Regardless of how we are often painted, activists are people who have the audacity to believe that we can live in a better world, where people are safe, where people are not afraid of being murdered by the police,” Green said. “There are attempts to stifle our movement but it is truly a reflection to our supporters, to our allies, and to the folks who showed up in the streets last year, of how beautiful and powerful this movement is.”



**Kat Stafford** ✓

@kat\_stafford

@AP national investigative race writer, global investigations correspondent • @UMKnightWallace Fellow '22 • @IRE\_NICAR board VP • @NABJ Print Task Force

✉ Kstafford@ap.org 🔗 katreasestafford.com 📅 Joined November 2008

2,106 Following 23.2K Followers



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shunry%C5%AB\\_Suzuki](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shunry%C5%AB_Suzuki)

On August 26, 1926, So-on gave Dharma transmission to Suzuki. He was 22. Shunryu's father also retired as abbot at Shogan-ji this same year, and moved the family onto the grounds of Zoun-in where he served as inkyo (retired abbot).

In 1932 So-on came to Sōji-ji to visit with Shunryu and, after hearing of Suzuki's contentment at the temple, advised him to leave it. In April of that year Suzuki left Sōji-ji with some regret and moved back into Zoun-in, living with his family there. In May he visited with Ian Kishizawa from Eihei-ji and, with So-on's blessing, asked to continue studies under him. He went to Gyokuden-in for his instruction, where Kishizawa trained him hard in zazen and conducted personal interviews with him.

Sometime during this period Suzuki married a woman who contracted tuberculosis. The date and name of the woman is unknown, but the marriage was soon annulled. She went back to live with her family while he focused on his duties at Zoun-in.

[https://books.google.com/books/about/Crooked\\_Cucumber.html](https://books.google.com/books/about/Crooked_Cucumber.html)

FAMILY AND DEATH • 143 144 • CROOKED CUCUMBER

In town, Shunryu was stopped by a merchant **who** had heard rumors flying. He raced back on his bicycle to Rinso-in to find a police car in the driveway. Then he saw his wife, groaned loudly, and knelt down before her.

Soon he and Obaa-san were in a police car following the ambulance to the hospital. Otsubo had struck **Chie** seven times in the face and head with the hatchet. There was nothing the doctors could do, and gradually her vital signs faded. Shunryu and Obaa-san were with **Chie** when she died at eight that evening.

A grieving and shattered Shunryu returned home and gathered his numb children together in the family room. He spoke as he had never spoken to them before, with humility, softness, and overflowing sadness. He told them that their mother was dead, that she had died at the hands of Otsubo. Then he said, "Please do not hate this man **who** has **killed** your mother. Rather you should hate me, because I didn't listen to her or to Obaa-san or to you when you all warned me about him." And he added, "From now on let us be together."

He continued to confess responsibility for his wife's death to everyone he spoke to. "It was my fault," he said to Amano, his godfather and confidant. "I was too stubborn. I wouldn't bend. I was so wrong."

Suetsune-san arrived at Rinso-in to pay his respects. He started crying as soon as he saw his teacher. "She took such good care of me when I lived here. She fed me when food was scarce and washed my clothes when there was so much to do." Shunryu nodded, in tears. "It was my fault. I asked her to do what she could not do; I made her try to do the impossible."

Obaa-san silently acknowledged Shunryu's confessions and sincere apologies. She did not alter her respectful way of relating to him. Her sadness was great, but she had a strong inner core and would endure this tragedy for the sake of the family. Her first child had drowned in a river when still small, a son had died as a soldier in the war, and now **Chie**, the last, had been murdered at the age of thirty-nine by a monk. Her strength flowed out to the whole family

as Kinu Obaa-san stepped with composure into the position of nurturer of the temple's interior, encouraging Shunryu to continue his outside duties. To dwell on her daughter's death in bitterness was not her way and would dishonor her daughter's life.

Hoitsu had taken to heart his father's admonition not to hate Otsubo. Father is right, he thought. But neither could he hate his father. Hoitsu rather saw the tragedy as the family's fate, something beyond his understanding.

His older sister, Yasuko, did not adjust with such philosophical detachment. At first she had been too confused to speak or to think. When she finally realized what had happened, she saw her mother's murder as her father's fault. The fact that he took the blame did not bring her mother back, and she could not forgive him. He had become warmer, but when she had a bad dream and called out for her mother, he scolded her harshly, with the same tough attitude he had always shown. He was making an effort, but Obaa-san was the one **who** could come closest to filling the vacuum created by Chie's death. Yasuko's position as the oldest child was now all the more important. She determined to be strong for her younger brothers and sister. She cried least of all.

Little Otohiro didn't think about blame or cause—he just wanted his mother, and he wept and clung to Obaa-san. Omi, the third child, the most vulnerable and dreamy, became even more quiet and withdrew into herself.

In an outpouring of sympathy, people came to the temple to console the family and to thank them for Chie's good deeds. For years they would continue to remind the children of how much their mother was loved in the community, how much she had contributed, and how much she would be missed. She had always kept food in the basket of her bicycle to hand out to the hungry; she had served her husband and guests in sickness as in health. Her life had been a full and useful one.

Otsubo was tried for the murder of **Chie Suzuki**, acquitted by reason of insanity, and sent to a mental institution.

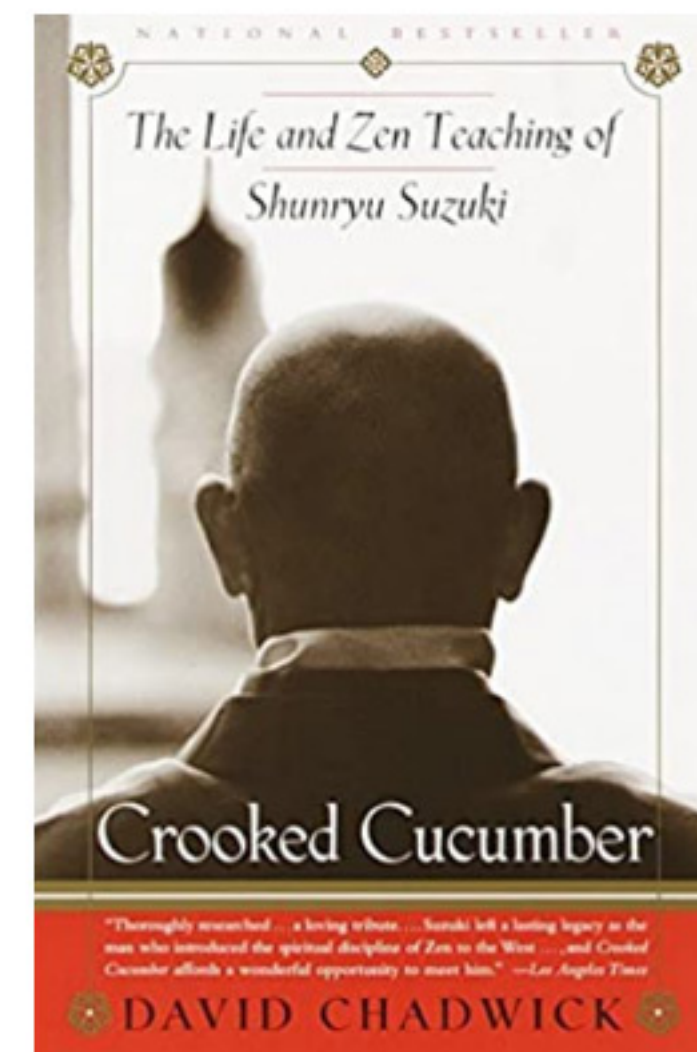
## Chie Shunryu Suzuki Mitsu

<https://www.lionsroar.com/the-place-where-your-heart-is-kept/>

After the war, the schools of Japan were in terrible shape, most of them closed, their facilities destroyed. Civic leaders everywhere rushed to take care of this problem as fast as they could. In Yaizu, Shunryu Suzuki was keen to reopen the historically important kindergarten attached to Rinso-in. He had been told of Mitsu by a mutual friend and was determined to hire her to run the school, though she insisted she would not leave Shizuoka, and that, in any case, how could a Christian woman run a Buddhist school? But Shunryu was extremely persistent. He kept reappearing in Shizuoka again and again to ask Mitsu to simply come visit the school. Finally she agreed. One visit was enough to convince her to take the job. As for the Christian problem? "Well, at least you have some religion," he told her.

Shunryu visited the school daily, leading the children in chanting and Buddhist lessons. He and Mitsu became close colleagues and friends—two strong, opinionated, and charismatic people, with lively senses of humor. Then tragedy befell the Suzuki family: Shunryu's wife was killed by a mentally ill priest whom he'd allowed to stay at the temple during one of his absences. He was left with three young children. He needed a wife. The Rinso-in community (including Shunryu's mother-in-law) quickly agreed that Mitsu was the only possible choice.

The two were married in the fall of 1958. He was fifty-four, she was forty-four.





# COVID Booster Shots Are Coming. Here's What You Need To Know

August 19, 2021 - 5:00 AM ET



PIEN HUANG



SYDNEY LUPKIN



CARMEL WROTH



Federal health officials are planning ahead to give booster shots in the fall to all U.S. adults, starting with those who were vaccinated early on, like the elderly, health care workers and first responders.

## Why are federal officials moving on boosters now if the two-dose vaccines are still protective against hospitalization and death?

Federal officials say they are trying to "stay one step ahead of the virus" by getting started in what will be a months-long endeavor to bolster Americans' immunity.

"It has been an almost reproducible phenomenon with COVID-19. If you wait for something bad to happen before you respond to it, you find yourselves considerably behind," said Fauci. "Better stay ahead of it than chasing after it."

[Dr. Robert Wachter](#), a professor of medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, notes that there's logic to federal officials trying to act early to prevent a worsening of the pandemic.

## Lambda COVID Variant In California: 5 Things To Know

<https://www.kpbs.org/news/2021/aug/13/lambda-covid-variant-california-5-things-know/>

Friday, August 13, 2021

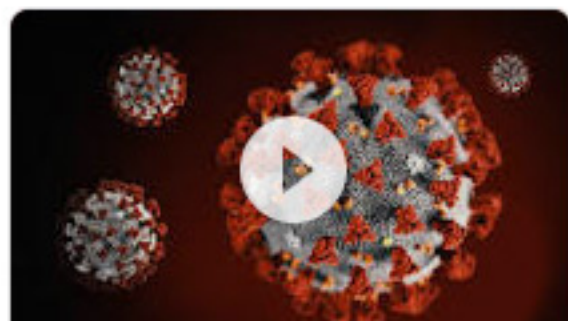
A new COVID-19 variant — named lambda — has arrived in California.

The emerging lambda variant has been popping up in the news as it spreads rapidly throughout South America. In California, at least 152 cases have been reported, the first as early as September 2020, according to state public health officials. Experts say lambda could be more infectious and resistant to vaccines than the original SARS-CoV-2 virus. **But there is no evidence, at least so far, that it's as infectious as the delta variant that now dominates California.**

So far the delta variant has definitively crowded out other variants nationwide. It now accounts for at least 86% of California's sequenced COVID-19 cases and more than 94% of U.S. cases.

"Delta's aggressive all over the world and lambda hasn't really taken off," Chin-Hong said. "At the end of the day, it's survival of the fittest."





WESH 2 ORLANDO

Report: Gulf Coast's beloved 'Redneck Riviera' now a virus hotspot

2 hours ago



ABC12

Gulf Coast's beloved 'Redneck Riviera' now a virus hotspot

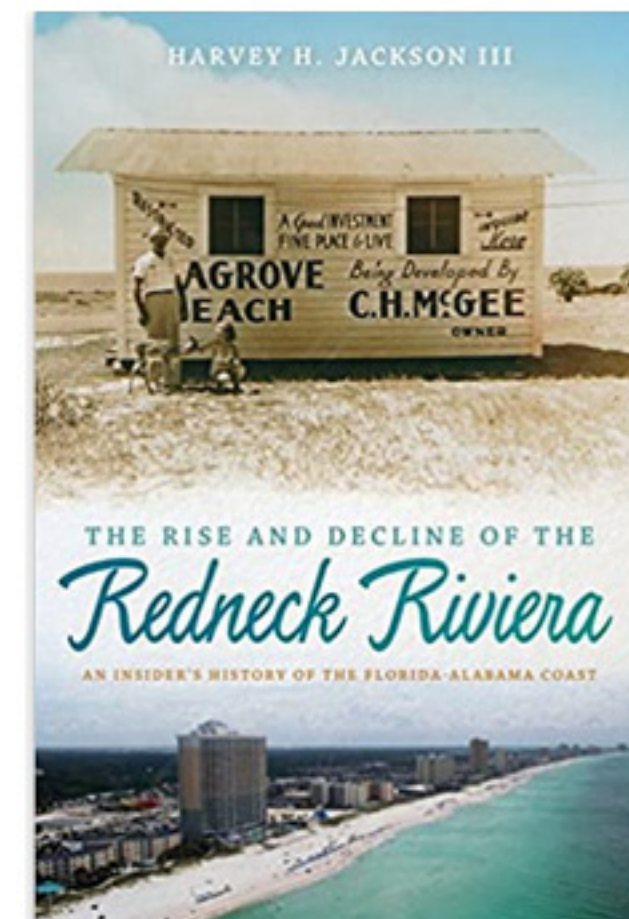
1 hour ago



Los Angeles Times

Gulf Coast's 'Redneck Riviera' now a coronavirus hot spot

2 hours ago



***“One of the first things it says all throughout the Bible is, ‘Do not be afraid.’”***

## Gulf Coast’s beloved ‘Redneck Riviera’ now a virus hotspot

By JAY REEVES today Thursday, August 19, 2021

GULF SHORES, Ala. (AP) — Tourists and servers alike dance atop tables and in the aisles at one restaurant on the “Redneck Riviera,” a beloved stretch of towns along the northern Gulf Coast where beaches, bars and stores are packed. Yet just a few miles away, a hospital is running out of critical care beds, its rooms full of unvaccinated people fighting for their lives.

Hospital executives joined together in Pensacola last week to plead for more vaccinations while also knocking down false rumors about vaccines and masks. In an area dominated by Christian conservatives, Mayor Grover C. Robinson IV made a direct appeal for churchgoers to get shots.

“Two of our hospitals are Christian affiliated,” he said. “One of the first things it says all throughout the Bible is, ‘Do not be afraid.’”

## The Rise and Decline of the Redneck Riviera: An Insider's History of the Florida-Alabama Coast Paperback – March 1, 2013

by Harvey H. Jackson III (Author)

*The Rise and Decline of the Redneck Riviera* traces the development of the Florida-Alabama coast as a tourist destination from the late 1920s and early 1930s, when it was sparsely populated with “small fishing villages,” through to the tragic and devastating BP/Deepwater Horizon oil spill of 2010.

Harvey H. Jackson III focuses on the stretch of coast from Mobile Bay and Gulf Shores, Alabama, east to Panama City, Florida—an area known as the “Redneck Riviera.” Jackson explores the rise of this area as a vacation destination for the lower South’s middle- and working-class families following World War II, the building boom of the 1950s and 1960s, and the emergence of the Spring Break “season.” From the late sixties through 1979, severe hurricanes destroyed many small motels, cafes, bars, and early cottages that gave the small beach towns their essential character. A second building boom ensued in the 1980s dominated by high-rise condominiums and large resort hotels. Jackson traces the tensions surrounding the gentrification of the late 1980s and 1990s and the collapse of the housing market in 2008. While his major focus is on the social, cultural, and economic development, he also documents the environmental and financial impacts of natural disasters and the politics of beach access and dune and sea turtle protection.

*The Rise and Decline of the Redneck Riviera* is the culmination of sixteen years of research drawn from local newspapers, interviews, documentaries, community histories, and several scholarly studies that have addressed parts of this region’s history. From his 1950s-built family vacation cottage in Seagrove Beach, Florida, and on frequent trips to the Alabama coast, Jackson witnessed the changes that have come to the area and has recorded them in a personal, in-depth look at the history and culture of the coast.



#	Country, Other	New Cases
	World	+674,856
1	<a href="#">USA</a>	+147,094
2	<a href="#">UK</a>	+37,314
3	<a href="#">India</a>	+34,296
4	<a href="#">Brazil</a>	+33,887
5	<a href="#">Iran</a>	+28,833
6	<a href="#">Japan</a>	+25,155
7	<a href="#">Malaysia</a>	+23,564
8	<a href="#">Mexico</a>	+23,006
9	<a href="#">France</a>	+22,319
10	<a href="#">Russia</a>	+20,992
11	<a href="#">Indonesia</a>	+20,004
12	<a href="#">Turkey</a>	+19,918
13	<a href="#">Thailand</a>	+19,851
14	<a href="#">Philippines</a>	+17,231
15	<a href="#">South Africa</a>	+14,312
16	<a href="#">Spain</a>	+12,450
17	<a href="#">Vietnam</a>	+10,657
18	<a href="#">Cuba</a>	+9,764
19	<a href="#">Germany</a>	+8,942
20	<a href="#">Morocco</a>	+8,216

#	Country, Other	Total Cases
	World	211,485,747
1	<a href="#">USA</a>	38,384,240
2	<a href="#">India</a>	32,392,506
3	<a href="#">Brazil</a>	20,528,099
4	<a href="#">Russia</a>	6,705,523
5	<a href="#">France</a>	6,579,675
6	<a href="#">UK</a>	6,429,147
7	<a href="#">Turkey</a>	6,177,690
8	<a href="#">Argentina</a>	5,124,963
9	<a href="#">Colombia</a>	4,883,932
10	<a href="#">Spain</a>	4,770,453
11	<a href="#">Iran</a>	4,616,516
12	<a href="#">Italy</a>	4,471,225
13	<a href="#">Indonesia</a>	3,950,304
14	<a href="#">Germany</a>	3,863,451
15	<a href="#">Mexico</a>	3,175,211
16	<a href="#">Poland</a>	2,886,291
17	<a href="#">South Africa</a>	2,666,964
18	<a href="#">Ukraine</a>	2,271,826
19	<a href="#">Peru</a>	2,138,666
20	<a href="#">Netherlands</a>	1,913,908

#	Country, Other	Deaths/ 1M pop
1	<a href="#">Peru</a>	5,903
2	<a href="#">Hungary</a>	3,119
3	<a href="#">Bosnia and Herzegovina</a>	2,984
4	<a href="#">Gibraltar</a>	2,850
5	<a href="#">Czechia</a>	2,831
6	<a href="#">North Macedonia</a>	2,703
7	<a href="#">Bulgaria</a>	2,679
8	<a href="#">Brazil</a>	2,677
9	<a href="#">Montenegro</a>	2,647
10	<a href="#">San Marino</a>	2,646
11	<a href="#">Argentina</a>	2,410
12	<a href="#">Colombia</a>	2,408
13	<a href="#">Slovakia</a>	2,297
14	<a href="#">Belgium</a>	2,173
15	<a href="#">Paraguay</a>	2,144
16	<a href="#">Slovenia</a>	2,134
17	<a href="#">Italy</a>	2,132
18	<a href="#">Croatia</a>	2,035
19	<a href="#">Poland</a>	1,992
20	<a href="#">USA</a>	1,934





The Dreamtime is a commonly used term **for describing important features of Aboriginal spiritual beliefs and existence**. It is not generally well understood by non-indigenous people. Aboriginals believe that the Dreamtime was way back, at the very beginning. The land and the people were created by the Spirits.

<https://www.aboriginal-art-australia.com> > aboriginal-drea...

### What is Aboriginal Dreamtime?

What is the Dreamtime and why is it important?

Dreamtime or Dreaming for Australian Aboriginal people represents **the time when the Ancestral Spirits progressed over the land and created life and important physical geographic formations and sites**. ... The Dreaming explains the origin of the universe and workings of nature and humanity.



<https://www.aboriginal-art-australia.com> > understanding-...

### Understanding Aboriginal Dreaming and the Dreamtime

**The Rainbow Serpent** is one of the most famous Aboriginal creation stories.



There are several types of and methods used in making Aboriginal art, including **rock painting, dot painting, rock engravings, bark painting, carvings, sculptures, and weaving and string art**. Australian Aboriginal art is the oldest unbroken tradition of art in the world.

These stories are told to children to teach **them about their ancestors, the spirit world and their place in that world**. ... Students to illustrate a Dreamtime story through the use of Aboriginal art symbols.



## The Dreaming

The Dreaming, also referred to as Dreamtime, is a term devised by early anthropologists to refer to a religio-cultural worldview attributed to Australian Aboriginal beliefs. [Wikipedia](#)

The Dreamtime came into being as **a word to describe the Aboriginal Creation mythology**, and was first used in the 1890s. It was developed from Aranda culture by a white man who was based in Alice Springs and had a very good working knowledge of the local Aboriginal languages.



This is because in the Dreaming an individual's entire ancestry exists as one, **culminating in the idea that all worldly knowledge is accumulated through one's ancestors**. Many Aboriginal Australians also refer to the world-creation time as "Dreamtime".



## Google is shutting down its Android Auto mobile app in favor of Google Assistant

The Verge · 2 hours ago

- **Android Auto for phones drives off into the sunset, Google Assistant takes its parking spot**

Chrome Unboxed · 19 hours ago

[View Full Coverage](#)



**Google Assistant** is an [artificial intelligence](#)–powered<sup>[1]</sup> [virtual assistant](#) developed by [Google](#) that is primarily available on [mobile](#) and [smart home](#) devices. Unlike the company's previous virtual assistant, [Google Now](#), the Google Assistant can engage in two-way conversations.

Assistant initially debuted in May 2016 as part of Google's messaging app [Allo](#), and its voice-activated speaker [Google Home](#). After a period of exclusivity on the [Pixel](#) and [Pixel XL](#) smartphones, it began to be deployed on other [Android](#) devices in February 2017, including third-party smartphones and [Android Wear](#) (now [Wear OS](#)), and was released as a standalone app on the [iOS](#) operating system in May 2017. Alongside the announcement of a [software development kit](#) in April 2017, the Assistant has been further extended to support a large variety of devices, including cars and third-party smart home appliances. The functionality of the Assistant can also be enhanced by third-party developers.

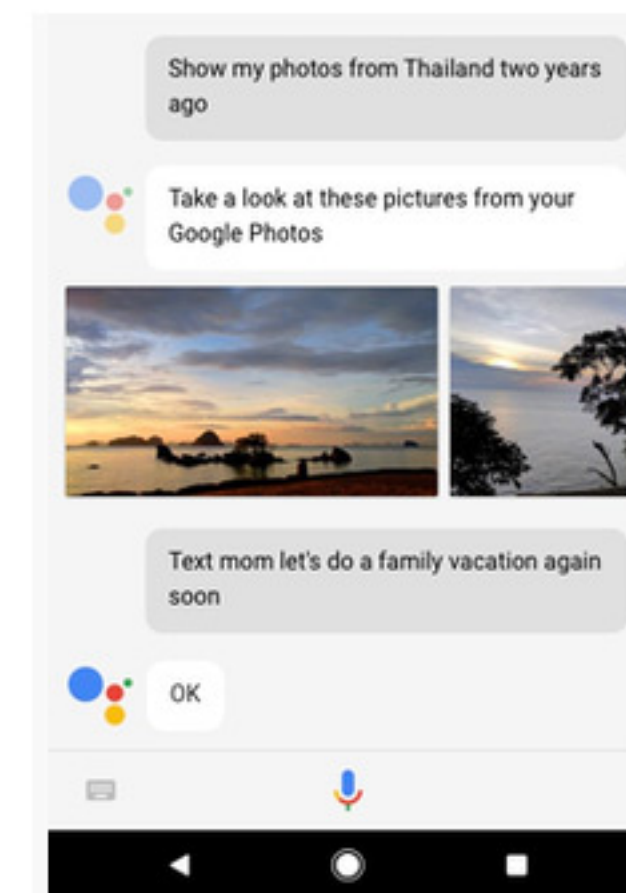
Users primarily interact with the Google Assistant through natural voice, though keyboard input is also supported. In the same nature and manner as [Google Now](#), the Assistant is able to search the Internet, schedule events and alarms, adjust hardware settings on the user's device, and show information from the user's Google account. Google has also announced that the Assistant will be able to identify objects and gather visual information through the device's camera, and support purchasing products and sending money.

At [CES 2018](#), the first Assistant-powered smart displays ([smart speakers](#) with video screens) were announced, with the first one being released in July 2018.<sup>[2]</sup> In 2020, Google Assistant is already available on more than 1 billion devices.<sup>[3]</sup> Google Assistant is available in more than 90 countries and in over 30 languages,<sup>[4]</sup> and is used by more than 500 million users monthly.<sup>[5]</sup>

## Criticism [ edit ]

In July 2019 Belgian public broadcaster [VRT NWS](#) published an article revealing that third-party contractors paid to transcribe audio clips collected by Google Assistant listened to sensitive information about users. Sensitive data collected from Google Home devices and Android phones included names, addresses, and other private conversations such as business calls or bedroom conversations.<sup>[101]</sup> From more than 1000 recordings analyzed, 153 were recorded without 'Okay Google' command. Google officially acknowledged that 0.2% of recordings are being listened to by language experts to improve Google's services.<sup>[102]</sup> On August 1, 2019, Germany's Hamburg Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information has initiated an administrative procedure to prohibit Google from carrying out corresponding evaluations by employees or third parties for the period of three months to provisionally protect the rights of privacy of data subjects for the time being, citing [GDPR](#).<sup>[103]</sup> A Google spokesperson stated that Google paused "language reviews" in all European countries while it investigated recent media leaks.<sup>[104]</sup>

- [Amazon Alexa](#)
- [Bixby](#)
- [Cortana](#)
- [Home automation \(Smart Home\)](#)
- [Internet of things \(IoT\)](#)
- [Mycroft \(software\)](#)
- [Siri](#)
- [Smart devices](#)
- [Speech recognition](#)
- [Voice command device](#)



Google Assistant on the [Pixel](#) smartphone

### Google Assistant

<b>Developer(s)</b>	<a href="#">Google</a>
<b>Initial release</b>	May 18, 2016; 5 years ago
<b>Written in</b>	<a href="#">C++</a>
<b>Operating system</b>	<a href="#">Android</a> , <a href="#">Chrome OS</a> , <a href="#">iOS</a> , <a href="#">iPadOS</a> , <a href="#">KaiOS</a> , <a href="#">Linux</a>
<b>Platform</b>	<a href="#">Android</a> <a href="#">Google Nest</a> <a href="#">Wear OS</a> <a href="#">Android TV</a> <a href="#">Chrome OS</a> <a href="#">Smart Speakers</a> <a href="#">Headphones</a> <a href="#">Smart Displays</a> <a href="#">Google Allo</a> <a href="#">iOS</a> <a href="#">iPadOS</a> <a href="#">Ubuntu</a> <a href="#">Raspberry Pi</a>
<b>Predecessor</b>	<a href="#">Google Now</a>
<b>Type</b>	<a href="#">Virtual assistant</a>
<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://assistant.google.com">assistant.google.com</a> <sup>[i]</sup>



## Q&A: How 'Long COVID' Is Impacting San Diegans

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

By **Maureen Cavanaugh, Megan Burke**



*Just like the pandemic itself, the COVID-19 virus can have long-term consequences. An estimated 10% of people who've been sickened by the virus have developed what's being called "long COVID," an array of symptoms that linger, sometimes months after their initial illness. A new clinic has been established by UC San Diego to treat these COVID-19 long haulers, and to research how the virus can cause these long-term effects.*

Dr. Lucy Horton, founder of UC San Diego Health's post-acute COVID-19 telemedicine clinic, joined Midday Edition on Tuesday to talk about the impacts long-term COVID-19 is having in San Diego. The interview below has been lightly edited for clarity.

Q: I said about 10% of COVID-19 patients develop lingering symptoms. Is that right? I've heard the percentage could be higher.

A: Great question. So there's not a lot of great data on it. Reports have estimated between 10 to 30%. But I suspect that we're really only seeing the tip of the iceberg here. There's probably a lot more patients that are suffering from "long COVID" who just haven't presented to care yet or aren't aware that their symptoms are those of "long COVID-19."

Q: What are the most common complaints and complications that you're seeing in people who have recovered from COVID-19 but have these long term complications?

A: Well, the symptoms vary greatly among patients and they really reach the whole spectrum in terms of different organ systems involved. Some of the most common symptoms we see are persistent fatigue, reduced exercise tolerance, post-exertional malaise, feeling really exhausted and crummy after minimal activity. There are neurologic components like brain fog, headaches, difficulty with memory or concentrating. We see some cardiovascular effects. So, issues with rapid heart rate, difficulty controlling the blood pressure. There are some lingering respiratory symptoms in some patients, for example, chronic cough, development of asthma, difficulty breathing. Some patients may have chronic nausea, diarrhea. You know, there's really quite a range of symptoms. I think the ones that really are the most prominent that the majority of patients experience is some form of fatigue and muscle ache and the sensation of brain fog.

Q: Dr. Horton, are the people who suffer from "long COVID" the same high risk individuals for serious COVID-19 illness? And I'm talking about people over 65 with underlying conditions.

A: So there are some of those patients, those high-risk patients who may have been hospitalized, who might have even been in the intensive care unit, who have persistent symptoms, but the majority of the patients that we're seeing with more of the classic "long COVID" actually had mild-to-moderate disease. So most of them were never hospitalized, never needed to go to the emergency room. A lot of them come from younger age groups. So people in their 20s to 50s who didn't really have a lot of underlying conditions, we definitely do not see as many who have those kind of high-risk conditions like diabetes, obesity, immunocompromise. I will note that some of those patients who had the more severe disease were high risk. They may continue to have symptoms more related to the severity of their initial illness and the fact that they were in the ICU. And so there is a little bit of an overlap in the two conditions at times.

Q: Does getting a COVID-19 vaccine help resolve "long COVID" symptoms?

A: I have seen anecdotal reports from across the country of patients who report improvement or even complete resolution of their symptoms after getting a vaccine. We just don't have a lot of experience here since very few of our "long COVID" patients have been vaccinated yet. But if it does in fact provide some therapeutic benefit to them, I think that would be wonderful. And, you know, just another great reason to get vaccinated.

Q: Do we know how long "long COVID" actually is?

A: We don't. So we've only known this virus for about 15 months now. So, I can tell you that some people have symptoms past a year, but we really don't know if it's going to last a lot longer. I suspect based on what we know about other chronic conditions or chronic sequelae of viral infections, that there is going to be a small subset that may have symptoms their entire life. There will also be a good number who hopefully would recover within one to three years.

### UC San Diego Post-COVID Care

<https://health.ucsd.edu/specialties/infectious-disease/Pages/post-covid-care.aspx>

If you have long-term chronic problems from COVID-19, UC San Diego Health's post-acute COVID-19 telemedicine clinic can help you recover — safely and conveniently with help from the region's most experienced COVID-19 doctors.

### In-Depth: New UCSD research aims to help COVID-19 'long haulers'

<https://www.10news.com/news/coronavirus/new-ucsd-research-aims-to-help-covid-19-long-haulers>

Jared Aarons, Mar 08, 2021



# Rattlesnake Rattles Use Acoustic Trick To Fool Human Ears

By CELL PRESS AUGUST 19, 2021



Rattlesnakes increase their rattling rate as potential threats approach, and this abrupt switch to a high-frequency mode makes listeners, including humans, think they're closer than they actually are, researchers report August 19<sup>th</sup> in the journal *Current Biology*.

“Our data show that the acoustic display of rattlesnakes, which has been interpreted for decades as a simple acoustic warning signal about the presence of the snake, is in fact a far more intricate interspecies communication signal,” says senior author Boris Chagnaud at Karl-Franzens-University Graz. “The sudden switch to the high-frequency mode acts as a smart signal fooling the listener about its actual distance to the sound source. The misinterpretation of distance by the listener thereby creates a distance safety margin.”

Rattlesnakes vigorously shake their tails to warn other animals of their presence. Past studies have shown that rattling varies in frequency, but little is known about the behavioral relevance of this phenomenon or what message it sends to listeners. A clue to this mystery came during a visit to an animal facility, where Chagnaud noticed that rattling increased in frequency when he approached rattlesnakes but decreased when he walked away.

Additional results showed that rattlesnakes adapt their rattling rate in response to the approach velocity of an object rather than its size. “In real life, rattlesnakes make use of additional vibrational and infrared signals to detect approaching mammals, so we would expect the rattling responses to be even more robust,” Chagnaud says.

To test how this change in rattling rate is perceived by others, the researchers designed a virtual reality environment in which 11 participants were moved through a grassland toward a hidden snake. Its rattling rate increased as the humans approached and suddenly jumped to 70 Hz at a virtual distance of 4 meters. The listeners were asked to indicate when the sound source appeared to be 1 meter away. The sudden increase in rattling frequency caused the participants to underestimate their distance to the virtual snake.

“Snakes do not just rattle to advertise their presence, but they evolved an innovative solution: a sonic distance warning device similar to the one included in cars while driving backwards,” Chagnaud says. “Evolution is a random process, and what we might interpret from today’s perspective as elegant design is in fact the outcome of thousands of trials of snakes encountering large mammals. The snake rattling co-evolved with mammalian auditory perception by trial and error, leaving those snakes that were best able to avoid being stepped on.”

Reference: “Frequency modulation of rattlesnake acoustic display affects acoustic distance perception in humans” by Michael Forsthofer, Michael Schutte, Harald Luksch, Tobias Kohl, Lutz Wiegrebe and Boris P. Chagnaud, 19 August 2021, *Current Biology*.



U.S. NEWS

## Judge rules California ride-hailing law unconstitutional

It exempts Uber and others from a law requiring drivers to be classified as employees eligible for benefits and job protections.



— A rideshare driver holds up a sign supporting a no vote on Prop 22 in Oakland, Calif., on Oct. 9, 2020. Josh Edelson / AFP via Getty Images file

Aug. 20, 2021, 8:10 PM PDT

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A judge Friday struck down a California ballot measure that exempted Uber and other app-based ride-hailing and delivery services from a state law requiring drivers to be classified as employees eligible for benefits and job protections.

Alameda County Superior Court Judge Frank Roesch ruled that Proposition 22 was unconstitutional.

Voters approved the measure in November after Uber, Lyft and other services spent \$200 million in its favor, making it the most expensive ballot measure in state history.

Uber said it planned to appeal, setting up a fight that could likely end up in the California Supreme Court.

“This ruling ignores the will of the overwhelming majority of California voters and defies both logic and the law,” company spokesman Noah Edwardsen said. “You don’t have to take our word for it: California’s attorney general strongly defended Proposition 22’s constitutionality in this very case.” He said the measure will remain in force pending the appeal.

The judge sided with three drivers and the Service Employees International Union in a lawsuit that argued the measure improperly removed the state Legislature’s ability to grant workers the right to access to the state workers’ compensation program.

“For two years, drivers have been saying that democracy cannot be bought. And today’s decision shows they were right,” said Bob Schoonover, president of the SEIU California State Council.

Proposition 22 shielded app-based ride-hailing and delivery companies from a labor law that required such services to treat drivers as employees and not independent contractors, who don’t have to receive benefits such as paid sick leave or unemployment insurance.

Uber and Lyft threatened to leave the state if voters rejected the measure. Labor spent about \$20 million to challenge the proposition.

The state Supreme Court initially declined to hear the case in February — mainly on procedural grounds — but left open the possibility of a lower court challenge.





U.S. NEWS

# Judge rules California ride-hailing law unconstitutional

It exempts Uber and others from a law requiring drivers to be classified as employees eligible for benefits and job protections.



— A rideshare driver holds up a sign supporting a no vote on Prop 22 in Oakland, Calif., on Oct. 9, 2020. Josh Edelson / AFP via Getty Images file

Aug. 20, 2021, 8:10 PM PDT

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A judge Friday struck down a California ballot measure that exempted Uber and other app-based ride-hailing and delivery services from a state law requiring drivers to be classified as employees eligible for benefits and job protections.

Alameda County Superior Court Judge Frank Roesch ruled that Proposition 22 was unconstitutional.

Voters approved the measure in November after Uber, Lyft and other services spent \$200 million in its favor, making it the most expensive ballot measure in state history.

Uber said it planned to appeal, setting up a fight that could likely end up in the California Supreme Court.

To  Dan Landrum

From: Uber <noreply@uber.com>

Sent: Saturday, August 21, 2021, 09:41:32 AM PDT

Subject: Prop 22 remains in effect

## Uber

Hello,

Many of you will have read the news that a county judge ruled that Prop 22 is unconstitutional. I wanted you to hear from me that we believe this decision is both wrong and legally flawed. In fact, we don't believe there's ever been a successful case overturning a ballot initiative in this way.

We know this creates uncertainty for you, so I wanted to update you on what will happen next: we will appeal this ruling, and we expect to win. In the meantime, **nothing has changed**. Prop 22 remains in effect, **including all of the protections and benefits** it provides independent workers like you, like guaranteed minimum earnings, injury protection, and more. It's also important to say that this ruling **does not reclassify drivers and delivery people as employees—preserving the flexibility and independence you have repeatedly told us you value**.

Thank you for driving and delivering with Uber. We will keep you updated as this process unfolds.

Andrew Macdonald  
Head of Ridesharing Operations



## Court rules California gig worker initiative is unconstitutional

PUBLISHED FRI, AUG 20 2021-10:24 PM EDT    UPDATED FRI, AUG 20 2021-11:24 PM EDT

REUTERS

### KEY POINTS

- Gig economy companies including Uber, Lyft, Doordash and Instacart were pushing to keep drivers' independent contractor status, albeit with additional benefits.
- The ballot measure was meant to cement app-based food delivery and ride-hail drivers' status as independent contractors, not employees.



Close-up of vertical sign with logos for ride-hailing companies Uber and Lyft.

Smith Collection | Gado | Getty Images

A California judge on Friday ruled that [a 2020 ballot measure that exempted ride-share and food delivery drivers from a state labor law](#) is unconstitutional as it infringed on the legislature's power to set standards at the workplace.

Proposition 22 is unconstitutional as "it limits the power of a future Legislature to define app-based drivers as workers subject to workers' compensation law", which makes the entire ballot measure "unenforceable", Alameda County Superior Court Judge Frank Roesch wrote in the ruling.

Gig economy companies including [Uber](#), [Lyft](#), Doordash and Instacart were pushing to keep drivers' independent contractor status, albeit with additional benefits.

The ballot measure was meant to cement app-based food delivery and ride-hail drivers' status as independent contractors, not employees.

Known as Proposition 22, it marked the culmination of years of legal and legislative wrangling over a business model that has introduced millions of people to the convenience of ordering food or a ride with the push of a button.



# Highly Vaccinated Israel Is Seeing A Dramatic Surge In New COVID Cases. Here's Why

August 20, 2021 · 11:01 AM ET  
Heard on *All Things Considered*



Israel was the first country on Earth to fully vaccinate a majority of its citizens against COVID-19. Now it has one of the world's highest daily infection rates — an average of nearly 7,500 confirmed cases a day, double what it was two weeks ago. Nearly one in every 150 people in Israel today has the virus.

What happened, and what can be learned about the vaccine's impact on a highly vaccinated country? Here are six lessons learned — and one looming question for the future of the pandemic.

## 1. Immunity from the vaccine dips over time.

Israel had fully vaccinated slightly over half its population by March 25. Infections waned, venues reopened to the vaccinated and the prime minister told Israelis to go out and have fun. By June, all restrictions, including indoor masking, were abolished. But Israel paid a price for the early rollout. Health officials, and then Pfizer, said their data showed a dip in the vaccine's protection around six months after receiving the second shot.

## 2. The delta variant broke through the vaccine's waning protection.

It was a perfect storm: The vaccine's waning protection came around the same time the more infectious delta variant arrived in Israel this summer. Delta accounts for nearly all infections in Israel today.

## 3. If you get infected, being vaccinated helps.

The good news is that among Israel's serious infections on Thursday of this week, according to Health Ministry data, the rate of serious cases among unvaccinated people over age 60 (178.7 per 100,000) was nine times more than the rate among fully vaccinated people of the same age category, and the rate of serious cases among unvaccinated people in the under-60 crowd (3.2 per 100,000) was a little more than double the rate among vaccinated people in that age bracket.

The bad news, doctors say, is that half of Israel's seriously ill patients who are currently hospitalized were fully vaccinated at least five months ago. Most of them are over 60 years old and have comorbidities. The seriously ill patients who are unvaccinated are mostly young, healthy people whose condition deteriorated quickly.

## 4. Israel's high vaccination rate isn't high enough.

The country jumped out ahead of all other countries on vaccines, and 78% of eligible Israelis over 12 years old are vaccinated. But Israel has a young population, with many under the eligible age for vaccination, and about 1.1 million eligible Israelis, largely between the ages of 12 and 20, have declined to take even one dose of the vaccine. That means only 58% of Israel's total citizenry is fully vaccinated. Experts say that's not nearly high enough.

## 5. Vaccinations are key, but they are not enough.

Israel is trying to slow the wave without resorting to a new lockdown, which Prime Minister Naftali Bennett says would take an economic toll and "destroy the future of the country." The country is placing caps on gatherings, increasing hospital staff and pleading for unvaccinated people to get immunized. As for the low rate of vaccination in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, "we don't have a shortage of vaccine. It is the hesitancy," said Randa Abu Rabe, a local World Health Organization official working in the Palestinian territories.

## 6. Booster shots offer more protection, if you are one of the lucky few to get them.

Israel is the first country to offer a third shot of the Pfizer vaccine in a nationwide booster campaign. Preliminary research in Israel suggests booster shots significantly increase protection against the coronavirus a week after a person receives the third dose.



## Demand For COVID Antibody Drugs Soars In Hard-Hit States

August 20, 2021 - 5:50 PM ET

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Regeneron monoclonal antibody drug treatment is in increased demand during the surge in illness driven by the coronavirus' delta variant.

People infected with COVID-19 were captured in a photo this week lying on the floor in pain while waiting for antibody infusions at a treatment site set up inside the library in Jacksonville, Fla.

The image has become a vivid illustration of the huge demand for the once-neglected COVID-19 drugs in the states hit hardest by a summer surge of infections being driven by the highly contagious delta variant.

"They were moaning and obviously in a lot of pain. They were miserable," said Louie Lopez, who shot the photograph as he waited for more than two hours to receive the treatment.

Antibody treatments remain one of a handful of therapies that can blunt the worst effects of COVID-19, and they are the only option available to people with mild-to-moderate cases who aren't yet in the hospital.

They have risen in demand in states seeing a spike in infections, including Florida, Louisiana and Texas, where hospitalizations among the unvaccinated are overwhelming the health care system.

White House officials reported recently that federal shipments of the drugs increased five-fold last month to nearly 110,000 doses, with the vast majority going to states with low vaccination rates.

The main drug in use is Regeneron's dual-antibody cocktail, which has been purchased in mass quantities by the U.S. government. It's the same drug former President Donald Trump received when he was hospitalized with COVID-19 last October. The drugs are laboratory-made versions of virus-blocking antibodies that help fight off infections. The treatments help the patient by supplying concentrated doses of one or two antibodies.

The federal government has been distributing monoclonal antibody drugs to the states since last winter but the treatments were underused due to lack of awareness from physicians, low interest among the public and the logistics of setting up areas to give them to patients via IV infusion. Also, persistent testing delays meant many people didn't even get their results for seven days or longer, and clinics were focused on the upcoming vaccines or managing the winter surge of cases. Since then, many cities have set up alternative locations to administer the drugs and offer vaccines. The treatments are free for most patients, largely because the federal government has been actively involved in securing and distributing them.

"There was less urgency at that time — the important thing was to get people vaccinated to crush the curve," said Dr. Arturo Casadevall of Johns Hopkins University. "But the delta variant has changed the equation."



*In this photo provided by Louie Lopez, sick people lie on the floor in a medical facility in Jacksonville, Fla., on Wednesday, Aug. 18, 2021. Lopez took the photo while waiting more than 2.5 hours to get antibody treatment at a facility run by the state. While he waited, he watched the room fill up with extremely sick patients. (Louie Lopez via AP)*



# In shift, Biden taps career diplomat, not politician, for ambassador to China

By Michael Martina

August 20, 2021 6:59 PM PDT Last Updated 10 hours ago



1/2

Nicholas Burns, U.S. Undersecretary for Political Affairs,

WASHINGTON, Aug 20 (Reuters) - President Joe Biden plans to nominate veteran U.S. diplomat Nicholas Burns to serve as U.S. ambassador to China, the White House said on Friday, signaling the administration may be looking for the envoy to play a more central role in the increasingly fractious relations between the two global rivals.

The choice of Burns, a retired career foreign service officer who served as under secretary of state between 2005 and 2008, marks a shift for the role of the ambassador to Beijing, the ranks of which over the past decade have been filled by former politicians, not seasoned diplomats.

*The White House on Friday also announced Biden's intent to nominate Rahm Emanuel, a former U.S. lawmaker who served as chief of staff to former President Barack Obama and as mayor of Chicago, to be ambassador to Japan, a U.S. ally increasingly at odds with Beijing.*

If confirmed by the Senate, Burns would head to China as the two countries' ties are at their lowest point in decades, and fill a post left vacant since October, after former President Donald Trump's envoy to China, Terry Branstad, stepped down.

The United States and China, the world's No. 1 and No. 2 economies, are at odds over issues across the board, including trade, technology, the coronavirus, Taiwan, and Chinese military activities in the disputed South China Sea, with each accusing the other of deliberately provocative behavior.

A new headache Burns would have to deal with is fallout from the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan and the chaotic U.S. evacuation from Kabul, which has raised questions about the Biden administration's ability to swiftly shift focus to the Indo-Pacific region and countering China. [read more](#)

China has not officially recognized the Taliban as Afghanistan's new rulers, but its foreign minister, Wang Yi, last month hosted Mullah Baradar, chief of the group's political office, and has said the world should guide and support the country as it transitions to a new government instead of putting more pressure on it. [read more](#)



## Parents get coached on how to escape mask and vaccine rules

By GILLIAN FLACCUS, JANIE HAR and SARA CLINE 2 hours ago



*Alsea School District Superintendent Marc Thielman reads over the language of a federal disability anti-discrimination law in his office on the school campus in this Aug. 20, 2021 photo in Alsea, Ore. Thielman says parents who oppose Oregon Gov. Kate Brown's statewide school mask policy can use a part of the law to get an accommodation that would allow their children to opt out of the mandate. The proposal is part of a flurry of actions taken by public officials and community leaders to try to make it easier for people to skirt renewed mask and vaccine mandates aimed at controlling a surge of COVID-19 nationwide.*

ALSEA, Ore. (AP) — An Oregon school superintendent is telling parents they can get their children out of wearing masks by citing federal disability law. A pastor at a California megachurch is offering religious exemptions for anyone morally conflicted over vaccine requirements.

And Louisiana's attorney general has posted sample letters on his office's Facebook page for those seeking to get around the governor's mask rules. Across the U.S., religious figures, doctors, public officials and other community leaders are trying to help people circumvent COVID-19 precautions.

