

# Coronavirus clue? Most cases aboard U.S. aircraft carrier are symptom-free

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Sweeping testing of the entire crew of the coronavirus-stricken U.S. aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt may have revealed a clue about the pandemic: The majority of the positive cases so far are among sailors who are asymptomatic, officials say.

The possibility that the coronavirus spreads in a mostly stealthy mode among a population of largely young, healthy people showing no symptoms could have major implications for U.S. policy-makers, who are considering how and when to reopen the economy.

It also renews questions about the extent to which U.S. testing of just the people suspected of being infected is actually capturing the spread of the virus in the United States and around the world.

The Navy's testing of the entire 4,800-member crew of the aircraft carrier - which is about 94% complete - was an extraordinary move in a headline-grabbing case that has already led to the firing of the carrier's captain and the resignation of the Navy's top civilian official.

Roughly 60 percent of the over 600 sailors who tested positive so far have not shown symptoms of COVID-19, the potentially lethal respiratory disease caused by the coronavirus, the Navy says. The service did not speculate about how many might later develop symptoms or remain asymptomatic.

"With regard to COVID-19, we're learning that stealth in the form of asymptomatic transmission is this adversary's secret power," said Rear Admiral Bruce Gillingham, surgeon general of the Navy.

The figure is higher than the 25% to 50% range offered on April 5 by Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and a member of President Donald Trump's coronavirus task force.

'DISCONCERTING' DATA FOR PENTAGON Defense Secretary Mark Esper, speaking in a television interview on Thursday, said the number of asymptomatic cases from the carrier was "disconcerting."



FILE PHOTO: The aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt (CVN-71) is pictured as it enters the port in Da Nang, Vietnam, March 5, 2020. REUTERS/Kham/File Photo

"It has revealed a new dynamic of this virus: that it can be carried by normal, healthy people who have no idea whatsoever that they are carrying it," Esper told NBC's "Today" morning show.

Such data present challenges to the Pentagon, which is deployed around the world, sometimes in confined environments like submarines, ships and aircraft.

Testing the entire military is not yet feasi-

ble, given still-limited testing capacity, officials say, and detecting enough cases without tests is impossible if most cases are asymptomatic.

The U.S. coronavirus death toll - the highest in the world - surged past 31,000 on Thursday after doubling in a week.

It also claimed the life of a sailor from the Theodore Roosevelt this week. Five other members of the crew are hospitalized.

**NUMBERS UNKNOWN** Still, the case of the Theodore Roosevelt offers a case study for researchers about how the virus spreads asymptotically in a confined environment among mostly younger adults.

That cohort has been somewhat underrepresented in the epidemiological data so far, said William Schaffner, an infectious disease specialist at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Stay Safe!

# BUSINESS

Wash Your Hands!

## Trump Says U.S. Has 'Passed The Peak' Of Coronavirus Outbreak



**OVERVIEW**

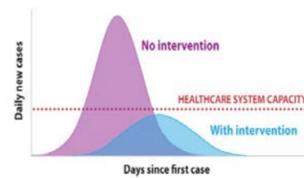
There are more than 632,000 confirmed cases in the U.S., the worst outbreak in the world. Trump said new cases are "declining" in New York, which has more confirmed cases than any country outside the U.S. Trump said he'll be discussing guidelines for reopening commerce on Thursday.

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

President Donald Trump said the U.S. has "passed the peak" of the coronavirus outbreak, which has infected more than 632,000 people in America. "While we must remain vigilant, it is clear that our aggressive strategy is working," Trump said at a White House news briefing with coronavirus task force on Wednesday. "The battle continues, but the data suggests that nationwide we have passed the peak on new cases." Trump said new cases are "declining" in New York, which has more confirmed cases than any country outside the U.S. He added that cases are "flat" in Denver and Detroit, while other cities including Baltimore and Philadelphia "are showing great signs of success." "Some states are looking at other states and they're saying I can't imagine what

they're going through because they're not in that position. They're in very good shape," he said. "I would say that we have 20 states, at least, but you really have 29 that are in extremely good shape. You have others that are getting much better." Trump said he will discuss guidelines for reopening the country on Thursday. The governors of seven states on the East Coast and three states on the West Coast have announced regional working groups to coordinate the reopening of the regions. "My administration is using every available authority to accelerate the development, study and delivery of therapies," he said, adding that at least 35 clinical trials of treatments are underway.

