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A nurse struggled with COVID-19 trauma. He was found dead in his car



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Divided by COVID-19: Democratic U.S. areas hit three times as hard as Republican

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - As America's response to the coronavirus pandemic splits along partisan lines, a Reuters analysis may help explain why: Death rates in Democratic areas are triple those in Republican ones.

presidential election reported 39 coronavirus deaths per 100,000 residents, according to an analysis of demographic and public health data.

In counties that voted for Republican Donald Trump, 13 of every 100,000 people had died from the virus.

The uneven impact reflects the disproportionate toll the infectious disease has taken in densely packed Democratic-voting cities like New York. Rural areas and far-flung suburbs that typically back Republicans have not seen as direct an impact.

The pattern holds beyond New York, the epicenter of the U.S. outbreak. Democratic counties in 36 of the 50 U.S. states collectively reported higher death rates than Republican counties.

In Maryland, where the disease has killed more than 2,000 people, the death rate in the Democratic suburbs of Washington is four times higher than in the conservative counties in the Appalachian panhandle.

In Kansas, which has reported 152 fatalities, the death rate is seven times higher in the two counties that backed Clinton than in the rest of the state.

There are exceptions. Republican counties report a higher death rate in Delaware, Nebraska and South Dakota, where the disease has raced through meatpacking plants. Republican counties have been harder hit in Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota and Texas, where rates are well below the national average.

Partisan attitudes reflect the geographic divide.

A Reuters/Ipsos survey of 1,115 U.S. adults conducted Monday and Tuesday found nearly half of Democrats were "very concerned" about the virus, compared with one-third of Republicans.

Other here polls here have found Republicans more eager to lift restrictions aimed at slowing the coronavirus in the United States, which leads the world with more than 92,000 deaths and 1.54 million infections. tmsnrt.rs/2zja6rx



ARMED PROTESTS AND REFRIGERATOR TRUCKS
The contrast is especially sharp in Michigan, where refrigerator trucks store corpses in Detroit hospital parking lots, while armed men protest here business restrictions at the state capitol. Sheriffs in several Republican-leaning counties have said they will not punish businesses that defy rules put in place by Democratic Governor Gretchen Whitmer.

Trump, who narrowly won Michigan in 2016, is due to visit the state on Thursday. He has pressed Whitmer to lift restrictions in hopes of reviving the economy before the November election.

Michigan counties that backed Clinton in 2016 collectively have reported 79 deaths for every 100,000 people. Counties that backed Trump have reported 25 deaths per 100,000.

Republican pollster Steve Mitchell said voters in the state were sharply split along partisan lines. Democrats are afraid they will catch the disease, while Republicans worry more about the economic damage from nationwide shutdowns that sent unemployment soaring.

"They are not seeing a high caseload in their area and they're wondering why they're being treated the same as the city of Detroit," he said.

Conservative activist Michelle Gregoire said people should not

change their behavior to avoid the coronavirus.
"You can't put yourself in a bubble," she said.

Democratic state Representative Leslie Love, whose district includes part of Detroit, said the partisan divide reminded her of the statewide response to previous problems like crack cocaine and high auto insurance rates that hit hardest in black neighborhoods.

"It is that same type of disconnect: 'If it's not happening to me, if it's not in my backyard, then that's their problem over there, and not ours,'" she said.

"It's going to be your problem, though."

FILE PHOTO: A Detroit resident is tested for free for the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and antibodies at the Sheffield Center in Detroit, Michigan, U.S., April 28, 2020. REUTERS/Rebecca Cook/File Photo

Stay Safe!

BUSINESS

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'In A Way That Is Cost Competitive With The Sweatshops And Pollution Havens Of The World'

Trump Takes 'Historic' Action To Move Pharmaceuticals Out Of China, Back To U.S.



In an "historic turning point," the Trump administration has taken bold action to bring America's pharmaceutical manufacturing back to the U.S. from China and India.

"Seeking to secure the nation's supply of critical medications, the Trump administration has signed a \$354 million contract that would create the nation's first strategic stockpile of key ingredients needed to make medicines," NBC News reported. "The agreement was signed Monday with Phlow Corp., a generic drug maker based in Virginia."

White House Trade Adviser Peter Navarro, a staunch China hawk who is the mastermind behind President Donald Trump's trade war with the communist nation, said that the move "will not only help bring our essential medicines home but actually do so in a way that is cost competitive with the sweatshops and pollution havens of the world."

Navarro added, "This is an historic turning point in America's efforts to onshore its pharmaceutical production and supply chains." The New York Times reported that the company could see the contract "extended for a total of \$812 million over 10 years, making it one of the largest awards in" the history of the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA).



Dr. Eric Edwards, the chief executive

and president of Phlow, said in an interview with The New York Times, "There are not a lot of people wanting to bring back generic medicine manufacturing to the United States that has been lost to India and China over decades. You need someone like the federal government saying this is too important for us not to focus on."

On its website, Phlow Corp bills itself as an America First company. "The United States' drug supply chain is broken, becoming dangerously dependent upon Foreign Suppliers for our most essential generic medicines," the website reads. "Phlow was formed to manufacture low-cost, high quality, essential generic drugs for the United States."