**While proponents of these workarounds say they are looking out for children's health and parents' rights, others say such stratagems are dishonest and irresponsible and could undermine efforts to beat back the highly contagious delta variant.**

Mask and vaccine requirements vary from state to state but often allow exemptions for certain medical conditions or religious or philosophical objections.

In Oregon, Superintendent Marc Thielman of the rural Alsea School District told parents they can sidestep the governor's school mask requirement by applying for an accommodation for their children under federal disabilities law.

Thielman said he hit upon the idea after the governor's mandate generated "huge, huge pushback" from parents.

"The majority of my parents are skeptical and are no longer believing what they're told" about COVID-19, said Thielman, whose district in the state's coastal mountains begins classes Monday. "I've got a majority of my parents saying, 'Are there any options?'"

In a letter to educators this past week, Democratic Gov. Kate Brown said she was shocked that Thielman was undermining her policies by "instructing students to lie" about having a disability.

Brown has mandated masks in schools and vaccinations for all school staff amid a surge in infections that is clobbering Oregon. The state has broken its record for COVID-19 hospitalizations day after day, and cases among children have increased dramatically.

Thielman, who is planning to run for governor next year, when Brown can't seek reelection because of term limits, said he is not anti-mask but is sensitive to parents' concerns that face coverings can cause anxiety and headaches in children.

In some cases, he said, he believes those problems justify an exemption under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 because they interfere with learning.

But Laurie VanderPloeg, an associate executive director at the Council for Exceptional Children, an advocacy group, cautioned that under the federal law, children would not be allowed to go maskless simply because they asked.

Under the law, she said, school districts would have to go through a formal process to establish whether a child does, in fact, have a particular mental or physical disability, such as a respiratory condition, that would warrant an exception to the mask rule.



# How Valuable Are The U.S. Weapons The Taliban Just Captured?

August 21, 2021 · 7:00 AM ET



GREG MYRE



SCOTT NEUMAN



Taliban fighters with M-16 rifles display their flag on patrol in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Thursday.

Rahmat Gul/AP

Journalist Hollie McKay was in the northern Afghan city of Mazar-i-Sharif when Afghan security forces fled ahead of advancing Taliban fighters last weekend. In the aftermath, the road out of town was littered with U.S.-made armored vehicles that the Afghan military had left behind.

"On that road there is a lot of equipment that has been abandoned," McKay said by phone from neighboring Uzbekistan. "It was sort of unclear to me whether (the vehicles) were already destroyed by the soldiers, or that they were functioning and that the Taliban hadn't quite figured out how to use them. But there was certainly a good bunch of them along that single road into Uzbekistan."

Similar scenes have been repeated across the country: In the weeks before the Taliban seized Kabul, retreating Afghan forces ditched billions of dollars worth of U.S.-supplied military hardware — ranging from assault rifles to Black Hawk helicopters.

The Taliban wasted no time in gloating over their new war booty. Photos and video posted to social media show Taliban posing with captured aircraft, trucks, Humvees, artillery guns and night-vision goggles. Such equipment could be used to suppress internal dissent or fight off their rivals.

To be sure, the U.S. military removed planes, heavy weapons and sophisticated military equipment as it began winding down in Afghanistan in the spring. But it couldn't take home 20 years of accumulated hardware and instead left much of it to the Afghan military.

National security adviser Jake Sullivan acknowledged as much earlier this week. "We don't have a complete picture, obviously, of where every article of defense materials has gone, but certainly a fair amount of it has fallen into the hands of the Taliban," he said.

## Made back in the U.S.S.R.

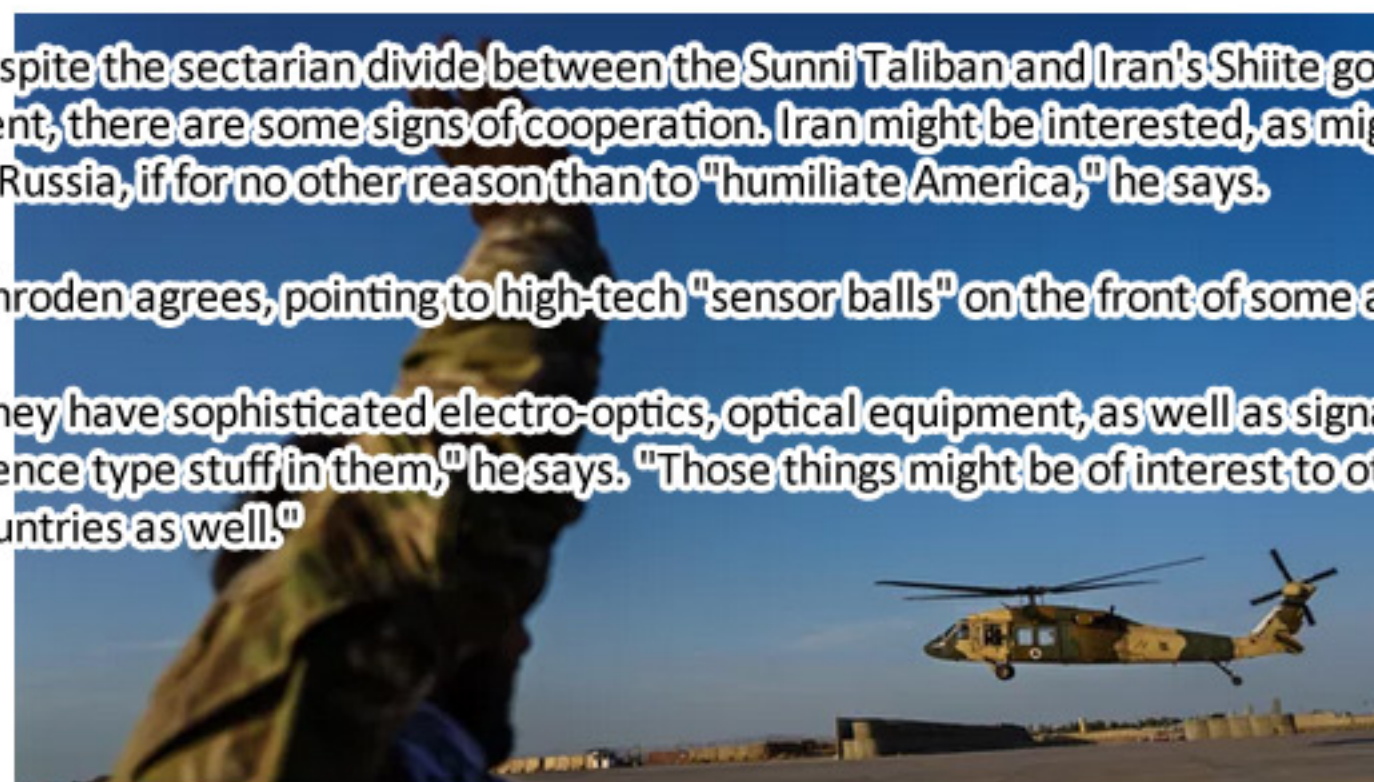
Asked what weapon he thinks is the most lethal in the Taliban's new arsenal, Schroden doesn't name an American system, but a Russian one — the D-30 howitzer, a 122-mm towed artillery piece. He says the weapons are lethal and "it's clear the Taliban know how to use them." Another option might be to simply sell off whatever the Taliban can't learn to use or maintain themselves.

On the Black Hawks and A-29s, for instance, "presumably there is some avionics, communications equipment, other things on those aircraft that they could sell," Bowman says.

Despite the sectarian divide between the Sunni Taliban and Iran's Shiite government, there are some signs of cooperation. Iran might be interested, as might China or Russia, if for no other reason than to "humiliate America," he says.

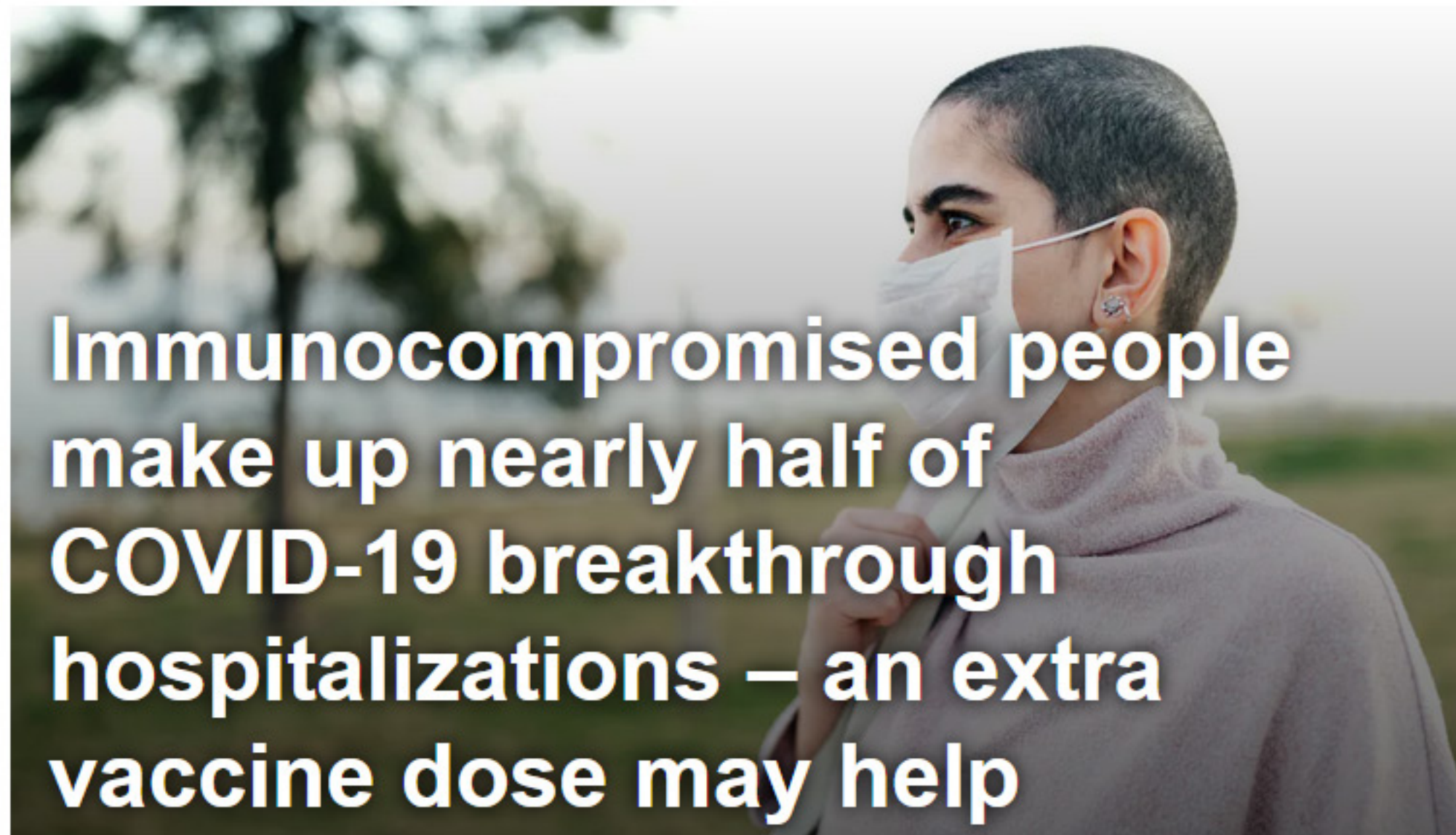
Schroden agrees, pointing to high-tech "sensor balls" on the front of some aircraft.

"They have sophisticated electro-optics, optical equipment, as well as signals intelligence type stuff in them," he says. "Those things might be of interest to other countries as well."



Afghan Army Capt. Rezaye Jamshid waves to a UH-60 Black Hawk aircraft taking off at Kandahar Airbase, in Kandahar, Afghanistan, in May. The Taliban captured helicopters and other military equipment when they overran the Afghan military this month and reclaimed control of the country.





# Immunocompromised people make up nearly half of COVID-19 breakthrough hospitalizations – an extra vaccine dose may help

Cancer and organ transplant patients, people with untreated HIV and people with other immunodeficiencies are at high risk of severe COVID-19 infection. burakkarademir/E+ via Getty Images

August 20, 2021 8:21am EDT

Jonathan Golob, University of Michigan

## Significant Figures

# 44%

Share of hospitalized breakthrough case patients in the US who are immunocompromised

THE CONVERSATION

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention officially recommended on Aug. 12 and Aug. 13, 2021, respectively, that people who are moderately to severely immunocompromised receive a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

One reason for this recommendation is high hospitalization rates among immunocompromised people who are vaccinated. As of July 2021, nearly half of the vaccinated people hospitalized with breakthrough COVID-19 infections were immunocompromised – despite making up only 2.7% of the U.S. adult population. In comparison, the rate of breakthrough cases among vaccinated people who are not immunocompromised was less than 1%.

I am a physician scientist specializing in infections in immunocompromised patients. As someone who researches autoimmune disease and has worked on the COVID-19 vaccine trials, I agree that a third dose of COVID-19 vaccine can help protect those with weakened immune systems.



## Florida mayor urges water limits because of COVID-19 surge

By MIKE SCHNEIDER today



*FILE - In this June 26, 2016, file photo, Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer addresses the the U.S. Conference of Mayors in Indianapolis. Dyer on Friday, Aug. 20, 2021, asked residents to stop watering their lawns and washing their cars for a least a week, saying water usage needed to be cut back because of the recent surge of COVID-19 hospitalizations. The Orlando Utility Commission treats the city's water with liquid oxygen and supplies that ordinarily go toward water treatment have been diverted to hospitals for patients suffering from the virus, Dyer said. (AP Photo/Michael Conroy, File)*

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — The mayor of the Florida city of Orlando asked residents on Friday to stop watering their lawns and washing their cars immediately, saying water usage needed to be cut back because of the recent surge of COVID-19 hospitalizations.

The Orlando Utility Commission treats the city's water with liquid oxygen and supplies that ordinarily go toward water treatment have been diverted to hospitals for patients suffering from the virus, Mayor Buddy Dyer said.

“We acknowledge that the No. 1 priority for the liquid oxygen should be for hospitals,” Dyer said at a news conference.

The city-owned utility typically goes through 10 trucks of liquid oxygen a week but its supplier recently said that it would be cut back to five to seven trucks a week to accommodate hospitals, said Linda Ferrone, OUC's chief customer and marketing officer.

About 40% of the utility commission's potable water is used for irrigation so any strains on the water supply will be greatly reduced if residents stop watering their lawns, washing their cars or using pressure washers, she said.

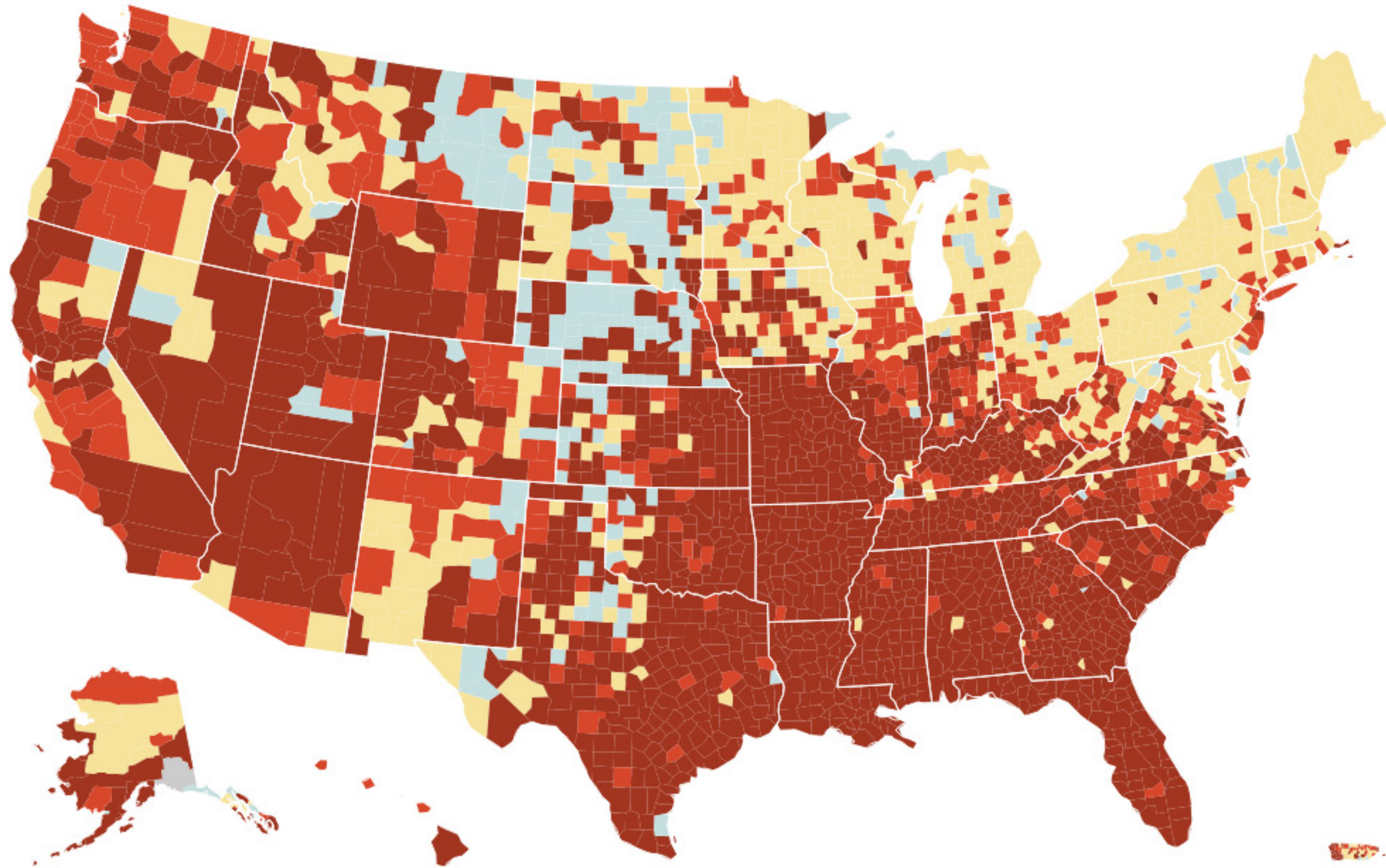
On its website, the utility said residents should prepare to follow the conservation measures for at least two weeks.

“We realize this is drastic and unprecedented,” Ferrone said. “If worse came to worse, we would have to look at a boil water alert.”



## CDC Advises Masking Indoors In Counties With Substantial Or High Coronavirus Spread

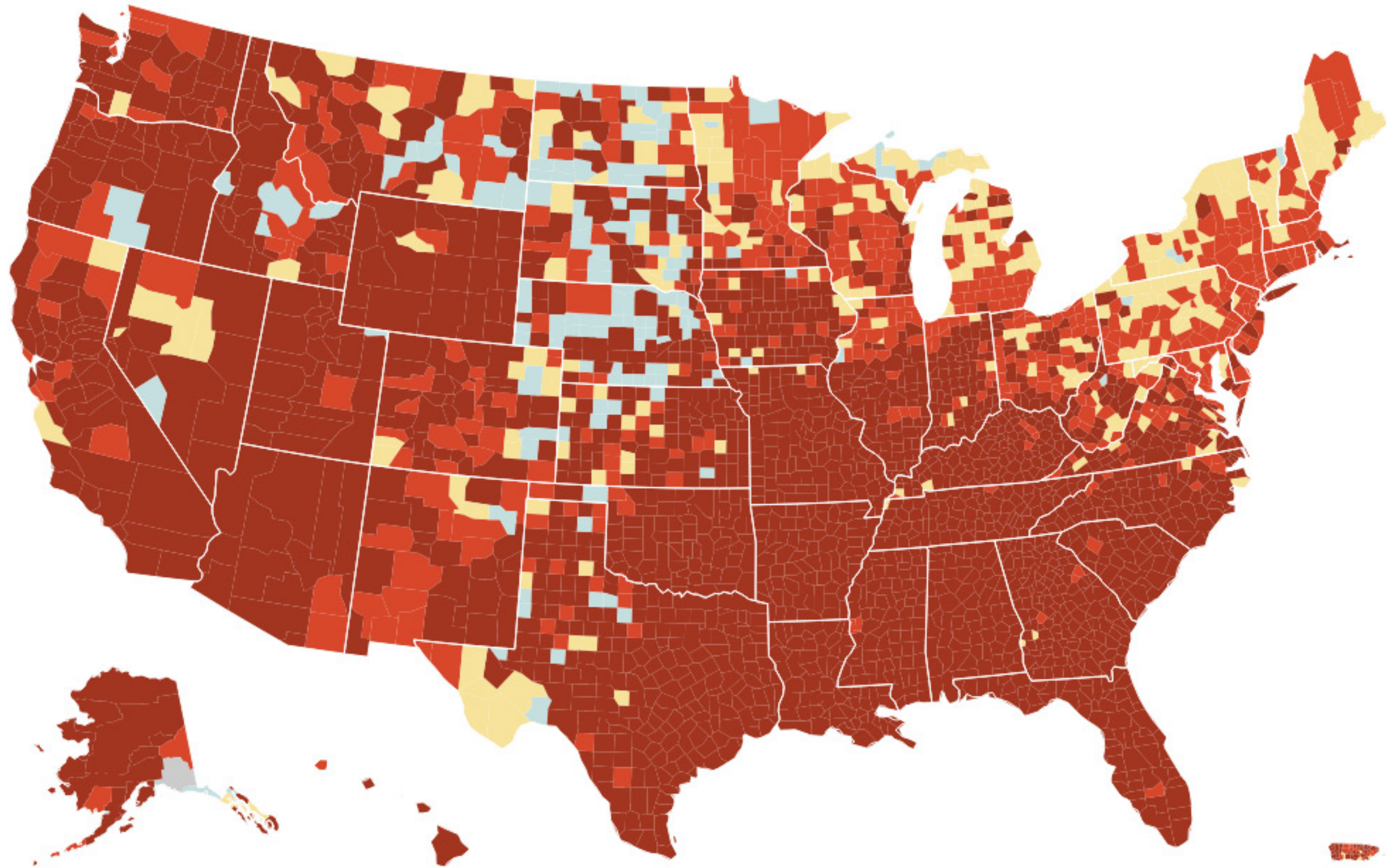
■ No data ■ Low ■ Moderate ■ Substantial ■ High





## CDC Advises Masking Indoors In Counties With Substantial Or High Coronavirus Spread

■ No data ■ Low ■ Moderate ■ Substantial ■ High

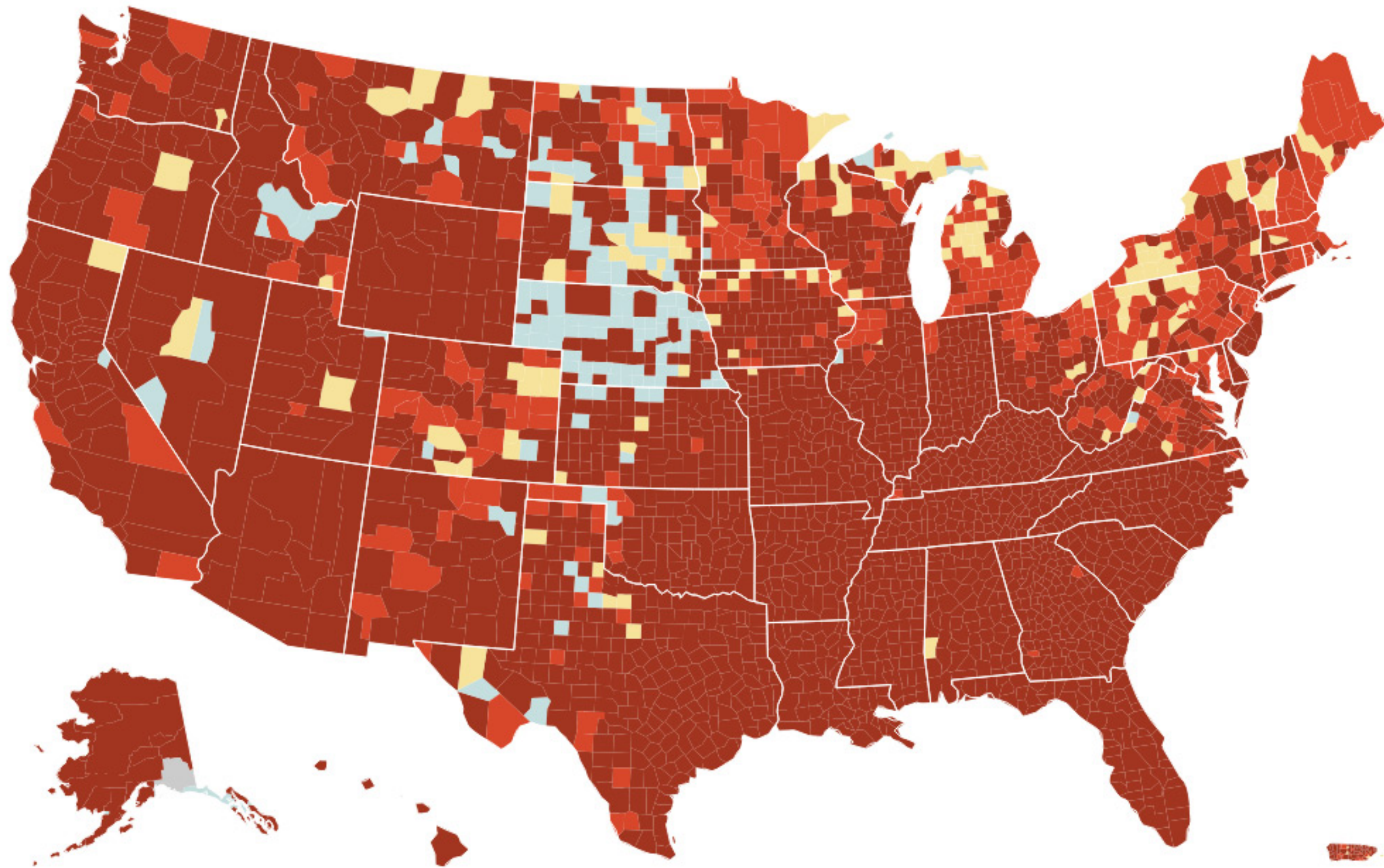




## CDC Advises Masking Indoors In Counties With Substantial Or High Coronavirus Spread

*Level of COVID-19 community transmission, as of Aug. 5-Aug. 11*

■ No data ■ Low ■ Moderate ■ Substantial ■ High

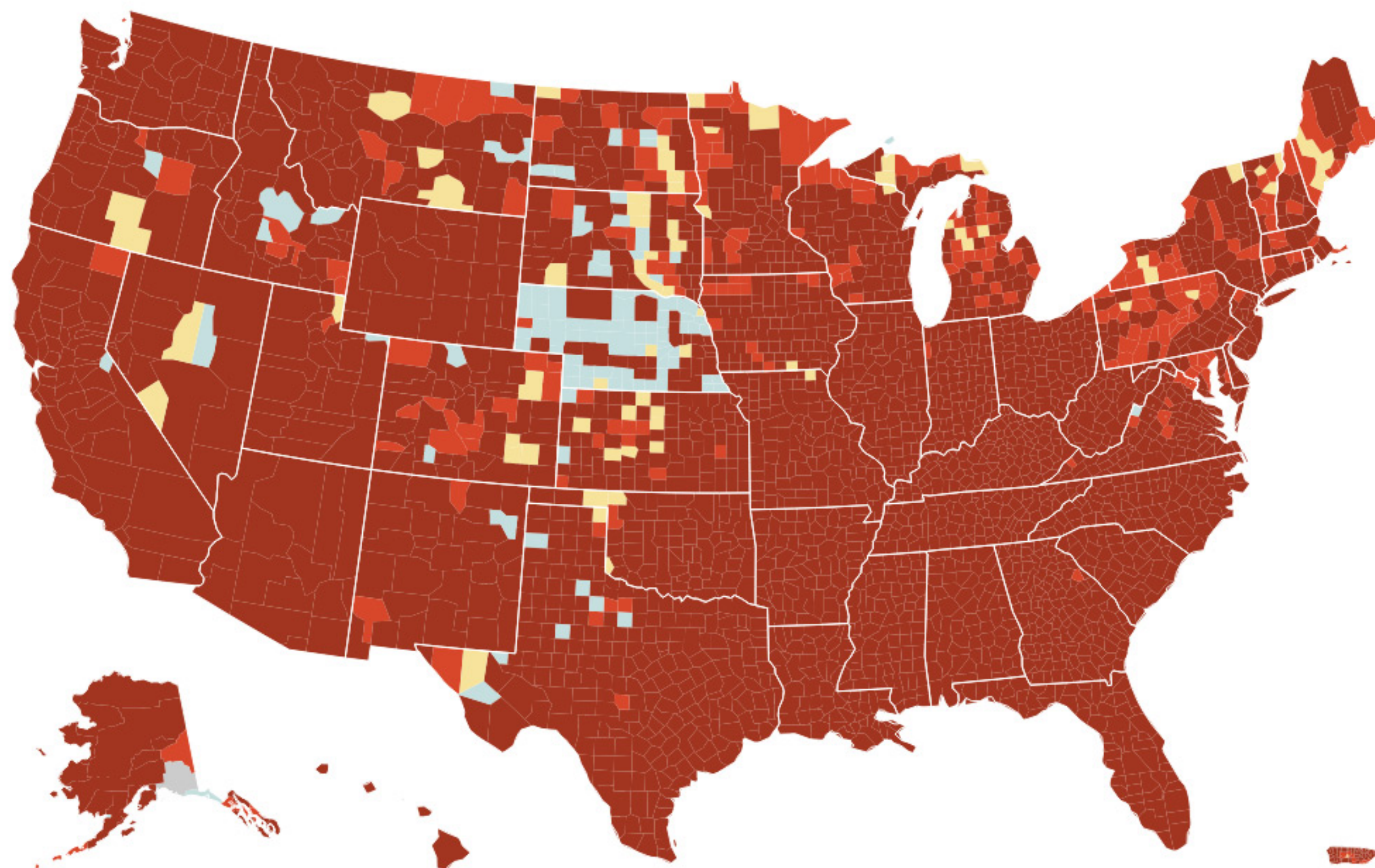




## CDC Advises Masking Indoors In Counties With Substantial Or High Coronavirus Spread

*Level of COVID-19 community transmission, as of Aug. 12-Aug. 18*

■ No data ■ Low ■ Moderate ■ Substantial ■ High



With the delta variant taking off around the U.S., the federal government updated its masking guidelines for fully vaccinated people last week.

The new advice is to mask up indoors if you live in a place with "substantial" or "high" coronavirus transmission.

(The guidance for people who are unvaccinated remains the same: Always mask up indoors in public places.)

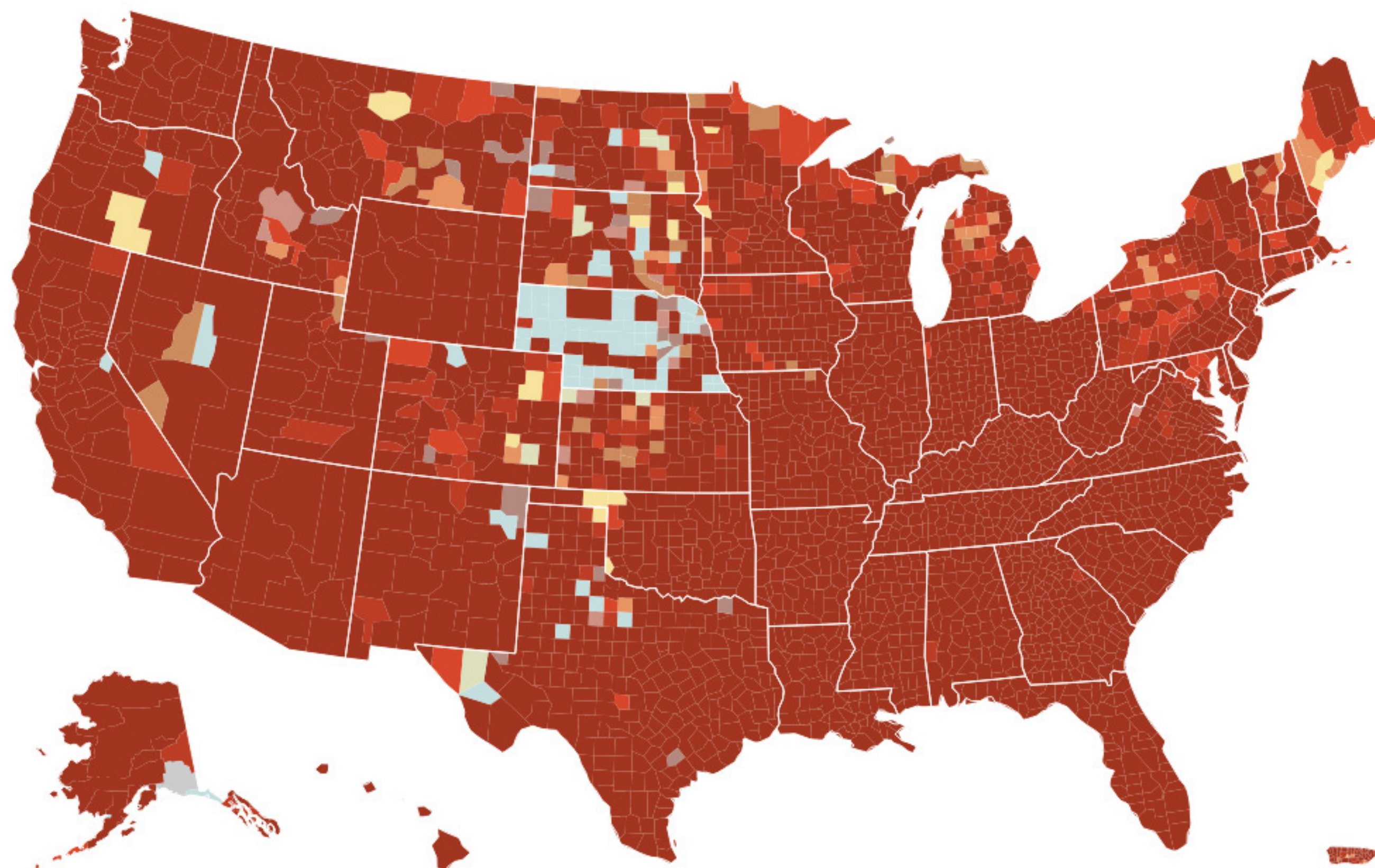
So, what's the level of transmission where you live?



## CDC Advises Masking Indoors In Counties With Substantial Or High Coronavirus Spread

Level of COVID-19 community transmission, as of Aug. 17-Aug. 28

No data Low Moderate Substantial High



***"I would just say to use common sense  
and a higher index of suspicion  
[now that Delta has taken over]."***

Leana Wen, an emergency physician and public health professor  
at George Washington University

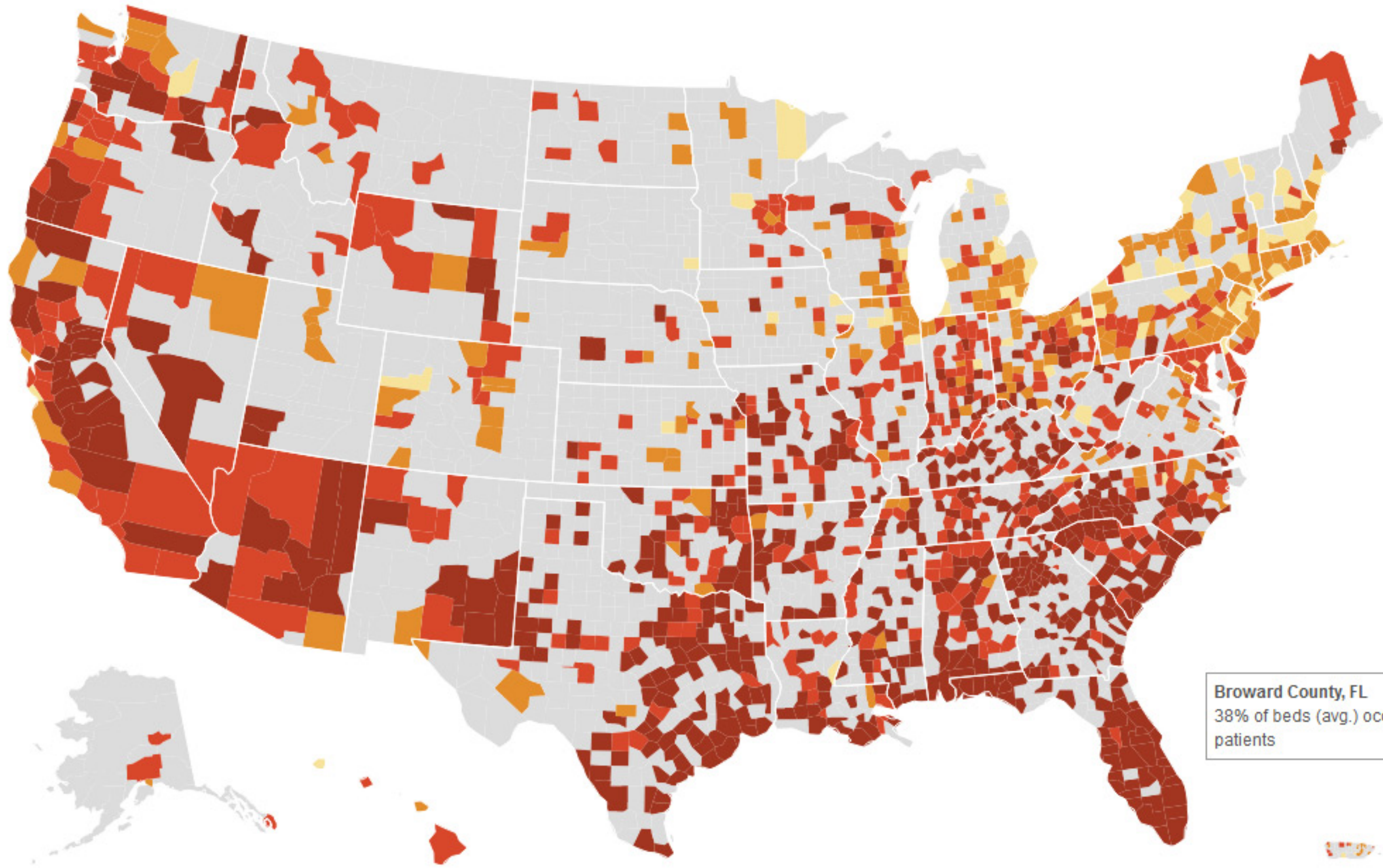


**Nye County, NV**  
47% of beds (avg.) occupied by COVID-19 patients

## Where Hospitals Are Filling Up

Percent of hospital beds occupied by COVID-19 patients the week of Aug. 20-26 (average by hospital)

■ No data   ■ Low (0 - 5% COVID patients)   ■ Moderate (5 - 9%)   ■ High (10 - 20%)   ■ Extreme (20+%)



**Broward County, FL**  
38% of beds (avg.) occupied by COVID-19 patients

**San Diego County, CA**  
14% of beds (avg.) occupied by COVID-19 patients



# Mask, vaccine conflicts descend into violence and harassment

By JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER, TERRY TANG and OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ today



People in favor of a mask mandate for Cobb County schools hold signs against the window to the office during the school board meeting Thursday, Aug. 19, 2021, in Marietta, Ga.

Filmmaker Carlin Rose and others hold signs against vaccine passports as they participates at the "S.O.S California No Vaccine Passport Rally" at Tongva Park in Santa Monica, Calif., Saturday, Aug. 21, 2021.





# What should you do if you get a breakthrough case of COVID-19?

Updated: 7:31 AM CDT Aug 21, 2021

**Katia Hetter, CNN**

*To glean answers to these questions, we turned to CNN Medical Analyst Dr. Leana Wen. Wen is an emergency physician and visiting professor of health policy and management at the George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health. She's also author of a new book, "Lifelines: A Doctor's Journey in the Fight for Public Health."*

**Q: What should people do if they get a breakthrough infection? Should they isolate from their household members? Does it matter if they have symptoms?**

Wen: Someone who's vaccinated and tests positive for COVID-19 should definitely follow strict isolation protocols because we have to assume that the person is contagious and able to infect others. If that person is symptomatic, they should isolate for at least 10 days counting from the first day they started having symptoms, according to the CDC. They can end the isolation as long as they haven't had a fever for more than 24 hours and other symptoms are improving. If the person is not symptomatic but still had a positive test, they should stay isolated for 10 days following their positive test.

Isolation means that they should not be going in public where they could infect others. They should also isolate from close household contacts. That means, if possible, staying in a part of the house away from others, in their own room. Essentially, once a person is infected with COVID-19, it doesn't matter for the purpose of isolation whether they were vaccinated — they could be contagious to others and need to follow standard isolation procedures.

**Q: If one person in the household gets a breakthrough infection, should everyone get tested?**

Wen: Yes. Close contacts should all be tested, with "close contact" defined as being within 6 feet for a total of at least 15 minutes over a 24-hour period during the potentially contagious period. The CDC differentiates guidance for those who are vaccinated versus those who are not. Those unvaccinated, if exposed to a close contact who has COVID-19, should quarantine for 10 days. They can shorten the quarantine to seven days if they have a negative test at least five days after exposure. During that quarantine period, they cannot be in public.

On the other hand, those fully vaccinated, when exposed to a close contact who has COVID-19, do not need to quarantine unless they develop symptoms. They should still get tested within three to five days after exposure and wear a mask in public for extra protection.

**Q: Does that mean a vaccinated person with a COVID-19 exposure can still go to work?**

Wen: According to the CDC guidance, yes, as long as that person doesn't have symptoms, and they keep a mask on at all times and still get tested three to five days after exposure.

This CDC guidance is missing needed nuance. Consider this: Would you be comfortable sitting shoulder to shoulder with a work colleague around a conference table if you knew that this person's spouse was just diagnosed with COVID-19? Even if the CDC guidance says that this can be done, I think we need to use some common sense, too. If your spouse or child has COVID-19 and you're still waiting for your coronavirus test, I'd urge you to tell your supervisor and see if you could work from home at least until you get a negative test result.

I'd also distinguish between what was the level of your exposure to the person who tested positive. If you were at an outdoor party and standing next to someone who ended up testing positive, you should still get tested yourself, but your risk of having coronavirus is pretty low, and it might be reasonable to continue going to work — masked, of course. But if it's your child or partner with whom you spend many hours together, in close, indoor quarters, you are at much higher risk of contracting COVID-19 from them and so should try not to expose others if possible.

**Q: What are the symptoms of breakthrough COVID-19 infections?**

Wen: The key benefit of vaccination is that it reduces the likelihood of severe illness. Those vaccinated who still contract coronavirus are much more likely to have mild symptoms compared to if they were not vaccinated. An individual who might have been very ill with high fever, severe cough and so much trouble breathing that they need oxygen or a ventilator, could now instead have body aches, fatigue and the sniffles. That's the power of vaccination — it reduces the severity of illness.

Since the symptoms in the vaccinated are much milder than the unvaccinated, be on the lookout for even one of the symptoms of COVID-19. These include fever, chills, cough, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, sore throat, runny nose, nausea, diarrhea and loss of taste or smell. Of course, this is a broad list, and it could indicate other viral illnesses, too.

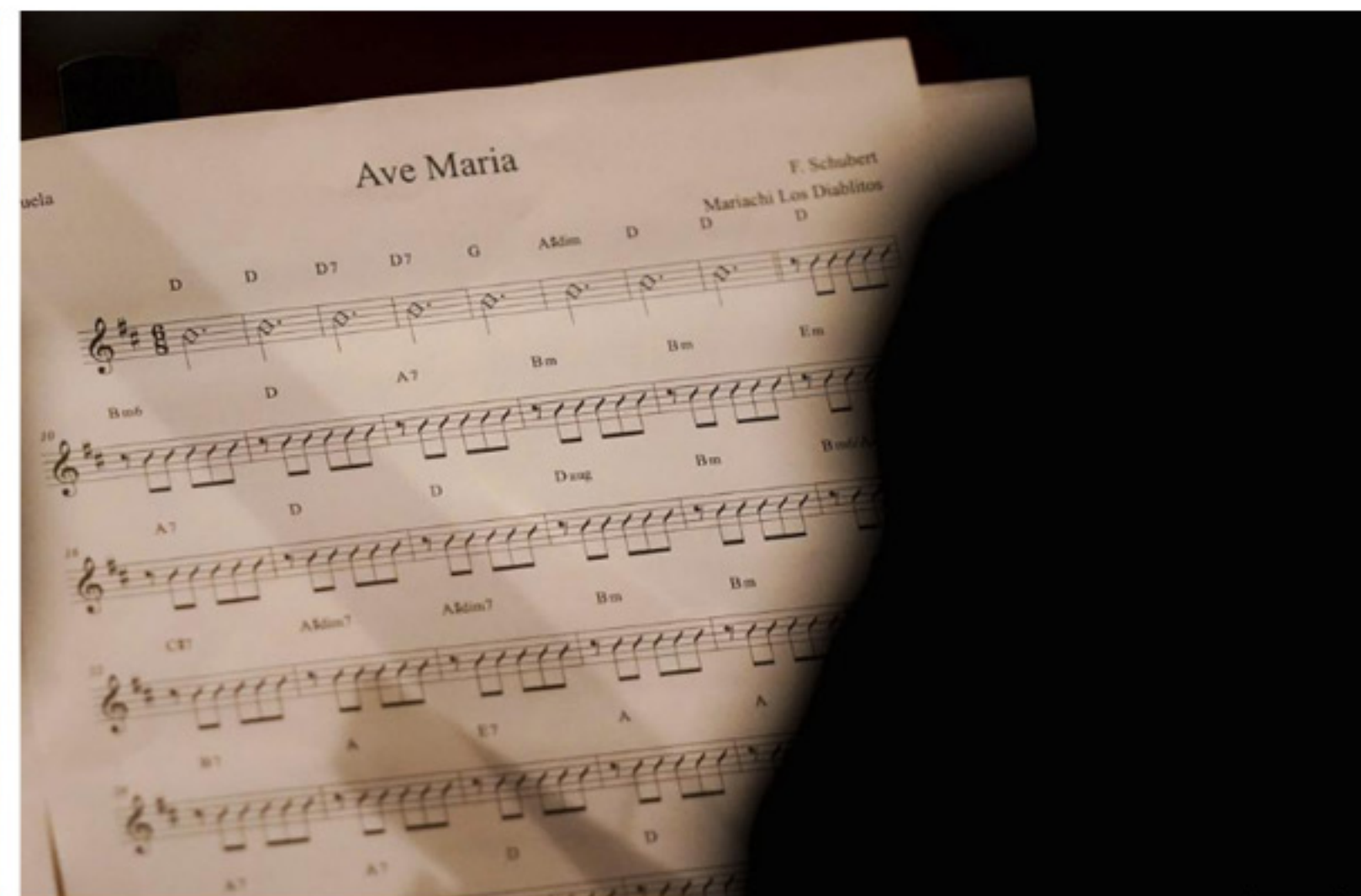
[...]