**FLATTENING THE CURVE**  
A look at the importance of slowing the spread of a virus, so that the rate of infection doesn't outpace the resources to fight against it.



Over the past six days, the rate of new cases has declined across the country, Coronavirus Response Coordinator Dr. Deborah Birx said, adding that nine states have less than 1,000 cases each and report fewer than 30 new cases per day. However, she said the administration is concerned about Providence, Rhode Island, which is in a "unique situation," caught between two hot spots, New York and Boston. She added that now is the time to continue practicing social distancing. "Social gatherings, coming together, there is always a chance that an asymptomatic person can spread the virus unknowingly," she said. "To all of you that are out there that would like to join together and just have that dinner party for 20, don't do it yet. Continue to follow the presidential guidelines." More than 3.3 million tests have been "conducted and completed," Vice President Mike Pence said, adding that 24% of all counties in the country have not reported a single case of Covid-19. He also said half of all states in the country have fewer than 2,500 cases each. "We're going to reflect on the fact that, as the president said, there will be areas of the country that will require continued mitigation and strong efforts and there will be other areas of the country that will be given guidance for greater flexibility, the president has so directed our team," Pence said. Even as the infection rate appears to fall across the country, according to the White House, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio acknowledged earlier Wednesday that the city is likely undercounting Covid-19 deaths as the city struggles to test everyone.



On Tuesday, New York City officials said they would begin counting "probable" Covid-19 deaths, which are people "who had no known positive laboratory test," but are believed to have died due to Covid-19. The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene estimates that there have been 3,778 probable Covid-19 deaths since March 11 that weren't previously counted in the city's official tally. There have been 6,589 confirmed Covid-19 deaths in New York City so far. "I want the whole truth out. Wherever the facts take us, I want the whole truth out," de Blasio said Wednesday at a news briefing. "Absolutely, I believe there are more people who died because of Covid-19, in one way or another, because of something that happened to them related to Covid-19." **Related** **Could a Second Wave of COVID-19 Strike, Even After the US Reopens?** What if, after the country reopens, there's a second wave of the COVID-19 virus? That's why researchers are hard at work developing new therapies to treat victims. Neurologist and best-selling author, Dr. David Perlmutter, has announced some exciting new treatments on the horizon. One of them involves an anti-parasitic drug called Ivermectin that has been used to treat worm infestations in developing nations and to treat head lice here in the United States. It's widely used on horses and cattle. "Some very forward-looking researchers in Melbourne, Australia have found that this Ivermectin reduced the amount of COVID-19 in cell cultures by 5,000 fold in 48 hours," Perlmutter said.



Neurologist and best-selling author, Dr. David Perlmutter

"Now, we know that Ivermectin has powerful antiviral activity. It has been used effectively [to treat] dengue and West Nile virus as well. But I want to make one thing clear: the current study did show incredible effectiveness against the Coronavirus that we're dealing with right now, but that was not yet in humans. The very, very good news is that Ivermectin is available worldwide. It's on the WHO's list of essential medicines and used worldwide. So once the human trials can get underway on a drug already approved we might see something very effective become rapidly available and I'm very excited about that." Ivermectin is also an ingredient in heartworm prevention medication for dogs. "That does not mean people should consider taking their dog's heartworm medicine," Perlmutter cautioned. "We are still quite a way off in this application." Plasma therapy is also being used effectively to treat COVID-19. This involves using blood plasma from people who have recovered from the virus and infusing it into those who are at risk of contracting it or already have it. Plasma therapy is not new - it was first done during the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic. "The death rate in 1918 was reduced by 21 percent by using plasma treatment," Perlmutter said. Intravenous Vitamin C treatment also shows promise in treating this Coronavirus because it is a powerful anti-inflammatory as well as a powerful anti-oxidant. Vitamin C quenches the free radicals produced by the virus. But taking daily Vitamin C is also a good idea during this pandemic. "Having a good level of Vitamin C on board, as well as Vitamin D and zinc makes good sense," Perlmutter said. (Courtesy <https://www1.cbn.com/>)