HHS Secretary Alex Azar said that the move was "a significant step to rebuild our domestic ability to protect ourselves from health threats."

"Phlow plans to make drugs via a technique called 'continuous manufacturing,' widespread in other industries but still novel for pharmaceutical companies," Forbes reported. "Continuous manufacturing involves nonstop production within the same facility, which can save time and more quickly respond to drug shortages, though this can increase up-front costs."

The move comes as the U.S. and other countries around the world have realized in recent months that they cannot depend on China to be a reliable manufacturer of products that are critical to the U.S. supply chain, including medicines, due to China's lies and cover-up that of the coronavirus pandemic that originated in Wuhan, China.

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



Trump announced late on Monday evening that the U.S. would make its suspension of funding the World Health Organization permanent, and would even consider leaving, if "major" immediate changes were not made. (Courtesy dailywire.com)

Related
Trump Allies Lining Up Doctors To Prescribe Rapid Reopening

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican political operatives are recruiting "extremely pro-Trump" doctors to go on television to prescribe reviving the U.S. economy as quickly as possible, without waiting to meet safety benchmarks proposed by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to slow the spread of the new coronavirus.

The plan was discussed in a May 11 conference call with a senior staffer for the Trump reelection campaign organized by CNP Action, an affiliate of the GOP-aligned Council for National Policy. A leaked recording of the hourlong call was provided to The Associated Press by the Center for Media and Democracy, a progressive watchdog group.



In this Feb. 29, 2020, file photo, President Donald Trump is greeted by Matt Schlapp, Chairman of the American Conservative Union, as the president arrives to speak at the Conservative Political Action Conference, at National Harbor, in Oxon Hill, Md. Republican political operatives are recruiting "pro-Trump" doctors to go on television to prescribe reviving the U.S. economy as quickly as possible,

without waiting to meet the COVID-19 safety benchmarks proposed by public health experts. The plan was discussed in a May 11 conference call with a senior staffer for the Trump re-election campaign. (AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin, File)

CNP Action is part of the Save Our Country Coalition, an alliance of conservative think tanks and political committees formed in late April to end state lockdowns implemented in response to the pandemic. Other members of the coalition include the FreedomWorks Foundation, the American Legislative Exchange Council and Tea Party Patriots. A resurgent economy is seen as critical to boosting President Donald Trump's reelection hopes and has become a growing focus of the White House coronavirus task force led by Vice President Mike Pence.



In this Jan. 29, 2019, file photo, Mercedes Schlapp speaks during a television interview in the press briefing room at the White House in Washington. Republican political operatives are recruiting "pro-Trump" doctors to go on television to prescribe reviving the U.S. economy as quickly as possible, without waiting to meet the COVID-19 safety benchmarks proposed by public health experts. The plan was discussed in a May 11 conference call with a senior staffer for the Trump re-election campaign. The idea quickly gained support from Schlapp, a Trump campaign senior adviser. (AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

communications director, confirmed to AP that an effort to recruit doctors to publicly support the president is underway, but declined to say when the initiative would be rolled out.

"Anybody who joins one of our coalitions is vetted," Murtaugh said Monday. "And so quite obviously, all of our coalitions espouse policies and say things that are, of course, exactly simpatico with what the president believes. ... The president has been outspoken about the fact that he wants to get the country back open as soon as possible."

During an emergency such as the current pandemic, it's important that the government provide consistent science-based information to the public, said Dr. Wafaa El-Sadr, an epidemiology professor at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health. Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert and a member of the White House's coronavirus task force, has been among the most visible government experts warning that lifting lockdowns too quickly could lead to a spike in deaths.

El-Sadr said having doctors relay contradictory information on behalf of the president is "quite alarming." "I find it totally irresponsible to have physicians who are touting some information that's not anchored in evidence and not anchored in science," El-Sadr said. "What often creates confusion is the many voices that are out there, and many of those voices do have a political interest, which is the hugely dangerous situation we are at now." (Courtesy https://apnews.com/)

Tim Murtaugh, the Trump campaign

Editor's Choice



Workers applaud to thank health workers before their restaurants' reopening on the waterfront in Naples, Italy. REUTERS/Ciro De Luca



Rising flood waters of the Tittabawassee River advance upon the city after the breach of two dams, Edenville and Sanford, in Midland, Michigan. REUTERS/Drone Base



A woman poses under a Plex'Eat prototype plexiglass bubble by designer Christophe Gerignon, which surrounds diners to protect them from the coronavirus during a presentation in Corneilles-en-Parisis, near Paris



Mao Yin embraces his mother Li Jingzhi as he reunites with his parents for the first time since his parents lost him at a hotel 32 years ago, at the public security bureau in Xian, Shaanxi province, China. China Daily via REUTERS



Chinese President Xi Jinping walks past officials wearing face masks as he arrives for the opening session of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. REUTERS/Carlos Garcia Rawlins



Executive Assistant Jessie Dawson sits among mannequins occupying some tables so diners will not feel isolated by social distancing measures when The Inn at Little Washington, a Michelin three-star restaurant, reopens shortly in Washington, Virginia. REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque



Roberto Gonzalez, who produces mini shows for tourists with his two Dachshunds, poses for a photo in front of his home amid concerns about the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), in downtown Havana, Cuba. REUTERS/Alexandre Meneghini



Karl Manke who recently had his barber license suspended for violating the coronavirus restrictions, cuts man's hair as he attends "Operation Haircut", a protest put on by supporters of the Michigan Conservative Coalition at the state capitol, at the Capitol building in Lansing, Michigan. REUTERS/Seth Herald

**Universal Vaccinations In The U.S.: Top Attorney
Contends Constitution Grants Fed Government
Power To Forcibly Vaccinate Individuals**

Alan Dershowitz: State Has Right To 'Plunge A Needle Into Your Arm'



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

Harvard Law School emeritus professor Alan Dershowitz claimed in an interview that the government has a constitutional right under the 10th Amendment to forcibly vaccinate a citizen to curb the spread of a contagious disease.

"Let me put it very clearly, you have no constitutional right to endanger the public and spread the disease, even if you disagree. You have no right not to be vaccinated, you have no right not to wear a mask, you have no right to open up your business," he said. The interviewer, Jason Goodman, interjected, asking if the famed constitutional scholar was saying that if the government decides "you have to be vaccinated, we have to be vaccinated." "Absolutely," Dershowitz replied. "And if you refuse to be vaccinated, the state has the power to literally take you to a doctor's office and plunge a needle into your arm."



Alan Dershowitz (screenshot)

"Where is that in the Constitution?" Goodman asked Dershowitz. Dershowitz clarified that if a person is threatened with a deadly disease that is not contagious, he can refuse treatment. "But you have no right to refuse to be vaccinated against a contagious disease," he said. "In matters of public health, the police power of the Constitution gives the state the power to compel that," Dershowitz said. "And there are cases in the United States Supreme Court." Dershowitz added that there are "cases after cases after cases" in which courts have ruled in favor of "reasonable

actions to prevent the spread of communicable diseases." The Harvard professor – who defended President Trump in his Senate impeachment trial – was referring to the state police power doctrine derived in part from the 10th Amendment. The Supreme Court has recognized each state's "police power" – defining "police" as polity or government rather than law enforcement specifically – which gives the state authority to enact health laws, including quarantine and vaccination requirements, to protect public health.



Right To Liberty

The argument against forcible vaccination is based on the 14th Amendment's provision that no state "shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law."

But Dershowitz points to the Supreme Court's *Jacobson v. Massachusetts* decision in 1905, which concluded a state may require vaccination if the board of health deems it necessary for public health or safety. The court found the police power of a state included reasonable regulations established by the legislature to protect public health and safety. The regulations didn't violate the 14th Amendment right to liberty, the court said, because they fell within the restraints to which everyone is subject for the common good. If any individual is allowed to act without regard to the welfare of others, true liberty does not exist, the court argued.



Anti-vaccine protests in the U.S.

More than a century later, the *Jacobson* decision "has not been revisited in any meaningful way," noted the *AMA Journal of Ethics* in 2006. It has stood all this time, not allowing "a single individual to refuse vaccination while he or she remains within the general population on the grounds that to make such an exception would strip the legislative branch of its function to care for the public health and safety when threatened by epidemic disease," wrote Sarah Fujiwara, MD, then a student at DePaul University College of Law and an intern at the American Medical Association. "This ruling prevails despite occasional injurious results from vaccinations and the impossibility of determining whether a particular person can be safely vaccinated," she wrote. "The only exception to a mandatory vaccination is an offer of apparent or reasonably certain proof to the state's board of health that the vaccination would seriously impair health or probably cause death." (Courtesy <https://www.wnd.com/>)

Related

Trump Names Leaders Of 'Operation Warp Speed' To Fast-Track Vaccine Development

ABC News – As he ramps up his push to reopen the country, President Donald Trump last Friday announced a former pharmaceutical executive and Army general to lead his administration's effort to develop a coronavirus vaccine for a project he is calling, "Operation Warp Speed."

The announcement comes one day after ousted vaccine chief Rick Bright said there are no plans to distribute a vaccine on an equitable scale and called the timeline of 12 to 18 months being presented "an aggressive schedule." The private sector and the military would also have a role in vaccine development. "The two new people that the president will be announcing are professionals who are going to help with the vaccination development and indeed are," she said. "I think you'll see Secretary Esper there, for example, and General Mark Milley, because the military's involved

as well."



In an interview with Fox Business that aired Thursday, President Trump said he plans to mobilize the U.S. military to distribute the vaccine when one becomes available, focusing first on older Americans who are among the most at risk.

"I just literally left a meeting. We're mobilizing our military — and other forces, but we are mobilizing our military on the basis that we do have a vaccine," he said. "Our military is now being mobilized so at the end of the year, we're going to be able to give it to a lot of people very, very rapidly. A lot of optimism is swirling around a 12-to-18-month time frame if everything goes perfectly. We've never seen everything go so perfectly," Bright said Thursday before House lawmakers. "I think it's going to take longer than that to do so." (Courtesy ABC News)



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