# Silenced by COVID, mariachi Mass returns to Tucson cathedral

By GIOVANNA DELL'ORTO yesterday

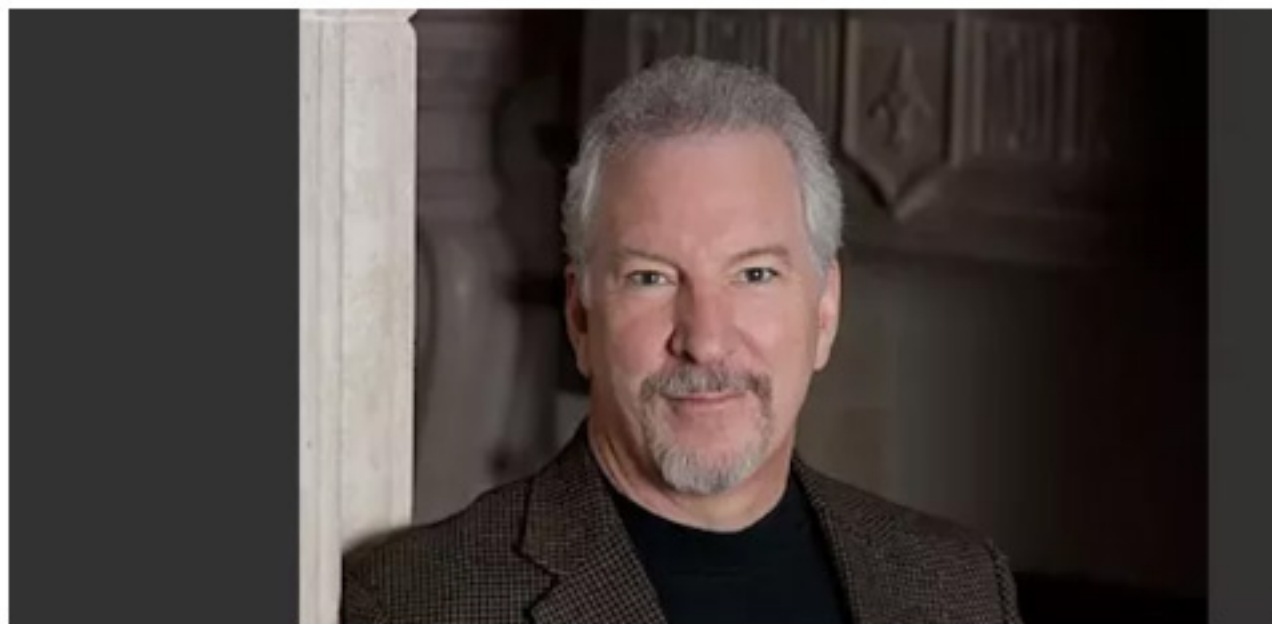
After a long absence Tucson's St. Augustine Cathedral's rector, the Rev. Alan Valencia welcomes back the Mariachi band Los Changuitos Feos (Ugly Little Monkeys) read sheet music for "Ave Maria" during a performance for parishioners as they prepare to perform during their morning Mass Sunday, Aug. 18, 2021 in downtown Tucson.





## Conservative Radio Talk Show Host Phil Valentine, Who Downplayed Vaccines, Dies of COVID

BY CHRISTINA ZHAO ON 8/21/21 AT 7:20 PM EDT



Conservative radio host Phil Valentine died of COVID-19 complications Saturday. SUPERTALK 99.7 WTN/FACEBOOK

Longtime conservative radio host Phil Valentine died at age 61 on Saturday following a lengthy battle with COVID-19, after spending most of the pandemic casting doubt on the efficacy of masks and vaccines.

"We are extremely saddened to report that our host and friend Phil Valentine has passed away. Please keep the Valentine family in your thoughts and prayers," SuperTalk 99.7 WTN wrote in a post shared to Facebook.

Valentine's friends and colleagues announced at around 4 p.m. local time that the host's brother, Mark Valentine, confirmed the death earlier in the afternoon, according to a live broadcast.

Valentine confirmed his positive COVID-19 test on July 11 and was later hospitalized due to virus-related complications. He was placed on a ventilator toward the end of July.

Before his condition became serious, Valentine discussed his infection with listeners of The Phil Valentine Show.

"I think I'm on the other side of it," he said. "I'm certainly moving forward, it appears, but not in a straight line... It's just one of those things. I don't want it to linger on."



**Christina Zhao**   
@christinaxzhao

Senior editor @Newsweek |  
c.zhao@newsweek.com |  
c.x.zhao@protonmail.com | Hotpot  
enthusiast | Ex-barrister & solicitor |  
Views my own

629 Following 1,562 Followers

**Newsweek**

**Christina Zhao**  
Senior news editor

### Trump Boed at Alabama Rally After Encouraging Crowd to Get Vaccinated

As Delta explodes, a growing number of Republican leaders are urging people to get vaccinated but polls show that many GOP voters are still hesitant.

ON 8/21/21 AT 11:46 PM EDT

### Trump Calls Taliban 'Great Negotiators, Tough Fighters' As He Knocks Biden

"Vietnam looks like a masterclass in strategy compared to Joe Biden's catastrophe," the former president said.

ON 8/21/21 AT 10:11 PM EDT

The outspoken radio host has been a leading conservative voice in Nashville for decades. For most of the pandemic, Valentine criticized the coronavirus vaccine, casting doubts on its safety and efficacy, and strongly opposed mask mandates.

Following his hospitalization, Valentine's family told listeners that he now viewed vaccines as necessary and regrets his previous disparaging remarks.

**"Phil would like for his listeners to know that while he has never been an 'anti-vaxxer' he regrets not being more vehemently 'Pro-Vaccine' and looks forward to being able to more vigorously advocate that position as soon as he is back on the air, which we all hope will be soon," the family wrote in a statement. "PLEASE GO GET VACCINATED."**

Tennessee Governor Bill Lee and Senator Marsha Blackburn released statements honoring Valentine on Saturday afternoon.

"Phil Valentine was a visionary for the conservative movement. He made an enormous impact on the lives of many Tennesseans as an esteemed radio host, actor, and author," Blackburn wrote. "It was a privilege to know Phil, and I know his legacy will endure. My deepest condolences and prayers are with Phil's wife, Susan, and his family. May they be comforted and surrounded by love during this difficult time."

Lee tweeted: "Maria and I are deeply saddened by the loss of Phil Valentine and pray for his family as they navigate the difficult days ahead."



<https://www.npr.org/2021/08/23/1029851226/what-the-exit-from-afghanistan-tells-us-about-how-biden-sees-the-world>

<https://www.npr.org/2021/08/22/1030107187/pentagon-airlines-afghanistan-evacuation-effort-kabul-taliban>

<https://www.npr.org/2021/08/22/1030167259/crush-at-kabul-airport-kills-7-as-afghans-try-to-flee>

<https://www.npr.org/2021/08/17/1028483700/help-afghanistan-refugees>

<https://www.npr.org/2021/08/21/1029449432/taliban-afghanistan-us-weapons-captured>

**It's not about whether to withdraw or not,  
it's about how it was done**

POLITICS

## What The Exit From Afghanistan Tells Us About How Biden Sees The World

President Biden has decades of experience in foreign policy, but the chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan is his first major foreign policy crisis as president.



Anna Moneymaker/Getty Images

- **The Pentagon Is Calling On 6 U.S. Airlines To Help With The Afghan Evacuation Effort**
- **A Crush At The Kabul Airport Kills 7 People As Afghans Try To Flee**
- **The Simple Steps You Can Take Right Now To Help Afghan Refugees**
- **How Valuable Are The U.S. Weapons The Taliban Just Captured?**

*Here's how you can help them and organizations on the ground in Afghanistan.*

**Volunteer to help resettled refugees:** Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service is asking for volunteers to help refugees upon arrival with airport pickups, meal assistance, mentorship, tutoring and more. You can participate if you're in one of the areas where refugees are arriving, and there's a standby list to join for other areas too. You can also donate.

**Take up a challenge:** Women for Women International says a "generous member of our community" will match up to \$500,000 in donations for its Afghanistan program.

**Open your wallet:** Consider donating to Women for Afghan Women, which says it is the largest women's group in Afghanistan; the International Refugee Assistance Project; and the Afghan Journalists Safety Committee, which works to protect journalists on the ground.

**Email the White House:** The International Rescue Committee has an email form through which you can urge the Biden administration to take immediate steps to ensure "vulnerable Afghans have pathways to safety." The group is also asking for donations.



Hundreds of people gather outside the international airport in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Tuesday.

Uncredited/AP



*"we're probably going to offer moderna rather than pfizer because there's a potential that those increased antibodies might offer some additional production this is an ongoing study the next step will include taking a look at how high antibody levels are in vulnerable people after they receive the third dose"*



**CityNews** ELDERLY RESPOND DIFFERENTLY TO PFIZER AND MODERNA: STUDY  
**DR. ALLISON MCGEER**  
SENIOR CLINICIAN SCIENTIST, SINAI HEALTH SYSTEM

SUN 32°  
6:17 pm



**VIVIAN STAMATOPOULOS**  
ASSOC. TEACHING PROFESSOR, ONTARIO TECH UNIVERSITY

COVID-19 vaccine  
Get the latest information from the CDC. [LEARN MORE](#)

Elderly respond differently to Pfizer and Moderna vaccines: Study  
7,132 views • Aug 22, 2021  
58 82 SHARE SAVE ...

*stamatopoulos says "while it sounds like an interesting study the most important thing to do is actually mandate vaccines for all healthcare workers really drawing a fine line you are either fully immunized or you are fired because at this point you are putting vulnerable lives at risk and in the context of delta we can't afford to rely on partial or non-immunized healthcare worker populations"*



# Hundreds clash in Portland as Proud Boys rally descends into violence

Running street battle ends in gunfight after 'Summer of love' protest in a parking lot of a former Kmart store



▲ Far-right extremists and anti-fascist counter protesters clashed on Sunday in Portland, Oregon. Photograph: Nathan Howard/Getty Images



▲ A member of the far-right group the Proud Boys aims a paintball gun while leaving a demonstration with a Statue of Liberty replica in the bed of the truck. Photograph: Nathan Howard/Getty Images



## Portland officials and progressives unite to oppose far-right protest



<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/aug/22/portland-officials-progressives-far-right-protest-plan-proud-boys-patriot-prayer>

**Jason Wilson in Portland, Oregon**

@jason\_a\_w

Mon 23 Aug 2021 01:52 EDT



**Jason Wilson in Portland, Oregon**

@jason\_a\_w

Sun 22 Aug 2021 03:00 EDT

**jason wilson** ✓  
@jason\_a\_w

Journalist: [seedisclaimer.com](https://seedisclaimer.com)

They lied to everyone, they lied to the fish.

[jason@jasonwilson.media](mailto:jason@jasonwilson.media) |  
[jason.a.wilson@protonmail.com](mailto:jason.a.wilson@protonmail.com)  
(503) 852-2710

3,404 Following 33.1K Followers



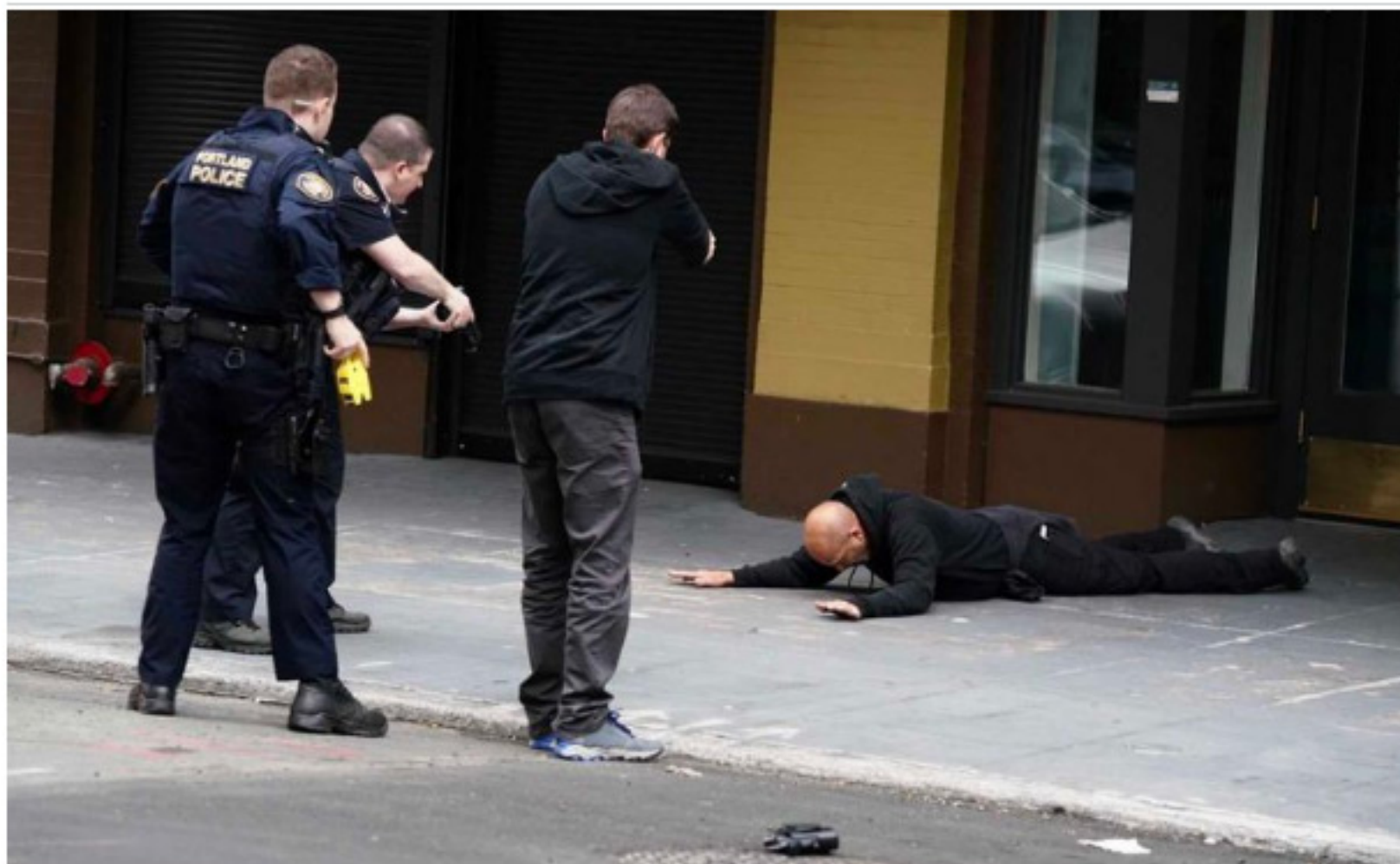
▲ Mace and smoke filled the air in downtown Portland on Sunday. Photograph: Nathan Howard/Getty Images



# Gunfire erupts after Proud Boys and anti-fascists openly brawl in Portland without police intervention

By [Ryan Haas](#) (OPB) and [Jonathan Levinson](#) (OPB)

Aug. 22, 2021 1:38 p.m. Updated: Aug. 22, 2021 9:46 p.m.



A man surrenders to Portland police after reportedly firing several shots from a handgun in the area of Yamhill and 2nd Avenue in downtown Portland Sunday evening.

*Jonathan Levinson / OPB*

Far right groups gathered Sunday in Portland for an event they called the “Summer of Love,” even as the rally date was chosen to commemorate an extraordinarily violent clash last summer in the city. The event ended with a roving brawl along busy city streets in the Parkrose neighborhood, and shots being fired in downtown Portland. No one was reported injured in the shooting incident.

A man fires several shots from a handgun in the area of Yamhill and 2nd Avenue in downtown Portland Sunday evening. He later surrendered to police. Photos and videos streamed online showed members of the Proud Boys — a frequently violent far right group — gathering and speaking at the conservative event. Among them was **Tusitala “Tiny” Toese**, who has been convicted of engaging in violence at protests.

“We’re not going to stand down,” Toese said. He added that his group was “not playing this time,” but said they did not have plans to leave the Northeast Portland location Sunday.

Members of the antifascist crowd shouted at local journalists who were following the melee. They then sprayed chemicals and paint at the journalists, and one local freelance photographer was attacked and injured.

Portland police did not show up as the two sides clashed. Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler’s spokesperson, Sara Morrissey, said the mayor was aware of the clashes and that officers were within minutes of the clashes.

“Had the situation worsened, police would have taken action immediately,” Morrissey said. “Instead, they will be conducting follow up investigations, making arrests and forwarding cases to the Multnomah County District Attorney for prosecution.”

Eric Ward, executive director of the Western States Center, called Sunday’s events “deeply disturbing.” The group, which tracks right wing extremism, characterized the violence as predictable to those who had tracked the lead up to the demonstrations. “The idea that Portland, or any city, can single handedly defeat white nationalism is a fallacy. This incident needs to be a wake-up call for elected leaders at every level,” Ward said in a written statement. “This is a national problem that demands national resources. Anti-democratic violence is a threat that strikes at the heart of who we are as a country. It’s time to act like it.”



**Ryan Haas** ✓  
@ryanjhaas



Tiny emceeding the “Summer of Love” event, threatens violence against trans people. Video by [@jlevinson](#)



3:07 PM · Aug 22, 2021



158 41 Copy link to Tweet



# Proud Boy, Patriot Prayer brawler Tusitala 'Tiny' Toese sentenced to 6 months in Portland jail

Updated: Oct. 20, 2020, 1:34 p.m. | Published: Oct. 20, 2020, 1:16 p.m.



Tusitala "Tiny" Toese, 23, pleaded guilty Tuesday to fourth-degree assault, a misdemeanor, in Multnomah County Circuit Court. (Shane Dixon Kavanaugh / Oregonian/OregonLive)

**Tusitala "Tiny" Toese**, a member of the Proud Boys and fixture of right-wing demonstrations that have often led to bloody brawls in Portland and other cities, was sentenced Tuesday to six months in jail, according to the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office.

Toese, 24, landed behind bars on a probation violation several days after he was spotted walking among self-described anti-Marxist demonstrators in Portland on Aug. 22.



**Shane D. Kavanaugh** ✓

@shanedkavanaugh

Reporter at The [@Oregonian](#) || Priors: [@nydailynews](#); [@crainsnewyork](#); [@vocativ](#) || Holler: [skavanaugh@oregonian.com](mailto:skavanaugh@oregonian.com)

1,638 Following 8,615 Followers

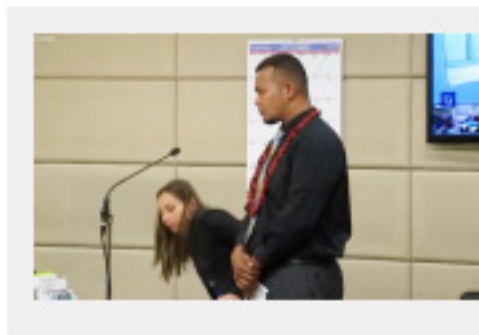
He had previously pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor assault charge in January that stemmed from a 2018 beating in Northeast Portland.

Circuit Judge Kathleen Dailey barred Toese, a Vancouver-area resident, from attending Portland protests for two years in that case and ordered him to pay \$1,800 to Timothy Ledwith, the man he and an associate attacked.

## Tusitala 'Tiny' Toese

<https://www.samoanews.com/tusitala-tiny-toese>

Tue, 10/08/2019 - 11:21am



### 'I'm a proud western chauvinist': Proud Boy 'Tiny' Toese speaks out

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — A right-wing extremist who rose to prominence for fighting in Portland during political protests and fled the Pacific Northwest after being indicted on felony assault charges has pleaded not guilty. Tusitala "Tiny" Toese

of Vancouver, Washington, pleaded not guilty to assault...

Sun, 10/06/2019 - 10:36am



### 'Proud Boy' Tiny Toese arrested after leaving American Samoa

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — A right-wing extremist who rose to prominence for fighting in Portland during political protests and fled the Pacific Northwest after being indicted on felony assault charges has been arrested. The

Oregonian/OregonLive reports the U.S. Marshals Service detained 23-year-old...

At the time, Toese claimed he was done with politics and protests. "There's no more 'Tiny.' There's no more 'Big Boy Tiny.' No more 'Samoan Prowler' in the streets," he said in January.

Dailey on Tuesday found Toese had willfully violated multiple conditions of his probation and sentenced him to six months in jail, including credit for time served. Multnomah County prosecutor Nathan Vasquez had asked the judge to impose a one-year sentence, the maximum penalty for the violation, court records show.

Toese, who jail records say is 6-foot-5 and over 300 pounds, gained notoriety as a member of the Proud Boys as well as Patriot Prayer, another right-wing group. He frequently fought and clashed with left-wing activists during street protests in Portland. Toese also served as one of Patriot Prayer leader Joey Gibson's closest confidants until the duo had a falling out. A grand jury had indicted Toese and fellow Proud Boy Donovan Flippo in February 2019, eight months after the attack on Ledwith.

Toese left for his hometown in American Samoa around the time prosecutors filed the criminal charges. Flippo pleaded guilty over the summer to fourth-degree assault and served eight days in jail. Toese was arrested in the beating case on Oct. 4, 2019, at Portland International Airport as he was returning to the United States mainland. Later that month, he was jailed for 10 days in Multnomah County after he violated his probation on a harassment conviction stemming from a fight at a December 2017 demonstration in downtown Portland.



# These Older Workers Hadn't Planned To Retire So Soon. The Pandemic Sped Things Up

August 23, 2021 · 5:07 AM ET  
Heard on Morning Edition



ANDREA HSU



Norma Jasso, 62, sped up retirement plans after her daughter asked for help with a new baby. She stands with a high chair her father had commissioned from a shop in Sinaloa, Mexico. Her daughters used it and now her grandson will too.

*Andrea Hsu/NPR*



## The Ides of August

<https://www.sarahchayes.org/post/the-ides-of-august>

Sarah Chayes, Aug 16, 2021

...speaking as an American, as an adoptive Kandahari, and as a former senior U.S. government official — here are the key factors I see in today's climax of a two-decade long fiasco:

### **Afghan government corruption, and the U.S. role enabling and reinforcing it.**

The last speaker of the Afghan parliament, Rahman Rahmani, I recently learned, is a multimillionaire, thanks to monopoly contracts to provide fuel and security to U.S. forces at their main base, Bagram. Is this the type of government people are likely to risk their lives to defend?

Two decades ago, young people in Kandahar were telling me how the proxy militias American forces had armed and provided with U.S. fatigues were shaking them down at checkpoints. By 2007, delegations of elders would visit me — the only American whose door was open and who spoke Pashtu so there would be no intermediaries to distort or report their words. Over candied almonds and glasses of green tea, they would get to some version of this: “The Taliban hit us on this cheek, and the government hits us on that cheek.” The old man serving as the group's spokesman would physically smack himself in the face.

I and too many other people to count spent years of our lives trying to convince U.S. decision-makers that Afghans could not be expected to take risks on behalf of a government that was as hostile to their interests as the Taliban were. Note: it took me a while, and plenty of my own mistakes, to come to that realization. But I did.

**For two decades, American leadership on the ground and in Washington proved unable to take in this simple message. I finally stopped trying to get it across when, in 2011 [Obama admin], an interagency process reached the decision that the U.S. would not address corruption in Afghanistan. It was now explicit policy to ignore one of the two factors that would determine the fate of all our efforts. That's when I knew today was inevitable.**

Americans like to think of ourselves as having valiantly tried to bring democracy to Afghanistan. Afghans, so the narrative goes, just weren't ready for it, or didn't care enough about democracy to bother defending it. Or we'll repeat the cliché that Afghans have always rejected foreign intervention; we're just the latest in a long line.

I was there. Afghans did not reject us. They looked to us as exemplars of democracy and the rule of law. They thought that's what we stood for.

“I've been silent for a while. I've been silent about Afghanistan for longer. But too many things are going unsaid. “

*Internationally recognized for her innovative thinking on corruption and its implications, she has uncovered the unrecognized reality that severe and structured corruption can prompt international crises, such as revolutions and other uprisings, violent insurgency, and environmental devastation. Corruption of this sort is the operating system of sophisticated networks, which weave together government officials, business magnates and private charities, and out and out criminals, and represents, in Sarah's view, the primary threat to democracy in our lifetimes.*



**And what did we stand for? What flourished on our watch? Cronyism, rampant corruption, a Ponzi scheme disguised as a banking system, designed by U.S. finance specialists during the very years [Bush admin] that other U.S. finance specialists were incubating the crash of 2008. A government system where billionaires get to write the rules.**

One final point. I hold U.S. civilian leadership, across four administrations, largely responsible for today's outcome. Military commanders certainly participated in the self-delusion. I can and did find fault with generals I worked for or observed. But the U.S. military is subject to civilian control. And the two primary problems identified above — corruption and Pakistan — are civilian issues. They are not problems men and women in uniform can solve. But faced with calls to do so, no top civilian decision-maker was willing to take either of these problems on. The political risk, for them, was too high.

Today, as many of those officials enjoy their retirement, who is suffering the cost?

.....



## The Ides of August

<https://www.sarahchayes.org/post/the-ides-of-august>

Sarah Chayes, Aug 16, 2021

**Pakistan.** The involvement of that country's government -- in particular its top military brass -- in its neighbor's affairs is the second factor that would determine the fate of the U.S. mission.

You may have heard that the Taliban first emerged in the early 1990s, in Kandahar. That is incorrect. I conducted dozens of conversations and interviews over the course of years, both with actors in the drama and ordinary people who watched events unfold in Kandahar and in Quetta, Pakistan. All of them said the Taliban first emerged in Pakistan.

The Taliban were a strategic project of the Pakistani military intelligence agency, the ISI. It even conducted market surveys in the villages around Kandahar, to test the label and the messaging. "Taliban" worked well. The image evoked was of the young students who apprenticed themselves to village religious leaders. They were known as sober, studious, and gentle. These Taliban, according to the ISI messaging, had no interest in government. They just wanted to get the militiamen who infested the city to stop extorting people at every turn in the road.

Both label and message were lies.

Within a few years, Usama bin Laden found his home with the Taliban, in their de facto capital, Kandahar, hardly an hour's drive from Quetta. Then he organized the 9/11 attacks. Then he fled to Pakistan, where we finally found him, living in a safe house in Abbottabad, practically on the grounds of the Pakistani military academy. Even knowing what I knew, I was shocked. I never expected the ISI to be that brazen.

Meanwhile, ever since 2002, the ISI had been re-configuring the Taliban: helping it regroup, training and equipping units, developing military strategy, saving key operatives when U.S. personnel identified and targeted them. That's why the Pakistani government got no advance warning of the Bin Laden raid. U.S. officials feared the ISI would warn him.

By 2011, my boss, the outgoing chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Adm. Mike Mullen, testified to the Senate Armed Services Committee that the Taliban were a "virtual arm of the ISI."

"I've been silent for a while. I've been silent about Afghanistan for longer. But too many things are going unsaid. "

*Internationally recognized for her innovative thinking on corruption and its implications, she has uncovered the unrecognized reality that severe and structured corruption can prompt international crises, such as revolutions and other uprisings, violent insurgency, and environmental devastation. Corruption of this sort is the operating system of sophisticated networks, which weave together government officials, business magnates and private charities, and out and out criminals, and represents, in Sarah's view, the primary threat to democracy in our lifetimes.*



**And what did we stand for? What flourished on our watch? Cronyism, rampant corruption, a Ponzi scheme disguised as a banking system, designed by U.S. finance specialists during the very years [Bush admin] that other U.S. finance specialists were incubating the crash of 2008. A government system where billionaires get to write the rules.**

One final point. I hold U.S. civilian leadership, across four administrations, largely responsible for today's outcome. Military commanders certainly participated in the self-delusion. I can and did find fault with generals I worked for or observed. But the U.S. military is subject to civilian control. And the two primary problems identified above — corruption and Pakistan — are civilian issues. They are not problems men and women in uniform can solve. But faced with calls to do so, no top civilian decision-maker was willing to take either of these problems on. The political risk, for them, was too high.

Today, as many of those officials enjoy their retirement, who is suffering the cost?

.....



## About Sarah Chayes



Sarah Chayes's remarkable trajectory has led her from reporting from Paris for National Public Radio and covering the fall of the Taliban in Afghanistan to running a soap factory in downtown Kandahar in the midst of a reigniting insurgency. She went on to advise the topmost levels of the U.S. military, serving as special adviser to two commanders of the international forces in Kabul and then Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mike Mullen. She left the Pentagon for a five-year stint at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, where she extracted the broadly relevant core from those experiences.

Internationally recognized for her innovative thinking on corruption and its implications, she has uncovered the unrecognized reality that severe and structured corruption can prompt international crises, such as revolutions and other uprisings, violent insurgency, and environmental devastation. Corruption of this sort is the operating system of sophisticated networks, which weave together government officials, business magnates and private charities, and out and out criminals, and represents, in Sarah's view, the primary threat to democracy in our lifetimes.

Author of the prize-winning *Thieves of State: Why Corruption Threatens Global Security*, she has just finished *On Corruption In America -- And What Is at Stake*.

She lives in Paris and Paw Paw, West Virginia.



Sarah Chayes, 2015

<b>Born</b>	March 5, 1962 (age 59) Washington, D.C.
<b>Alma mater</b>	<a href="#">Harvard University</a>
<b>Occupation</b>	Journalist, political advisor
<b>Parent(s)</b>	<a href="#">Abram Chayes</a> <a href="#">Antonia Handler Chayes</a>

**Sarah Chayes** is a former senior associate in the Democracy and Rule of Law Program at the [Carnegie Endowment for International Peace](#) and former award-winning reporter for [National Public Radio](#), she also served as special advisor to the [Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff](#).<sup>[1][2]</sup>

Sarah Chayes is the daughter of the late law professor and [Kennedy administration](#) member [Abram Chayes](#)<sup>[3]</sup> and lawyer and former [Undersecretary of the U.S. Air Force](#) [Antonia Handler Chayes](#).<sup>[4]</sup> She graduated from [Phillips Academy, Andover](#) (1980)<sup>[5]</sup> and [Harvard University](#) (1984)<sup>[6]</sup> with a degree in History, magna cum laude. She was awarded the [Radcliffe College](#) History Prize. She then served in the [Peace Corps](#) in Morocco, returning to Harvard to earn a master's degree in History,<sup>[6]</sup> specializing in the Medieval Islamic period. Besides English, she speaks [Pashto](#), French, and [Arabic](#).<sup>[7]</sup>

Chayes began her reporting career freelancing from Paris for *The Christian Science Monitor Radio* and other outlets. From 1996 to 2002, she served as Paris reporter for [National Public Radio](#), covering France, the European Union, North Africa, and the Balkans. She earned 1999 Foreign Press Club and [Sigma Delta Chi](#) awards (together with other members of the NPR team) for her reporting on the [Kosovo War](#).<sup>[1]</sup> After covering the fall of the [Taliban](#) and the early weeks of post-Taliban Afghanistan, in 2002 Chayes decided to leave reporting and stay behind to try to contribute to the rebuilding of the war-torn country.

Chayes lived in [Kandahar, Afghanistan](#) from 2002 to 2009. Having learned to speak [Pashto](#), she helped rebuild homes and set up a dairy cooperative. In May 2005, she established the *Arghand Cooperative*,<sup>[8]</sup> a venture that encourages local Afghan farmers to produce flowers, fruits, and herbs instead of opium poppies. The cooperative buys their almonds, pomegranate seeds, cumin and anise and artemisia and root dyes, extracts oils, essential oils, and tinctures from them, with which it produces soaps and other scented products for export. The cooperative is an associate member of the [Natural Perfumers Guild](#).<sup>[8][9]</sup> Chayes wrote an article detailing the story of the Arghand cooperative and her difficulties with the American aid establishment, which appeared in the December 2007 issue of *The Atlantic Monthly*.<sup>[10]</sup>



THE TIMES OF INDIA

# China may fill financial vacuum in Afghanistan

PTI / Aug 24, 2021, 03:20 IST



BEIJING: China on Monday hinted at stepping up [financial](#) assistance to Taliban-controlled Afghanistan, saying it will play a "positive role" in helping the war-ravaged country amid global pushback to stop [funding](#) to [Kabul](#) until the Afghan militant group modified its hardline religious policies.

In his media briefing, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman [Wang](#) Wenbin called the US "main perpetrator" for the Afghan crisis and said Washington cannot leave without doing anything for Afghanistan's reconstruction. Asked about Afghanistan's exiled central bank chief's comment that the [Taliban](#) may go to China and [Pakistan](#) to replace the US for financial aid, Wang said, "I want to stress that the US is the main perpetrator and biggest external factor for the Afghan issue. It cannot leave the mess without doing anything. We hope the US will match its words with deeds and shoulder its responsibility to honour its own commitments in humanitarian assistance and reconstruction."

Wang said, "China always adopts a friendly policy towards entire Afghan people and has provided substantial assistance to socio-economic development to Afghanistan. We hope there will be an early end to the chaos and wars in the country,(so) it can resume financial order at an early date. China will also play a positive role in helping the country in self capacity building, peace, reconstruction and improvement of peoples' livelihoods."

The US, which has poured about \$1 trillion into Afghanistan over 20 years, moved to block the Taliban's access to Afghanistan's \$9.4 billion in international reserves. And IMF suspended plans to distribute over \$400 million in emergency reserves to the country.

---

## TOP COMMENT

 13 hours ago

**It will fill in such a way that receiving country never comeout of that debt in their lifetime. (Like Pakistan, Srilanka, Maldives and many of African nations)**

[READ COMMENTS \(85\) >](#)

---



# Agriculture Officials Really Want Those Spotted Lanternflies Gone, Gone, Gone

Pennsylvania officials are giving the following advice to those who encounter the pesky invasive insects: "Kill it! Squash it, smash it ... just get rid of it."

## ▪ Pennsylvania Turns To Man's Best Friend To Sniff Out Spotted Lanternfly Infestation

August 24, 2021 · 12:50 PM ET

 JONATHAN FRANKLIN  



Adult Spotted Lanternflies outside the Berks County Services Building in Reading, PA Monday afternoon. The Spotted Lanternfly is an invasive species from Asia.



## The insect apocalypse: 'Our world will grind to a halt without them'

Insects have declined by 75% in the past 50 years - and the consequences may soon be catastrophic. Biologist Dave Goulson reveals the vital services they perform

*Dave Goulson*

Sun 25 Jul 2021 05.00 EDT





*...in the past 50 years*

Thursday, September 10, 2020

## The insect apocalypse: 'Our world will grind to a halt without them'

Insects have declined by 75% in the past 50 years - and the consequences may soon be catastrophic. Biologist Dave Goulson reveals the vital services they perform

**Dave Goulson**

Sun 25 Jul 2021 05.00 EDT



Firdia Lisnawati/AP

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COLLABORATIVE

## The World Lost Two-Thirds Of Its Wildlife In 50 Years. Humans Are to Blame

Human activities are causing an "unprecedented" and alarming decline in wildlife populations around the world, a new report warns. It says the staggering loss ultimately threatens human life as well.





1 Million Women

August 22 at 1:30 PM · 🌐

It's time to redefine what 'successful' means. Original artwork from @creativaty on Instagram



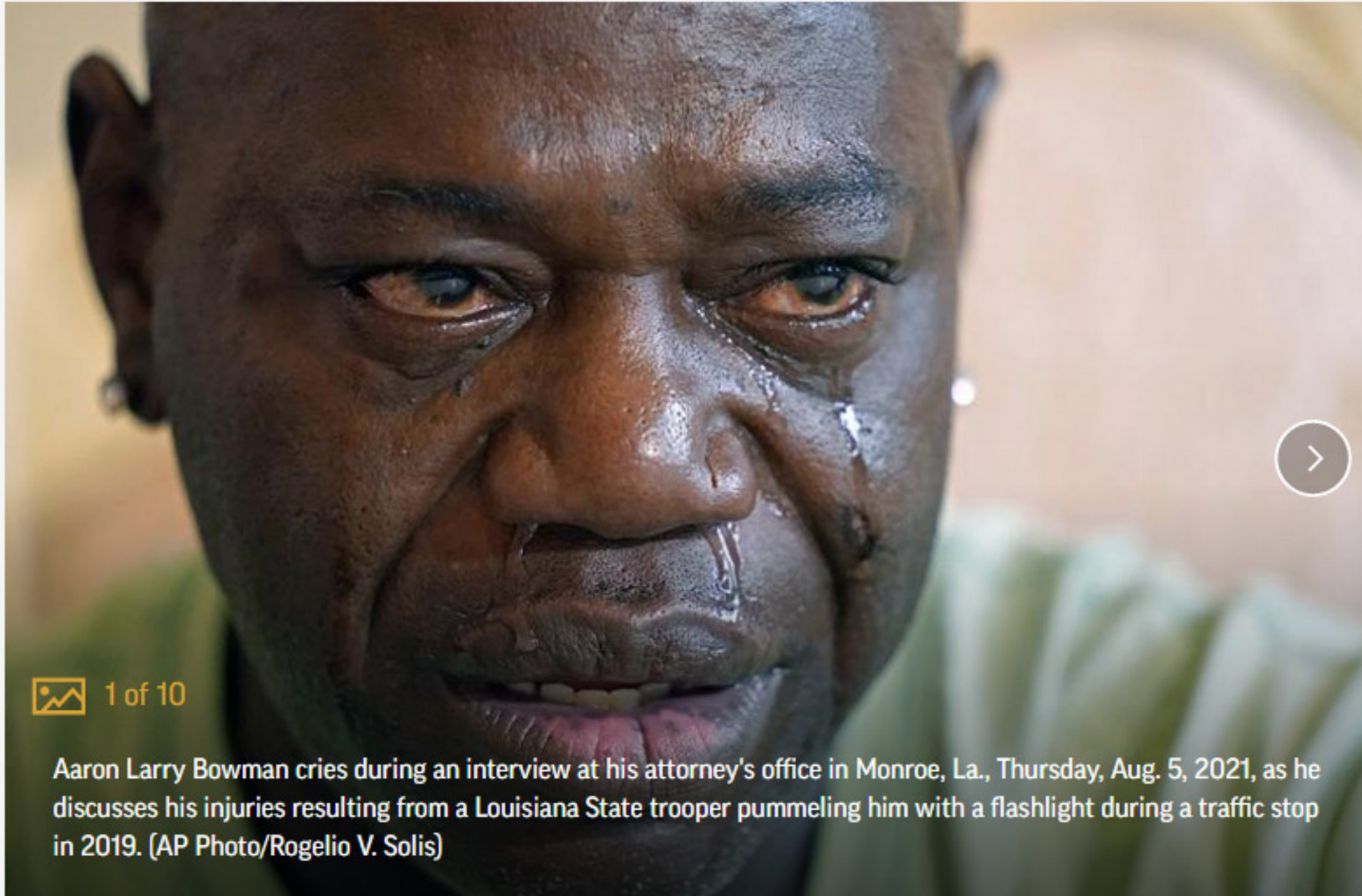
👍❤️ 127K

1.8K Comments 50K Shares



# ‘Pain compliance’: Video shows trooper pummeling Black man

By JAKE BLEIBERG and JIM MUSTIAN 59 minutes ago



1 of 10

Aaron Larry Bowman cries during an interview at his attorney's office in Monroe, La., Thursday, Aug. 5, 2021, as he discusses his injuries resulting from a Louisiana State trooper pummeling him with a flashlight during a traffic stop in 2019. (AP Photo/Rogelio V. Solis)

On the night Bowman was pulled over for a traffic violation, Brown came upon the scene after deputies had forcibly removed Bowman from his vehicle and taken him to the ground. The trooper later told investigators he “was in the area and was trying to get involved.”

Wielding an 8-inch aluminum flashlight reinforced with a pointed end to shatter car glass, Brown jumped out of his state police vehicle and began bashing Bowman on his head and body within two seconds of “initial contact” — unleashing 18 strikes in 24 seconds, detectives wrote in an investigative report.

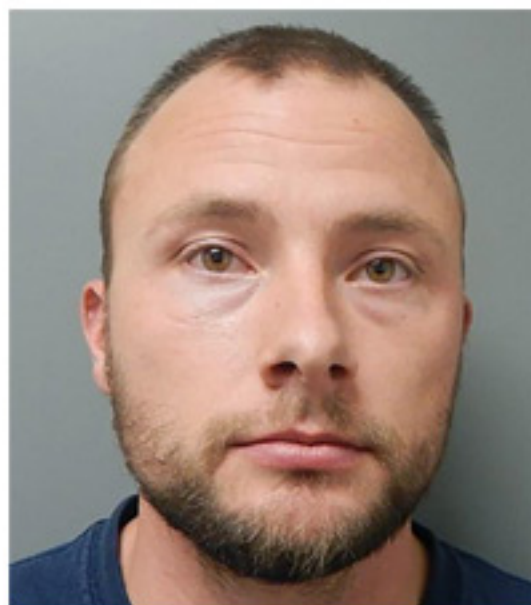
“Give me your f----- hands!” the trooper shouted. “I ain’t messing with you.”

Bowman tried to explain several times that he was a dialysis patient, had done nothing wrong and wasn’t resisting, saying, “I’m not fighting you, you’re fighting me.”

Brown responded with: “Shut the f--- up!” and “You ain’t listening.”

“I kept thinking I was going to die that night,” Bowman told the AP through tears in a recent interview. “It was like reliving it all over again. By watching it, I broke down all over again.”

“I don’t want nobody to go through that.”



Louisiana State Police Trooper Jacob Brown. (Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office via AP)

Bowman’s beating was carried out by Jacob Brown, a white trooper who, before resigning in March, tallied 23 use-of-force incidents dating to 2015 — 19 of them targeting Black people, according to state police records.

This Dec. 10, 2020, photo, provided by the Ouachita Parish Sheriff’s Office shows Louisiana State Police Trooper Jacob Brown. Graphic body camera video kept secret for more than two years shows Brown pummeling a Black motorist 18 times with a flashlight, an attack Brown defended as “pain compliance.” (Ouachita Parish Sheriff’s Office via AP)



[NOTE: I submitted my completed ballot in the North Park Library branch at 2pm on Tuesday, August 17, 2021 -- as yet, it has not been received.]

### Current Mail Ballot Status



SEPTEMBER 14, 2021,  
GUBERNATORIAL RECALL

Ballot Outbound  
08/17/2021

*Your ballot has been mailed! Your ballot is at the Post Office and is making its way to you. Look for your ballot in your mailbox soon!*

Details ^

- ✔

Ballot Outbound  
08/17/2021

*Your ballot has been mailed! Your ballot is at the Post Office and is making its way to you. Look for your ballot in your mailbox soon!*

---

- ✘

Ballot Inbound

*Your ballot is on the way to your county elections office! The Postal Service has indicated to us that they have your ballot, and it is being returned to your county elections office.*

---

- ✘

Ballot Received

*Your ballot has been received! Your ballot has been received by the county election office.*

---

- ✘

Ballot Accepted

*Your ballot has been accepted! Your ballot was received by your county elections office and counted. Thanks for voting!*

### Passed out man found with 300 California recall ballots

<https://apnews.com/article/business-california-95b6935d64ab60da519e2296d46df99a>  
Aug 24, 2021

TORRANCE, Calif. (AP) — California authorities are investigating why a man found passed out in a car had more than 300 unopened mail-in ballots for the gubernatorial recall election.

The man was arrested Aug. 16 after being found in a store parking lot in Torrance, police said.

Investigators with the Torrance police special investigations division, the U.S. Postal Service and Los Angeles County district attorney’s public integrity unit were trying to determine how the ballots ended up in the suspect’s vehicle and what his intent was in having them, police said in a Facebook statement Monday.

Sgt. Mark Ponegalek told KABC-TV that the ballots were unopened and had not been tampered with.

The man was a felon who had drugs, a loaded firearm, thousands of pieces of mail, a scale and multiple California driver licenses and credit cards in other people’s name, police said.

The man, whose name was not released, was arrested for investigation of weapons, narcotics and forgery violations.

Replacement ballots will be sent out, police said.





**[NOTE: I submitted my completed ballot in the North Park Library branch at 2pm on Tuesday, August 17, 2021 -- as yet, it has not been received.]**

### Current Mail Ballot Status




SEPTEMBER 14, 2021,  
GUBERNATORIAL RECALL


Ballot Outbound  
08/17/2021

*Your ballot has been mailed! Your ballot is at the Post Office and is making its way to you. Look for your ballot in your mailbox soon!*


Details ^

- 


Ballot Outbound  
08/17/2021

*Your ballot has been mailed! Your ballot is at the Post Office and is making its way to you. Look for your ballot in your mailbox soon!*
- 

Ballot Inbound

*Your ballot is on the way to your county elections office! The Postal Service has indicated to us that they have your ballot, and it is being returned to your county elections office.*
- 

Ballot Received

*Your ballot has been received! Your ballot has been received by the county election office.*
- 

Ballot Accepted

*Your ballot has been accepted! Your ballot was received by your county elections office and counted. Thanks for voting!*




SEPTEMBER 14, 2021,  
GUBERNATORIAL RECALL


Ballot Accepted  
08/26/2021

*Your ballot has been accepted! Your ballot was received by your county elections office and counted. Thanks for voting!*

Details ^

- 

Ballot Outbound  
08/17/2021

*Your ballot has been mailed! Your ballot is at the Post Office and is making its way to you. Look for your ballot in your mailbox soon!*
- 

Ballot Accepted  
08/26/2021

*Your ballot has been accepted! Your ballot was received by your county elections office and counted. Thanks for voting!*









La Fuente Mexican Food,  
8690 Aero Dr, San Diego, CA 92123



## The Holy Modal Rounders Same Old Man



### Same Old Man - (Traditional arranged by S. Weber)

It's the same old man sittin` at the mill  
mill turns round of its own free will  
yes I`m certainly glad to be home  
New York city can carry on alone

My mind is failing, my body grows weak  
my lips won't form the words to speak  
I'm floatin away on a boatful of pain  
you'll hear my sad cry but won't see me again

It's the same old lady hanging out her wash  
now she's wearing a Macintosh  
she's hangin' out her hose in the middle of the rain  
I thought New York City had gone insane

Hey little leaf lyin' on the ground  
now you're turnin' slightly brown  
why don't you hop back on to that tree  
and turn the colour green the way you oughta be

### Hold Your Broken Heart

<https://tylandrum.com/hold-your-broken-heart/>

Ty Landrum, 26 Nov 2020

My daughter cried later that day, as the same wind blew over the field through which we were walking. My eyes were drawn to the leaves whirling to the ground, and with her soft, widening gaze, she watched those leaves fall too. She told me through teary eyes that she didn't want them to die. I took her into my arms and held her close. I felt her trembling body against mine, and between arose a calm, simple warmth. I felt that warmth spread through her, and she was comforted. And so was I.

"Those leaves already sang their song," I said, "They already held the summer sun, made sugar for that tree, and gave us shade in the afternoon. And now they are ready to fall, ready to crumble, ready to return back to the soil. They will nourish the roots that supported them, when they were reaching toward the light. And with all that richness, the tree will leaf and blossom again, when the spring comes, and new leaves will wave in the wind."