Editor's Choice



FILE PHOTO: An abandoned shopping cart lies between empty paper towel aisles at a Target store in Culver City



Doctors visit patients at home amid the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak in Bergamo



Paramedics and healthcare officials are seen outside Andover Subacute and Rehab Center in Andover, New Jersey



People, some wearing protective masks, walk at a commercial center during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil April 16, 2020. REUTERS/Ricardo Moraes



Outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), in Rio de Janeiro



Outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), in Paris



Medical staff assess for COVID-19 at public Victoria Health Unit, BC



FILE PHOTO: New York governor Andrew Cuomo speaks as the USNS Comfort pulls into a berth in Manhattan during the outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19), in the Manhattan borough of New York City

## Court Rules: Texans Can Vote By Mail During Pandemic



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

In a major win for Texas Democrats and civil rights groups, a district court on Wednesday ruled that Texans could be allowed to vote by mail during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Traditionally, a voter in Texas must be 65 years or older, be disabled, or be out of the country in order to vote by mail. Now, anyone that fears exposure to the coronavirus can vote by mail as an option.

"Today is a victory for all Texans. The right to vote is central to our democracy," Texas Democratic Party Chair Gilberto Hinojosa said in a statement.

**BREAKING:** We just won a preliminary injunction in Texas. All voters get to vote by mail in the primary. No individualized excuses necessary. The coronavirus is a universal excuse. GREAT WORK @ACLU Voting Rights Project and @sophlin229

20.2K  
3:01 PM - Apr 15, 2020  
Twitter Ads info and privacy  
3,942 people are talking about this

Texas Democrats kicked off the lawsuit

earlier this month. The lawsuit was quickly joined by the American Civil Liberties Union, Texas Civil Rights Project and other groups. In order to address the dangers of the pandemic and ongoing elections, the primary runoffs in Texas have already been postponed from May 26 to July 14. The runoffs will decide dozens of races for Congress and local government, with the U.S. Senate race between Democrats MJ Hegar and state Sen. Royce West at the top of the ticket. It's likely today's ruling will be appealed by the state of Texas; moments before the ruling by Judge Tim Sulak of the 353rd Civil District Court, indicted Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton issued a letter warning that vote-by-mail is reserved for those with an actual illness or medical problem.



"Fear of contracting COVID-19 does not amount to a sickness or physical condition as required by the Legislature," Paxton said.

In the same letter, Paxton warned that groups and individuals who advised voters to apply for a mail-in ballot because of the pandemic could be prosecuted under the state's Election Code.

Common Cause Texas, a voting rights and Democracy watchdog group, said Paxton's interpretation of Texas law is wrong.

"Everyone who works on voting rights or elections in Texas, including the secretary of state, has said this is a piece of law that is not clear, hence the litigation," Common Cause Texas Executive Director Anthony Gutierrez said in a statement.

"Clearly, no one knows what this pandemic will look like in July or November and the smart thing to do is to interpret the law in a way that prioritizes public health and protects voting rights," Gutierrez said. (Courtesy texassignal.com)

**Related**  
**Federal Appeals Court Rules: Texas Can Enforce Abortion Ban During Coronavirus Pandemic**

Republican state officials have said barring the procedure in almost all cases is essential for preserving hospital resources during the pandemic. Abortion providers call it political opportunism — and unconstitutional.

A three-judge panel on the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that the state may continue to prohibit all abortions except those for patients whose pregnancies threaten their lives or health. Photo credit: Eddie Gaspar/The Texas Tribune

A New Orleans-based federal appeals court will, for now, allow Texas to enforce a ban on almost all abortions as the state battles the

coronavirus pandemic.



Overtuning the decision of a lower court, a three-judge panel on the politically conservative U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Tuesday that the state may continue to prohibit all abortions except those for patients whose pregnancies threaten their lives or health — a restriction GOP state officials have insisted is necessary for preserving scarce hospital resources for COVID-19 patients. Citing precedent from the U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Circuit Judge Kyle Duncan, an appointee of President Donald Trump, wrote that "individual rights secured by the Constitution do not disappear during a public health crisis, but ... Rights could be reasonably restricted during those times."