The field rippled again, and we watched more leaves spin off the trees, and whirl down through the air toward the frozen ground. But after that warming embrace, and that simple shift of mind, we both saw those leaves in another light. We saw them fall elegantly, graciously, with absolutely no resistance, back toward the soil from which they sprang. And they seemed now to embody a quiet appreciation, that they are part of something extraordinary, an expression of creativity both exultant and extravagant, luxuriating season after season in its own abundance, allowing itself to diminish and reduce, knowing that it can spring forward again in something even more profuse.

We watched in silence, wondering at how easily those leaves release from the trees as the wind calls them home.



## Supreme Court orders 'Remain in Mexico' policy reinstated

By MARK SHERMAN today

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court says the Biden administration likely violated federal law in trying to end a Trump-era program that forces people to wait in Mexico while seeking asylum in the U.S.

With three liberal justices in dissent, the high court on Tuesday refused to block a lower court ruling ordering the administration to reinstate the program informally known as Remain in Mexico.

The Trump administration largely stopped using the "Remain in Mexico" policy at the start of the pandemic, at which point it began turning back virtually everyone crossing the Southwest border under a different protocol — a public health order that remains in effect.

President Joe Biden suspended the program on his first day of office and the Homeland Security Department ended it in June.

Kacsmaryk was nominated to the federal bench by Trump. The 5th Circuit panel that ruled Thursday night included two Trump appointees, Andrew Oldham and Cory Wilson, along with Jennifer Walker Elrod, nominated to the appeals court by President George W. Bush.

At the high court, at least five of the six conservative justices, including three Trump appointees, voted for the restart of the program. Under the court's opaque treatment of emergency appeals, the justices don't always say publicly how they voted.

## The Supreme Court Orders Biden To Reinstate Trump's Remain In Mexico Policy

The 6-3 court vote ordered the Biden administration to follow a Trump-era policy that forces people to wait in Mexico while seeking asylum in the U.S.



FILE - Migrants waiting to cross into the United States wait for news at the border crossing Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2021, in Tijuana, Mexico. A federal appellate court refused late Thursday, Aug. 19 to delay implementation of a judge's order reinstating a Trump administration policy forcing thousands to wait in Mexico while seeking asylum in the U.S. President Joe Biden had suspended former President Donald Trump's "Remain in Mexico" policy on his first day in office and the Department of Homeland Security said it was permanently terminating the program in June, according to the court record. (AP Photo/Elliot Spagat)



# Australian mourns beloved aunt with heart-shaped love ewes

By ROD McGUIRK today

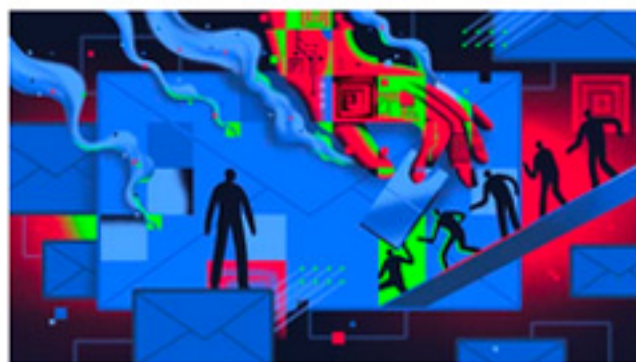


In this image taken from video, sheep form the shape of a heart in a field in Guyra, northern New South Wales, Australia, Thursday, Aug. 5, 2021. Ben Jackson, a sheep farmer stuck in lockdown, was unable to attend his aunt's funeral, has honored her memory with the ultimate tribute, sheep organized in the shape of a love heart. (Ben Jackson via AP)



INVESTIGATIONS

## China's Microsoft Hack May Have Had A Bigger Purpose Than Just Spying



China broke into tens of thousands of email accounts in January. Now officials fear the breach wasn't just about spying. It was to build the next generation of artificial intelligence.

August 26, 2021 · 5:00 AM ET



DINA TEMPLE-RASTON



Both the White House and Microsoft have said unequivocally that Chinese government-backed hackers are to blame.

NPR's months-long examination of the attack — based on interviews with dozens of players from company officials to cyber forensics experts to U.S. intelligence officials — found that stealing emails and intellectual property may only have been the beginning. Officials believe that the breach was in the service of something bigger: China's artificial intelligence ambitions. The Beijing leadership aims to lead the world in a technology that allows computers to perform tasks that traditionally required human intelligence — such as finding patterns and recognizing speech or faces.

"There is a long-term project underway," said Kiersten Todt, who was the executive director of the Obama administration's bipartisan commission on cybersecurity and now runs the Cyber Readiness Institute. "We don't know what the Chinese are building, but what we do know is that diversity of data, quality of data aggregation, accumulation of data is going to be critical to its success."

The hack was fairly straightforward: Once the attackers locked onto a target and slipped into the exposed Exchange servers, they planted code that essentially tricked it into requesting information — emails, documents, PDFs — and then any servers on the other end assumed the request was legitimate.

Microsoft has a Threat Intelligence Center, called MSTIC, that is responsible for investigating and responding to attacks. It tracks dozens of nation-state hackers and has specialists who follow particular groups. So it didn't take MSTIC long to determine who was roaming around in Exchange servers: a group of Chinese government hackers known as Hafnium.

Hafnium, Burt says, is relatively new; Microsoft has only been tracking it regularly since June 2020. It has an M.O. — it tends to target information at government agencies, medical companies and universities.

Meanwhile, anxiety about the hack was beginning to ripple through the highest levels of the Biden administration. National security adviser Jake Sullivan tweeted out a message urging IT departments to install the patches. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency released an emergency directive that warned if the malicious activity was left unchecked, it could "enable an attacker to gain control of an entire enterprise network."

"This is an active threat," press secretary Jen Psaki told reporters at the White House while all this was going on. "Everyone running these servers — government, private sector, academia — needs to act now to patch them."

Kawaguchi said in his nearly 20 years at Microsoft, he'd never seen an attack scale up so quickly. And the breadth of it seemed out of character; nation-state hackers tend to have very targeted goals, he said — they know what they want and they gather it up quietly. In this case, the Chinese were acting like cybercriminals seemingly unconcerned about who or what might get caught up in their attack.

"A lot of customers probably have felt 'I'm too small a fish,' " Kawaguchi said. " 'Nobody, no nation-state, is going to go after me.' And what we're seeing is because there's so much connection between organizations, you can go after a small fish to get to a big fish. And so everybody's having to up their game."

The Microsoft Exchange hack was the latest in a long list of Chinese-sponsored cyberattacks. The tally in just the four years between 2014 and 2018 is head-spinning. There was the Office of Personnel Management attack in which hackers spent some time in OPM networks and then whisked away 21.5 million records from the federal government's background investigation database. U.S. officials said Beijing-backed hackers were behind every one of those attacks.

Stealing information from small- and medium-size businesses out in the American heartland doesn't immediately suggest espionage. Instead, officials believe the Chinese gather this information to help them construct the informational mosaic they need to build world-class AI. It explains their tendency, Todt said, "to gather and aggregate data and as much as possible and not discriminating where that data comes from."

The reason we should care about that is because of the role AI plays in our everyday lives. It is becoming the mechanism by which insurance rates are calculated, credit is given, mortgages are approved and health care data is calculated. And Todt said Americans should take a moment to reflect on what it would mean to have a technology that will touch our lives in a myriad of ways built by someone else and, more specifically, China.

"As it builds out its AI, China can social engineer to its priorities, to its mission," she said. "And that mission may be different from ours."



# The Latest: CDC head says Africa needs higher vaccine target

By The Associated Press 49 minutes ago



1 of 11

A nurse in protective gear, center, takes temperature of people waiting to take the Moderna coronavirus vaccine at the health center in Lagos, Nigeria Wednesday, Aug. 25, 2021. Nigeria has begun the second rollout of COVID-19 vaccines as it aims to protect its population of more than 200 million amid an infection surge in a third wave of the pandemic. (AP Photo/Sunday Alamba)



A nurse prepares the Moderna coronavirus vaccine at the health center in Lagos, Nigeria Wednesday, Aug. 25, 2021. Nigeria has begun the second rollout of COVID-19 vaccines as it aims to protect its population of more than 200 million amid an infection surge in a third wave of the pandemic.

NAIROBI, Kenya — The director of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is raising the vaccination target he believes is needed to provide widespread protection against COVID-19 on the continent, citing the more infectious delta variant now present in 32 countries.

Africa CDC Director John Nkengasong told reporters on Thursday that health officials once estimated at least 60% of Africa's population of 1.3 billion people needed to be vaccinated to achieve so-called herd immunity.

Nkengasong says he now thinks the proportion should be "in excess of 70% to 80%." Even at that level, he said, "are we going to get to herd immunity? I doubt that notion is relevant anymore."

Africa is well short of its original vaccination target as health officials criticize richer countries for hoarding doses and rolling out booster shots while people in poorer nations are still awaiting vaccines. .

**Only 2.5% of Africa's population is fully vaccinated now, and 93 million doses have been administered. The Africa CDC has estimated that perhaps just 30% of Africa's population can be vaccinated by the end of the year.**

"Things will get more challenging before they get better," Nkengasong said.

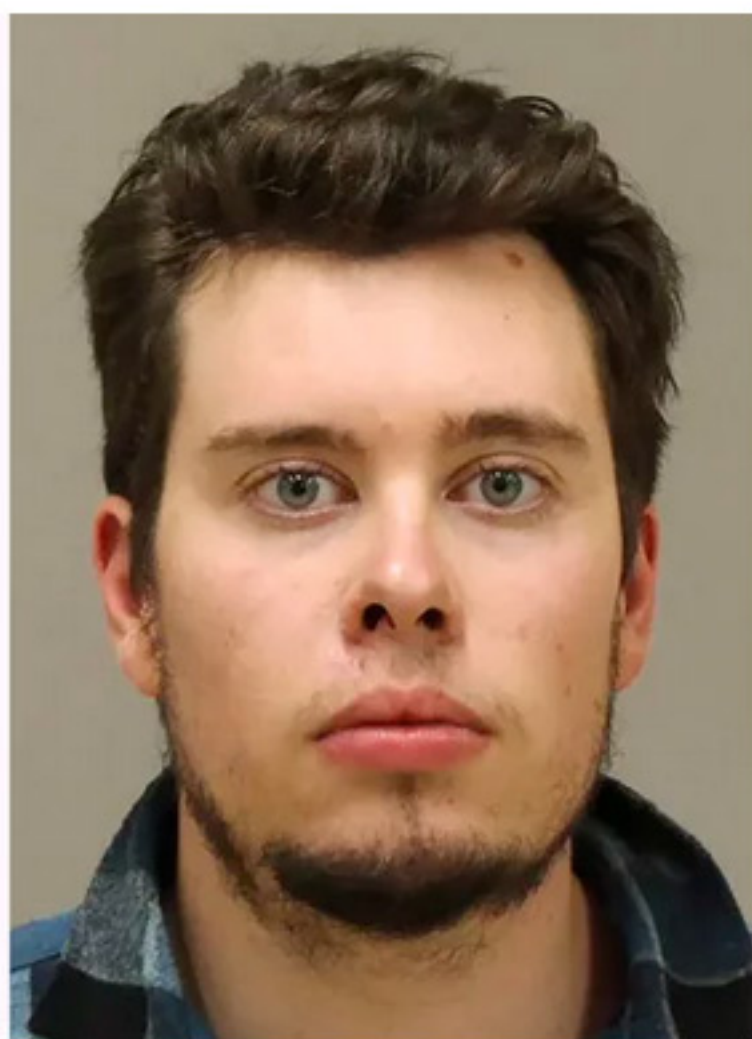


LAW

# One Of The Men Charged In The Mich. Governor Kidnap Plot Gets 6 Years In Prison

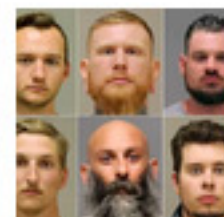
August 26, 2021 · 12:47 AM ET

JACLYN DIAZ



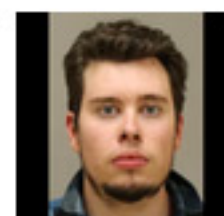
This file photo provided by the Kent County Sheriff, shows Ty Garbin.

Kent County Sheriff's Office via AP



NATIONAL

[6 Suspects Indicted In Alleged Conspiracy To Kidnap Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer](#)



NATIONAL

[Suspect Pleads Guilty In Plot To Kidnap Michigan Governor, Turns Government Witness](#)

A Michigan man charged in federal court with plotting to kidnap Gov. Gretchen Whitmer was sentenced to six years and three months in prison, according to court records.

Ty Garbin, 25, is the only member of the six men facing federal charges in the kidnapping plot to plead guilty for his role. He also received three years of supervised release following his prison sentence.

Last year, Garbin struck a plea deal with prosecutors and agreed to cooperate in the investigation. He turned government witness and disclosed crucial details about the alleged plan to kidnap Whitmer.

At his sentencing hearing Wednesday, Garbin apologized to Whitmer, who was not in the court room, and her family for his involvement, according to Michigan Radio.

Garbin also apologized to his family and told federal judge Robert J. Jonker that he hopes "to help others from becoming radicalized."

Whitmer, a Democrat, was harshly criticized by former President Donald Trump and Michigan Republican leaders for her efforts to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

Prosecutors said Garbin conspired with Adam Fox, Barry Croft, Kaleb Franks, Daniel Harris and Brandon Caserta, who "were members of the Wolverine Watchmen, a Michigan-based self-styled 'militia' group."

The group collected weapons, participated in field training in Wisconsin, and conducted surveillance of Whitmer's vacation home last year.

The trial for the other five men facing federal charges is set to begin on Oct. 12.





## Kareem Abdul-Jabbar: Why the Host of 'Jeopardy!' Matters

The columnist (and former 'Jeopardy!' contestant) argues that the media focus on Mike Richards' insensitive comments misses a deeper issue with the host search that "suggests the problem may not be just a bad branch, but a rotten root."

BY KAREEM ABDUL-JABBAR AUGUST 25, 2021 7:30AM



THR PHOTO ILLUSTRATION / COURTESY OF JEOPARDY PRODUCTIONS (3), INC.; SONY PICTURES

The focus on the sudden stepping down of newly selected Jeopardy! host Mike Richards over insensitive and out-of-touch sexist comments misses the deeper reason the show's search for a new host has become such a dramatic public debacle. The way the show's producers handled the transition from the Golden Age of Trebek is just as insensitive and out-of-touch as Richards' smarmy comments. Even though producers recently announced the delightful Mayim Bialik — an acclaimed actor and Ph.D. in neuroscience — as the temporary host, their tone-deaf misstep suggests the problem may not be just a bad branch, but a rotten root.

Since 1984 — perhaps as an unconscious rebuttal to Orwellian fears of dystopian ignorance — Jeopardy! has been the paragon of game shows as well as a thumbed nose at perpetual complaints that television is just a vast wasteland. It proudly celebrates knowledge and intelligence when other game shows prefer slapstick humor or simple tasks slightly more challenging than cornhole at a backyard barbecue. While these other game shows are admittedly all in good fun and cheerfully entertaining, the source of their fun is often contestant greed, not accomplishment. That's perfectly legitimate and enjoyable entertainment. However, it focuses on the basest instincts of humanity while Jeopardy! honors our aspirational side.

Though Alex Trebek may have started hosting the show with the background of just another placid game show host, he evolved with the show and became the kindly face of the part of America that venerates knowledge. That's why choosing the right host to replace him is about more than simple entertainment values, it's about respecting what the show represents to American culture. It's about acknowledging Jeopardy!'s significance as an enriching leader in promoting the joys and benefits of education.

This is especially important considering the assault against intelligence and critical thinking the country has faced in recent years. The introduction of the scientific method in the 17th century lifted humanity out of the fetid and superstitious Dark Ages into the bright and vibrant Age of Enlightenment. The simple idea that we objectively gather verifiable evidence before reaching conclusions is the infrastructure of our civilization, both in our scientific achievements and social advancements. It's the basis of our legal code and our moral code.

I competed on Jeopardy! in seasons 11 and 15 as well as in the Million Dollar Celebrity Invitational tournament in season 26 and Power Players Week in season 28. I was happy to have a platform to show America that athletes were more than just moving body parts and that we were knowledgeable about much more than sports stats. I hope that my appearances, along with athletes like Reggie Jackson, Martina Navratilova and Aaron Rodgers, elevated the image of athletes and contributed to people taking their voices more seriously when they spoke out about social justice.

Admirably, the producers had rotated guest hosts that represented a cross-section of America: women, men, Black, white. Many were more than just entertainers, they were also doctors, journalists, people with demonstrable interests beyond the television industry. But when it came to choosing the permanent host, they defaulted to a white male with a background as a television producer and game show host. His credentials included stints behind the scenes at *The Price Is Right* and *Let's Make a Deal*, shows featuring avarice more than advancement. The choice of Mike Richards was business as usual.

The ideal host for Jeopardy! should embody what the show means to its viewership: a passion for knowledge and a respect for a diverse community. Maybe the host would also reflect that diversity in order to show that it's not just white males who can be the gatekeepers to these values. What's especially shocking is that the producers of a show that is about knowledge demonstrated a substantial lack of awareness of recent cultural history and the coming of age our institutions — from government to the academy to entertainment — have been going through.

To put it in Jeopardy! terms: Answer: Philosopher George Santayana. Question: Who said, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."





When our bodies are moving, our minds are more open to learning. Petri Oeschger/Moment Collection via Getty Images

## Why students learn better when they move their bodies – instead of sitting still at their desks

August 26, 2021 8:16am EDT

 [Katie Headrick Taylor](#), University of Washington

My son's kindergarten teachers, holding class on Zoom last year, instructed: "Eyes watching, ears listening, voices quiet, bodies still." However, I noticed my 6-year-old's hands would stay busy with items found around our house, building with Legos, shaping clay or doodling with a crayon.

While some might describe this child as being "off task," research suggests his manipulation of materials actually aroused his mind, allowing it to focus on the required task.

As a parent of two school-aged children and a professor and researcher of learning with technology, I believe current models of remote education are inefficient for learning, teaching and productivity.

That's because sitting in front of a computer screen subdues, or completely detaches people from, many of the sense-making abilities of their bodies. To learn most efficiently, our minds depend on the movement of our bodies, working with a variety of tools, being in dynamic places and having our collaborators nearby.

### The body's role in thinking

Most notably, remote learning assumes that as long as the mind is engaged, it's fine if the body stays still. But this argument is backward.

Research from embodied cognition – the study of the body's role in thinking – shows that the body must first be interacting with the world to activate and open up the mind for learning.

That's why, for example, students working with a variety of tools and materials during a learning activity are better able to grasp abstract concepts, such as gravitational acceleration or fractions.

To ask students to sit still while performing their work actually increases their cognitive load, or the burden on the mind. It requires them to concentrate on quieting their bodies, which are seeking out avenues for sense-making, as well as on the primary task that fixes them to their desk or digital screen.

As psychologists Christine Langhanns and Hermann Müller concluded from studies of people solving math problems, "Sitting quietly is not necessarily the best condition for learning in school."

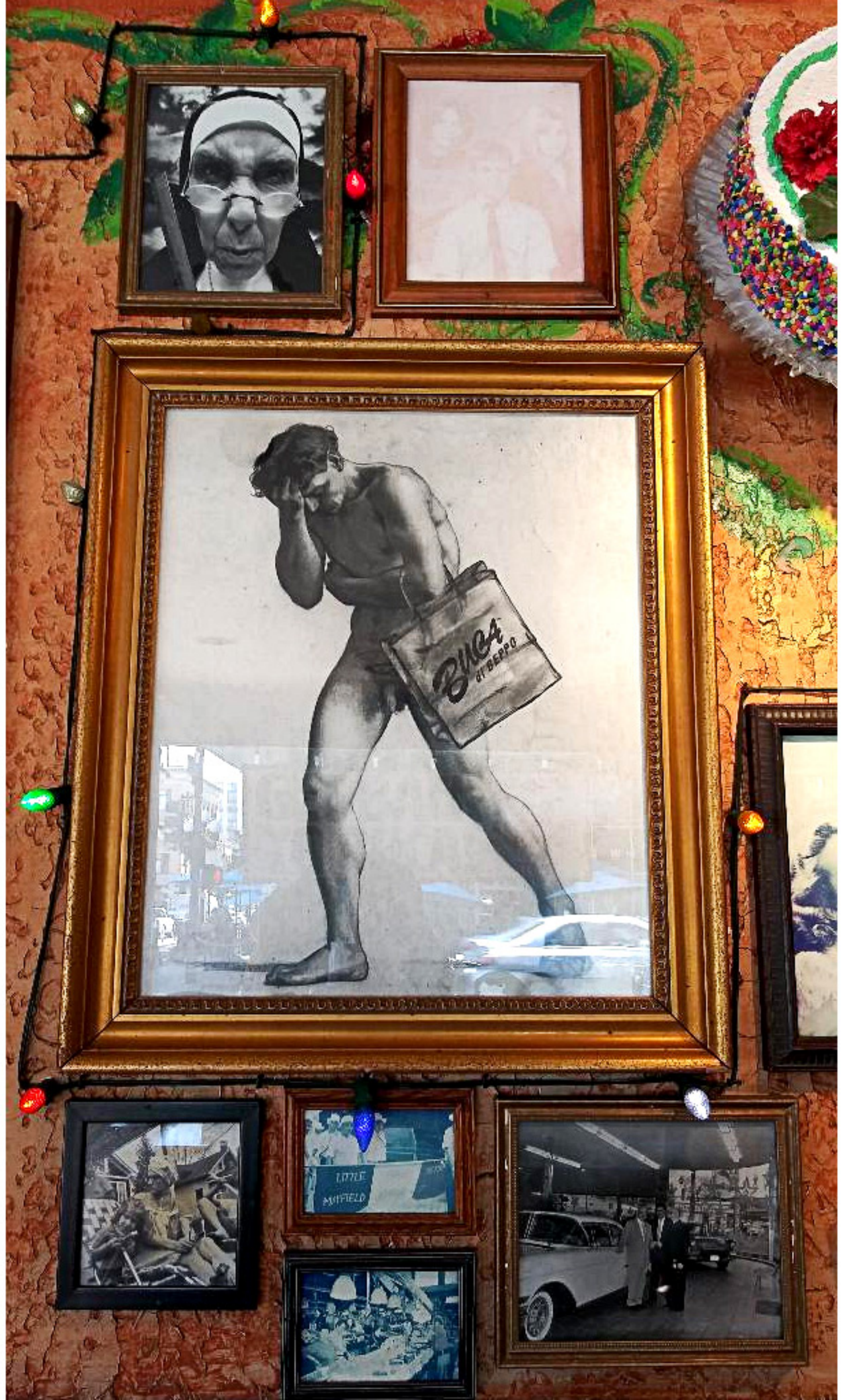
[...]

Teachers, parents and students can all change their expectations of what being "on task" looks like. Walking, running or dancing may not seem related to a particular task at hand, but these activities often help people do their best thinking. Activating the body activates the mind, so "seat time" might better be titled "activity time."

.....  
If I were the child I was then today,  
besides the labels of aphasic dyslexic,  
I'd be saddled with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)  
and treated with dopamine increasing stimulants, non-stimulant medications,  
such as atomoxetine and guanfacine, and/or powerful zombie inducing antidepressants.  
Forever battling acute, rapid, and chronic neural drug tolerance.

When the reality was,  
I was a refined sugar addict,  
undiagnosed, untreated.  
.....





Buca di Beppo Italian Restaurant,  
705 Sixth Ave, San Diego, CA 92101





Buca di Beppo Italian Restaurant,  
705 Sixth Ave, San Diego, CA 92101



## China blasts '996' excessive work culture

By [Jill Disis](#) and CNN's Beijing bureau, [CNN](#)

Updated 4:42 AM ET, Fri August 27, 2021



**Hong Kong/Beijing (CNN Business)** China is putting companies that overwork their employees on notice.

The country's top court on Thursday issued a lengthy condemnation of what's commonly known in China as "996," the practice of working from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. six days a week that is said to be common among the country's big technology companies, startups and other private businesses.

"Recently, extreme overtime work in some industries has received widespread attention," the Supreme People's Court wrote in its statement, which it issued with the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security. Workers deserve rights for "rest and vacation," adding that "adhering to the national working hour system is the legal obligation of employers," the court wrote.

It cited several examples of companies across a range of industries it said violated labor rules, including an unnamed courier company that it said told employees to work 996 hours. Telling employees to work that much "has seriously violated the law on extending the upper limit of working hours and should be deemed invalid," the court said.



**Related Article:** Pinduoduo's founder leaves as his Chinese e-commerce giant grows bigger than ever

The public backlash against the excessive-work culture isn't new. Alibaba (BABA) co-founder Jack Ma, for example, was heavily criticized in China two years ago after he called 996 culture a "huge blessing." And Chinese labor law already prohibits its employees from working that long.

But the latest edict from the country's top court comes as Beijing embarks on a massive crackdown on private business in China, rolling out new regulations and fines to curtail the influence of powerful corporations. The crackdown has been justified by President Xi Jinping and other top officials as necessary to tackle data security risks and inequality in education, and to prevent social instability.


"There is nothing wrong with advocating working hard, but it cannot be a shield for employers to evade [their] legal responsibilities," the court wrote Thursday. The debate about 996 culture has been revived this year during the crackdown on private enterprise. In January, e-commerce company Pinduoduo (PDD) faced an intense backlash over allegations that it overworks its employees, after two of its employees died unexpectedly, including a man who died by suicide. The company did not respond at the time to questions about the allegations made against its work culture, but did say that it had set up a team to provide psychological counseling following the suicide of a worker.

**Recently young people in China have also begun rejecting an intense work culture by invoking a desire to "lie flat," or "tang ping." The philosophy calls on people to reject societal pressures to work hard, get married, have children or buy property because of the diminishing rewards of achieving such goals.**



# Uber is buying the rest of grocery delivery start-up Cornershop

PUBLISHED MON, JUN 21 2021 9:12 AM EDT | UPDATED MON, JUN 21 2021 5:49 PM EDT

 Jessica Bursztynsky  
@JBURSZ

## KEY POINTS

- Uber is acquiring the remaining interest in grocery delivery start-up Cornershop.
- The deal comes nearly two years after the ride-hailing giant took a majority stake in Cornershop for an undisclosed sum.
- Uber has been pushing itself beyond ride-hailing, and has seen strength in its Uber Eats business due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



**Cornershop**  
by Uber

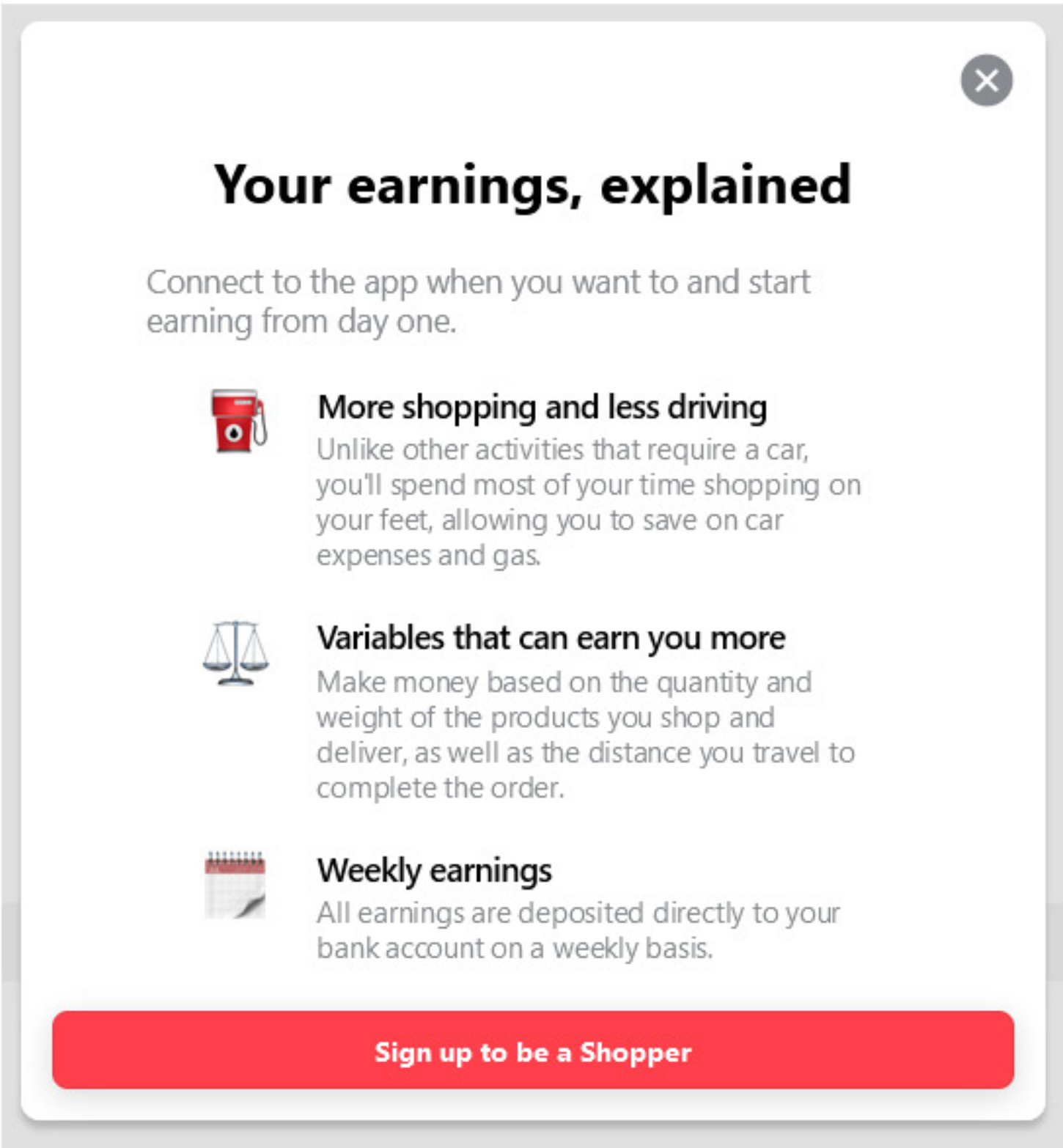
## Make money shopping

Shop and deliver groceries and specialty products

[Sign up to be a Shopper](#)




## Who is the competitor of Instacart?

Instacart's top competitors include Shipt, FreshDirect, **Cornershop**, Postmates and Blue Apron. Instacart is a company that offers grocery delivery services. Shipt delivers fresh groceries from local grocery stores through a community of shoppers and convenient app.




**Your earnings, explained**

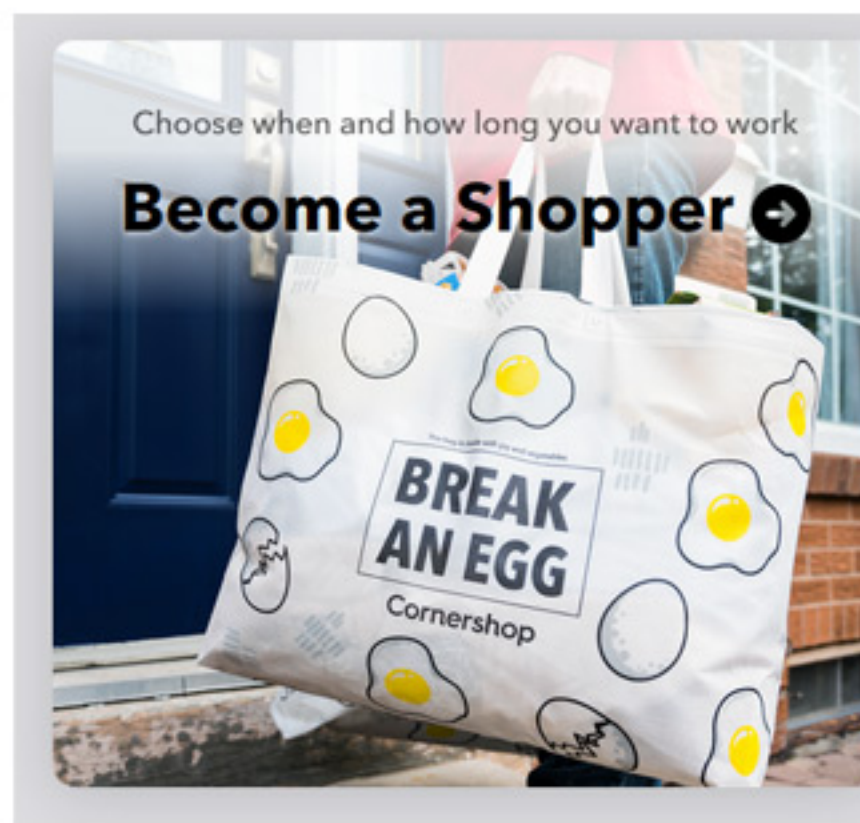
Connect to the app when you want to and start earning from day one.

-  **More shopping and less driving**  
Unlike other activities that require a car, you'll spend most of your time shopping on your feet, allowing you to save on car expenses and gas.
-  **Variables that can earn you more**  
Make money based on the quantity and weight of the products you shop and deliver, as well as the distance you travel to complete the order.
-  **Weekly earnings**  
All earnings are deposited directly to your bank account on a weekly basis.

[Sign up to be a Shopper](#)


## How it works


-  **Browse your favorite stores**  
Fill your cart with products from your favorite stores.
-  **Shoppers shop for you as they would for themselves**  
Let them know if you want ripe or green bananas. They'll only bring them bruised if you ask!
-  **Get it when you need it**  
Need an order delivered later? Schedule it for later.

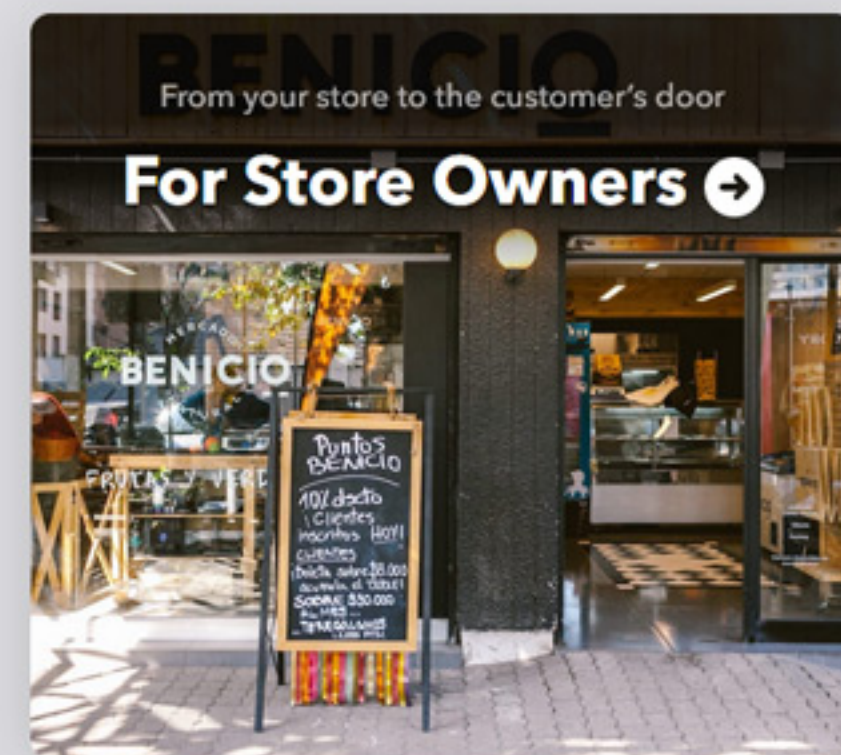


Choose when and how long you want to work

## Become a Shopper




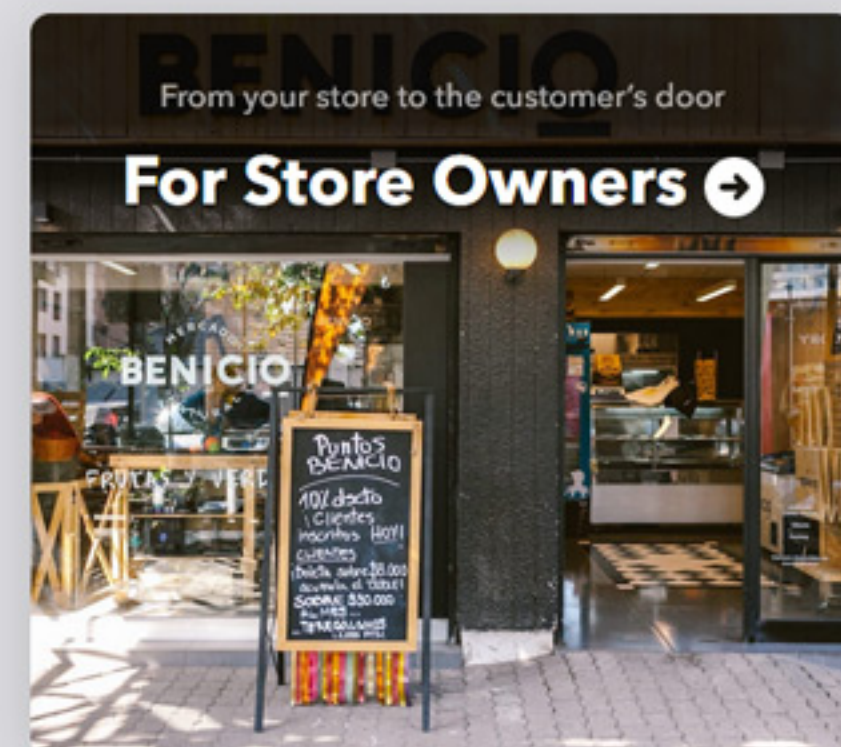




From your store to the customer's door

## For Store Owners









Dan Landrum

# Test results for Dan

## YOUR ORDER

TEST(S)	SARS-CoV-2, RT-PCR
ORDER NUMBER	85785213
SPECIMEN COLLECTION DATE	08/19/2021
RESULTS RECEIVED	08/24/2021

[LAB PDF](#)



[EASY READ PDF](#)



## EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: About Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)

[World Health Organization: Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

## RESULTS SUMMARY

Your result  
**COVID-19: Negative**

Your results do not detect SARS-CoV-2. A negative test means that the virus was not present in the sample you provided.

Your results suggest you were negative at the time of testing.\*

\*Although the possibility is low, a false negative result should be considered if you have had recent exposure to the virus along with symptoms consistent with COVID-19.

[View More](#)

Was this helpful?

YES

NO



LAW

## The Supreme Court Strikes Down The Latest Eviction Ban, Potentially Affecting Millions Of Tenants

The court's six conservative justices said the CDC exceeded its authority by issuing the two-month pause on evictions in much of the country.

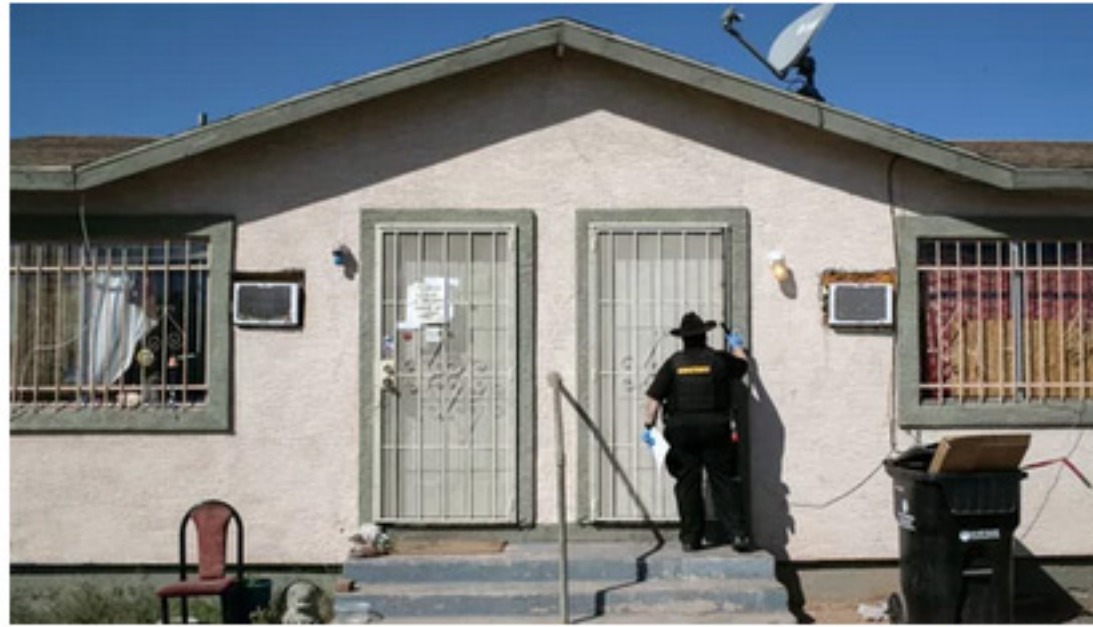
Updated August 26, 2021 · 10:29 PM ET ⓘ

Heard on Morning Edition

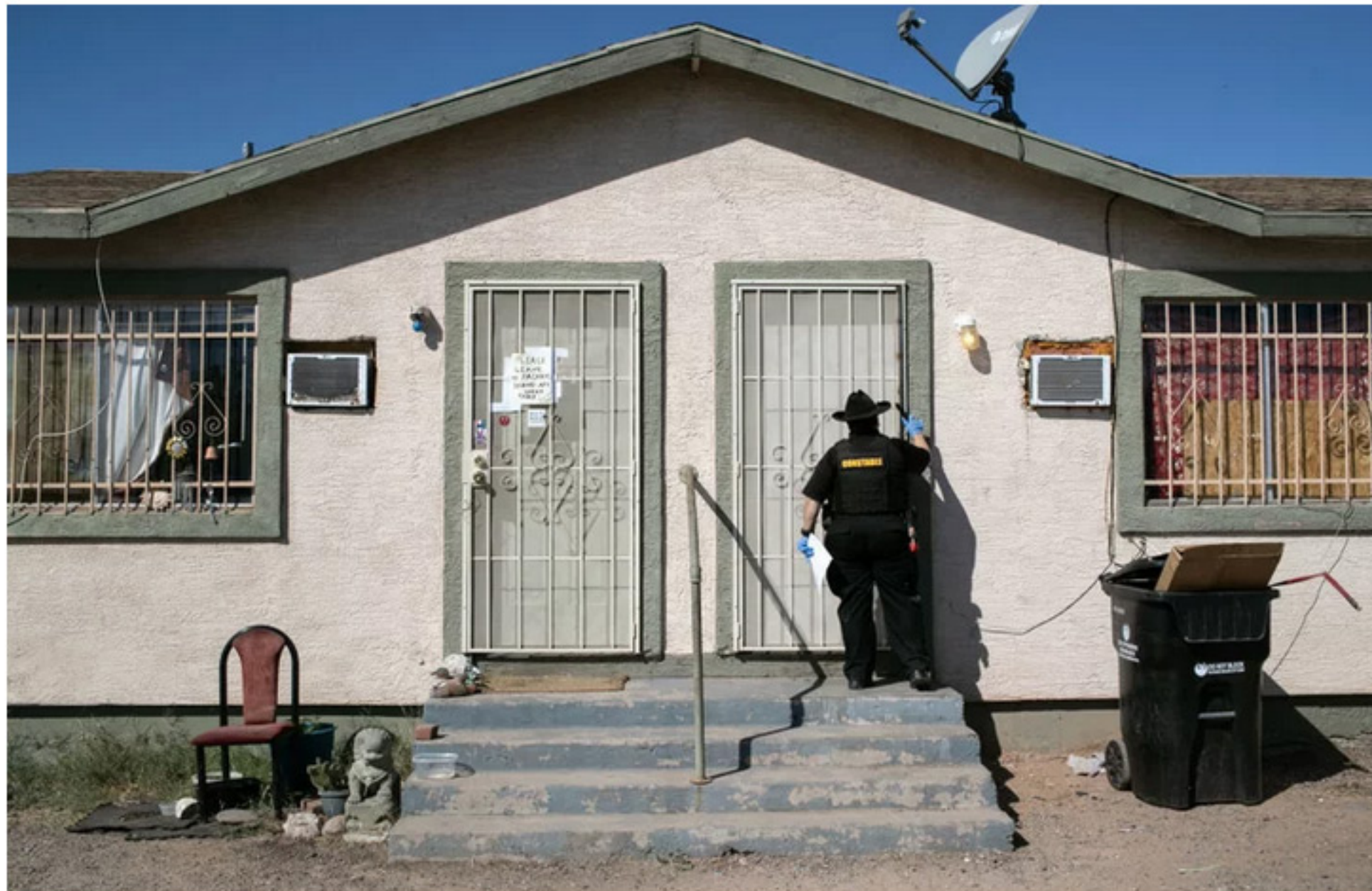
KRISHNADEV CALAMUR



CHRIS ARNOLD



John Moore/Getty Images



Maricopa County constable Darlene Martinez knocks on a door before posting an eviction order on Oct. 1, 2020, in Phoenix. An extended eviction moratorium ordered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has been struck down.

John Moore/Getty Images

The U.S. Supreme Court has blocked the Biden administration's order extending the federal eviction moratorium to a large swath of the country, in a decision expected by both legal scholars and the White House.

The ban on evictions, a two-month order, was issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The pause covers parts of the United States that are experiencing what the CDC calls "substantial" and "high" spread of the coronavirus.

The unsigned decision from the court was 6-3, with the court's three liberal justices dissenting.

The court's majority said the CDC exceeded its authority with the temporary ban.



## Some female hummingbirds that look like males face less social harassment, study finds

By Megan Marples, CNN

Updated 11:10 AM ET, Thu August 26, 2021



White-necked jacobin hummingbirds may engage in physical fights with other hummingbirds for food.

(CNN) Some female birds are dressed to the nines -- yet oddly interact less with others.

Brightly colored feathers may be the key for these female hummingbirds to avoid physical fights with others of their species.

Female hummingbirds tend to have muted feathers, but researchers found that about 20% of female White-necked Jacobins have bright feathers -- like their male counterparts -- which saves them from being socially harassed, according to a study published Thursday in *Current Biology*.

Young birds often start out with female feather coloring, but in the case of this hummingbird species, they are born looking like males, said study author Jay Falk, who worked as a doctoral student in the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute during this study. He's currently a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Washington in Seattle.

Seeing all the juvenile birds look like males, "is pretty unusual in birds, and it was so unexpected that it actually took me a few years to see it in the data," Falk said.

As the hummingbirds he studied grew up, only 80% of the females molted into drabber colors, leaving the remaining females with male coloring.

Researchers placed taxidermy mounts of the hummingbirds throughout Gamboa, Panama, and observed how the other hummingbirds interacted with them.

The females with male coloration faced less social harassment from other male and female hummingbirds compared to their more muted counterparts, Falk said. The hummingbirds would often chase or peck one another, he noted.

Scientists don't know for sure how or why some females keep their male plumage, but the adaptation may be linked to food, said Kimberly Rosvall, associate professor of biology at Indiana University in Bloomington, who was not involved in the study.

"The data suggests that these more aggressive females with the male-like plumage are better at defending a key food resource," she said. "They do more chasing and are chased less."

Food that's readily available is a critical resource for hummingbirds because they have a high metabolism, which means they need to eat a lot, said James Dale, professor of zoology at Massey University in Palmerston North, New Zealand, who was not involved in the study.

### Social protections of colorful plumage

Females might avoid fighting with the brightly colored birds because they could be dangerous, Falk said.

"She might recognize that drab females are less dangerous, leading her to engage in aggression with drab females," he added.

While it was rare in the experiment, Falk said males may bother females to court them.

Male hummingbirds do not help raise their offspring, Dale said, and they're able to have more offspring if they can convince more females to mate with them.

In the experiment, males preferred to mate with the female hummingbirds who had drab, female coloring rather than the male-colored females, Falk said. However, the males also courted and mated with the male-like female mounts, he added.

In the future, Falk said he is interested in researching why only some of the female hummingbirds look like males as adults.

The research has shown how beneficial it is for the female hummingbirds to have male-colored feathers, Dale said, yet most females don't keep their male-colored plumage.

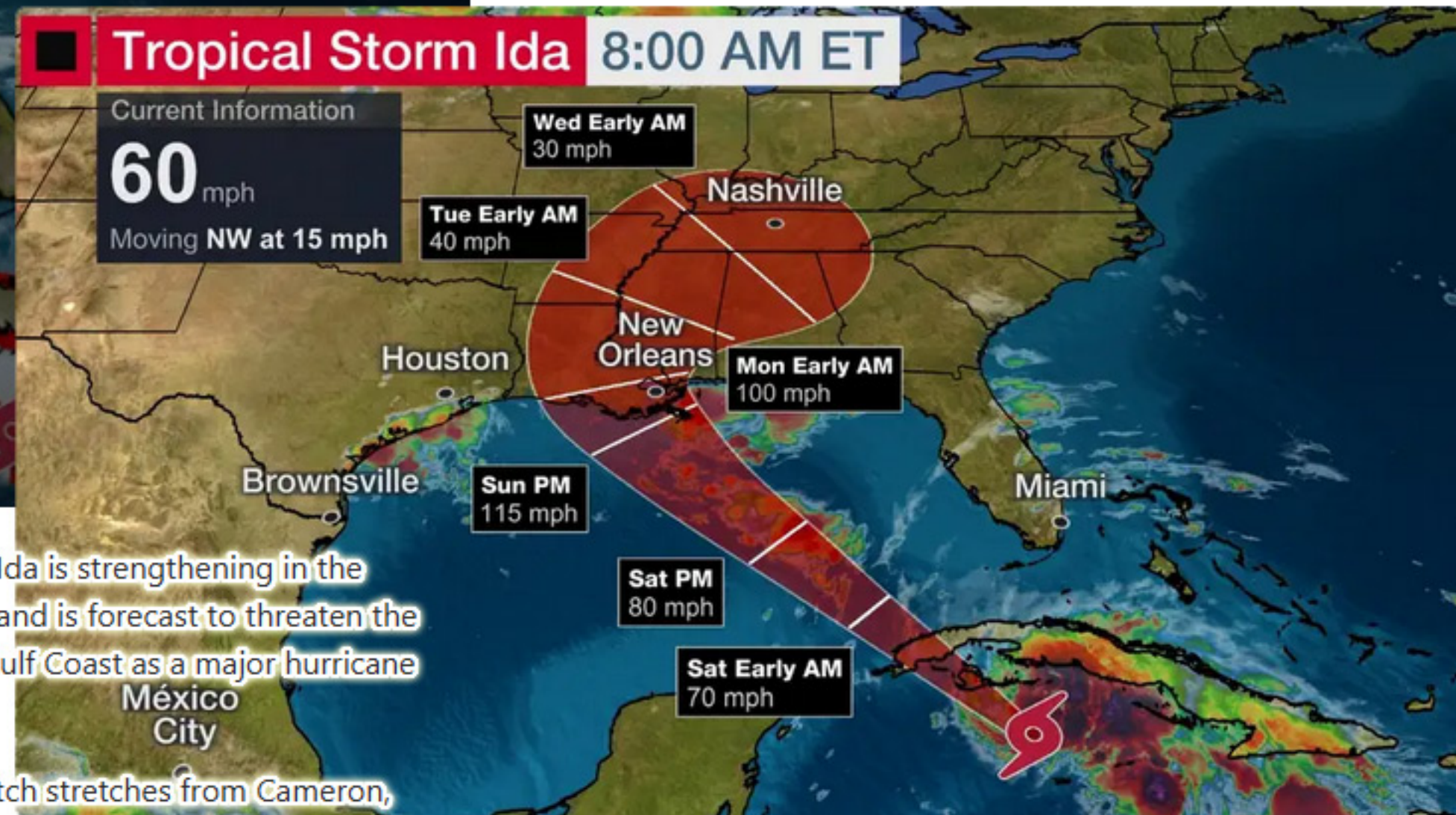
"Despite the costs of harassment, there must be some benefits to the females that molt into typical female-like coloration," Dale added.



# Tropical Storm Ida Is Strengthening and Forecast To Hit Gulf Coast As A Major Hurricane

By weather.com meteorologists · less than an hour ago

Ida could make landfall as a major hurricane on the 16th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina's landfalls in southeast Louisiana and Mississippi.



## At a Glance

- Tropical Storm Ida is strengthening in the Caribbean Sea.
- This system is forecast to grow into a major hurricane in the Gulf of Mexico this weekend.
- Interests along the northern and western U.S. Gulf Coast should monitor this system closely.

Tropical Storm Ida is strengthening in the Caribbean Sea and is forecast to threaten the northern U.S. Gulf Coast as a major hurricane this weekend.

A hurricane watch stretches from Cameron, Louisiana, to the Mississippi-Alabama state line, including the New Orleans metro area. Hurricane watches are typically issued 48 hours in advance of when tropical storm-force winds

are expected to arrive since these conditions make it difficult to make preparations for a hurricane, once they begin.

A storm surge watch has also been issued from the Texas-Louisiana state line to the Alabama-Florida state line, including Vermilion Bay, Lake Borgne, Lake Pontchartrain, Lake Maurepas and Mobile Bay. This means dangerous flooding from storm surge is possible within the next 48 hours.

Finally, a tropical storm watch has been issued along the Alabama coast, where tropical storm conditions are possible within 48 hours.



REPORT

# Geometric deep learning of RNA structure

 Raphael J. L. Townshend<sup>1,†,‡</sup>,  Stephan Eismann<sup>1,2,†</sup>,  Andrew M. Watkins<sup>3,†</sup>,  Ramya Rangan<sup>3,4</sup>,  Maria Karelin...

+ See all authors and affiliations

Science 27 Aug 2021:  
Vol. 373, Issue 6558, pp. 1047-1051  
DOI: 10.1126/science.abe5650

## Machine learning solves RNA puzzles

RNA molecules fold into complex three-dimensional shapes that are difficult to determine experimentally or predict computationally. Understanding these structures may aid in the discovery of drugs for currently untreatable diseases. Townshend *et al.* introduced a machine-learning method that significantly improves prediction of RNA structures (see the Perspective by Weeks). Most other recent advances in deep learning have required a tremendous amount of data for training. The fact that this method succeeds given very little training data suggests that related methods could address unsolved problems in many fields where data are scarce.

*Science*, abe5650, this issue p. **1047**; see also abk1971, p. **964**

## Abstract

RNA molecules adopt three-dimensional structures that are critical to their function and of interest in drug discovery. Few RNA structures are known, however, and predicting them computationally has proven challenging. We introduce a machine learning approach that enables identification of accurate structural models without assumptions about their defining characteristics, despite being trained with only 18 known RNA structures. The resulting scoring function, the Atomic Rotationally Equivariant Scorer (ARES), substantially outperforms previous methods and consistently produces the best results in community-wide blind RNA structure prediction challenges. By learning effectively even from a small amount of data, our approach overcomes a major limitation of standard deep neural networks. Because it uses only atomic coordinates as inputs and incorporates no RNA-specific information, this approach is applicable to diverse problems in structural biology, chemistry, materials science, and beyond.



## Science

Vol 373, Issue 6558  
27 August 2021

- [Table of Contents](#)
- [Print Table of Contents](#)
- [Advertising \(PDF\)](#)
- [Classified \(PDF\)](#)
- [Masthead \(PDF\)](#)

<https://www.sciencemag.org/about/science-licenses-journal-article-reuse>

This is an article distributed under the terms of the [Science Journals Default License](#).

[View Full Text](#)



# There's A March On Washington For Voting Rights. Here's What Is Holding Up Action

August 27, 2021 · 5:07 AM ET

JUANA SUMMERS



Civil rights leader Ben Jealous speaks at a voting rights rally outside the White House on Aug. 24 in Washington, D.C. Marches across the country are planned for Saturday.

More than 50 years after the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and reminded America of the "fierce urgency of now," activists are hoping to recreate the power of that day.

Thousands of activists are expected to converge Saturday in Washington and other cities across the country on the anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington as part of the national fight over access to the ballot box.

"We know that when people engage, we create nonviolent street heat, action occurs," said Martin Luther King III, the eldest son of the Rev. King. He is one of the organizers of the March On for Washington and Voting Rights.

Democrats and voting rights activists want federal legislation to fight back against new rules in Republican-led states that they say are intended to make it harder to vote, particularly for voters of color and young people. But on Capitol Hill, such bills have faced stiff Republican opposition, leaving Democrats so far unable to pass fresh legislation, despite holding control of Washington.

"It also makes it tragic that we're at a place where, as my mom used to say, every generation has to re-earn or earn its freedom. Because theoretically, we should be beyond voting rights," said King. "We should be addressing other issues."

Many Democrats fear that if federal voting bills aren't passed soon, the wave of new Republican laws could make it harder for many Americans to vote in the 2022 midterm elections.

Like Biden, supporters of the bills say that both the Lewis bill and the For The People Act are necessary to protect voting rights. The For The People Act would set new national standards making it easier to vote, end partisan gerrymandering and increase transparency in campaign finance.

Democrats don't have enough votes in the evenly divided Senate to overcome opposition from Republicans, who have said these voting bills are overreaching and partisan. Republicans can block both bills because of the Senate rule known as the filibuster, which activists and some Democrats want to get rid of. Earlier this week, activists held a demonstration near the White House calling on Biden to more forcefully weigh in on the simmering debate over Senate procedure.

Speakers at the rally spoke in front of bright orange capital letters that spelled out the phrase "Step Up Joe." Biden needs to "pick a side," said Cliff Albright, a co-founder of Black Voters Matter.

## What's next?

Senators remain engaged in negotiations on their own versions of voting rights legislation and no text has been released.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer has indicated that the Senate will move to the issue when lawmakers return to Washington in September.

One key negotiator, Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar, expressed optimism this week, saying at a roundtable in Wisconsin that she felt "good about the direction we're headed right now," and that she and fellow Democrats remain in negotiations with Manchin.

Jealous and other activists say its key that Biden and Democrats in Washington act with urgency.

"If in September this crisis has [Biden's] full focus, it can be fixed by October, well in time for the 2022 election," said Jealous, who is also a former president of the NAACP. "If the president dallies, if he acts like he's more powerless than he is, then we could see a situation where entire statewide elections are stolen."



## Opinion

# Big oil coined 'carbon footprints' to blame us for their greed. Keep them on the hook

*Rebecca Solnit*

Climate-conscious individual choices are good - but not nearly enough to save the planet. More than personal virtue, we need collective action

Mon 23 Aug 2021 06.20 EDT

Personal virtue is an eternally seductive goal in progressive movements, and the climate movement is no exception. People pop up all the time to boast of their domestic arrangements or chastise others for what they eat or how they get around. The very short counterargument is that individual acts of thrift and abstinence won't get us the huge distance we need to go in this decade. We need to exit the age of fossil fuels, reinvent our energy landscape, rethink how we do almost everything. We need collective action at every scale from local to global – and the good people already at work on all those levels need help in getting a city to commit to clean power or a state to stop fracking or a nation to end fossil-fuel subsidies. The revolution won't happen by people staying home and being good.

But the oil companies would like you to think that's how it works. It turns out that the concept of the "carbon footprint", that popular measure of personal impact, was the brainchild of an advertising firm working for BP. As Mark Kaufman wrote this summer:

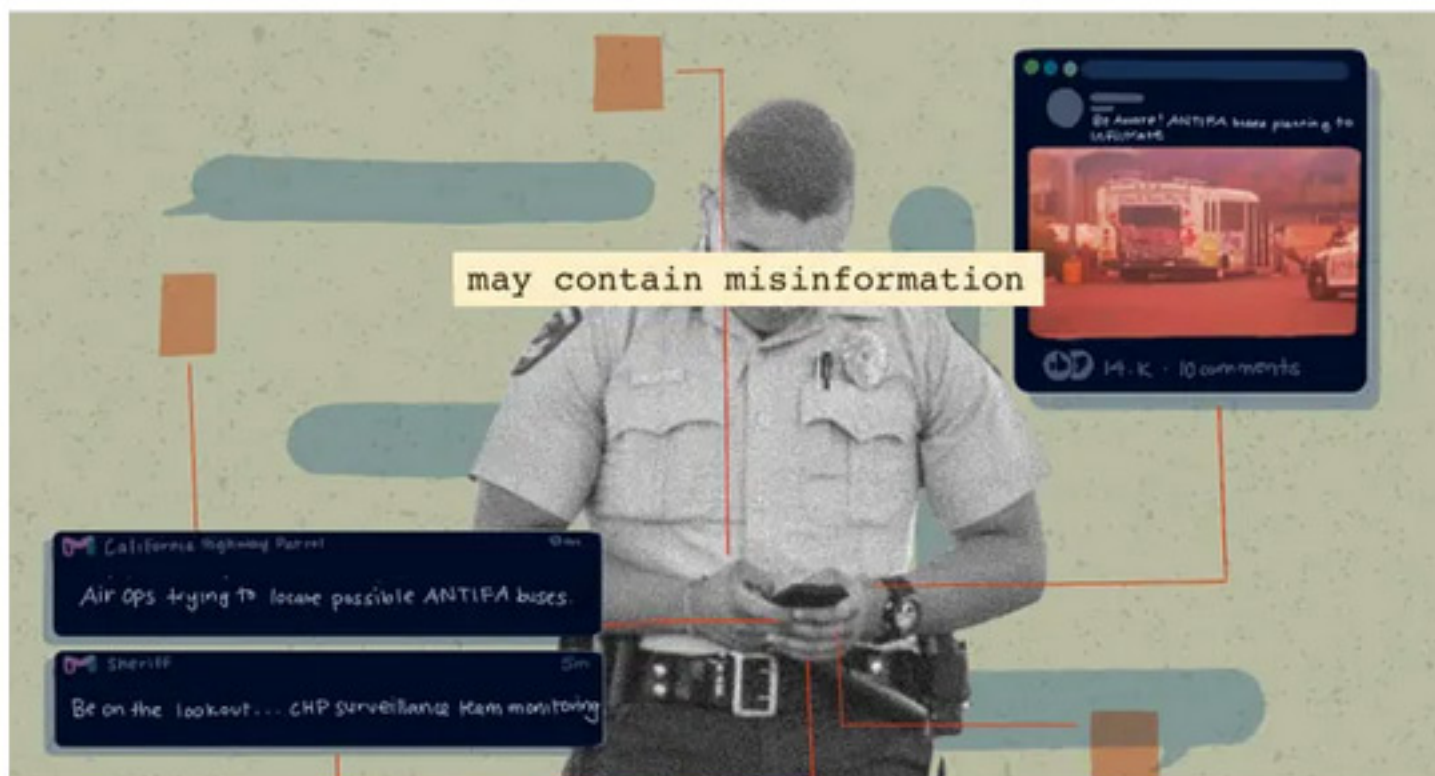
**British Petroleum**, the second largest non-state owned oil company in the world, with 18,700 gas and service stations worldwide, **hired the public relations professionals Ogilvy & Mather to promote the slant that climate change is not the fault of an oil giant, but that of individuals.** It's here that British Petroleum, or BP, first promoted and soon successfully popularized the term "carbon footprint" in the early aughts. The company unveiled its "carbon footprint calculator" in 2004 so one could assess how their normal daily life – going to work, buying food, and (gasp) traveling – is largely responsible for heating the globe.

The main reason to defeat the fossil fuel corporations is that their product is destroying the planet, but their insidious propaganda, from spreading climate-change denial to pushing this climate footprint business, makes this goal even more worthwhile.

# Ogilvy

Type	Subsidiary
Industry	Advertising, marketing, public relations
Founded	1948; 73 years ago
Founder	David Ogilvy
Headquarters	New York City
Key people	Andy Main (Global chief executive officer), <sup>[1]</sup> Rory Sutherland (advertising) (Vice Chairman)
Number of employees	24,850(2020) <sup>[2]</sup>
Parent	WPP plc
Subsidiaries	Ogilvy Consulting <sup>[3]</sup>
Website	<a href="http://www.ogilvy.com">www.ogilvy.com</a>  





## California Revealed: how California police chased a nonexistent 'antifa bus'

Authorities in rural northern counties spread misinformation and launched aircraft surveillance in response to false rumors about antifa 'infiltrators', according to records obtained by the Guardian



**Sam Levin** in Los Angeles

@SamTLevin

Mon 23 Aug 2021 06:00 EDT

On 1 June 2020, a law enforcement official in the small northern California city of Redding sent screenshots of two social media posts to her staff, asking them to investigate.

One was an Instagram story. "BE AWARE ... I have heard, from a reliable source, that ANTIFA buses with close to 200 people (domestic terrorists) are planning to infiltrate Redding and possibly cause distraction and destruction," it read.

The second, a Facebook post, warned that buses of protesters planning to "riot" had stopped in Klamath Falls in southern Oregon, "but there was no rioting or burning as they decided to move on". The post included a grainy image of a small van with "Black Lives Matter" written on the back.

Elizabeth Barkley, then chief of the California Highway Patrol (CHP) northern division, which covers rural parts of the state just south of Oregon, asked her colleagues to look into the claims and "notify our allied agencies in town". Ninety minutes later, another CHP official forwarded the message to officers saying, "The thought is these buses are roaming – looking for events to attend (and possibly cause problems)."

Fifteen minutes after that, a CHP sergeant told a listserv of commanders that "possible ANTIFA buses [are] heading to Redding", adding that the agency's tactical alert center had been notified. The official said that CHP aircraft operations were now actively trying to locate a vehicle on the freeway. The sheriff of nearby Humboldt county, William Honsal, shared the information with his entire staff, saying, "BOL [be on the lookout] for ANTIFA buses from Oregon."

An Instagram story screenshot reads: "If you choose to be apart of protests that is your constitutional right. BE AWARE. I have heard, from a reliable source, that ANTIFA buses with close to 200 people (domestic terrorists) are planning to infiltrate Redding and possibly cause distraction and destruction. They were in Klamath Falls, OR yesterday and are touring around. I sincerely hope this isn't true."

This is meant to inform and not to spread fear. I believe this is a paid organization designed to create chaos. Do not engage in violence. Do not be apart of the problem by getting caught up in the moment with instigators. !!SHASTA/TEHAMA!!"

The actions of officials in Shasta and Humboldt counties last summer were outlined in internal documents obtained through a public records request by Property of the People, a not-for-profit transparency group, and shared with the Guardian.

They show how officers in these rural counties, known for weed farms and hiking and overwhelmingly white, were swiftly duped by unfounded allegations about "Antifa buses" threatening to "infiltrate" the community as the United States wrestled with the death of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter demonstrations that sprung up in the aftermath.

The records also show how the agencies' response to those unsubstantiated allegations helped spread misinformation rooted in online conspiracy theories. The files were particularly troubling, experts said, because antifa conspiracy theories have inspired armed rightwing vigilantes to organize in response, sometimes with violent demonstrations.

In some cases, police have expressed tacit support for such responses.

In one of the CHP emails from June, a captain spoke positively about the militias that responded to "antifa bus" threats in Oregon, saying that locals "armed with long rifles, shotguns and pistols, wearing blue arm bands (to be recognized by police as friendly)" showed up "to deter violence in their city".

Shane Burley, a researcher and expert on the far right, noted that when police describe antifa as a major domestic terror threat, "it legitimizes vigilante violence". He cited the rise in car attacks against BLM protesters, and armed rightwing men threatening demonstrators.

At least one official in Humboldt county has expressed frustration that law enforcement seemed more concerned with BLM than with legitimate violent threats from the far right.

Two days after the 6 January insurrection, one county government leader emailed the sheriff and others expressing her dismay that officials had not condemned the "attempted coup" in DC. She noted that a local group had also protested at the Humboldt courthouse that day, but law enforcement did not communicate with government employees about it, even though "police escorts had previously been offered when there were rumors of a BLM protest".

The sheriff responded that he had received no intelligence reports suggesting that there would be a violent local protest and said the demonstrators "were exercising their constitutional rights". And while he called the violence at the US Capitol "horrifying and deplorable", he also corrected her language.

According to the FBI, he said, the attack was "not considered a coup d'état".



# Coronavirus FAQ: How Do The Rules of 6 Feet And 15 Minutes Apply To The Delta Variant?

August 27, 2021 - 3:36 PM ET

SHEILA MULROONEY ELDRED



People don face masks to help keep the coronavirus at bay in June in Ankara, Turkey. But what about earlier recommendations to stay 6 feet away from others and limit close contact to 15 minutes? Are these still effective against the contagious delta variant?

*Adem Altan/AFP via Getty Images*

***"I would just say to use common sense and a higher index of suspicion [now that Delta has taken over]."***

**Leana Wen**, an emergency physician and public health professor at George Washington University

## So how should you judge your risk?

There are a few specific things you can do to lower your risk, of course: Get vaccinated, wear a mask, wash your hands, stay away from anyone who's sick. But in terms of time and distance, experts say to think more generally.

"I think it is important for people to think of this in terms of more likely and less likely rather than in terms of absolutes like 6 feet and 15 minutes," Karan says.

It's OK to rely on your own common sense, Wen points out. "I would just say to use common sense and a higher index of suspicion [now that Delta has taken over]."



# Breaking Free: How I Escaped My Father—Warren Jeffs—Polygamy, and the FLDS Cult

by Rachel Jeffs

★★★★★ 4.03 ·  Rating details · 7,457 ratings · 785 reviews

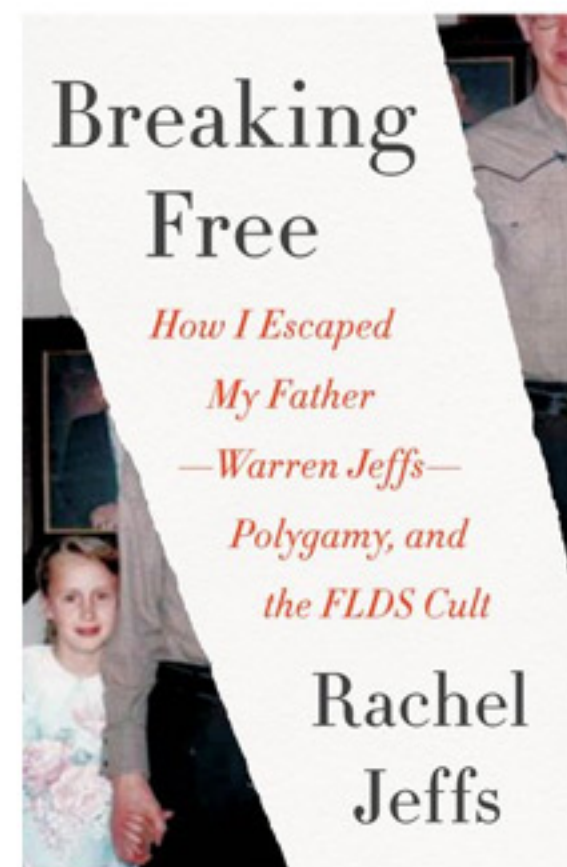
In this searing memoir of survival in the spirit of *Stolen Innocence*, the daughter of Warren Jeffs, the self-proclaimed Prophet of the FLDS Church, takes you deep inside the secretive polygamist Mormon fundamentalist cult run by her family and how she escaped it.

Born into the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Rachel Jeffs was raised in a strict patriarchal culture defined by subordinate sister wives and men they must obey. No one in this radical splinter sect of the Mormon Church was more powerful or terrifying than its leader Warren Jeffs—Rachel's father.

Living outside mainstream Mormonism and federal law, Jeffs arranged marriages between under-age girls and middle-aged and elderly members of his congregation. In 2006, he gained international notoriety when the FBI placed him on its Ten Most Wanted List. Though he is serving a life sentence for child sexual assault, Jeffs' iron grip on the church remains firm, and his edicts to his followers increasingly restrictive and bizarre.

In *Breaking Free*, Rachel blows the lid off this taciturn community made famous by John Krakauer's bestselling *Under the Banner of Heaven* to offer a harrowing look at her life with Warren Jeffs, and the years of physical and emotional abuse she suffered. Sexually assaulted, compelled into an arranged polygamous marriage, locked away in "houses of hiding" as punishment for perceived transgressions, and physically separated from her children, Rachel, Jeffs' first plural daughter by his second of more than fifty wives, eventually found the courage to leave the church in 2015. But *Breaking Free* is not only her story—Rachel's experiences illuminate those of her family and the countless others who remain trapped in the strange world she left behind.

A shocking and mesmerizing memoir of faith, abuse, courage, and freedom, *Breaking Free* is an expose of religious extremism and a beacon of hope for anyone trying to overcome personal obstacles. ([less](#))



[Follow](#)

**Rachel J Blackmore**

@racheljeffs44

Author of *Breaking Free*.

📍 United States 📅 Joined July 2016

22 Following 4,274 Followers

Tweets

Tweets & replies

Media

Likes

📌 Pinned Tweet



**Rachel J Blackmore** @racheljeffs44 · Aug 7, 2020

Fear culture is cult culture; scaring everyone into obedience is cultism. Don't be afraid of anything and never trust those who try to scare or intimidate you to do something. Follow your heart, keep your freedom. [#fearcultureiscultism](#)

💬 3

↻ 8

❤️ 66







08:29 that's where he's been sent away to repent what is he repenting for um i don't know exactly i

Jessica meets with Raymond Jeffs, son of Warren Jeffs, the notorious leader, and prophet of the FLDS polygamist cult. Raymond pleads for their help getting his only brother, Isaac, out of the group in Part 1 of Season 3, Episode 4, "The Prophet's Son." #EscapingPolygamy



#EscapingPolygamy  
Escaping Polygamy: The Prophet's Son – Part 1 of 2 (Season 3, Episode 4) | Lifetime  
138,135 views • Mar 20, 2021

1.5K 46 SHARE SAVE ...



15:43 awesome thanks guys yeah



#EscapingPolygamy  
Escaping Polygamy: The Prophet's Son - Part 2 of 2 (Season 3, Episode 4) | Lifetime  
88,128 views • Mar 20, 2021

1.2K 26 SHARE SAVE ...



FLUMMOXT



Pinned Tweet



**Leana Wen, M.D.** @DrLeanaWen · Aug 11

Unvaccinated children will soon be starting school during what might be the most dangerous moment in the pandemic for them.

Parents with young kids have to take matters into our hands to reduce risk.



Opinion | The pandemic has become more dangerous for children. Her... It's a sad indictment of our society that children are paying the price for irresponsible adults and reckless policymakers.

[washingtonpost.com](https://www.washingtonpost.com)

201 325 618



**Leana Wen, M.D.**

@DrLeanaWen

Visiting Professor @GWPublicHealth. Author of Lifelines. Emergency physician. Contributing columnist @WashingtonPost. @CNN medical analyst. Mom.

4,793 Following 172.5K Followers

Leana Wen



Wen in 2013

President of Planned Parenthood

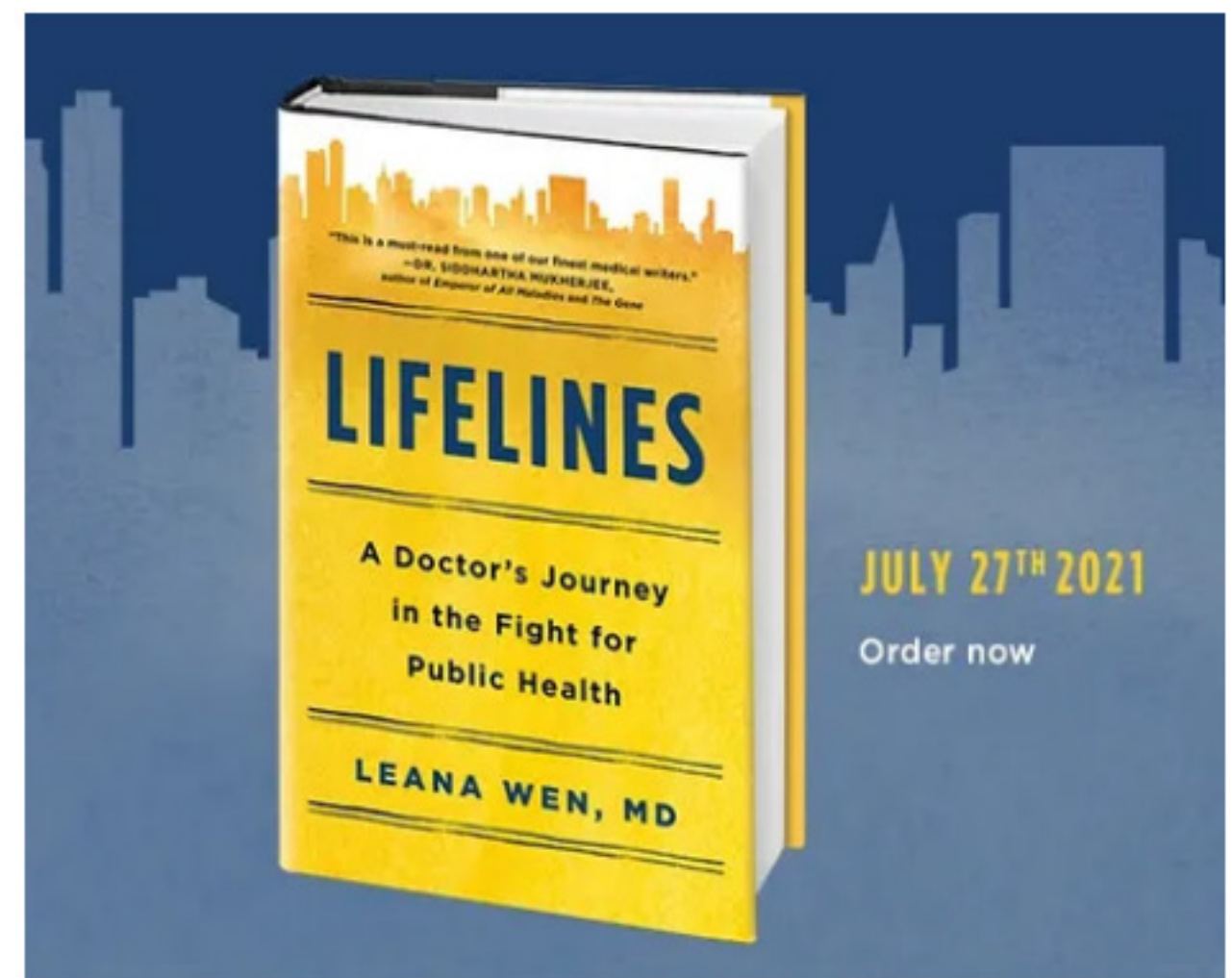
Born Wen Linyan (温麟衍) in Shanghai on January 27, 1983, to Ying Sandy Zhang and Xiaolu Wen, Wen moved with her parents to the U.S. when she was eight, by then having the English name Leana Sheryle Wen. Granted political asylum, the Wen family lived in Compton and East Los Angeles in Southern California. In 2003, Wen and her family became U.S. citizens.

Wen's mother, who died of breast cancer in 2010, first worked as a hotel room cleaner and video store clerk before becoming an elementary school teacher. Her father delivered newspapers and was a dishwasher, later serving as technology manager for The Chinese Daily News in Los Angeles.

Attending the Early Entrance Program (EEP) at California State University, Los Angeles starting at age 13, Wen graduated summa cum laude at age 18 with a bachelor's degree in biochemistry, in 2001. She received a Doctor of Medicine from Washington University School of Medicine and has two master's degrees, one in Economic and Social History and another in Modern Chinese Studies, both from the Merton College, Oxford in England where she was a Rhodes Scholar. She also met her future husband, Sebastian Walker, during her time in England.

<https://drleanawen.com>

## Lifelines: A Doctor's Journey in the Fight for Public Health







The University of Alabama's Alpha Phi sorority runs out of Bryant-Denny Stadium during bid day in 2014.

## TikTok, #BamaRush and the irresistible allure of mocking Southern accents

August 27, 2021 8:31am EDT

 Kathryn Cunningham, University of Tennessee

As college students across the country return to campuses grappling with the COVID-19 delta variant, Greek letters of a different variety have captivated social media feeds with stunning virality.

The #BamaRush trend on TikTok introduced followers to the annual recruitment process for National Panhellenic Conference sororities at the University of Alabama. The popular videos offer a firsthand perspective on the recruitment process, showcasing the various events and the women's corresponding fashion choices – the “outfit of the day,” or #OOTD – for each stage.

When this phenomenon came to my attention, I noticed that TikTok's algorithm fed me not only the posts of women participating in #BamaRush but also parody videos made by people glued to the unfolding events.

In these videos, I immediately observed a fixation on the women's accents, which one reporter described as “thick” and “heavy.”

Transparent, research-based, written by experts – and always free.

Having been born and raised in northeast Georgia and educated in North Carolina, I was quite young when I intuited that, if I were to be taken seriously as an actor, a scholar and a human, my accent would have to go. By the time I arrived in New York in 2006, I had successfully erased most markers of my Southernness from my speech. What remained I was able to surgically remove after receiving notes and feedback from directors and coaches.

Now I teach voice and speech to actors in a theater program in the South, and I think a lot about how people perceive the native speech varieties of this region. What's behind this enduring fascination with – and thinly veiled disdain for – some Southern American accents?

### Sorority culture rife with issues

I speak from personal experience about sorority culture because, for a short time, I was a member of one at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. I experienced recruitment from within and witnessed some of the problematic aspects of this system. My sophomore year, I formally withdrew – what's called “de-sistering.”

During the flood of media coverage of the #BamaRush trend, Slate's ICYMI podcast did an explainer episode addressing all the “-isms” inherent to certain Greek organizations, including racism, sexism, classism and weight discrimination.

In fact, the University of Alabama's own student newspaper, The Crimson White, published an article in 2013 that investigated racism in sorority recruitment, spurring a process of integration. (Yes, in 2013!)

To be clear: There are plenty of things to criticize about the National Panhellenic Conference's sorority culture.

Accents, however, aren't one of them.



# More than a thousand anti-vaxxers march on New York City streets to protest de Blasio's vaccine mandate which forces everyone 12 and older to show proof of vaccine to get into restaurants, bars, entertainment and gyms

- Over 1,000 people protested against the vaccine mandate on Saturday in New York City
- After marching and chanting, they gathered in Columbus Circle
- One speaker said, 'This is a war call. This is a fight. Leave here and do something ... Fight for your rights'
- While the demonstration unfolded Saturday afternoon, Mayor Bill de Blasio's tweeted pictures from Harlem and praised the faith community Hope of Harlem's work at COVID-19 community outreach
- People against the vaccine have argued that they're concerned with long-term effects from the vaccine and alluded to breakthrough cases as to why the vaccine isn't working
- On the other side of the argument, health professionals and NYC decision makers who put the mandate in place have said most of the COVID-19 cases today are because of the highly contagious 'Delta' variant

By CHRISTOPHER EBERHART FOR DAILYMAIL.COM

PUBLISHED: 20:15 EDT, 28 August 2021 | UPDATED: 21:41 EDT, 28 August 2021





# The Troubled History Of Vaccines And Conflict Zones

August 29, 2021 · 7:00 AM ET

MADELINE DEXTER

FROM **UNDARK**

On March 23, 2020, with the deadly coronavirus reported in 167 countries and territories, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres called for a global ceasefire to support a public health response. It was the first global ceasefire appeal since the agency was founded in 1945, in the aftermath of World War II. "The fury of the virus illustrates the folly of war," Guterres said. "End the sickness of war and fight the disease that is ravaging our world."

***"Just work on the root causes — on inequality. One thing that COVID has done is to underline that, disregarding of where we live, we are all exposed and we are in all of this together,"***

**Esperanza Martinez**, head of the COVID-19 crisis team of Geneva Call — a humanitarian non-governmental organization focused on protecting civilians in armed conflict

- Wars have stopped for mass vaccination campaigns before.
- Today's conflicts are more complicated, making it tough to distribute COVID-19 vaccines.
- People living in conflict zones have bigger problems to worry about — like poverty and hunger.
- COVID-19 misinformation and vaccine supply add to the challenges.
- Why conflict zones must be prioritized for COVID-19 vaccination.
- How COVID-19 vaccines can be rolled out in conflict zones.
- Why ceasefires matter more than ever.



A girl in Afghanistan is vaccinated against smallpox in the 1970s, a part of the WHO's smallpox eradication campaign.

*P. Almasy/WHO Photo*





## US Open players don't need COVID shots; about half have them

By HOWARD FENDRICH yesterday



NEW YORK (AP) — When Andy Murray sat in the U.S. Open's main interview room for a pre-tournament news conference Saturday, the moderator informed the 2012

***"I guess the reason why all of us are getting vaccinated is to look out for the wider public. We have a responsibility as players that are traveling across the world to look out for everyone else, as well," Murray said.***  
***"I'm happy that I'm vaccinated. I'm hoping that more players choose to have it in the coming months."***

An ATP spokesman said Saturday that just above 50% of male players are vaccinated and the men's tour "continues to strongly recommend vaccination to players." A WTA spokeswoman said nearly half of female players are vaccinated and the women's tour "strongly believes in, and encourages everyone to get, a vaccine," with a goal of raising numbers "in excess of 85% by the end of the year," while not currently requiring athletes to get the shots.

Other players, such as Stefanos Tsitsipas, the runner-up to Djokovic at the French Open, say they only would be vaccinated if it were required.

"At some point I will have to, I'm pretty sure about it, but so far it hasn't been mandatory to compete, so I haven't done it," said Tsitsipas, who is scheduled to face Murray on Monday.

Djokovic and his wife, Jelena, tested positive for the coronavirus last year after he organized a series of exhibition matches while the pro tours were on hiatus.

"I feel like that should be always a personal decision, whether you want to get vaccinated or not. So I'm supportive of that," Djokovic said. "So whether someone wants to get a vaccine or not, that's completely up to them. I hope that it stays that way."





Does Fed Chair Jerome Powell have the tools to tackle racial disparities? AP Photo/Patrick Semansky

## Racial income and wealth gaps are huge – but the Fed doesn't have the right tools to fix them

August 26, 2021 2:03pm EDT

Paul Wachtel, *New York University*

Central bankers and economists from around the world are convening remotely for the annual Jackson Hole symposium on Aug. 27, 2021, to discuss the future of monetary policy.

For the second year in a row, the annual conference will be virtual and the theme – Macroeconomic Policy in an Uneven Economy – seems appropriate given that the road out of the pandemic recession has been bumpy, with Black Americans lagging behind.

Indeed, how central banks should address racial inequities in the distribution of wealth and income is a likely topic for discussion at the virtual retreat and could get a mention in Fed chair Jerome Powell's highly anticipated speech.

### A 'critical role to play'?

It certainly is an issue that needs attention. Despite the vast changes that have occurred since the onset of the civil rights movement, the gaps between Black and white household income and wealth are as large today as they were in 1950.

Political analysis, without partisanship

In 2019, the median white household had nearly eight times greater wealth than its Black counterpart. And the median Black household earned just 61 cents for every dollar in income seen by a white family.

In a speech in October 2020, Mary Daly, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, asked: "How can we build a society that delivers on the promise of equal opportunity and inclusive success?" Her answer started with "The Fed has a critical role to play."

### Looking beyond the Fed

Our research does not bode well for anyone attending the virtual Jackson Hole retreat who would like to see reducing racial inequalities added to the Federal Reserve's mandate, which currently tasks the central bank with promoting stable prices and maximum employment. Such a mandate, which has been proposed by some Democrats in Congress, might make it impossible for the central bank to raise interest rates when inflation is persistently above the Fed's 2% target. An increase in interest rates to tame inflation might be resisted if it is seen as counterproductive to the Fed's efforts to promote income equality.

This does not mean that achieving racial equality should not be a prime objective for policymakers, but only that monetary policy is not well suited to address these important issues. Policymakers need to look beyond the central bank and consider fiscal approaches such as child tax credits, improved educational opportunities and even reparations as a means to address racial gaps.

But with the tools it has available, the central bank is not able to design policies to reduce the racial income gap without also increasing wealth inequality.





Fransine M just started shopping - we'll let you know if any item replacements need your approval.

<https://inst.cr/t/b1FyMHc0a0dh>

9:38 AM



Fransine refunded: Drew's Organics Dressing & Quick Marinade, Rosemary Balsamic. Visit <https://inst.cr/t/Mk9NMIVwVVJO> to review.

Fransine M, your Instacart Shopper: Sorry there were ran out



9:40 AM

9:44 AM



Hello lmk if need replace or no?

since ya requested refund if not available

10:21 AM



Now I will have to cancel ya ordered since not have it

10:22 AM



Instacart order update: your order has been cancelled. Easy reorder in just one tap. <https://inst.cr/t/Q2p2M1JxMmxv>

10:29 AM

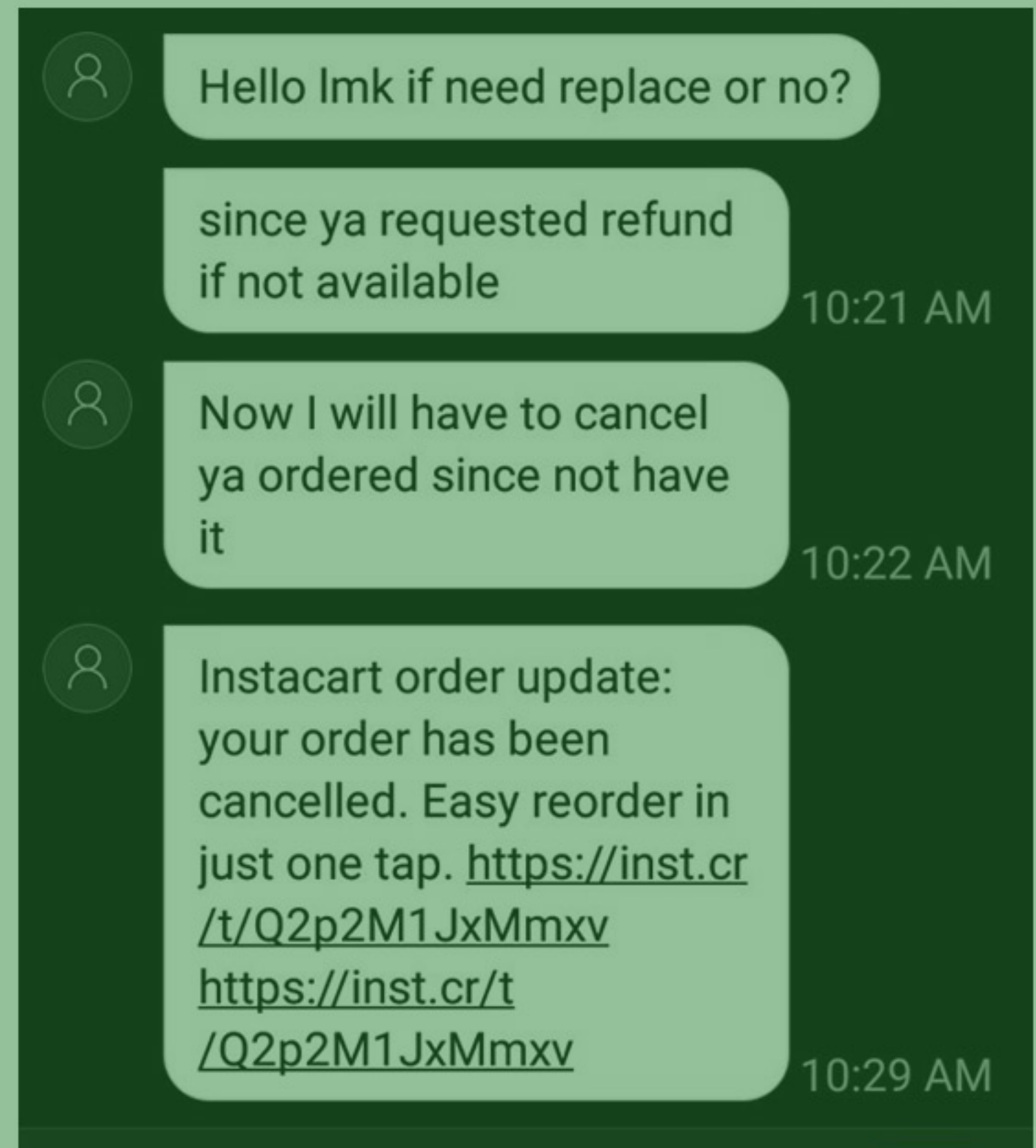
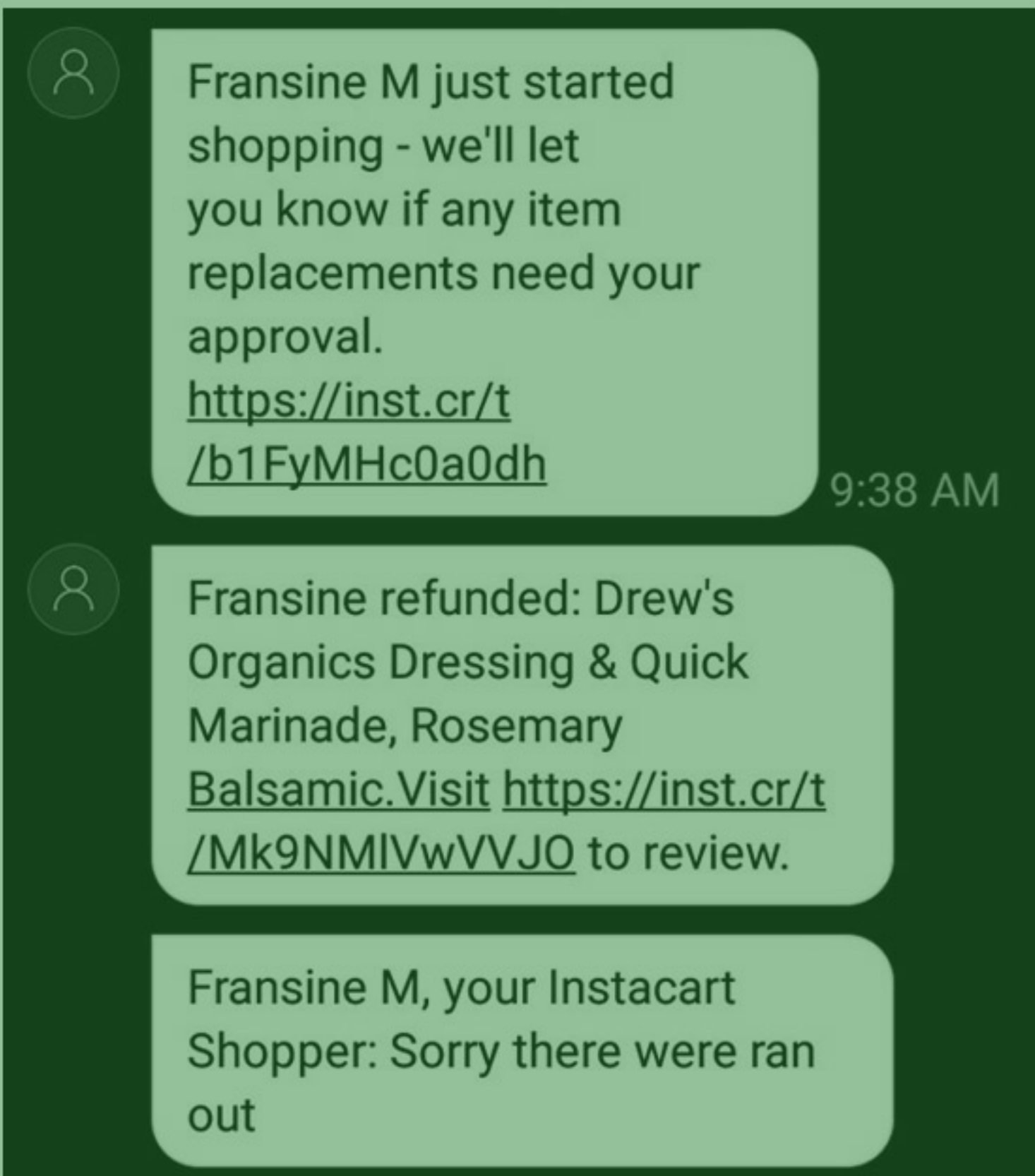
Enter message



Send







----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Instacart <orders@instacart.com>

**To:** "danlandrum"

**Sent:** Sunday, August 29, 2021, 10:29:23 AM PDT

**Subject:** Your order update: delivery cancelled



## Delivery order has been cancelled

This email is to confirm that you've canceled your delivery. If there are charges on your account, you can expect them to disappear between 3-5 business days, depending on your bank.