"When faced with a society-threatening epidemic, a state may implement emergency measures that curtail constitutional rights so long as the measures have at least some 'real or substantial relation' to the public health crisis and are not 'beyond all question, a plain, palpable invasion of rights secured by the fundamental law,'" he wrote.

U.S. Circuit Judge James Dennis, appointed to the court by Bill Clinton, dissented. Abortion providers have characterized the state's lawsuit as political opportunism. Most abortions do not take place in hospitals, and according to providers, they generally do not require extensive personal protective equipment, like the masks and gloves in short supply for doctors and nurses fighting COVID-19.



On March 22, Gov. Greg Abbott issued an executive order barring any procedures that are not "immediately medically necessary," and Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton quickly declared that the order applies to any abortions not considered critical to protect the life or health of the parent. A group of abortion providers filed a lawsuit claiming that the order constituted a near-outright ban on abortions and was unconstitutional.

Already, hundreds of abortions have been canceled. A federal judge in Austin sided with the abortion providers, temporarily blocking the state's ban because it "prevents Texas women from exercising what the Supreme Court has declared is their fundamental constitutional right to terminate a pregnancy before a fetus is viable," he wrote.

But the 5th Circuit said that judge, U.S. District Judge Lee Yeakel, had erred because his order "[bestowed] on abortion providers a blanket exemption from a generally-applicable emergency public health measure."

Duncan said Yeakel was wrong to characterize Abbott's order as an outright ban on abortions.

"Properly understood," he wrote, the executive order is a "temporary postponement" of many procedures, like colonoscopies. (Courtesy <https://www.texastribune.org/>)



# “95后”温州籍华裔 在西班牙ICU病房当护士

据温州市委统战部官方微信公众号“世界温州人家园”消息，新冠肺炎疫情蔓延全球，今天海外抗疫故事的主人公，名字叫叶涵莹，西班牙名 Beatrice Ye Zhu，1996年出生，祖籍文成。

她还是一名在读医学专业硕士，但毅然加入抗疫，成为西班牙一家医院新冠肺炎重症监护室(ICU)的一名护士。

“值完班，回到家已是天亮，累到不想洗漱，想粘床就睡。”“胸口就像被巨石紧紧压着，透不过气，不过我还是选择坚守。”

因为我是护士 我要加入抗疫小组

我父亲是较早一代的移民、老家在温州文成，1996年，我出生在西班牙，小的时候就有做医护人员的梦想。后来我求学的时候，学的是护理。我还参加国际交流，到浙江中医药大学针灸推拿专业研究生在读。

大学放寒假期间，我回到了西班牙。最近，新冠肺炎疫情已经在西班牙全境蔓延，我现在住的地方是首都马德里，这是西班牙确诊病例最多的地方。

西班牙卫生系统进入饱和状态。马德里一家四星级宾馆也改造成了接收新冠肺炎轻症患者的医疗中心。

我是名护士，而且有大医院ICU病房护理的实习工作经历。我知道我必须做些什么。

在与父母商量后，他们非常心疼。我非常能体会他们的担心，但我也耐心地和他们说，我是名护士，这是我职责所在。我学了这么多年护理专业知识，能保护好自己。

3月11日，马德里的卡洛斯三世(the Carlos III)医院联系我并提供了临时聘用合同，想聘用我为增援的医疗人员，不过他们没有给我提供更多关于合同和日程安排的具体信息，两天之后还没有新的信息。

随着患者人数呈指数型增长，我决定临时联系去年夏天实习工作过的医院：塞韦罗·奥乔亚医院。这家医院目前是马德里地区收治新冠肺炎第三多的医院。由于医疗卫生人员高度缺乏，他们



马上接受了我的申请，并对我表示十分感谢。

他们将我安排在ICU病房，我接受了，因为我曾在这个部门工作过，也认为自己熟知这里的各种设备和工作流程。在3月14日晚上，他们给我提供了工作日程表，我便正式加入了他们。