We look forward to taking care of your next grocery delivery.

Thank you,  
The Instacart Team

Sunday, August 29, 2021






Some cultures champion rest more than others. Bettmann via Getty Images

## I studied people who think leisure is a waste of time – here's what I found

August 25, 2021 8.25am EDT

 **Selin Malkoc**, *The Ohio State University*

When I first took my now-husband to Turkey, I tried to prepare myself for anything that could go wrong – delayed flights, language difficulties, digestion issues.

But I wasn't ready when, as we walked into a beautiful beach club on the Aegean coast, he grumbled, "What are we going to do?"

"What do you mean?" I said. "Lie down, enjoy the sun and the sea."

"But what about the things to do – beach volleyball, Frisbees, water sports?"

Transparent, research-based, written by experts – and always free.

"There isn't any of that. We're just here to relax."

This was the first time I got a sense of our cultural differences. He's American and I'm Turkish. He needed to "do stuff." I wanted to chill. Over the years, he became better at relaxing – more Turkish, if you will.

***The COVID-19 pandemic has had a pronounced effect on the way we live, work and socialize. During this period, many people have taken a step back and reevaluated their priorities.***

But I started noticing all the ways the imperative to "do stuff" kept marching along in the U.S. It morphed and migrated into pithy catchphrases like YOLO – "you only live once" – and "rise and grind." I saw it in the way people bragged about how busy they were, as if it were a badge of honor. And I noticed it in the rise of "hustle culture," or the collective urge to get as much done in as little time as possible, while always keeping an eye on the next opportunity.

Underlying all of it is the belief that resting or relaxing is a waste of time.

In 2019, on the Monday after Halloween, we asked participants to recall what they did and tell us how much they enjoyed it. We found the belief that leisure was wasteful was particularly detrimental for the enjoyment of terminal activities like going to a party. On the other hand, it boosted the enjoyment of instrumental activities, such as taking their kids trick-or-treating, which could be seen as a bonding experience.

The good news? Whether a particular activity is terminal or instrumental leisure is relative and depends on the person and the situation. For instance, people may exercise for fun (a terminal motivation) or to lose weight (an instrumental motivation). The frame can always be changed.

It might not be easy to change what you believe about leisure. But by reframing leisurely activities as instrumental, more people can hopefully reap their true benefits: satisfaction, recuperation, improved mental health – and, yes, chilling on the beach for the sake of chilling on the beach.



# What We Know About The 13 U.S. Service Members Killed In The Kabul Attack

August 29, 2021 · 12:18 AM ET

DAVE MISTICH



WYNNE DAVIS



**Marine Corps Sgt. Nicole L. Gee, 23, of Sacramento, Calif.**



*This undated photo provided by U.S. Department of Defense Twitter page posted on Aug. 20 shows Sgt. Nicole Gee holding a baby at Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul. Officials said Saturday that Gee was killed in Thursday's bombing.*



## Unvaccinated, unmasked teacher spreads Covid-19 to elementary school students, CDC reports

The CDC said that some of the affected children at the Marin County, California, school went on to infect other students, their siblings and their parents.

Aug. 28, 2021, 10:22 AM PDT

By Nicole Acevedo

An unvaccinated teacher who showed up to her elementary school classroom in Marin County, California, while experiencing symptoms such as "cough, subjective fever, and headache" ended up infecting half of her students with Covid-19 as well as some of their family members, according to a report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released Friday.

Officials from the Marin County Department of Public Health initiated an investigation into the classroom outbreak on May 26, three days after the teacher reported testing positive for Covid-19. The teacher, who initially attributed symptoms to allergies, was one of only two staff members that had not been vaccinated at the elementary school.

Among the teacher's 24 students, 22 who were ineligible for vaccination because of age were tested. Twelve tested positive for the virus, according to the report, written by county health officials and experts at the University of California's Berkeley, Davis and Santa Cruz campuses.

Children under 12 are ineligible for vaccination, meaning that their safety is dependent on others adults to get vaccinated to minimize exposure to the virus, according to the CDC.

Experts concluded that the attack rate in the affected classroom was 50 percent, but the students seating closest to the teacher's desk faced an increased risk of infection. The attack rate in the two rows seated closest to the teacher's desk was 80 percent, the CDC reported.

**"We have multiple studies over the past year in the us showing most of the time when kids got it in school... intra-school transmissions were all from adults to kids, not vice versa."** — UCSF Infections Disease Expert Peter Chin-Hong

A majority of the students sitting in the first two rows of the classroom contracted the virus, while a minority of those sitting at the back of the class were infected. The teacher occasionally read aloud to students while unmasked, despite school requirements to mask while indoors, according to the report.

Four students from other classrooms also tested positive to Covid-19. They were all siblings of three students in the unvaccinated teacher's classroom, "and exposure was assumed to have occurred in their respective homes," the CDC reported. This classroom seating chart shows the proximity of a Marin County teacher, to students who later tested positive for Covid. This classroom seating chart shows the proximity of a Marin County teacher, to students who later tested positive for Covid. Centers for Disease Control

Four parents of children at the school were later infected in the outbreak, according to the report. Of the infected parents, only one was unvaccinated. The vaccinated experienced symptoms including fever, chills, cough, headache and loss of smell. Additionally, six students from a different grade also tested positive for Covid-19 after one student hosted a sleepover with two other students from the same class, the CDC reported. All students infected in this classroom were also ineligible for vaccination due to age.

Certain specimen evidence gathered throughout the investigation suggests "that infections occurring in the two grades likely were part of the same outbreak."

A total of 26 elementary school students and their contacts got infected following exposure to the unvaccinated teacher. At least 18 of them contracted the delta variant, the CDC concluded.

"The outbreak's attack rate highlights the Delta variant's increased transmissibility and potential for rapid spread, especially in unvaccinated populations such as schoolchildren too young for vaccination," the report reads.

Experts also concluded that the outbreak's impact on the broader community may have been limited thanks to Marin County's high vaccination rate, one of the best in California. At the time of the outbreak, 72 percent of eligible people had been fully vaccinated in the city where the school is located, according to the report. CDC recommends all students wear masks when they return to school  
July 27, 202103:35

However, **new evidence of the delta variant's "high transmissibility, even among fully vaccinated persons, supports recommendations for universal masking in schools. ... Proper masking, routine testing, ventilation, and staying home while symptomatic are important to ensure safe school instruction," the CDC said.**



## Experts warn of dangers from breach of voter system software

By CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY yesterday



ATLANTA (AP) — Republican efforts questioning the outcome of the 2020 presidential race have led to voting system breaches that election security experts say pose a heightened risk to future elections.

Copies of the Dominion Voting Systems software used to manage elections — from designing ballots to configuring voting machines and tallying results — were distributed at an event this month in South Dakota organized by MyPillow CEO Mike Lindell, an ally of former President Donald Trump who has made unsubstantiated claims about last year's election.

The release gives hackers a “practice environment” to probe for vulnerabilities they could exploit and a road map to avoid defenses, Hursti said. All the hackers would need is physical access to the systems because they are not supposed to be connected to the internet.

“The door is now wide open,” Hursti said. “The only question is, how do you sneak in the door?”

A Dominion representative declined comment, citing an investigation.

U.S. election technology is dominated by just three vendors comprising 90% of the market, meaning election officials cannot easily swap out their existing technology. Release of the software copies essentially provides a blueprint for those trying to interfere with how elections are run. They could sabotage the system, alter the ballot design or even try to change results, said election technology expert Kevin Skoglund.



## Inequality

Updates: Billionaire Wealth, U.S. Job Losses and Pandemic Profiteers

August 23, 2021

by Chuck Collins

**August 23, 2021 Update: US Billionaires 62% Richer During Pandemic, up \$1.8 Trillion; Wealth gain could pay for half of Biden's \$3.5 trillion package**

U.S. billionaires have seen their wealth surge \$1.8 trillion during the pandemic, their collective fortune skyrocketing by nearly two-thirds (62 percent) from just short of \$3 trillion at the start of the COVID crisis on March 18, 2020, to \$4.8 trillion on August 17, 2021, according to a report from Americans for Tax Fairness (ATF) and the Institute for Policy Studies Program on Inequality (IPS). A table of the top 15 billionaires is below and the full data set is here.

Elon Musk has seen his wealth increase by an eye-popping \$150 billion during the pandemic, a gain of over 600 percent.

WEALTH OF U.S. BILLIONAIRES GROWS \$1.76 TRILLION (60%) IN 16 MONTHS					
March 18, 2020 - July 9, 2021					
First Name	Net Worth Mar. 18, 2020 (\$ Billions)	Net Worth July 9, 2021 (\$ Billions)	16 Month Wealth Growth (\$ Billions)	16 Month % Wealth Growth	Source
Jeff Bezos	\$113.0	\$212.4	\$99.4	88.0%	Amazon
Elon Musk	\$24.6	\$162.8	\$138.2	562.0%	Tesla, SpaceX
Bill Gates	\$98.0	\$129.1	\$31.1	31.8%	Microsoft
Mark Zuckerberg	\$54.7	\$126.2	\$71.5	130.6%	Facebook
Larry Ellison	\$59.0	\$112.8	\$53.8	91.3%	Oracle
Larry Page	\$50.9	\$109.3	\$58.4	114.8%	Google
Sergey Brin	\$49.1	\$105.9	\$56.8	115.6%	Google
Warren Buffett	\$67.5	\$101.8	\$34.3	50.8%	Berkshire Hathaway
Steve Ballmer	\$52.7	\$81.7	\$29.0	55.0%	Microsoft
Jim Walton	\$54.6	\$64.2	\$9.6	17.6%	Walmart
Alice Walton	\$54.4	\$63.9	\$9.5	17.4%	Walmart
Rob Walton	\$54.1	\$63.4	\$9.3	17.3%	Walmart
MacKenzie Scott	\$36.0	\$62.5	\$26.5	73.6%	Amazon
Michael Bloomberg	\$48.0	\$59.0	\$11.0	22.9%	Bloomberg LP
Phil Knight	\$29.5	\$58.4	\$28.9	98.1%	Nike
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$846.1</b>	<b>\$1,513.5</b>	<b>\$667.4</b>	<b>78.9%</b>	
<b>ALL OTHERS</b>	<b>\$2,101.4</b>	<b>\$3,197.2</b>	<b>\$1,095.8</b>	<b>52.1%</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,947.5</b>	<b>\$4,710.7</b>	<b>\$1,763.2</b>	<b>59.8%</b>	

Sources: March 18, 2020 data: Forbes, "Forbes Publishes 34th Annual List Of Global Billionaires," March 18, 2019; July 9, 2021 data: Forbes, "The World's Real-Time Billionaires, Today's Winners and Losers," accessed July 9, 2021

**The top 1% of Americans hold 30.4% of all household wealth in the U.S., while the bottom 50% of the population holds merely 1.9% of all wealth.**

# Top 1% Of U.S. Households Hold 15 Times More Wealth Than Bottom 50% Combined



Tommy Beer Forbes Staff  
Business

Updated Oct 8, 2020, 05:15pm EDT

According to the latest Fed data, the top 1% of Americans have a combined net worth of \$34.2 trillion (or 30.4% of all household wealth in the U.S.), while the bottom 50% of the population holds just \$2.1 trillion combined (or 1.9% of all wealth).

A critical factor in the explosion of wealth among a particular segment of the U.S. population has been access and exposure to the stock market.

The Fed estimates that the wealthiest 10% of Americans hold more than 88% of all available equity in corporations and mutual fund shares (with just the top 1% controlling more than twice as much equity as the bottom 50% of all Americans combined).





## My COVID Parenting Has Reached Peak Inconsistency

Honestly, I have no idea what I'm OK letting my kids do anymore.

BY ALLISON BENEDIKT  
AUG 24, 2021 • 3:06 PM



*As a friend in California put it, "We're not eating at restaurants inside with our unvaccinated child (unless it's very very cold and there's no tables with heat lamps or a very long wait)."*

A couple of days ago, my 12-year-old son peeked his head into my bedroom while I was working and asked if a new kid who just moved to our block could come inside to play video games. Before I could answer, he followed that up with the obvious next question: "And does he need to wear a mask?"

Yes, he can come in. And no, he doesn't need to wear a mask. No rhyme or reason to that answer. It's just ... what came out of my mouth.

A few minutes later, another head popped into the room. It was my husband, asking if I really said it was OK to have this new kid over without a mask. "Ugh, yes, that's what I told him," I replied. "But I have no idea! Do whatever you think is best! I don't know! Up to you!" And then I turned back to my laptop.

In the end, my husband asked the kid if he was vaccinated (yes) and let him stay mask-free. But neither of us could really say why we made the decision we did, or if we'd make the same one next time, or if any of our decisions add up to anything comprehensible at all.

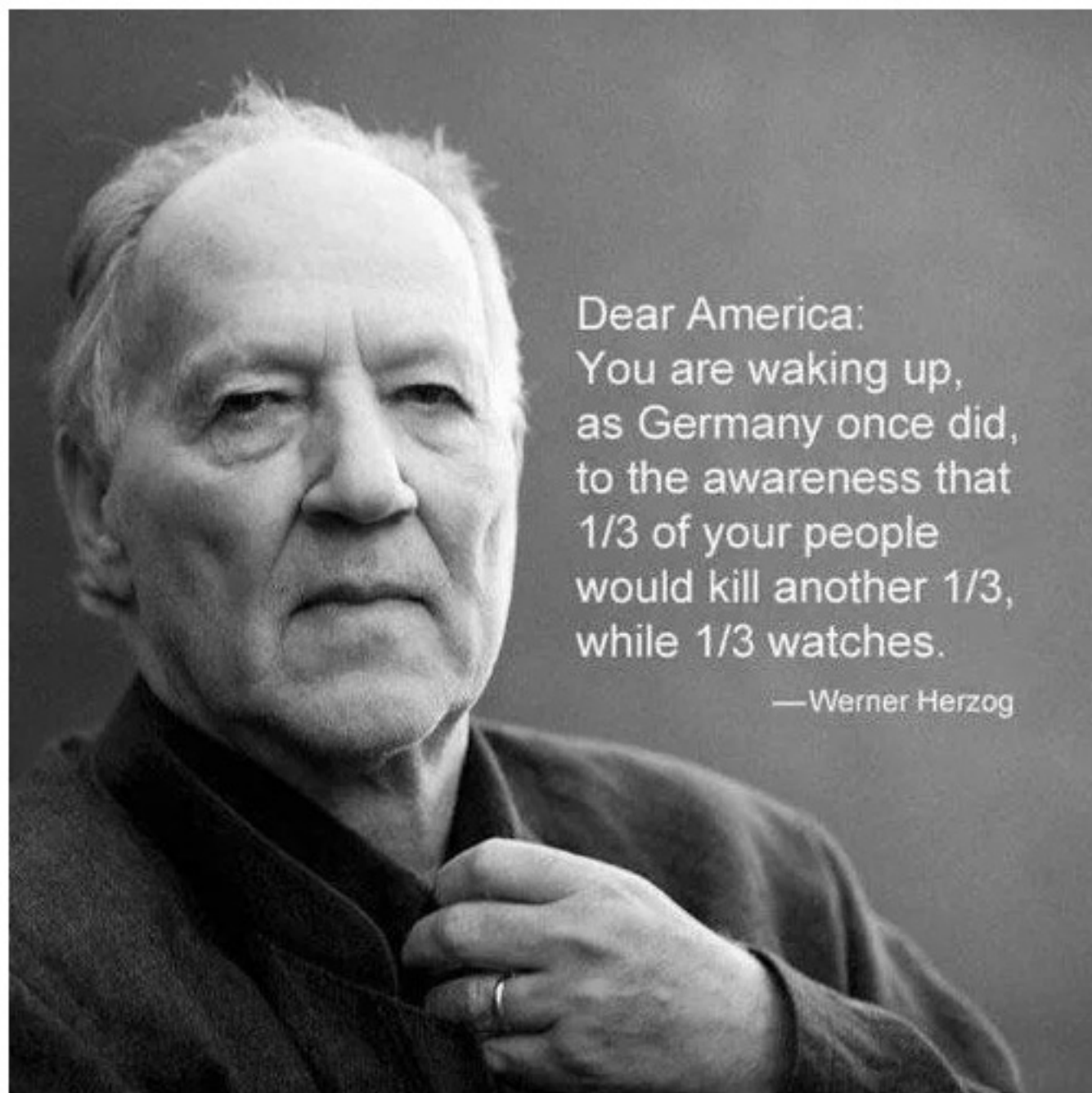
This is parenting these days, for us and too many people we know. Peak inconsistency. Complete incoherence. Just decision after decision based on a little bit of science, a little bit of outdated guidance, and a little bit of how much time or energy we have to think it through.

There was a time when the rules really sucked but were easy to follow. Our school district was online only, so the kids learned online. The after-school club said everyone had to wear masks, so they wore masks. There was a questionnaire to fill out before soccer each week, and whenever our answer was yes (yes, we've come into contact with someone who tested positive for COVID; yes, we traveled outside of the tri-state area), we knew what to do: keep the kids home. There were no indoor play dates—that just wasn't done. The bar mitzvahs were all on Zoom. And once eating at a restaurant was something we were comfortable doing as a family, it was outdoor only. No other option to tempt you, even on a cold night. While we were occasionally faced with a new predicament, generally all signs pointed toward the same answer to our kids' constant requests: no. But now, well, it's a crapshoot. The truth is that some days we allow one child from another vaccinated family over to our house, unmasked, and some days we allow two, simply because the second kid showed up and, well, the first kid is over 12 and vaccinated so that's fine, right? We've driven camp carpools this summer where we're all masked. We've driven camp carpools this summer where none of us are masked. On car rules, a friend recently told me, "This summer, I have given rides to kids with 1) all windows down and masks up; 2) just windows down; 3) just masks up. Not because I did any kind of risk analysis and came up with the perfect protocol for the situation, but because I suck and forget and just end up making do."

We, too, have had our sleepover illogic: We've allowed a vaccinated child to sleep over, even though our younger kids are unvaxxed. But we wouldn't allow an unvaccinated child to sleep over, even though both can transmit the virus. And who knows: Maybe we would allow it the next time we're asked, depending on the circumstances. You know, the circumstances. Perhaps this haphazard decision-making sounds a little, or a lot, flip. You may have different thresholds and variables. Perhaps you have an immunocompromised family member, and so are erring on the side of caution. Or perhaps you live in a place where rates are really low, or really high, and have adjusted accordingly. But with many more schools opening full time this fall than last year and with, according to a recent poll, nearly 90 percent of parents planning to send (or already sending) their kids back, we're all participating in a giant parenting experiment that leaves approximately half of our children's lives controlled by the decisions of the district or state, and approximately half just up to us, and our own worries about this virus we thought was going away and now isn't.

There's the pep talk we give ourselves about how, if our kids contract COVID, it will probably just affect them like the flu, and anyway, we have to learn to live with this thing, so maybe playing FIFA in the dank basement with friends makes sense. We make our little minute-by-minute decisions. And we contradict ourselves daily. That same friend who admitted to an incoherent carpooling strategy also told me about reprimanding her vaccinated teenager for not wearing a mask indoors. "We reminded him that he had to wear masks when he was in a store, restaurant, etc. or with lots of people," she said. "Then, we promptly took him to a family birthday party at a crowded hibachi restaurant, where no one—including us—wore masks. He did not let our hypocrisy go unnoticed."





On Aug 27, 2021, at 4:48 AM, Dan Landrum <danlandrum@yahoo.com> wrote:

Lib, I get your point and understand the 'ouch, shock & awe' sentiment here, but the actual quote is misattributed. And as such, this parody by the Harvard trained American literature professor, William Pannapacker, gone viral is a prime example of the social media powered mis/disinformation polemics that keeps us all in a muddle and widens the disconnect.

FROM: <https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/werner-herzog-germany-quote/>

>>

We know this much: The German film director isn't the biggest fan of social media.

This quote originated with a message posted by the "Werner Twertzog" Twitter account. This Twitter account is not owned, operated, or affiliated with the German film director. Rather, it is run by William Pannapacker, a professor of American literature at Hope College in Holland, Michigan.

A few messages from Pannapacker's parody account were included in the anthology "The Best American Nonrequired Reading 2017." Editor Sarah Vowell noted: William Pannapacker has a Ph.D. in American Civilization from Harvard University; he lives in the woods and teaches courses on American literature, opinion journalism, and comedy writing. Since 2013, Pannapacker has been inspired by the great New German Cinema director, Werner Herzog, to channel his voice in a semi-eponymous short-form genre called the "Twertzog."

<<

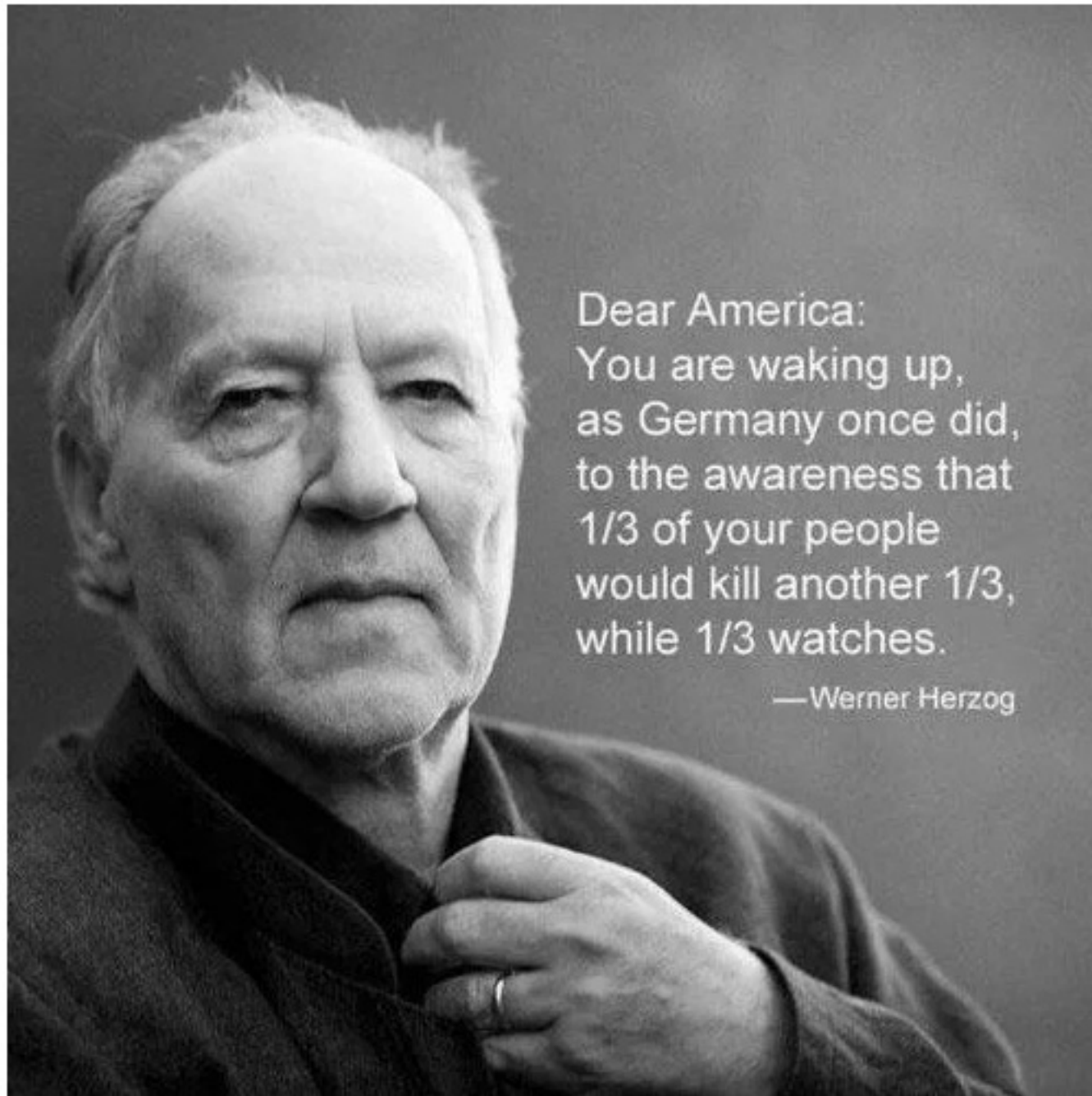
Opinion journalism as exploited by such Rupert Murdoch minions as Sean Hannity and Tucker Carlson, or even cable propagandists such as Chris Cuomo and Rachel Maddow is what has fueled the divisive outrage in that right-wing American 1/3 that lead to the insurrection of 6 January 2021. It's serious shit.

Since I can first remember the business model of the main stream media has been fear, and the business model of this relatively new alt-right media is outrage. Both bottom-lines are money. Murdoch's media is for money, no holds barred The main stream media for the longest time held the dignity of pretense of adhering to principal. The disintegration of the truth behind that mirage is what fuels the indignant flames of outrage.

It appears to me that the best we can do is NOT fall into either the fear or outrage models, and be on guard not to add voice to the polarizing delusions.

with Love,  
Dan





*On Friday, August 27, 2021, 08:26:13 PM PDT, Elizabeth Grant wrote:*

Okay, let's take the attribution out of the equation. . . I also do not subscribe much to media, well, at least on-line . . . No Twitter, TikTok, What's App. Heck, I just barely bought a SmartPhone! I watch too much news, it saddened and deflates me. I am at a loss of how to do your Pledge for Peace.

I am baffled, befuddled, confused and lost in this mean world. I get up every day at 4:45 in the morning to make sure 200 families receive wholesome groceries this week. I recycle and plant trees and bushes and flowers and veggies.

I love my husband, my daughters and my dogs. I avoid pretty much everything and everybody else. Do you know why? Because I fully believe this mislabeled quote no matter who did or didn't say it.

From: Dan Landrum To: Elizabeth Grant Sent: Saturday, August 28, 2021 4:45 AM

Lib, you know... You know? I love and admire you more than you'll ever know. If there was a picture in the dictionary next to what a "good citizen" should look like, it would be your beautiful face. Inside and out. Heart on your sleeve and all.

The news saddens and deflates you BECAUSE you care. It's the caring that is the glue. I'm not saying it's easy or pleasant, but the upside of being disillusioned is you get to embrace, not some vaporous shadow of a pretense, but the raw rough and tumble reality in all its splendor, warts and all.

It's telling that you supplant "Pledge for Peace" for my calling to convene anew "The Great League of Peace?"

I don't do pledges or promises, especially for things I have no control over, which is most things. Maybe I just don't want to disappoint my inner little wide-eyed innocent kid yet again. But mostly it's because I don't want my present half-baked self to constrain my future self in being able to fully embrace and respond to the ever new moment with my ever evolving understanding.

I'm right there with you, I too am at a loss of how to do "The Great League of Peace" anew project. It's so overwhelmingly complex, and in my demise my mental acuity is becoming only more simple. No we don't know how to get there, but we do know the right direction and we can keep pointing our compass in the right direction. And when we get down, we can encourage each other that it's okay, take a rest, you've got someone here to lean on.

Did you see my reply to Dick's comment regarding the 1/3s? I reworked and embellished what I had written to you. I'd love to hear your thoughts on my take on "I don't think we really have that many closeted hateful people."

[...]

I don't think we really have that many closeted hateful people. I think we all have the capacity to project hate, as much as a capacity to choose to be loving and kind. It just depends on which dog we feed. And the hate dog can be mesmerizing in his singsongy righteous barking and masterful rhetorical allure. And what does the love dog have to recommend herself? Sloppy, cute face licking?

Since I can first remember, the business model of the main stream media has been fear, and now the business model of this relatively new alt-right media is outrage. Both bottom-lines are money. Murdock's media is for money, no holds barred The main stream media for the longest time held the dignity of pretense of adhering to principal. The disintegration of the truth behind that mirage is what fuels the indignant flames of outrage -- manufactures dissent and discontent.

It appears to me that the best we can do is NOT fall into either the fear or outrage models, and be on guard not to add voice to the polarizing delusions. See the decency in others and speak to that.

with Love,  
Dan





## Nuclear waste

# 'A combination of failures:' why 3.6m pounds of nuclear waste is buried on a popular California beach

The San Onofre nuclear power plant shut down years ago – but residents and experts worry what will happen with the waste left behind

*Kate Mishkin*

Tue 24 Aug 2021 06:00 EDT

More than 2 million visitors flock each year to California's San Onofre state beach, a dreamy slice of coastline just north of San Diego. The beach is popular with surfers, lies across one of the largest Marine Corps bases in the United States and has a 10,000-year-old sacred Native American site nearby. It even landed a shout-out in the Beach Boys' 1963 classic *Surfin' USA*.

But for all the good vibes and stellar sunsets, beneath the surface hides a potential threat: 3.6m lb of nuclear waste from a group of nuclear reactors shut down nearly a decade ago. Decades of political gridlock have left it indefinitely stranded, susceptible to threats including corrosion, earthquakes and sea level rise.

The San Onofre reactors are among dozens across the United States phasing out, but experts say they best represent the uncertain future of nuclear energy.

"It's a combination of failures, really," said Gregory Jaczko, who chaired the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the top federal enforcer, between 2009 and 2012, of the situation at San Onofre.

"The problem you have here is that the NRC is simply not doing its job as a regulator. So what it has done is allowed the industry to basically determine the conditions under which this material is stored on a temporary basis across the country," echoed retired Rear Admiral Len Hering, who served more than 30 years in the US navy and was awarded a 2005 presidential award for leadership in federal energy management from President George W Bush.

John Dobken, spokesperson for San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SNGS), also stressed that the waste is stored safely, but said the right thing to do would be to relocate the waste off-site – a decision only the government can make.

**"It's important to know there are some who want to make this about fear and it shouldn't be about fear," he said. "It should be about doing the right thing, and the right thing is about relocating the spent fuel from an interim storage site and eventually into a geological repository, and that's what we're working towards."**

However, many of these potential problems might have been avoided, Jaczko said, if SNGS had considered another location for its fuel, instead of leaving it on the reactor site, or if it had more adequately consulted with the community.

"I think that a better solution could be had with a little bit more work. And it wasn't done and now it's created this very polarized community that has strong concerns about what's being done and doesn't feel like they're being listened to. And they're not," he said.

It's worth considering how things fail, though, argued Rod Ewing, nuclear security professor at Stanford University's center for international security and cooperation, and author of a 2021 report about spent nuclear waste that focuses on San Onofre.

"The problem with our safety analysis approach is we spend a lot of time proving things are safe. We don't spend much time imagining how systems will fail," he said. "And I think the latter is what's most important."





**Margaret Hu**

Professor of Law and of  
International Affairs, Penn State



## The Taliban reportedly have control of US biometric devices – a lesson in life-and-death consequences of data privacy

Margaret Hu, *Penn State*

A U.S. Army soldier scans the irises of an Afghan civilian in 2012 as part of an effort by the military to collect biometric information from much of the Afghan population. Jose Cabezas/AFP via Gettyimages





**Vijayan Asari**

Professor of Electrical and  
Computer Engineering, University  
of Dayton



At least 22 people were listed as missing in the days after flash flooding swept through communities in Tennessee in August 2021. AP Photo/Mark Humphrey





The Supreme Court lifted the CDC's eviction ban. AP Photo/Elise Amendola

## CDC eviction ban ended by Supreme Court: 4 questions about its impact answered by a housing law expert

August 27, 2021 3:35pm EDT

 [Katy Ramsey Mason](#), University of Memphis

*The Supreme Court on Aug. 26, 2021, ended the Biden administration's ban on evictions, putting millions at risk of losing their homes. The ruling, by a divided court, said the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention exceeded its authority in continuing a moratorium on evictions after Congress failed to pass new legislation. We asked legal scholar Katy Ramsey Mason to explain what the ruling means, who will be affected and what happens next.*

### 3. How many people are affected?

Nearly 8 million households told the Census Bureau in August that they were behind on rent, while 3.5 million said they fear eviction.

But estimates of the total number of people at risk of losing their homes are closer to 15 million, who collectively owe about \$20 billion in rent.



**Katy Ramsey Mason**

Assistant Professor of Law and Director of the Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic, University of Memphis

While most of the people who lost their jobs as a result of COVID-19 shutdowns and other restrictions in early 2020 have now returned to work, many still struggle to pay the debts – including back rent – that accumulated while they were unemployed.

There's also concern that the surge in coronavirus cases due to the delta variant – including among children – will lead to school shutdowns. This may drive up unemployment among women working low-wage and hourly jobs who are unable to go to work because they have to take care of their children.

### 4. What happens next?

Tenants in a handful of states and cities, including New York and California, are still protected by local eviction bans that remain in effect. Most of them are set to expire within weeks, however.

But the vast majority of tenants who have struggled to pay rent are now at risk of eviction. Even during the moratoriums, many states and cities have allowed eviction cases to proceed through the courts – as long as they don't actually evict tenants. The end of the ban means those evictions will likely take place quickly.

And despite the moratoriums, evictions have continued throughout the pandemic – though at half the typical pace.

Congress previously allocated about \$46.5 billion in stimulus funds to state and local governments intended to assist tenants who are behind on rent, but only about \$5.1 billion had been paid out as of August 2021.

In recent weeks, the White House and housing advocacy groups have been pushing for the speedier distribution of funds, which will be essential to keeping tenants from losing their homes.





A man checks a broken gas pipe with a firefighter after Hurricane Ida hit Bourg, Louisiana, the United States, Aug. 30.



Jeremy Hodges climbs up the side of his family's destroyed storage unit in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida, Monday, Aug. 30, 2021, in Houma, La., a city which sits just along the coast of Louisiana.

## These Images Show Just How Bad Hurricane Ida Hit Louisiana's Coastline

August 31, 2021 - 5:29 AM ET

JACLYN DIAZ



The U.S. Coast Guard conducted overflights Monday following the landfall Hurricane Ida. Aircrews conducted overflights near Galliano, LA to assess damages and identify hazards.

[U.S. Coast Guard Heartland](#)



# An Ohio judge ordered a hospital to use the deworming drug ivermectin to treat a patient with COVID-19

Sarah Al-Arshani 7 hours ago



Tablets of ivermectin drugs in Tehatta, India, on May 19. Soumyabrata Roy/NurPhoto via Getty Images

- An Ohio woman asked a court to order a hospital to use ivermectin to treat her husband for COVID-19.
- Butler County Judge Gregory Howard ruled in her favor, [WXIX](#) reported.
- Ivermectin is a deworming drug and is not approved for the treatment of COVID-19.

An Ohio judge ordered a hospital to use the deworming drug ivermectin on a COVID-19 patient, several outlets reported.

Butler County Judge Gregory Howard ruled in favor of a woman who asked that her husband, who is on a ventilator with COVID-19 at West Chester Hospital — located north of Cincinnati — be treated with the unproven drug, the Ohio Capital Journal and The Enquirer reported.

Jeffrey Smith, 51, contracted COVID-19 in early July. His wife, Julie Smith, asked the court on August 20 for an emergency order to have the drug used on her husband.

On August 23, Howard ruled that Dr. Fred Wagshul should be allowed to give Smith 30 mg of the drug daily for three weeks, WXIX reported.

Wagshul is a pulmonologist in Dayton, Ohio, who cofounded the Front Line COVID-19 Critical Care Alliance, a nonprofit that touts the use of ivermectin for COVID-19.

"From the countries that we've seen that have emptied their hospitals, this medicine is very, very effective," Wagshul told WXIX.

Both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration, however, have warned that the drug is not proved to treat COVID-19 and can have serious side effects.

Wagshul and the FLCCC did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

In a health advisory last week, the CDC said the FDA-approved drug could be safely used to treat some parasitic infections but could be harmful in other settings.

The CDC is especially concerned as calls to poison control rise from people taking variations of the drug meant for horses and cows. Poison-control calls about the drug rose fivefold last month compared with the baseline number of calls before the pandemic, the CDC said.



Dr. Fred A. Wagshul is a pulmonologist in Centerville, Ohio and is affiliated with Kettering Medical Center. He received his medical degree from Universidad Central del Este Facultad de Medicina, Dominican Republic and has been in practice for more than 20 years.



SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

## Joanne Maislin: The Heart of Haiti



### Joanne Maislin spent a decade in Haiti to help create meaningful impact

When Montreal-born, Joanne Maislin began working in March, 2010, it was only two months after a devastating earthquake tore apart the small Caribbean country. She felt instantly connected to the land and its people.

“From the moment I arrived, I did not want to leave. I knew that Haiti was a magical place where my skills and passion for giving back could be met,” she says from the United States Institute of Peace in Washington, D.C.

Maislin is the founder and president of C432, a boutique consulting and development firm with a mission “to create meaningful impact through sustainable development.” The small but diversified team at C432 works with for-profit organizations interested in investing in Haiti; C432 gives these clients the reasons and tools to do so. From manufacturing and tourism to aquaculture, Maislin and her colleagues focus on job creation, capacity building, and community engagement in Haiti. She has collaborated with leading brands including TOMS, Lululemon and Donna Karan.

This past March marks Maslin’s 10th year operating in Haiti – she has been actively involved in raising over \$100 million in foreign investment resulting in the creation of 10,000 jobs for Haitians.

[...]

[Joanne is the daughter of Carol’s first cousin Gloria Maislin]

Maislin is very proud to be part of an organization that helps create jobs for the Haitian people. “I believe in capitalism, and I believe that for-profit companies should play a more impactful role to play in communities, both socially and environmentally,” she remarks.

Maislin hopes that in her way, creating more jobs for Haitians is a “meaningful beginning” to working towards closing the gap.

Looking ahead to the future, Maislin aspires to contribute more to society but on a larger, global scale. She’s working with Guy Laliberte, the founder of Cirque du Soleil, on a new and exciting initiative aimed at impact and innovation and with the mission to “bring people together” across the globe.

“With everything that’s going on in today’s world, we are trying to figure out ways to bring more love and connect people on a human level,” she says.

A decade ago, Maislin fell in love with the beauty of Haiti and the kindness of its people. She is continuously learning from them and is grateful for their warmth and guidance.

“When you sit down and listen to someone’s story you are signaling to them that you respect them and you want to understand what matters to them.”





**Joanne Maislin, 23:25** > there's a woman by the name of **Maryse Pénette-Kedar**. She is an extraordinary woman who's taught me a lot about you know how to get things done and how to respect people and at a whole other level because she's had every privilege as well but the way she talks to everybody it doesn't matter who you are, and in certain countries in certain cultures hierarchy is a big deal with her it's the same love and respect and it's so beautiful to see. She's a very highly respected businesswoman who is fighting, not fighting I would say is grace so beautifully and gracefully providing access to quality education to children in Haiti.



Founder and Board President, PRODEV  
**Maryse Pénette-Kedar**

If there is one influencer who has made outstanding contributions in the corporate, government/private and education sectors in Haiti, it is a woman: Maryse Penette- Kedar. After a successful international career and dedicating her life to strengthening Haiti's economic, social and political infrastructure; she has made Malala Yousafzai's quotation "education is the only solution" her motto.

Maryse Pénette-Kedar is the founder and President of the board of directors of the Progress and Development Foundation (PRODEV). As the daughter of an iconic leader in education, the Honorable Max Penette, she believes that education is the pathway to any nation-building enterprise. PRODEV was founded in 1995 and is a nonprofit Haitian-led foundation officially recognized by the government of Haiti. Its main mission is to empower the youth of Haiti through education, as Mrs Kedar strongly believes that only education can create a stronger, just and democratic Haiti.



## WHO WE ARE

*PRODEV develops, manages and supports schools and centers in underserved communities. Our network is committed to accessibility, excellence and civic participation. We advocate locally and internationally to promote the idea that only education can create a stronger Haiti.*

PRODEV was created in 1995 by founder Max Pénette, his daughter Maryse Pénette-Kedar, and Daniel Kedar. The late Max Pénette was one of Haiti's iconic and highly respected educators whose belief in the rights of children to be heard and respected continues to serve as our guiding principle.



# Taliban declare victory from Kabul airport, promise security

By KATHY GANNON and TAMEEM AKHGAR today



Taliban fighters stand guard inside the Hamid Karzai International Airport after the U.S. withdrawal in Kabul, Afghanistan, Tuesday, Aug. 31, 2021. The Taliban were in full control of Kabul's international airport on Tuesday, after the last U.S. plane left its runway, marking the end of America's longest war. (AP Photo/Kathy Gannon)

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The Taliban triumphantly marched into Kabul's international airport on Tuesday, hours after the final U.S. troop withdrawal that ended America's longest war. Standing on the tarmac, Taliban leaders pledged to secure the country, quickly reopen the airport and grant amnesty to former opponents.

In a show of control, turbaned Taliban leaders were flanked by the insurgents' elite Badri unit as they walked across the tarmac. The commandos in camouflage uniforms proudly posed for photos.

Getting the airport running again is just one of the sizeable challenges the Taliban face in governing a nation of 38 million people that for two decades had survived on billions of dollars in foreign aid.

"Afghanistan is finally free," Hekmatullah Wasiq, a top Taliban official, told The Associated Press on the tarmac. "The military and civilian side (of the airport) are with us and in control. Hopefully, we will be announcing our Cabinet. Everything is peaceful. Everything is safe."

Wasiq also urged people to return to work and reiterated the Taliban pledge offering a general amnesty. "People have to be patient," he said. "Slowly we will get everything back to normal. It will take time."

During the evacuation, U.S. forces helped evacuate over 120,000 U.S. citizens, foreigners and Afghans, according to the White House. Coalition forces also evacuated their citizens and Afghans. But for all who got out, foreign nations and the U.S. acknowledged they didn't evacuate all who wanted to go. On Tuesday, after a night that saw the Taliban fire triumphantly into the air, guards now blearily on duty kept out the curious and those still somehow hoping to catch a flight out.

"After 20 years we have defeated the Americans," said Mohammad Islam, a Taliban guard at the airport from Logar province, cradling a Kalashnikov rifle. "They have left and now our country is free."

"It's clear what we want. We want Shariah (Islamic law), peace and stability," he added.





The Rhino Linings Protective Coatings Division specializes in developing high and low pressure 1:1 and 2:1 mix ratio polyurea and polyaspartic formulations with unique physical properties and chemical advantages to meet the application requirements of virtually any application. Rhino Linings coatings provide a durable monolithic, protective barriers that protect against abrasion, moisture, corrosion, and impact. These coatings are used to increase the life of a variety of industrial and commercial materials, and to be applied to many different substrates.

Our impermeable linings and coatings conform to any shape and can be built up to any thickness. Rhino Linings products are engineered to last, ensuring your equipment or assets are protected from the hazardous field conditions.

Can you rhino line a whole car? ^

The answer is **Yes**. To make it stick really, really well to your plastics, first wipe down and clean your plastics with Acetone (don't get any Acetone on any surface that you are NOT going to recoat. ) You can use Rhino Coat, or Rustoleum also makes a very good bed liner coating - available in a spray can or brush on. Mar 26, 2021

From tank linings and insulation to earthen berm protection, Rhino Linings offers industry compliant containment and protective coating systems that stand up to the most extreme atmospheric exposures and caustic materials.

## Trucks

Rhino Linings provides the highest level of corrosion, impact and abrasion resistance for your truck bed, truck grille guards, bumpers and truck rocker panels. Farmers, contractors, outdoorsmen and YOU count on Rhino Linings® products to protect your investment.

[See more Rhino® truck applications](#)



TRUCKS

JEEPS

ATVS

BOATS

TRAILERS/RVS

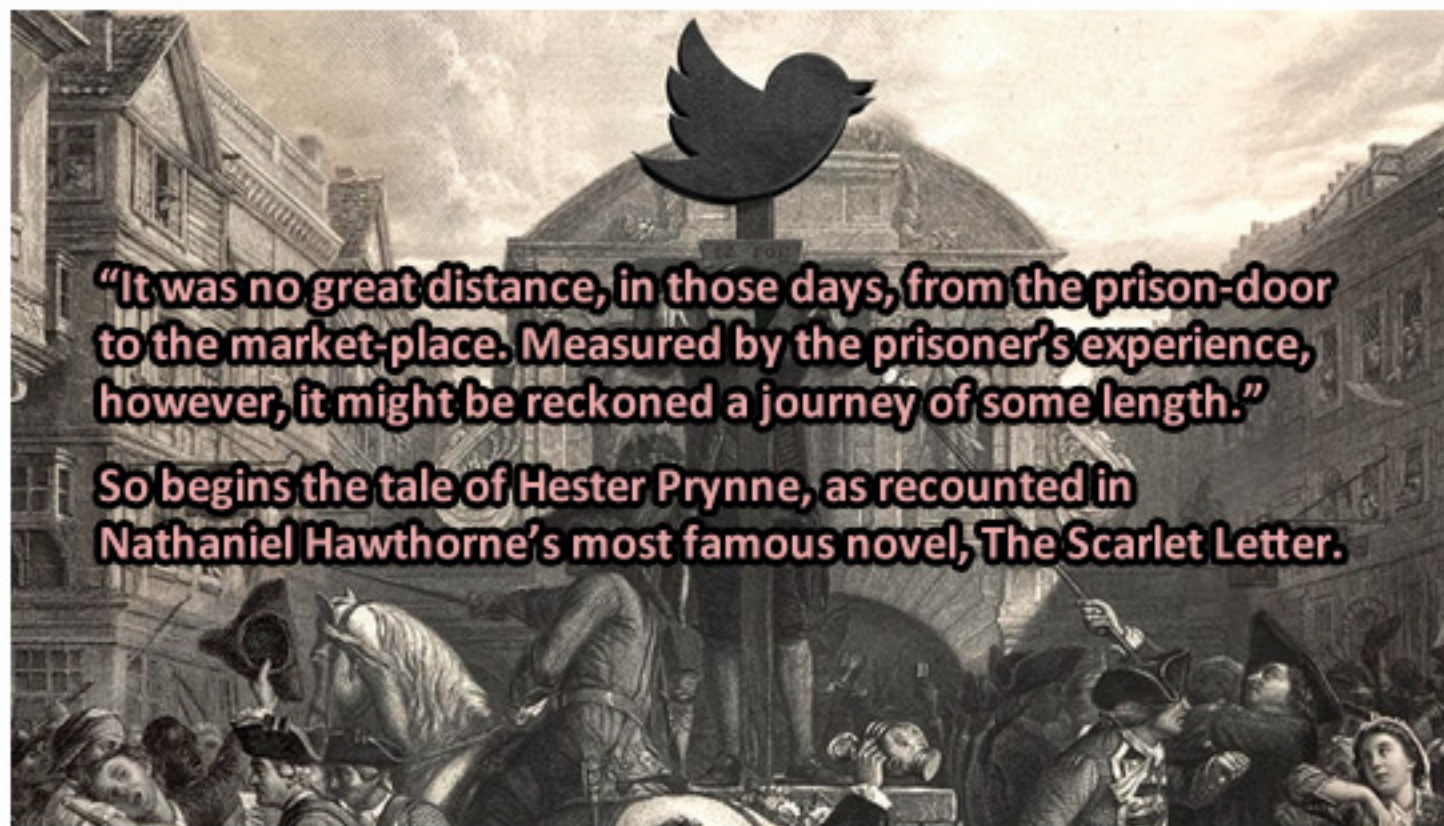
FLEET VEHICLES

EMERGENCY VEHICLES

CONSTRUCTION VEHICLES

MILITARY





**“It was no great distance, in those days, from the prison-door to the market-place. Measured by the prisoner’s experience, however, it might be reckoned a journey of some length.”**

**So begins the tale of Hester Prynne, as recounted in Nathaniel Hawthorne’s most famous novel, *The Scarlet Letter*.**

Guildhall Library & Art Gallery / Heritage Images / Getty

IDEAS

## THE NEW PURITANS

Social codes are changing, in many ways for the better. But for those whose behavior doesn’t adapt fast enough to the new norms, judgment can be swift—and merciless.

By Anne Applebaum

Illustrations by Nicolas Ortega

AUGUST 31, 2021

SHARE ▾

The interaction between the angry mob and the illiberal bureaucracy engenders a thirst for blood, for sacrifices to be offered to the pious and unforgiving gods of outrage.

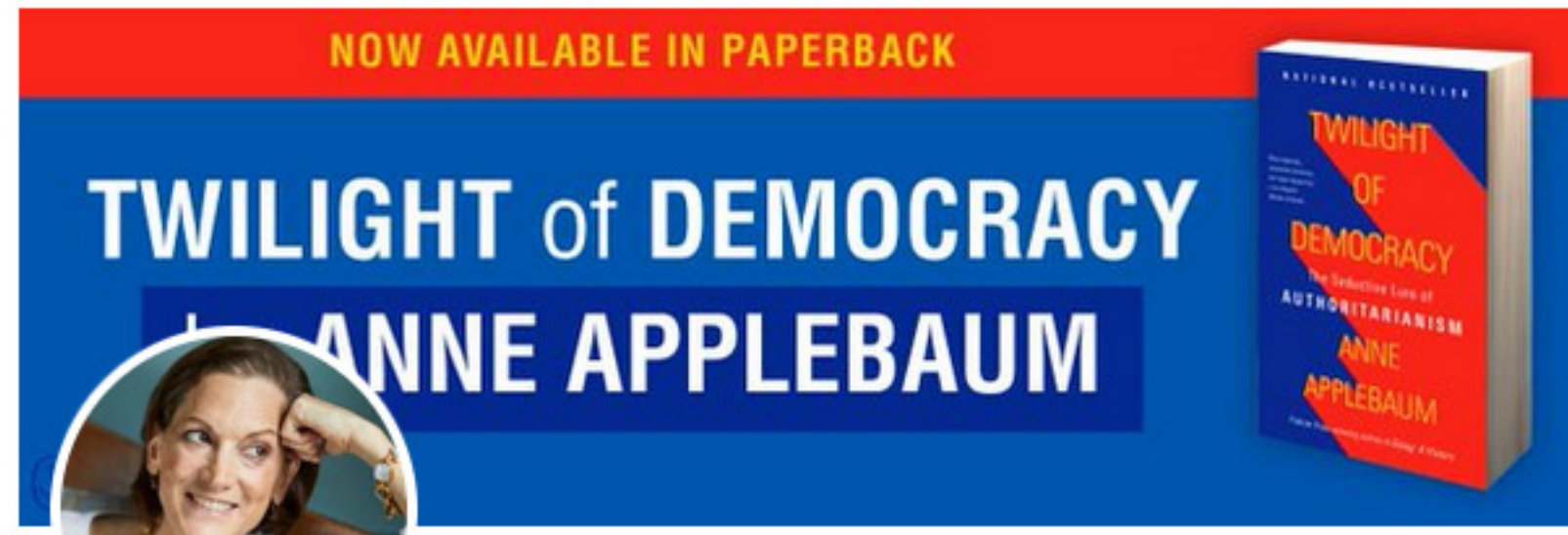
Many people have told me they want to change this atmosphere, but don’t know how. Some hope to ride it out, to wait for this moral panic to pass, or for an even younger generation to rebel against it. Some worry about the costs of engagement. One person who was the focus of a negative social-media campaign told me that he doesn’t want this set of issues to dominate his life and his career; he cited other people who have become so obsessed with battling “wokeness” or “cancel culture” that they now do nothing else.

Others have decided to be vocal. Stephen Elliott wrestled for a long time with whether or not to describe what it feels like to be wrongly accused of rape—he wrote something and abandoned it because “I decided that I wouldn’t be able to handle the blowback”—before finally describing his experiences in a published essay. Amy Chua ignored advice to remain silent and instead has talked as much as possible. Robert George has created the Academic Freedom Alliance, a group that intends to offer moral and legal support to professors who are under fire, and even to pay for their legal teams if necessary. George was inspired, he told me, by a nature program that showed how elephant packs will defend every member of the herd against a marauding lion, whereas zebras run away and let the weakest get killed off. “The trouble with us academics is we’re a bunch of zebras,” he said. “We need to become elephants.” John McWhorter, a Columbia linguistics professor (and Atlantic contributing writer) who has strong and not always popular views about race, told me that if you are accused of something unfairly, you should always push back, firmly but politely: “Just say, ‘No, I’m not a racist. And I disagree with you.’” If more leaders—university presidents, magazine and newspaper publishers, CEOs of foundations and companies, directors of musical societies—took that position, maybe it would be easier for more of their peers to stand up to their students, their colleagues, or an online mob.

The alternative, for our cultural institutions and for democratic discourse, is grim. Foundations will do secret background checks on their potential grantees, to make sure they haven’t committed crimes-that-are-not-crimes that could be embarrassing in the future. Anonymous reports and Twitter mobs, not the reasoned judgments of peers, will shape the fate of individuals. Writers and journalists will fear publication. Universities will no longer be dedicated to the creation and dissemination of knowledge but to the promotion of student comfort and the avoidance of social-media attacks.

Worse, if we drive all of the difficult people, the demanding people, and the eccentric people away from the creative professions where they used to thrive, we will become a flatter, duller, less interesting society, a place where manuscripts sit in drawers for fear of arbitrary judgments. The arts, the humanities, and the media will become stiff, predictable, and mediocre. Democratic principles like the rule of law, the right to self-defense, the right to a just trial—even the right to be forgiven—will wither. There will be nothing to do but sit back and wait for the Hawthornes of the future to expose us.





Follow

**Anne Applebaum** ✓  
@anneapplebaum

Staff writer @TheAtlantic. Senior Fellow @SAISHopkins, @SNFAgora. Author of GULAG, IRON CURTAIN, RED FAMINE and now TWILIGHT OF DEMOCRACY

Warsaw, London, Washington [anneapplebaum.com](http://anneapplebaum.com) Joined May 2011

440 Following 355K Followers

Pinned Tweet



**Anne Applebaum** ✓ @anneapplebaum · Mar 9

The internet can be fixed. It can be made compatible with democracy. @peterpomeranzev and I explain



**How to Put Out Democracy's Dumpster Fire**  
Our democratic habits have been killed off by an internet kleptocracy that profits from disinformation, polarization, and rage. Here's how to ...  
[theatlantic.com](http://theatlantic.com)

172 1.2K 2.6K



More images

Anne Applebaum

American journalist

[anneapplebaum.com](http://anneapplebaum.com)

Anne Elizabeth Applebaum is an American journalist and historian. She has written extensively about Marxism–Leninism and the development of civil society in Central and Eastern Europe. She has worked at The Economist and The Spectator, and was a member of the editorial board of The Washington Post. [Wikipedia](#)

Anne Applebaum



Applebaum in 2013

**Born** Anne Elizabeth Applebaum<sup>[1]</sup>  
July 25, 1964 (age 57)<sup>[2]</sup>  
Washington, D.C., U.S.

**Nationality** American

**Education** Yale University (BA)  
London School of Economics (MA)

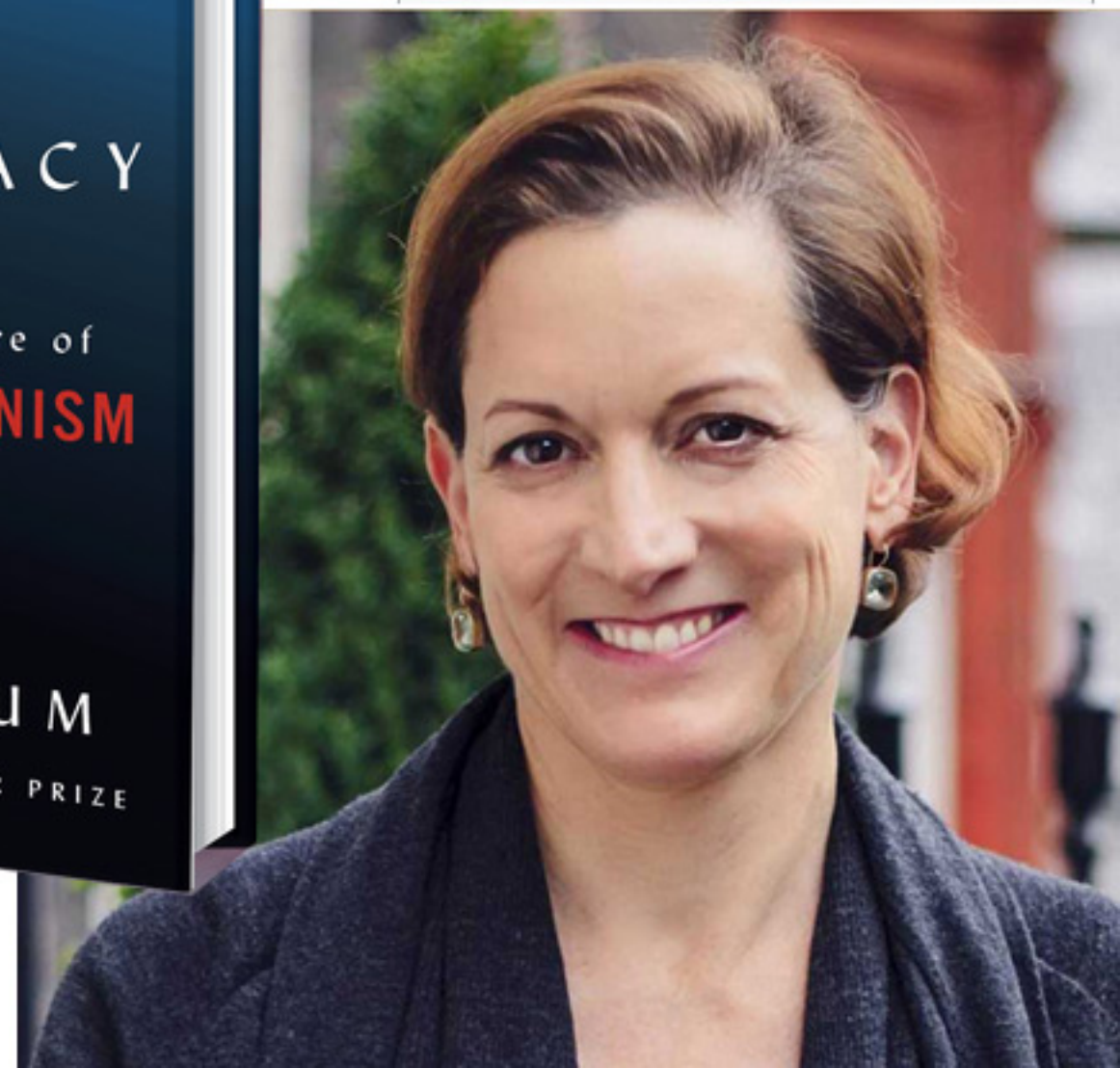
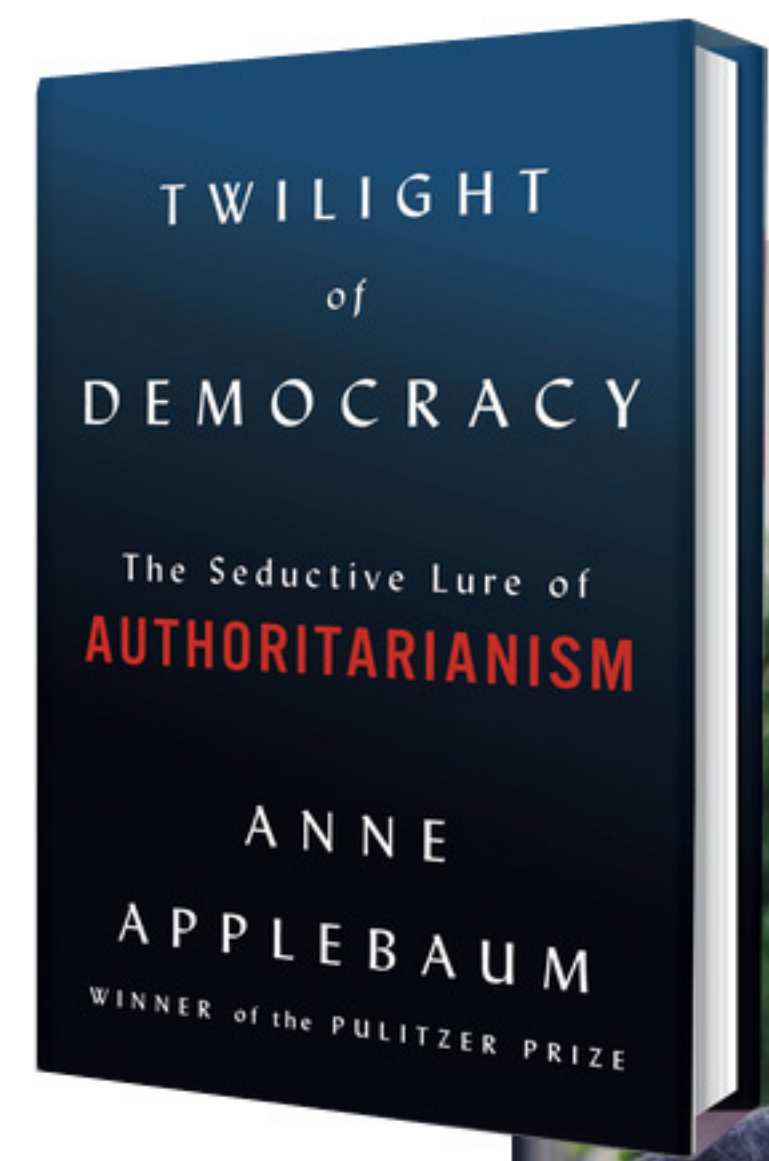
**Occupation** Journalist and author

**Known for** Writing on former Soviet Union and its satellite countries

**Spouse(s)** Radosław Sikorski (m. 1992)

**Children** 2

**Website** [www.anneapplebaum.com](http://www.anneapplebaum.com)





# He Is All That Stands In The Way Of The Taliban Taking Total Control Of Afghanistan

September 2, 2021 · 6:00 AM ET

SCOTT NEUMAN



The U.K.-educated Ahmad Massoud (shown here in 2019) is the son of legendary commander Ahmad Shah Massoud and, like his father, is amassing resistance forces in Panjshir province.

In Afghanistan, history has a way of repeating itself: Today, much like when the Taliban last seized power in 1996, rugged Panjshir province is the final redoubt standing in the way of their complete domination of the country — and once again, the name of the leader opposing them is Massoud.

"I write from the Panjshir Valley today, ready to follow in my father's footsteps with mujahideen fighters who are prepared to once again take on the Taliban," Ahmad Massoud wrote in an opinion piece published in *The Washington Post* shortly after the Taliban seized Kabul. "We have stores of ammunition and arms that we have patiently collected since my father's time, because we knew this day might come." Massoud's father was a legend known as the 'Lion of Panjshir'

His father, Ahmad Shah Massoud, was a larger-than-life figure — seen by many as a military genius and master of guerrilla warfare who helped fight the Soviet Union to a standstill in the 1980s, and eventually mounted a successful defense against repeated efforts by the Taliban to win control of the valley.

For the Taliban's part, one of its senior leaders, Amir Khan Motaqi, called on the Panjshir resistance to lay down its weapons and negotiate peace. "The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan is home for all Afghans," he said in a speech. But it may already be too late. With Kabul secure and the Americans finally gone, the Taliban have turned their military attention to the rogue province.

The Taliban say "hundreds" of their fighters are heading toward the Panjshir "after local ... officials refused to hand it over," according to the group's Arabic Twitter account, *Al-Jazeera* reports.

And first blood has already been drawn, seemingly dimming the chances for a negotiated settlement. As the last U.S. flights were leaving Kabul on Monday night, at least seven of Taliban soldiers were killed in clashes in Panjshir, Massoud's resistance group said, according to *The Associated Press*.

Meanwhile, the Taliban are in a position to surround Massoud's resistance fighters and cut off their access to supplies. It's not clear how long they can hold out.

Massoud, for his part, is reaching out for help from a war-weary Washington, as well as the U.K. and France.

"[We] need more weapons, more ammunition and more supplies," he wrote.



Afghan guerrilla leader, Ahmad Shah Massoud, center, is surrounded by rebel commanders at a meeting in the Panjshir Valley in northeast Afghanistan, in 1984.



## 2 Bipartisan Senators Demand That Biden Protect Afghan Journalists

September 1, 2021 · 5:56 PM ET



CLAUDIA GRISALES



Democrat Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota and Republican Mitt Romney of Utah are urging the Biden administration to step up work protecting Afghan journalists.

*Elijah Nouvelage/Getty Images; Anna Moneymaker/Getty Images*

Two bipartisan senators — Democrat Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota and Republican Mitt Romney of Utah — want the Biden administration to step up their work protecting Afghan journalists in the wake of the U.S. exit from their country.

Klobuchar and Romney said that following the end of formal operations in Afghanistan, the Afghan journalists who assisted U.S. media personnel need urgent aid resettling and continuing their work.

The senators told Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas in the letter that the journalists now face new, dire risks under new Taliban rule.

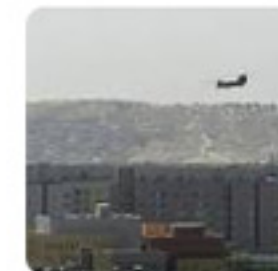
"There are concerns that given their long history of attacks on journalists, the Taliban will eliminate a free and open media and continue to suppress, imprison, and violently target the press," Klobuchar and Romney wrote.

Tablet Magazine

### Cut and Run

Cut and Run. Why are we leaving Afghans to die, when we can help them fight? by Gilles Hertzog. August 15, 2021. WAKIL KOHSAR/AFP via Getty Images.

2 weeks ago



Washington Times

### The Biden Doctrine: Cut and Run

Cut and run. At a July 8 news conference, President Biden took questions regarding the American withdrawal from Afghanistan.

2 weeks ago



In all, the effort could target more than 200 journalists and support staff, the senators noted. Several groups, such as the Committee To Protect Journalists, have zeroed in on the concerns in the days leading up to and since the U.S. departure from Afghanistan.

The tumultuous U.S. exit from its 20-year war in Afghanistan has left a broad wave of bipartisan criticism from lawmakers worried about Americans and Afghan allies left behind. President Biden has remained firm in his defense and commitment of the plans to exit the country by Aug. 31, lauding the largest airlift in U.S. history with the evacuation of more than 120,000.

However, many say that fell woefully short considering about 100 to 200 Americans were left behind, along with a many Afghan allies who requested evacuations but remain now under new Taliban rule with uncertain futures.

The new letter from Klobuchar and Romney to Biden officials follows a request last month by the senators for the administration to ensure the safe evacuation of the journalists, their support staff and families. It coincided with other bipartisan requests from other members of Congress, such as Reps. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., and Steve Chabot, R-Ohio., last month.

Klobuchar and Romney urged the administration to expand its partnerships with members of the media, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and other governments to support jobs for the Afghan journalists who can continue reporting "open and transparent news" on the country.

"Their knowledge of Afghanistan and the region is invaluable and their skills should be used to provide news not only to the people in Afghanistan but to inform those outside of the country about current events in Afghanistan," the senators wrote.



# Millions Of People Are Missing From The CDC's COVID Data As States Fail To Report Cases

The CDC's COVID-19 data set is supposed to help track the pandemic, but a new NPR analysis has found the majority of fields are blank and millions of cases across the country are missing altogether.

September 1, 2021 · 4:20 PM ET

AUSTIN FAST 

"There's no data coming out of Texas," points out software engineer Josh Zarrabi of Atlanta's Morehouse School of Medicine, which recently rolled out the tracking portal. "A lot of Americans should be unhappy about that. And they should say, like, 'Wow, like, we need the data, right, because we're missing a huge piece of the puzzle here.' " And it's not just a search for jigsaw pieces from Texas.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has tallied over 39 million cases of COVID-19 in the U.S., but if you want to know more detailed information, such as where patients live, whether patients were hospitalized or died, demographic details like race, gender and age, that information is gathered separately.

In that more detailed CDC data set, about 1 in 5 known cases — or 7 million people — are completely missing, an NPR analysis found. On top of that, about two-thirds of the data present aren't usable, as health care providers marked fields as "Unknown" or simply left them blank.

Most states have voluntarily sent up whatever records they have, but a handful have not. Texas, Missouri, Louisiana, West Virginia and Wyoming have each submitted less than one-tenth of their total cases. Another handful of states, including Florida, Michigan and Kentucky, have smaller but still significant gaps in their data, each completely missing over 30% of their known cases.

Over 3 million Texans have had COVID-19, but just 81,000 are in the data set. That's not even 3%.

"That is ludicrous. It is shameful. It is wrong," says Nancy Krieger, a social epidemiologist at Harvard University. "You need good data to do proper planning, to understand what the risk is, how the risk is changing. And you need that to be real data that are publicly available and accessible."

The standardized details that states feed into this data set help the CDC track COVID-19's spread, evaluate demographic trends and develop health guidance for at-risk groups and the country as a whole. However, the completeness of these records varies widely.

At the CDC, Paula Yoon directs the surveillance of about 120 infectious diseases, including COVID-19. Her epidemiologists use field studies and lab reports to fill in the blanks the best they can. However, Yoon agrees their job would be simpler if they just had all that data.

"Yes, we would be in a much better place," Yoon says. "It's not because the states are not sharing those data with us. It's because the states don't have those data themselves."

There are plenty of reasons why some states haven't submitted their data. Chief among them is the fact that public health has been underfunded for years. This has created a county-by-county patchwork of outdated disease-tracking systems linking hospitals and labs to public health departments.

Many counties have their own local tracking systems that can't automatically transfer records to the state and then up to the CDC.

Just like the CDC can't mandate what state health departments must do, states can't always tell counties or cities what to do.

Last fall, California's public health director resigned because a data glitch with the state's tracking system meant thousands of records were missing. California paid a tech firm \$15 million for a new system that could keep up. Within a few months, California's COVID-19 cases were flowing back into the CDC data set.

This summer, the CDC awarded \$200 million in COVID-19 relief funds to states to modernize data systems. Yoon, the CDC's surveillance director, says that this money has helped thousands of hospitals add electronic reporting, but there's a long way to go. It'll take sustained funding, a skilled workforce and cooperation from states and counties to keep going.

"We can't go it alone," Yoon says. "It's not a one-and-done situation where you modernize it and then you're done and you can walk away."

**But Texas alone now has over 3 million cases to submit, and Missouri, Louisiana, Mississippi and a handful of other states each have hundreds of thousands to work through.**

As the delta variant continues its surge, their to-do lists will just keep growing.





California Gov. Gavin Newsom's approval versus disapproval numbers on his handling of Covid are identical to the recall breakdown — both at 58-39 percent, the poll showed. | AP Photo/Rich Pedroncelli

## Newsom has strong support in latest California recall survey

By CARLA MARINUCCI | 09/02/2021 12:00 AM EDT

OAKLAND — With a strong majority of residents backing his handling of Covid-19 amid the Delta variant spread, California Gov. Gavin Newsom enjoys support from a strong majority of likely voters who say they're voting against his recall, according to a new poll from the Public Policy Institute of California.

The survey released Wednesday night showed that 58 percent of likely voters say they'll reject the recall, with just 39 percent voting yes. The margin is slightly larger than in two previous PPIC polls this year with less than two weeks left until the Sept. 14 election, the latest evidence that the Democratic governor has gained breathing room in recent polls, according to a consolidated average by FiveThirtyEight.

**There remains a strong partisan split, with nearly all Democratic likely voters (90 percent) and about half of independent likely voters (49 percent) saying they would keep Newsom in office, while the vast majority of Republican likely voters (82 percent) say they would remove him.**

*The latest PPIC poll is based on a survey of 1,706 California adult residents from August 20–29, 2021. The margin of error is plus or minus 3.4 percent.*

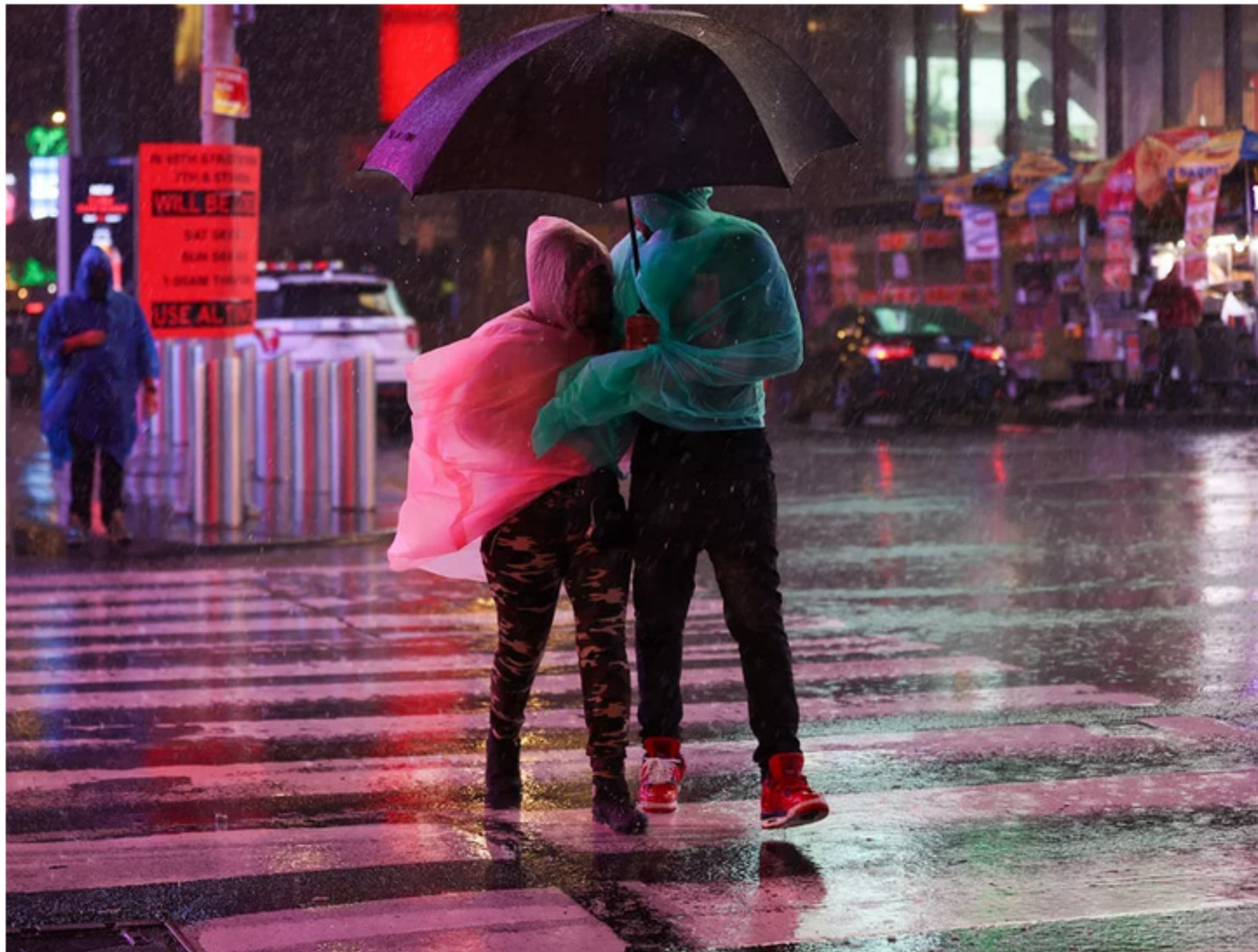


*As the sun rises on Thursday many residents in the Northeast are still in danger.*

# Historic Flooding Due To Ida Inundates The East Coast, Kills 10 Across 4 States

September 2, 2021 · 4:51 AM ET

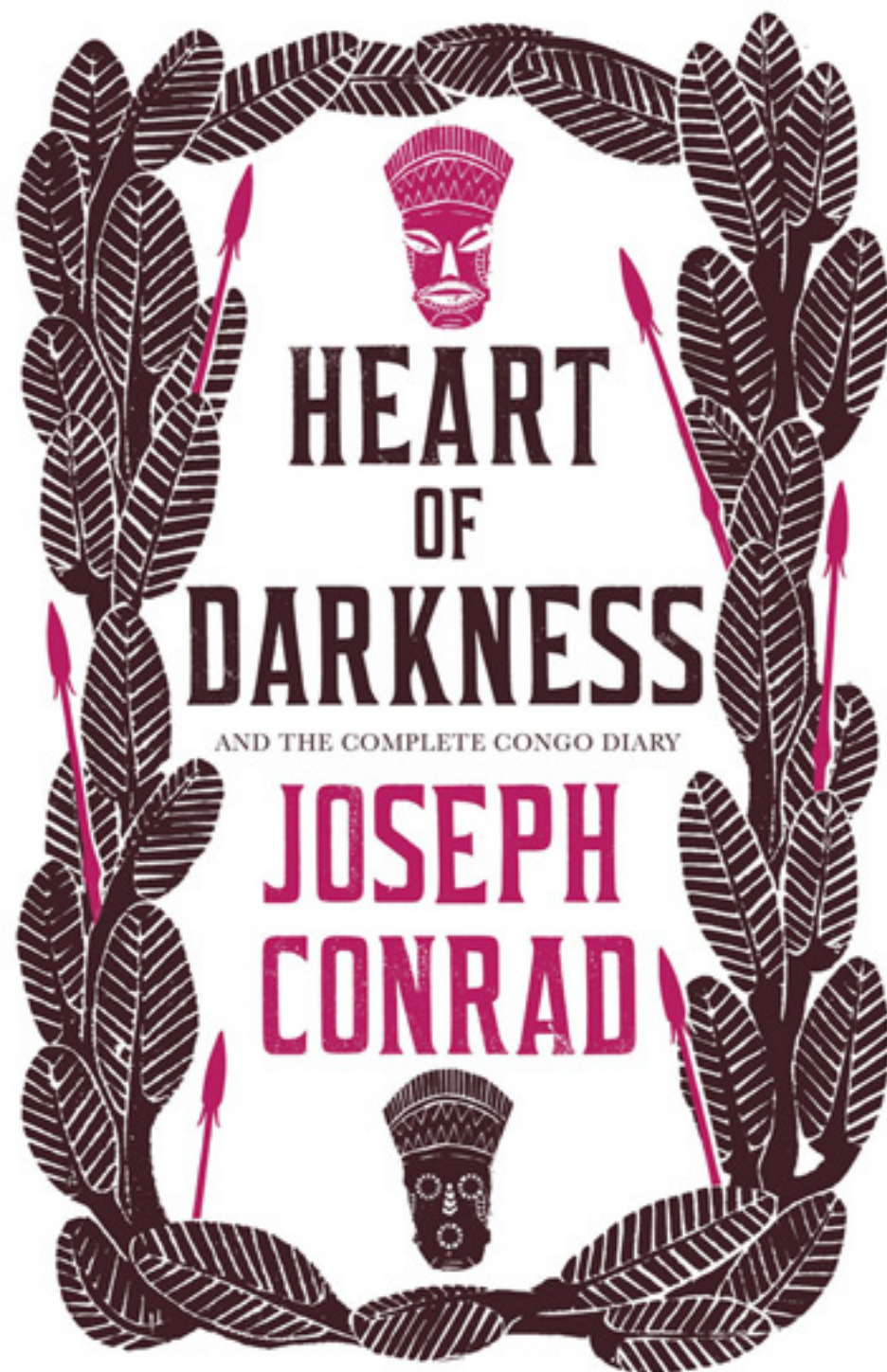
JACLYN DIAZ



People out in the street during heavy rain and storm at Times Square in New York City on September 1, 2021.

Tayfun Coskun/Anadolu Agency via Getty Images





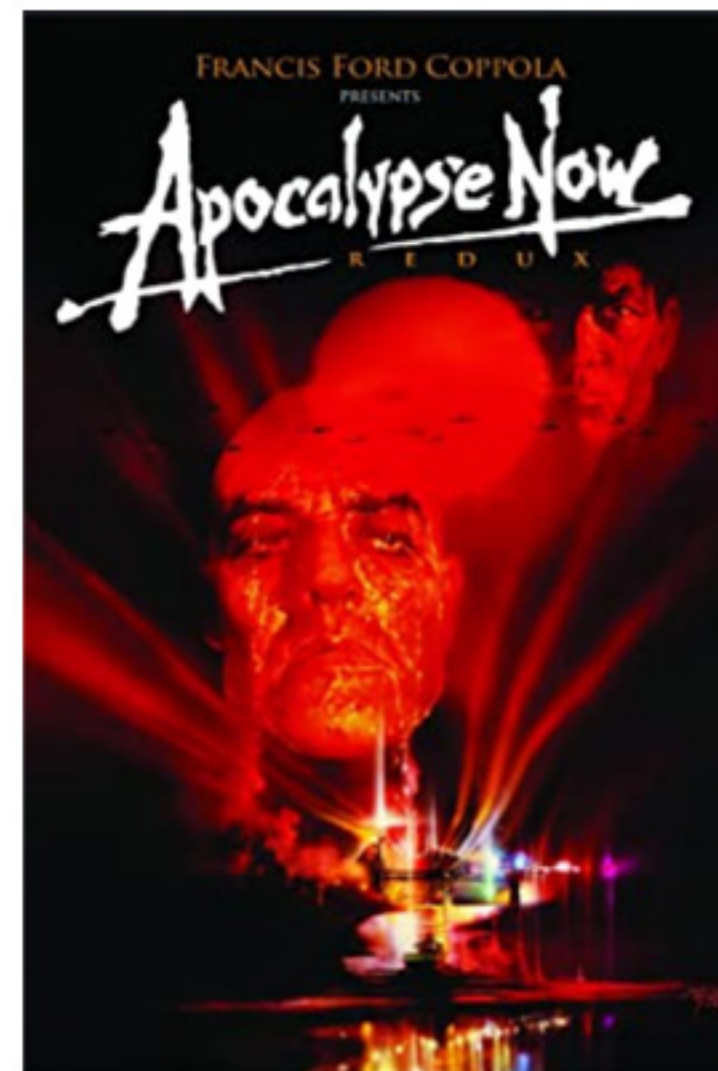
**Heart of Darkness** (1899) is a novella by Polish-English novelist Joseph Conrad about a narrated voyage up the Congo River into the Congo Free State in the Heart of Africa. Charles Marlow, the narrator, tells his story to friends aboard a boat anchored on the River Thames. This setting provides the frame for Marlow's story of his obsession with the successful ivory trader Kurtz. Conrad offers parallels between London ("the greatest town on earth") and Africa as places of darkness.

Central to Conrad's work is the idea that there is little difference between "civilised people" and "savages." *Heart of Darkness* implicitly comments on imperialism and racism.

Originally issued as a three-part serial story in *Blackwood's Magazine* to celebrate the thousandth edition of the magazine, *Heart of Darkness* has been widely re-published and translated into many languages. It provided the inspiration for Francis Ford Coppola's 1979 film *Apocalypse Now*. In 1998, the Modern Library ranked *Heart of Darkness* 67th on their list of the 100 best novels in English of the twentieth century.

**Apocalypse Now** is a 1979 American epic psychological war film directed and produced by Francis Ford Coppola. It stars Marlon Brando, Robert Duvall, Martin Sheen, Frederic Forrest, Albert Hall, Sam Bottoms, Laurence Fishburne, Harrison Ford, and Dennis Hopper. The screenplay, co-written by Coppola and John Milius with narration written by Michael Herr, is loosely based on the 1899 novella *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad, with the setting changed from late 19th-century Congo to the Vietnam War. The film follows a river journey from South Vietnam into Cambodia undertaken by Captain Benjamin L. Willard (Sheen), who is on a secret mission to assassinate Colonel Kurtz (Brando), a renegade Army Special Forces officer accused of murder and who is presumed insane.

Milius became interested in adapting *Heart of Darkness* for a Vietnam War setting in the late 1960s, and initially began developing the film with Coppola as producer and George Lucas as director. After Lucas became unavailable, Coppola took over directorial control, and was influenced by Werner Herzog's *Aguirre, the Wrath of God* (1972) in his approach to the material. Initially set to be a five-month shoot, the film became noted for the problems encountered while making it for over a year, as chronicled in the documentary *Hearts of Darkness: A Filmmaker's Apocalypse* (1991). These problems included expensive sets being destroyed by severe weather, Brando showing up on set overweight and completely unprepared, and Sheen having a breakdown and suffering a near-fatal heart attack while on location. Problems continued after production as the release was postponed several times while Coppola edited over a million feet of film.



*Apocalypse Now* is today widely considered one of the greatest films ever made. It was nominated for eight Academy Awards at the 52nd Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Best Director (Coppola), and Best Supporting Actor for Duvall, and went on to win for Best Cinematography and Best Sound. It ranked No. 14 in *Sight & Sound's* greatest films poll in 2012,[9] and No. 6 in the Director's Poll of greatest films of all time. Roger Ebert also included it in his top 10 list of greatest films ever in 2012.

In 2000, the film was selected for preservation in the United States National Film Registry by the Library of Congress as being "culturally, historically or aesthetically significant"





Joseph Conrad based *Heart of Darkness* on his own experiences in the Congo.

In 1890, at the age of 32, Conrad was appointed by a Belgian trading company to serve on one of its [steamers](#). While sailing up the [Congo River](#) from one station to another, the captain became ill and Conrad assumed command. He guided the ship up the [tributary Lualaba River](#) to the trading company's innermost station, [Kindu](#), in [Eastern Congo Free State](#); Marlow has similar experiences to the author.<sup>[6]</sup>

When Conrad began to write the novella, eight years after returning from Africa, he drew inspiration from his [travel journals](#).<sup>[6]</sup> He described *Heart of Darkness* as "a wild story" of a journalist who becomes manager of a station in the (African) interior and makes himself worshipped by a tribe of savages. The tale was first published as a three-part serial, in February, March and April 1899, in *Blackwood's Magazine* (February 1899 was the magazine's 1000th issue: special edition). In 1902 *Heart of Darkness* was included in the book *Youth: a Narrative, and Two Other Stories*, published on 13 November 1902 by [William Blackwood](#).

The volume consisted of *Youth: a Narrative*, *Heart of Darkness* and *The End of the Tether* in that order. In 1917, for future editions of the book, Conrad wrote an "Author's Note" where he, after denying any "unity of artistic purpose" underlying the collection, discusses each of the three stories and makes light commentary on Marlow, the narrator of the tales within the first two stories. He said Marlow first appeared in *Youth*.

On 31 May 1902, in a letter to William Blackwood, Conrad remarked,

I call your own kind self to witness ... the last pages of *Heart of Darkness* where the interview of the man and the girl locks in—as it were—the whole 30000 words of narrative description into one suggestive view of a whole phase of life and makes of that story something quite on another plane than an anecdote of a man who went mad in the Centre of Africa.<sup>[7]</sup>

There have been many proposed sources for the character of the antagonist, Kurtz. [Georges-Antoine Klein](#), an agent who became ill and died aboard Conrad's steamer, is proposed by literary critics as a basis for Kurtz.<sup>[8]</sup> The principal figures involved in the disastrous "rear column" of the [Emin Pasha Relief Expedition](#) have also been identified as likely sources, including column leader [Edmund Musgrave Barttelot](#), slave trader [Tippu Tip](#) and the expedition leader, Welsh explorer [Henry Morton Stanley](#).<sup>[9][10]</sup> Conrad's biographer [Norman Sherry](#) judged that Arthur Hodister (1847–1892), a Belgian solitary but successful trader, who spoke three Congolese languages and was venerated by Congolese to the point of deification, served as the main model, while later scholars have refuted this hypothesis.<sup>[11][12][13]</sup> [Adam Hochschild](#), in *King Leopold's Ghost*, believes that the Belgian soldier [Léon Rom](#) influenced the character.<sup>[14]</sup> Peter Firchow mentions the possibility that Kurtz is a composite, modelled on various figures present in the Congo Free State at the time as well as on Conrad's imagining of what they might have had in common.<sup>[15]</sup>



# These Students Grew Up Around Gun Violence. They Decided It Was Time To Talk About It.

September 2, 2021 · 7:02 AM ET



SEQUOIA CARRILLO



SNEHA DEY



*Makiyah Hicks and Jonetta Harrison in front of their high school, Duke Ellington School of the Arts, in Washington, D.C. They are finalists in this year's NPR Student Podcast Challenge for their entry "Loss and Transformation."*

When Makiyah Hicks was young, her uncle, Jamal Hazel, was killed in her District Heights neighborhood in southwest Maryland. Her father lost a brother and her grandmother, Darlene Hazel, lost her youngest son.

Every year since, on her uncle's birthday, Makiyah and her family visit his grave.

Despite the traumatic loss, she says her family and community members mostly avoid conversations about gun violence.

"It was always something we were around, but not something that was talked about," says Hicks, who graduated this year from Washington's Duke Ellington School of the Arts. "Especially with regards to my grandmother. That was her youngest son. It's a bit of a touchy subject."

So Hicks, along with her classmates Jonetta Harrison and Quin Wells, decided to talk about it. The students, all recent graduates of the Duke Ellington School, made a podcast about gun violence in D.C., and how families of victims are shaped by the loss. Their teacher, Thom Woodward, entered it in NPR's Student Podcast Challenge, and their story is one of 10 high school finalists, chosen by our judges from more than 2,200 entries.

Harrison, Hicks and Wells are starting college this fall and hope the lessons they learned from the people in their podcast will help them handle loss, and challenges, in their own lives.



Makiyah Hicks, sits in her bedroom where she recorded her part of the podcast "Loss And Transformation."

Dee Dwyer for NPR



Thom Woodward stands in front of Duke Ellington School of the Arts located in Washington, D.C. where he teaches. Woodward guided his student Jonetta Harrison, Makiyah Hicks and Quin Wells in creating the first podcast title "Loss and Transformation."



SEPTEMBER 1, 2021

# Doubling the number of species of hand-standing spotted skunks

by Field Museum

Picture a skunk. You're probably thinking of a stocky animal, around the size of a housecat, black with white stripes, like Pepé Le Pew. That describes North America's most common skunk, the striped skunk, but they also have smaller, spotted cousins. Scientists still have a lot to learn about spotted skunks, starting with how many kinds of them even exist—over the years, the number of recognized species has ranged from two to fourteen, and lately, scientists have agreed there are four. But in a new paper in *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*, researchers analyzed skunk DNA and found that there aren't four species of spotted skunk after all: there are seven.

"North America is one of the most-studied continents in terms of mammals, and carnivores are one of the most-studied groups," says Adam Ferguson, one of the paper's authors and the Negaunee collections manager of mammals at Chicago's Field Museum. "Everyone thinks we know everything about mammalian carnivore systematics, so being able to redraw the skunk family tree is very exciting."

Skunks, like raccoons, otters, and weasels, are part of the Carnivora order of mammals (they're omnivores, though). They're distantly related to dogs, and even more distantly related to cats. Spotted skunks are found throughout North America, but they haven't made themselves at home in urban areas the way their striped cousins have. Most spotted skunks weigh less than two pounds, whereas striped skunks can tip the scales at over ten. Like their name suggests, they have spots instead of stripes (although technically they're just broken stripes). And while all skunks produce a nasty-smelling spray to deter predators, spotted skunks have the flashiest means of deploying it: they do a hand-stand on their front legs as an extra warning before they spray. "Spotted skunks are sometimes called the acrobats of the skunk world," says Ferguson.

The revised skunk family tree could also be a tool for scientists looking to understand skunk reproductive biology. "Besides the fact that they do handstands, the coolest thing about spotted skunks is that some of them practice delayed egg implantation—they breed in the fall, but they don't give birth until the spring. They delay implanting the egg in the uterus, it just sits in suspension for a while," says Ferguson. "We want to know why some species have delayed implantation and others don't, and figuring out how these different species of skunks evolved can help us do that."

And while skunks aren't always the most popular animals, the researchers say that understanding how they evolved and protecting them from extinction is important to our whole ecosystem.

**"By analyzing the genome of spotted skunks, we've been able to learn that their evolution and splitting into different species was driven by climate change during the Ice Age," says Ferguson. "The different lineages we found might help us find different conservation angles for protecting them in the future."**



A spotted skunk doing its signature handstand.