为了做好防护，跟家里人分开住宿，自己一个人在外面找了房间。

我一周有三种班次：从上午8点到下午3点、下午3点到晚上10点、晚上10点到第二天8点。工作时间基本上和以前在ICU工作时间差不多，但工作强度大了很多。

当我进入重症监护室时，我发现那里所有的病人都是新冠肺炎患者。其实后来才知道塞韦罗·奥乔亚医院的床位已基本全满。

重症监护室有两个大间，共有12张床，每六张床目前配套3个icu护士、2

个医生、2个护理。我们几个医护人员相互搭档，每一组两人互相监督穿着防护服的过程。没有得到伙伴OK手势，我们是绝对不会进入病区。

“你很棒，加油！”我和团队的人每天都相互打气，在进病房前，在工作间隙。因为在这里确实需要很大勇气。

“Ye，3床的病人需要帮忙下！”“Ye，6床帮忙插根管！”即便我知道ICU都是危重病人，但远远没有想到会是这种程度。

新冠肺炎患者多数呼吸困难，需要插管，大多数病人都注射了镇痛剂以及血管类药物来保持血压正常。另外，我们发现俯卧可以显著提高呼吸模式。也就是说，姿势上的改变需要两位护士、两位护工以及一位医生的协作，所以工作量非常大。

在病房里，有些病人因为长时间接受插管，药物治疗，神智不清。但我还

是能感受到病人们眼中透出的求生欲望。这里，我们见证了更多的生死离别，但也会因为他们眼中生的希望，让彼此继续鼓起信心、努力坚持。

遍布西班牙各地的华人群体已经向西班牙各个委员会、国家警察局和医院捐赠了许多口罩、防护服、手套、消毒酒精以及护目镜。我们医院有收到统一物资调配，但目前来说，我们医护人员的防护物资还是非常紧缺。

因此，工作人员需要在整个班次都佩戴口罩，我所在医院上午和下午班次的工作人员需要佩戴7小时，夜班工作人员需要佩戴10小时。

通常在重症监护室里，一个护士可以照顾两个病人。护士需要每小时获取病人的各项系数，因此她需要进入房间检查一切是否正常。但是现在由于缺乏防护装备，所有的护士只能共同照顾病房中所有的病人，也就是3名护士共

同照顾6名病人。

我本来是个大吃货，喜欢吃pasta、喜欢吃tapas。工作以来这几天，却一口也吃不下饭。

“Ye，今天过得如何？”最近每当我下班的时候，我的手机里都会跳出一些信息。我的伙伴们，他们很多人知道我参与救治后，给我发来了鼓励信。有些小伙伴有意不在上班时打扰我，等到我下班后再来问好。

有些小伙伴，知道我胃口不好，还会做一些好入口的，他们会提前做好放在他们家楼下，让我去拿，然后在窗户前，在看到我后和我热情的比心，那个时候，我确实很感动。

还有些伙伴，把我的经历推到了社交软件上，为我点赞。我收到了包括中国在内很多国家朋友的私信鼓励。那一刻我觉得，灾难面前，人类就是命运共同体。消除隔阂，才能抗击疫情。

最后，我想说说身边的华人。之前，许多西班牙华人因为春节回到中国，返回西班牙后，很多人选择自我隔离两个星期。

我父母曾回中国和亲属过春节。当他们回到马德里时，我和姐姐戴着口罩并开两辆车去机场接机。机场回家路上，我和姐姐坐第一辆车，而我父母开第二辆车。他们回家马上就进行14天自我隔离，即使他们不相信自己真的接触到病毒。

像我父母一样，在西班牙有很多华人出于责任，他们选择自我隔离。

同时，在西班牙宣布为对抗新冠肺炎疫情而采取全境封锁的数周，华人们就已经开始主动关闭商店、佩戴口罩了。

许多中国人开的商店门口都写着“闭店至三月末”、“开店时间另行通知”的字样，在封锁之前还开着的几家店铺里员工也戴着口罩，入口处写着“工作需要佩戴口罩，我们十分抱歉”。

保护自己，同时也能更好地保护他人，华人的自律也赢得大家的尊重。