A poster with a yellow background and a torn edge. At the top, the word "WANTED!" is written in large, bold, black letters. Below it, there are three images of skunks. The first is a spotted skunk (Civet Cat) in a small frame. Below it, there are two side-by-side images of hog-nosed (rooter) skunks. Below these images, the text reads: "SPECIMENS NEEDED FOR ON-GOING RESEARCH AT TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY. NEED FROZEN/FRESH WHOLE ANIMALS/ANIMAL HEADS WITH SPECIFIC LOCATION, DATE COLLECTED, AND GENDER OF ANIMAL. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ANYTIME".

**WANTED!**

**Spotted Skunk (Civet Cat)**

**Hog-nosed (Rooter) Skunk**

**SPECIMENS NEEDED FOR ON-GOING RESEARCH AT TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY**

**NEED FROZEN/FRESH WHOLE ANIMALS/ANIMAL HEADS WITH SPECIFIC LOCATION, DATE COLLECTED, AND GENDER OF ANIMAL**

**PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ANYTIME**

poster asking for roadkill skunk specimens to be used in research



# The Supreme Court Heads Toward Reversing Abortion Rights

September 3, 2021 · 6:56 AM ET



NINA TOTENBERG



A deeply divided Supreme Court is allowing a Texas law that bans most abortions to remain in force, stripping women of the right to an abortion in most cases in the nation's second-largest state.

The Supreme Court's conservative majority tossed a legal bomb into the abortion debate late Wednesday night.

By a vote of 5-to-4, the court's most conservative members upheld, for now, a Texas law that, in effect, bans abortions after about six weeks. But almost as important as the result was how the court reached its decision — without full briefing and arguments before any court.

The court majority, including its three Trump appointees, emphasized that it was not ruling on the issues presented in the case. Still, it refused to block the law from going into effect for procedural reasons. The unsigned court order was just one long paragraph in length. And within a day, state legislators in Florida and elsewhere announced plans to introduce copycat legislation in their states.

Chief Justice John Roberts, who has dissented from almost every decision upholding expansive abortion rights, disagreed this time. He called the Texas law unprecedented because it not only bans abortions after roughly six weeks, but delegates enforcement powers not to state officials but to the general "populace at large." Roberts noted that the law appears to be deliberately structured to prevent courts from being able to promptly consider the constitutionality of the law.

For nearly a half-century, since *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court has consistently upheld the right to terminate a pregnancy prior to the fetus being able to survive outside the womb — generally 22 to 24 weeks. And it has consistently blocked laws that cut back significantly on that time frame. This time, though, the court majority ducked when faced with the Texas law, which also delegates enforcement to private individuals. Specifically, the law confers on any individual the right to file suit for money damages against a clinic, or any person who aids or abets an abortion after a fetal heartbeat is detected.

Michael Moreland, a professor of law and religion at Villanova University who identifies himself as "a pro-life law professor," notes that the law is not just "bizarre" but broad. "There are all kinds of uncertainties in this statute," he observes, pointing to a provision that says "you can bring a claim if you know that someone intends to procure an abortion or aid and abet one."

Indeed, anti-abortion groups are already asking on their websites for tips about those who are aiding or abetting abortions after about six weeks. Just how far the language of the statute may reach remains unclear. But it could possibly include family members, a receptionist at a clinic, someone who drives a patient to a clinic or even an out-of-state doctor who via telemedicine prescribes abortion pills.

Cornell University law professor Michael Dorf observes that the public-enforcement provision of the law could have some ugly consequences.

Emergency appeals at the court are not new, but the number and success rate of these appeals are, he observes. Typically, they have numbered in the low-to-mid single digits in a term, and most often in the past they came in death penalty cases. But when President Trump took office there was an uptick, and then, after Justice Brett Kavanaugh replaced Reagan appointee Anthony Kennedy, who retired in 2018, the number began to skyrocket, according to Vladeck.

"We've seen the court 19 times already this term change the status quo from what the lower courts had done in every context, in a way that either allowed a state or federal policy to go into effect or that blocked it from doing so," he says.

Indeed, without full briefing or argument and without much explanation, the court has decided cases involving everything from the eviction moratorium to the "Remain in Mexico" policy to state COVID-19 restrictions to the reinstatement of the federal death penalty.

"These cases are massively important," Vladeck says, adding that "the extent to which the court is handing them down through a truncated and deeply invisible process really ought to concern even the people who think the court is getting [the result] right."



# With no tourist handouts, hungry Bali monkeys raid homes

By FIRDIA LISNAWATI and NINIEK KARMINI 2 hours ago



1 of 7

Macaques eat bananas during feeding time at Sangeh Monkey Forest in Sangeh, Bali Island, Indonesia, Wednesday, Sept. 1, 2021. Deprived of their preferred food source - the bananas, peanuts and other goodies brought in by the tourists now kept away by the coronavirus - hungry monkeys on the resort island of Bali have taken to raiding villagers' homes in the search for something tasty. (AP Photo/Firdia Lisnawati)

SANGEH, Indonesia (AP) — Deprived of their preferred food source — the bananas, peanuts and other goodies brought in by tourists now kept away by the coronavirus — hungry monkeys on the resort island of Bali have taken to raiding villagers' homes in their search for something tasty.

Villagers in Sangeh say the gray long-tailed macaques have been venturing out from a sanctuary about 500 meters (yards) away to hang out on their roofs and await the right time to swoop down and snatch a snack.

Worried that the sporadic sorties will escalate into an all-out monkey assault on the village, residents have been taking fruit, peanuts and other food to the Sangeh Monkey Forest to try to placate the primates.

“We are afraid that the hungry monkeys will turn wild and vicious,” villager Saskara Gustu Alit said.

Ordinarily, tourism is the main source of income for Bali's 4 million residents, who welcomed more than 5 million foreign visitors annually before the pandemic.

Ordinarily, tourism is the main source of income for Bali's 4 million residents, who welcomed more than 5 million foreign visitors annually before the pandemic.

The Sangeh Monkey Forest typically had about 6,000 visitors a month, but as the pandemic spread last year and international travel dropped off dramatically, that number dropped to about 500.

Normally, the monkeys spend all day interacting with visitors — stealing sunglasses and water bottles, pulling at clothes, jumping on shoulders — and Gustu Alit theorizes that more than just being hungry, they're bored.

“That's why I have urged villagers here to come to the forest to play with the monkeys and offer them food,” he said. “I think they need to interact with humans as often as possible so that they do not go wild.”



## China will create a stock exchange in Beijing

By [Laura He](#), CNN Business

Updated 7:32 AM ET, Fri September 3, 2021



**Related Article:** President Xi Jinping turns his fire on China's rich in push to redistribute wealth

Hong Kong (CNN Business)China will set up a new stock exchange in Beijing, giving the nation's capital and political center more influence in the world of business and finance.

President Xi Jinping announced the Beijing-based exchange at an international trade fair on Thursday, saying that he wanted to create a venue for "service-oriented" and "innovative" businesses. He did not say when the exchange would be established.

China already has two stock exchanges on the mainland, but they are located in Shanghai and Shenzhen, far away from Beijing. The Shanghai Stock Exchange, which was established in 1990, hosts mostly large-cap companies, including state-owned enterprises, banks and energy firms. The Shenzhen Stock Exchange has a bigger proportion of tech companies and small or medium-sized firms.

There's also the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, but it is subject to its own legal and regulatory systems and is free of Beijing's capital controls.

The move comes as the Chinese government's regulatory crackdown on large private companies intensifies. Beijing has been working for nearly a year to rein in their power and influence.

And it's being announced as Chinese companies face regulatory hurdles as they try to raise money in the United States. Pressure is coming from Chinese authorities who are increasingly upset about tech firms going public overseas because of concerns about whether they could give foreign governments access to sensitive user data. Meanwhile, US regulators have stepped up scrutiny on Chinese IPOs and required stricter disclosures about potential risks.

President Xi Jinping turns his fire on China's rich in push to redistribute wealth It is also the second time Xi has personally announced a stock market initiative. In 2018, as the US-China trade war raged, he unveiled a tech-focused board for startups on the Shanghai Stock Exchange. The creation of the Star Market was intended to channel investment into China's high-tech companies and help the country gain an edge in its competition with the West over tech. Since then, more than 300 tech firms have listed on the board, with a total market cap of more than 4.7 trillion yuan (\$728 billion.)

The government also established an over-the-counter system in Beijing in 2013 for trading shares of companies not listed in Shanghai or Shenzhen. It is called the National Equities Exchange And Quotations (NEEQ), and is widely known as the "New Third Board" in China. However, the NEEQ has lagged behind Shanghai and Shenzhen markets in recent years, shrinking in size and liquidity. Xi on Thursday pledged to reform the NEEQ system.

The China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC), the country's top securities regulator, later explained that the new Beijing stock exchange will be built on the top of the NEEQ. Selected companies from the NEEQ can qualify to list on the Beijing exchange, the regulator added.

The CSRC also said that the Beijing exchange will complement the Shanghai and Shenzhen stock exchanges and focus on serving "innovative" small and medium-sized businesses.

The registration-based IPO system that China piloted in Shanghai two years ago will be applied to companies seeking to list on the new exchange as well, it added. That system requires companies to make even more disclosures about their operations. It's intended to improve market transparency and reduce an otherwise lengthy regulatory review for IPOs.



NEWS | 02 September 2021

## India's DNA COVID vaccine is a world first – more are coming

The ZyCoV-D vaccine heralds a wave of DNA vaccines for various diseases that are undergoing clinical trials around the world.

Smriti Mallapaty



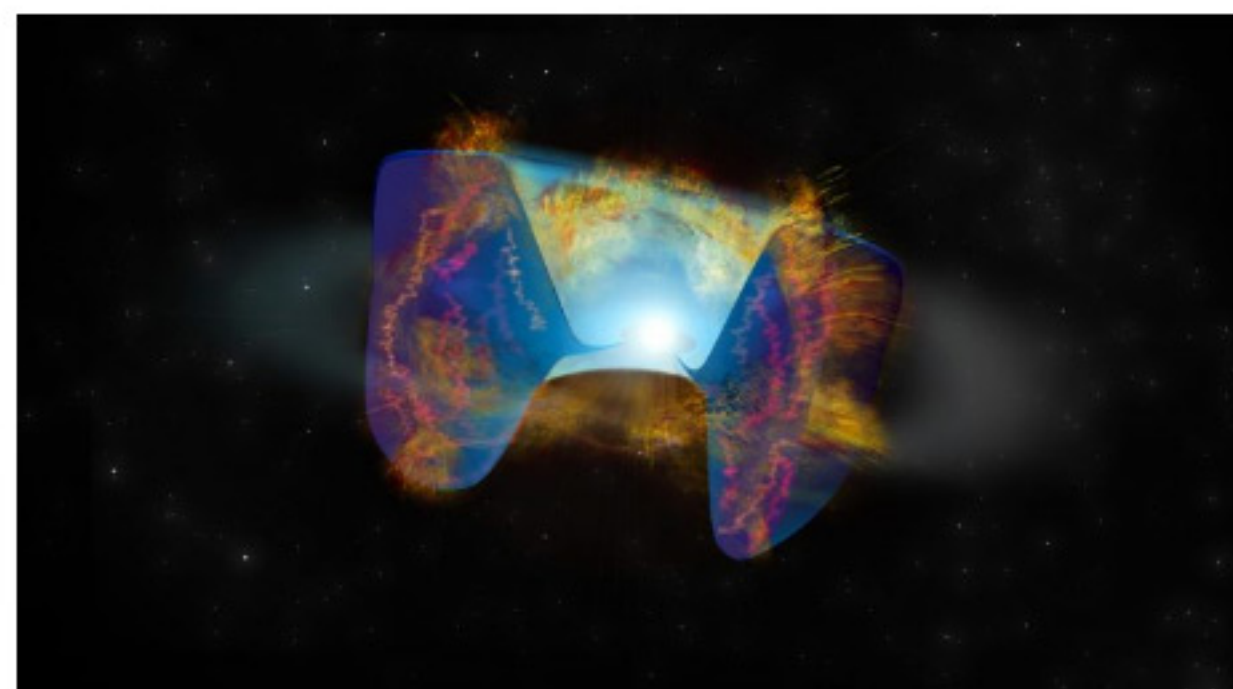
ZyCoV-D is the first DNA vaccine for people to be approved anywhere in the world. Credit: Zydus Cadila

India has approved a new COVID vaccine that uses circular strands of DNA to prime the immune system against the virus SARS-CoV-2. Researchers have welcomed news of the first DNA vaccine for people to receive approval anywhere in the world, and say many other DNA vaccines may soon be hot on its heels.

## Stellar Collision Triggers Supernova Explosion – “This Is the First Time We’ve Actually Seen Such an Event”

**TOPICS:** Astronomy Astrophysics Black Hole National Radio Astronomy Observatory Neutron Star Supernova

By NATIONAL RADIO ASTRONOMY OBSERVATORY SEPTEMBER 2, 2021



Fast-moving debris from a supernova explosion triggered by a stellar collision crashes into gas thrown out earlier, and the shocks cause bright radio emission seen by the VLA. Credit: Bill Saxton, NRAO/AUI/NSF

Astronomers have found dramatic evidence that a black hole or neutron star spiraled its way into the core of a companion star and caused that companion to explode as a supernova. The astronomers were tipped off by data from the Very Large Array Sky Survey (VLASS), a multi-year project using the National Science Foundation’s Karl G. Jansky Very Large Array (VLA).

“Theorists had predicted that this could happen, but this is the first time we’ve actually seen such an event,” said Dillon Dong, a graduate student at Caltech and lead author on a paper reporting the discovery in the journal *Science*.



About 7,250,000 results (0.73 seconds)

Contaminated food and fluids are common sources of bacterial infections. Rotavirus, norovirus, and other kinds of viral gastroenteritis, commonly referred to as "stomach flu," are among the viruses that can cause explosive diarrhea. Anyone can get these viruses.

https://www.healthline.com > health > explosive-diarrhea

Explosive Diarrhea: Causes, Treatment, and More - Healthline

About featured snippets Feedback

People also ask

Are explosive bowel movements normal?

"In an optimally functioning digestive system, it's not normal to be loud and noisy and explosive. It usually means there is some sort of imbalance in the digestive system." May 9, 2016

https://coach.nine.com.au > 9Honey > Coach > Latest

Why toilet explosions are a warning sign from your gut - 9Coach

Search for: Are explosive bowel movements normal?

What causes explosive?



Related health conditions

Diarrhea can have causes that aren't due to underlying disease. Examples include a liquid diet, food intolerance, stress, anxiety, or use of laxatives.

More about diarrhea

Irritable bowel syndrome: An intestinal disorder causing pain in the belly, gas, diarrhea, and constipation. Symptoms may include: Change in bowel habits, Symptoms alleviated by defecation, Recurrent abdominal pain.

Gastrointestinal disease: Gastrointestinal diseases involve the esophagus, stomach, small intestine, and large intestine.

For informational purposes only. Consult your local medical authority for advice. Sources: Mayo Clinic and others. Learn more



## San Diego Could Face A 'Twin-Demic' This Winter

Thursday, September 2, 2021

By **Melissa Mae**



CREDIT: UC SAN DIEGO HEALTH

Above: Carl Solomon, Senior Director of Environmental Services at UC San Diego Health gets a COVID-19 vaccine, Dec. 16, 2020.

UC San Diego Health says there has been a rise in COVID cases among its vaccinated workforce, and sent a letter to the editor of the *New England Journal of Medicine* this week about their findings. Dr. Christopher Longhurst is the associate chief medical officer for UC San Diego Health and co-author of that letter.

“The message from this article is that the efficacy or the effectiveness against infection is waning. The effectiveness against hospitalization and death is not and so that’s why we want people to continue getting vaccinated,” Longhurst said.

He said nearly every case was community acquired, and about a third of the patients had gotten the virus from a child. Longhurst cited three factors that have contributed to the COVID resurgence.

The first being the state’s opening back in June and the lifting of the mask mandate.

He said another factor is the Delta variant, which is more transmissible and more contagious than the Alpha variant. “Over the last four weeks, 97% of the cases that we’ve found have been Delta variant,” Longhurst said.

Lastly, he said evidence suggests waning immunity from the vaccine.

“I want to be really clear again, this is not waning immunity against severe disease, it’s waning of immunity against the ability to prevent infection and transmission,” Longhurst emphasized.

The COVID surge isn’t the only thing doctors are worried about. Longhurst also says a flu surge is very possible this winter.

“It’s unlikely we’re ever going to lockdown and distance the way that we did last year,” Longhurst said. “On the other hand, if we get to a point where we have indoor masking mandates again, that can help us potentially stave off a potential twin-demic.”



**END daily reporting**

**BEGIN weekly reporting:**  
Monday, June 14, 2021

San Diego Coronavirus: (NEW)





data through Tue Jul 13, 2021

San Diego Monthly Average Cases/Day:

- 4/14/2020 = 77
- 5/14/2020 = 120
- 6/14/2020 = 134
- 7/14/2020 = 409
- 8/14/2020 = 416
- 9/14/2020 = 285
- 10/14/2020 = 281
- 11/14/2020 = 429
- 12/14/2020 = 1420

Date	New	7-Day
01/07/21	4,550	3,570

- 01/14/2021 = 3010
- 02/14/2021 = 1697
- 03/14/2021 = 506
- 04/14/2021 = 280
- 05/14/2021 = 166
- 06/14/2021 = 88
- 07/13/2021 = 134



\* 7 day average

Country, Other	Total Cases	New Cases	Total Deaths	New Deaths	Total Recovered	New Recovered	Active Cases	Serious, Critical	Tot Cases/ 1M pop	Deaths/ 1M pop
World	189,319,587	+179,109	4,076,941	+2,842	172,882,548	+104,675	12,360,098	79,388	24,288	523.0
USA State	Total Cases	New Cases	Total Deaths	New Deaths	Total Recovered	Active Cases	Tot Cases/ 1M pop	Deaths/ 1M pop	Total Tests	Tests/ 1M pop
USA Total	34,848,068		623,838		29,324,300	4,899,930	105,280	1,885	514,574,420	1,554,593
<a href="#">California</a>	3,848,352		63,943		2,079,900	1,704,509	97,396	1,618	71,222,071	1,802,533

COVID-19 cases on the rise in San Diego County > <https://www.cbs8.com/>

COVID Cases Rising in San Diego County as Delta Variant Spreads Nationally

<https://timesofsandiego.com/health/2021/07/14/covid-cases-rising-in-san-diego-county-as-delta-variant-spreads-nationally/>

San Diego County data shows how people between ages of 20-29 have the highest COVID-19 cases and also one of lowest vaccination rates > <https://www.nbcsandiego.com/>

San Diego Coronavirus: (NEW)

by MONTH:	92104	New	Date	Positives	New	Hospitalizations	New	Deaths	New
	431	163	08/14/20	34,344	12,898	2,835	742	626	178
	527	96	09/14/20	43,181	8,837	3,335	500	742	116
	645	118	10/14/20	51,470	8,289	3,720	385	847	105
	803	158	11/14/20	64,768	13,298	4,197	477	926	79
	1,240	437	12/14/20	111,441	46,673	5,212	1,015	1,194	268
	2,053	813	01/14/21	206,870	95,429	7,146	1,934	2,037	843
	2,500	447	02/14/21	252,943	46,073	12,144	4,998	3,037	1,000
	2,652	152	03/14/21	265,649	12,706	13,343	1,199	3,452	415
	2,782	130	04/14/21	274,249	8,600	15,047	1,704	3,653	201
	2,875	93	05/14/21	278,990	4,741	15,345	298	3,737	84
	2,917	42	06/14/21	281,374	2,384	15,476	131	3,770	33
	2,992	75	07/13/21	285,268	3,894	15,623	147	3,786	16
by WEEK:	92104	New	Date	Positives	New	Hospitalizations	New	Deaths	New
	2,917	4	06/14/21	281,374	496	15,476	29	3,770	6
	2,924	7	06/18/21	281,681	307	15,499	23	3,771	1
	2,933	9	06/25/21	282,262	581	15,530	31	3,780	9
	2,941	8	06/29/21	282,582	320	15,536	6	3,780	0
	2,966	25	07/06/21	283,376	794	15,577	41	3,782	2
	2,992	26	07/13/21	285,268	1,892	15,623	46	3,786	4

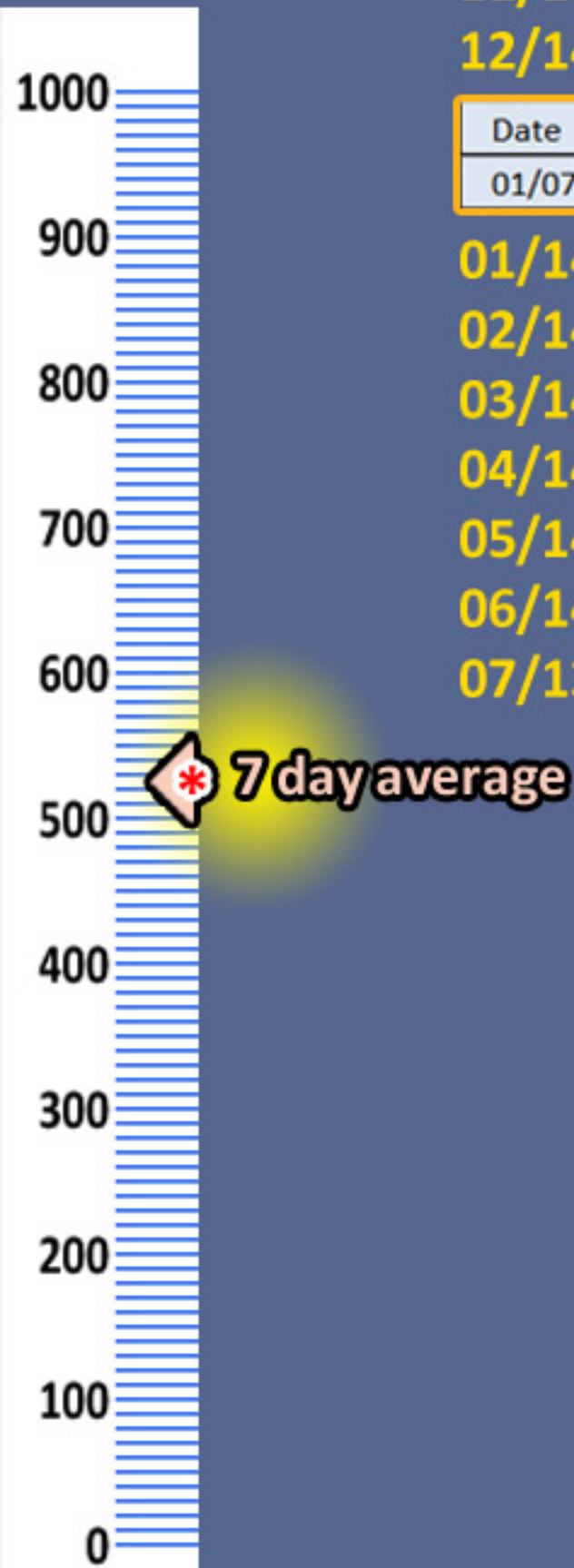


data through Tue Jul 20, 2021

San Diego Monthly Average Cases/Day:

- 4/14/2020 = 77
- 5/14/2020 = 120
- 6/14/2020 = 134
- 7/14/2020 = 409
- 8/14/2020 = 416
- 9/14/2020 = 285
- 10/14/2020 = 281
- 11/14/2020 = 429
- 12/14/2020 = 1420
- 01/14/2021 = 3010
- 02/14/2021 = 1697
- 03/14/2021 = 506
- 04/14/2021 = 280
- 05/14/2021 = 166
- 06/14/2021 = 88
- 07/13/2021 = 134

Date	New	7-Day
01/07/21	4,550	3,570



Country, Other	Total Cases	New Cases	Total Deaths	New Deaths	Total Recovered	New Recovered	Active Cases	Serious, Critical	Tot Cases/ 1M pop	Deaths/ 1M pop
World	193,557,076	+181,373	4,154,549	+3,559	175,837,854	+124,788	13,564,673	82,580	24,832	533.0
USA State	Total Cases	New Cases	Total Deaths	New Deaths	Total Recovered	Active Cases	Tot Cases/ 1M pop	Deaths/ 1M pop	Total Tests	Tests/ 1M pop
USA Total	35,213,594		626,172		29,478,173	5,109,249	106,385	1,892	520,411,488	1,572,228
<a href="#">California</a>	3,890,609		64,184		2,087,173	1,739,252	98,466	1,624	72,268,108	1,829,006
<a href="#">Texas</a>	3,064,000		53,117		2,927,981	82,902	105,670	1,832	33,028,245	1,139,067
<a href="#">Florida</a>	2,497,828		38,566		2,273,461	185,801	116,298	1,796	32,233,279	1,500,776
<a href="#">New York</a>	2,192,950		54,173		2,051,505	87,272	112,727	2,785	60,410,678	3,105,379
<a href="#">Illinois</a>	1,406,459		25,860		1,362,992	17,607	110,991	2,041	26,497,201	2,091,033
<a href="#">Pennsylvania</a>	1,223,064		27,919		1,181,865	13,280	95,537	2,181	14,898,642	1,163,776
<a href="#">Georgia</a>	1,155,208		21,605		1,076,710	56,893	108,803	2,035	12,259,219	1,154,632
<a href="#">Ohio</a>	1,120,120		20,449		1,089,482	10,189	95,826	1,749	13,941,163	1,192,664
<a href="#">New Jersey</a>	1,031,346		26,564		989,199	15,583	116,114	2,991	14,550,260	1,638,139
<a href="#">North Carolina</a>	1,029,931		13,562		1,001,590	14,779	98,200	1,293	14,178,223	1,351,841
<a href="#">Michigan</a>	1,004,630		21,124		871,402	112,104	100,595	2,115	15,116,433	1,513,633

San Diego Coronavirus: (NEW) Seven Day Average

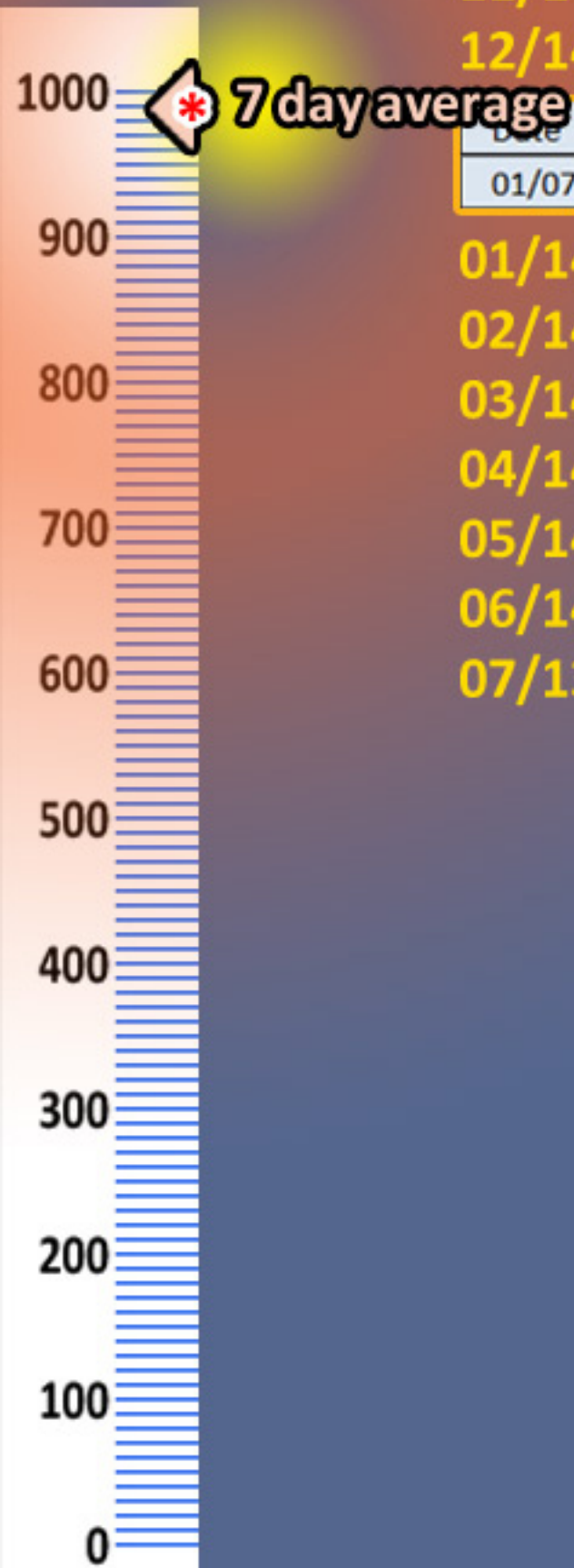
92104 Positives	New	7-Day	Date	Positives	New	7-Day	Hospitalizations	New	7-Day	Deaths	New	7-Day
2,992	26	4	07/13/21	285,268	1,892	270	15,623	46	7	3,786	4	1
			07/14/21	285,697	429		15,627	4		3,786	0	
			07/15/21	286,286	589		15,634	7		3,786	0	
			07/16/21									
			07/17/21									
			07/18/21	287,694	1,408		15,664	30		3,786	0	
			07/19/21	288,208	514		15,669	5		3,786	0	
3,052	60	9	07/20/21	288,681	473		15,700	31		3,787	1	
			07/21/21	289,367	686	524	15,702	2	11	3,788	1	0



data through Tue Aug 03, 2021

San Diego Monthly Average Cases/Day:

- 4/14/2020 = 77
- 5/14/2020 = 120
- 6/14/2020 = 134
- 7/14/2020 = 409
- 8/14/2020 = 416
- 9/14/2020 = 285
- 10/14/2020 = 281
- 11/14/2020 = 429
- 12/14/2020 = 1420
- 01/14/2021 = 3010
- 02/14/2021 = 1697
- 03/14/2021 = 506
- 04/14/2021 = 280
- 05/14/2021 = 166
- 06/14/2021 = 88
- 07/13/2021 = 134



Date	New	7-Day
01/07/21	4,550	3,570

Country, Other	Total Cases	New Cases	Total Deaths	New Deaths	Total Recovered	New Recovered	Active Cases	Serious, Critical	Tot Cases/ 1M pop	Deaths/ 1M pop	Total Tests	Tests/ 1M pop
World	200,931,139	+678,574	4,268,899	+9,973	180,890,230	+377,688	15,772,010	93,470	25,778	547.7		
USA	36,175,967	+111,775	631,299	+654	29,784,956	+25,826	5,759,712	12,600	108,598	1,895	540,235,262	1,621,746

USA State	Total Cases	New Cases	Total Deaths	New Deaths	Total Recovered	Active Cases	Tot Cases/ 1M pop	Deaths/ 1M pop	Total Tests	Tests/ 1M pop
California	4,005,933	+10,909	64,639	+59	2,111,553	1,829,741	101,385	1,636	74,464,222	1,884,587

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2021/07/17/1017075240/delta-variant-is-spreading-fast-and-new-cases-are-rising-is-time-to-mask-up-again>



THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

## Delta Is Surging. Here's What You Need To Know To Stay Safe

Updated August 4, 2021 - 12:50 PM ET

### San Diego Coronavirus: (NEW) Seven Day Average

These tables are updated daily (7-days a week).

	92104 Positives	New	7-Day	Date	Positives	New	7-Day	Hospitalizations	New	7-Day	Deaths	New	7-Day
Tues	3,052	60	9	07/20/21	288,681	473		15,700	31		3,787	1	
Wed				07/21/21	289,367	686	524	15,702	2	11	3,788	1	0
Thurs				07/22/21	290,625	1,258	620	15,710	8	11	3,793	5	1
no reporting				07/23/21									
no reporting				07/24/21									
Sun				07/25/21	292,688	2,063	713	15,765	55	14	3,793	0	1
Mon				07/26/21	293,408	720	743	15,789	24	17	3,798	5	2
Tues	3,146	94	13	07/27/21	294,176	768	785	15,809	20	16	3,798	0	2
Wed				07/28/21	295,054	878	812	15,847	38	21	3,798	0	1
Thurs				07/29/21	296,345	1,291	817	15,862	15	22	3,798	0	1
Fri				07/30/21	297,226	881		15,885	23		3,798	0	
Sat				07/31/21	298,002	776		15,894	9		3,798	0	
Sun				08/01/21	299,021	1,019	905	15,900	6	19	3,798	0	1
Mon				08/02/21	300,189	1,168	969	15,908	8	17	3,803	5	1
Tues	3,260	114	16	08/03/21	301,100	911	989	15,913	5	15	3,803	0	1

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/coronavirus> | <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>



# data through Tue Aug 10, 2021

San Diego  
Monthly  
Average  
Cases/Day:

4/14/2020 = 77  
5/14/2020 = 120  
6/14/2020 = 134  
7/14/2020 = 409  
8/14/2020 = 416  
9/14/2020 = 285  
10/14/2020 = 281  
11/14/2020 = 429  
12/14/2020 = 1420

Date	New	7-Day
01/07/21	4,550	3,570

01/14/2021 = 3010  
02/14/2021 = 1697  
03/14/2021 = 506  
04/14/2021 = 280  
05/14/2021 = 166  
06/14/2021 = 88  
07/13/2021 = 134  
08/10/2021 = 863

\* 7 day average

Country, Other	Total Cases	New Cases	Total Deaths	New Deaths	Total Recovered	New Recovered	Active Cases	Serious, Critical	Tot Cases/ 1M pop	Deaths/ 1M pop
World	205,697,243	+230,660	4,341,180	+4,807	184,682,500	+201,739	16,673,563	102,336	26,389	556.9

USA State	Total Cases	New Cases	Total Deaths	New Deaths	Total Recovered	Active Cases	Tot Cases/ 1M pop	Deaths/ 1M pop	Total Tests	Tests/ 1M pop
USA Total	37,060,454		635,219		30,050,064	6,375,171	111,964	1,919	551,091,085	1,664,914
<a href="#">California</a>	4,088,826		64,494		2,178,149	1,846,183	103,483	1,632	76,044,392	1,924,579

How dangerous is Delta variant for kids?

Nationally, roughly 1 percent of children who are infected with the virus end up hospitalized, and 0.01 percent die, according to the A.A.P. data. Both hospitalization and death rates have declined since last summer. It is still possible, of course, that Delta could turn out to cause more severe disease in children. 3 days ago

<https://www.nytimes.com> > coronavirus-children-delta

[Delta Variant Is Sending More Children to the Hospital - The New York Times](#)

## San Diego Coronavirus: (NEW) Seven Day Average

	92104	New	7-Day	Date	Positives	New	7-Day	Hospitalizations	New	7-Day	Deaths	New	7-Day
Tues	3,146	94	13	07/27/21	294,176	768	785	15,809	20	16	3,798	0	2
Wed				07/28/21	295,054	878	812	15,847	38	21	3,798	0	1
Thurs				07/29/21	296,345	1,291	817	15,862	15	22	3,798	0	1
Fri				07/30/21	297,226	881		15,885	23		3,798	0	
Sat				07/31/21	298,002	776		15,894	9		3,798	0	
Sun				08/01/21	299,021	1,019	905	15,900	6	19	3,798	0	1
Mon				08/02/21	300,189	1,168	969	15,908	8	17	3,803	5	1
Tues	3,260	114	16	08/03/21	301,100	911	989	15,913	5	15	3,803	0	1
Wed				08/04/21	302,220	1,120	1,024	15,936	23	13	3,806	3	1
Thurs				08/05/21	303,691	1,471	1,049	15,986	50	18	3,810	4	2
Fri				08/06/21	304,974	1,283	1,107	16,048	62	23	3,811	1	2
Sat				08/07/21	305,983	1,009	1,140	16,052	4	23	3,811	0	2
Sun				08/08/21	306,855	872	1,119	16,054	2	22	3,811	0	2
Mon				08/09/21	308,288	1,433	1,157	16,105	51	28	3,815	4	2
Tues	3,392	132	19	08/10/21	309,406	1,118	1,187	16,161	56	35	3,818	3	2



data through Tue Aug 17, 2021

San Diego  
Monthly  
Average  
Cases/Day:

4/14/2020 = 77  
5/14/2020 = 120  
6/14/2020 = 134  
7/14/2020 = 409  
8/14/2020 = 416  
9/14/2020 = 285  
10/14/2020 = 281  
11/14/2020 = 429  
12/14/2020 = 1420

Date	New	7-Day
01/07/21	4,550	3,570

01/14/2021 = 3010  
02/14/2021 = 1697  
03/14/2021 = 506  
04/14/2021 = 280  
05/14/2021 = 166  
06/14/2021 = 88  
07/13/2021 = 134  
08/10/2021 = 863

\* 7 day average

Country, Other	Total Cases	New Cases	Total Deaths	New Deaths	Total Recovered	New Recovered	Active Cases	Serious, Critical	Tot Cases/ 1M pop	Deaths/ 1M pop
World	210,260,449	+193,967	4,408,914	+4,446	188,359,642	+166,985	17,491,893	108,066	26,974	565.6

USA State	Total Cases	New Cases	Total Deaths	New Deaths	Total Recovered	Active Cases	Tot Cases/ 1M pop	Deaths/ 1M pop	Total Tests	Tests/ 1M pop
USA Total	38,072,656		641,346		30,341,886	7,089,424	115,022	1,938	561,827,980	1,697,352
<a href="#">California</a>	4,176,518		64,842		2,208,574	1,903,102	105,702	1,641	77,892,857	1,971,361

**Lambda COVID Variant In California: 5 Things To Know**

<https://www.kpbs.org/news/2021/aug/13/lambda-covid-variant-california-5-things-know/>

Friday, August 13, 2021

A new COVID-19 variant — named lambda — has arrived in California.

The emerging lambda variant has been popping up in the news as it spreads rapidly throughout South America. In California, at least 152 cases have been reported, the first as early as September 2020, according to state public health officials. Experts say lambda could be more infectious and resistant to vaccines than the original SARS-CoV-2 virus. But there is no evidence, at least so far, that it's as infectious as the delta variant that now dominates California.

So far the delta variant has definitively crowded out other variants nationwide. It now accounts for at least 86% of California's sequenced COVID-19 cases and more than 94% of U.S. cases.

"Delta's aggressive all over the world and lambda hasn't really taken off," Chin-Hong said. "At the end of the day, it's survival of the fittest."

**San Diego Coronavirus: (NEW) Seven Day Average**

	92104	New	7-Day	Date	Positives	New	7-Day	Hospitalizations	New	7-Day	Deaths	New	7-Day
Tues	3,260	114	16	08/03/21	301,100	911	989	15,913	5	15	3,803	0	1
Wed				08/04/21	302,220	1,120	1,024	15,936	23	13	3,806	3	1
Thurs				08/05/21	303,691	1,471	1,049	15,986	50	18	3,810	4	2
Fri				08/06/21	304,974	1,283	1,107	16,048	62	23	3,811	1	2
Sat				08/07/21	305,983	1,009	1,140	16,052	4	23	3,811	0	2
Sun				08/08/21	306,855	872	1,119	16,054	2	22	3,811	0	2
Mon				08/09/21	308,288	1,433	1,157	16,105	51	28	3,815	4	2
Tues	3,392	132	19	08/10/21	309,406	1,118	1,187	16,161	56	35	3,818	3	2
Wed				08/11/21	310,596	1,190	1,197	16,207	46	39	3,821	3	2
Thurs				08/12/21	312,294	1,698	1,229	16,238	31	36	3,821	0	2
Fri				08/13/21	313,589	1,295	1,231	16,239	1	27	3,824	3	2
Sat				08/14/21	314,247	658	1,181	16,243	4	27	3,824	0	2
Sun				08/15/21	315,348	1,101	1,213	16,244	1	27	3,824	0	2
Mon				08/16/21	317,058	1,710	1,253	16,255	11	21	3,824	0	1
Tues	3,495	103	15	08/17/21	318,152	1,094	1,249	16,283	28	17	3,834	10	2

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/coronavirus> | <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>



# data through Tue Aug 24, 2021

San Diego  
Monthly  
Average  
Cases/Day:

4/14/2020 = 77  
5/14/2020 = 120  
6/14/2020 = 134  
7/14/2020 = 409  
8/14/2020 = 416  
9/14/2020 = 285  
10/14/2020 = 281  
11/14/2020 = 429  
12/14/2020 = 1420

Date	New	7-Day
01/07/21	4,550	3,570

01/14/2021 = 3010  
02/14/2021 = 1697  
03/14/2021 = 506  
04/14/2021 = 280  
05/14/2021 = 166  
06/14/2021 = 88  
07/13/2021 = 134  
08/10/2021 = 863

\* 7 day



Country, Other	Total Cases	New Cases	Total Deaths	New Deaths	Total Recovered	New Recovered	Active Cases	Serious, Critical	Tot Cases/ 1M pop	Deaths/ 1M pop
World	214,721,447	+22,185	4,475,693	+272	192,049,607	+23,126	18,196,147	113,122	27,547	574.2

USA State	Total Cases	New Cases	Total Deaths	New Deaths	Total Recovered	Active Cases	Tot Cases/ 1M pop	Deaths/ 1M pop	Total Tests	Tests/ 1M pop
USA Total	39,157,249		649,680		30,678,283	7,829,286	118,299	1,963	573,651,524	1,733,072
<a href="#">California</a>	4,280,248		65,396		2,246,810	1,968,042	108,327	1,655	79,973,561	2,024,021

## San Diego Coronavirus: (NEW) Seven Day Average

92104	New	7-Day	Date	Positives	New	7-Day	Hospitalizations	New	7-Day	Deaths	New	7-Day	
3,260	114	16	08/03/21	301,100	911	989	15,913	5	15	3,803	0	1	
			08/04/21	302,220	1,120	1,024	15,936	23	13	3,806	3	1	
			08/05/21	303,691	1,471	1,049	15,986	50	18	3,810	4	2	
			08/06/21	304,974	1,283	1,107	16,048	62	23	3,811	1	2	
			08/07/21	305,983	1,009	1,140	16,052	4	23	3,811	0	2	
			08/08/21	306,855	872	1,119	16,054	2	22	3,811	0	2	
			08/09/21	308,288	1,433	1,157	16,105	51	28	3,815	4	2	
Tues	3,392	132	19	08/10/21	309,406	1,118	1,187	16,161	56	35	3,818	3	2
Wed				08/11/21	310,596	1,190	1,197	16,207	46	39	3,821	3	2
Thurs				08/12/21	312,294	1,698	1,229	16,238	31	36	3,821	0	2
Fri				08/13/21	313,589	1,295	1,231	16,239	1	27	3,824	3	2
Sat				08/14/21	314,247	658	1,181	16,243	4	27	3,824	0	2
Sun				08/15/21	315,348	1,101	1,213	16,244	1	27	3,824	0	2
Mon				08/16/21	317,058	1,710	1,253	16,255	11	21	3,824	0	1
Tues	3,495	103	15	08/17/21	318,152	1,094	1,249	16,283	28	17	3,834	10	2
Wed				08/18/21	319,582	1,430	1,284	16,387	104	26	3,839	5	3
Thurs				08/19/21	321,102	1,520	1,258	16,462	75	32	3,846	7	4
Fri				08/20/21	322,620	1,518	1,290	16,509	47	39	3,848	2	3
Sat				08/21/21	323,591	971	1,335	16,516	7	39	3,848	0	3
Sun				08/22/21	324,537	946	1,313	16,524	8	40	3,848	0	3
Mon				08/23/21	325,823	1,286	1,252	16,553	29	43	3,851	3	4
Tues	3,583	88	13	08/24/21	327,166	1,343	1,288	16,585	32	43	3,859	8	4



data through Tue Aug 31, 2021

San Diego  
Monthly  
Average  
Cases/Day:

4/14/2020 = 77  
 5/14/2020 = 120  
 6/14/2020 = 134  
 7/14/2020 = 409  
 8/14/2020 = 416  
 9/14/2020 = 285  
 10/14/2020 = 281  
 11/14/2020 = 429  
 12/14/2020 = 1420

Date	New	7-Day
01/07/21	4,550	3,570

01/14/2021 = 3010  
 02/14/2021 = 1697  
 03/14/2021 = 506  
 04/14/2021 = 280  
 05/14/2021 = 166  
 06/14/2021 = 88  
 07/13/2021 = 134  
 08/10/2021 = 863  
 09/07/2021 =



Country, Other	Total Cases	New Cases	Total Deaths	New Deaths	Total Recovered	New Recovered	Active Cases	Serious, Critical	Tot Cases/ 1M pop	Deaths/ 1M pop
World	219,225,860	+678,770	4,543,606	+10,374	196,006,035	+632,453	18,676,219	105,881	28,125	582.9

USA State	Total Cases	New Cases	Total Deaths	New Deaths	Total Recovered	Active Cases	Tot Cases/ 1M pop	Deaths/ 1M pop	Total Tests	Tests/ 1M pop
USA Total	40,328,463	+184,130	659,908	+1,495	31,137,936	8,530,619	121,837	1,994	586,663,443	1,772,383
<u>California</u>	4,381,222	+14,645	66,010	+128	2,292,840	2,022,372	110,883	1,671	82,684,535	2,092,632

Country, Other	Total Cases	New Cases	Total Deaths	New Deaths
World	219,225,860	+678,770	4,543,606	+10,374
<u>USA</u>	40,328,463	+184,130	659,908	+1,495

San Diego Coronavirus: (NEW) Seven Day Average

	92104	New	7-Day	Date	Positives	New	7-Day	Hospitalizations	New	7-Day	Deaths	New	7-Day
Tues	3,495	103	15	08/17/21	318,152	1,094	1,249	16,283	28	17	3,834	10	2
Wed				08/18/21	319,582	1,430	1,284	16,387	104	26	3,839	5	3
Thurs				08/19/21	321,102	1,520	1,258	16,462	75	32	3,846	7	4
Fri				08/20/21	322,620	1,518	1,290	16,509	47	39	3,848	2	3
Sat				08/21/21	323,591	971	1,335	16,516	7	39	3,848	0	3
Sun				08/22/21	324,537	946	1,313	16,524	8	40	3,848	0	3
Mon				08/23/21	325,823	1,286	1,252	16,553	29	43	3,851	3	4
Tues	3,583	88	13	08/24/21	327,166	1,343	1,288	16,585	32	43	3,859	8	4
Wed				08/25/21	328,276	1,110	1,242	16,635	50	35	3,869	10	4
Thurs				08/26/21	330,162	1,886	1,294	16,656	21	28	3,877	8	4
Fri				08/27/21	331,330	1,168	1,244	16,693	37	26	3,880	3	5
Sat				08/28/21	332,014	684	1,203	16,698	5	26	3,880	0	5
Sun				08/29/21	333,011	997	1,211	16,711	13	27	3,885	5	5
Mon				08/30/21	334,377	1,366	1,222	16,719	8	24	3,888	3	5
Tues	3,693	110	16	08/31/21	335,302	925	1,162	16,832	113	35	3,908	20	7



Friars Mission Center  
5644 Mission Center Rd, San Diego, CA 92108

