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U.S. manufacturing contracts; private payrolls post first drop since 2017



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Three U.S. governors to quarantine visitors from states where COVID-19 spiking



FILE PHOTO: A sign is displayed at Saks 5th Avenue in the Manhattan borough of New York City, New York, U.S., June 24, 2020. REUTERS/Carlo Allegri/File Photo

NEW YORK (Reuters) - As the number of new coronavirus cases surged in many areas of the United States, New York, New Jersey and Connecticut - once at the epicenter of the outbreak - will require visitors from states with high infection rates to quarantine on arrival.

The announcement on Wednesday came a day after the country recorded the second-largest increase in novel coronavirus cases since the health crisis began in early March. There were nearly 36,000 new infections nationwide on Tuesday, according to a Reuters tally.

States subject to the 14-day quarantine are Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, Washington and Utah, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo said at a briefing.

"This is a smart thing to do," New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy said via video at a joint news conference in New York City. "We have taken our people, the three of us from these three states, through hell and back, and the last thing we need to do right now is subject our folks to another round."

While the United States appeared to have curbed the outbreak in May, leading many states to lift restrictions on so-

cial and economic activity, the virus is moving into rural areas and other places that it had not initially penetrated deeply.

The virus is also renewing its surge in states that opened early to ease the devastating effect of the restrictions on local economies.

The New York-New Jersey-Connecticut tri-state area was able to lower its infection rate after locking down much of its economy and moving slowly to reopen.

With little federal guidance and decisions largely left to local officials and businesses, however, the pace of reopening in the rest of the country continues to look like a patchwork.

FILE PHOTO: A sign is displayed at Saks 5th Avenue in the Manhattan borough of New York City, New York, U.S., June 24, 2020. REUTERS/Carlo Allegri/File Photo
Florida, one of the first states to reopen, on Wednesday experienced a record increase of more than 5,500 new cases. Oklahoma, which never ordered a statewide lockdown, on Wednesday posted record new cases for the sixth time this month.

On Tuesday, Arizona, California, Mississippi and Nevada had record rises. Texas set an all-time high on Monday.

The surge in cases nationwide on Tuesday was the highest

since a record of 36,426 new infections on April 24.

QUARANTINE

The new quarantine order also applies to tri-state residents returning from the targeted states, to be determined by the number of new cases per 100,000 people or the percent testing positive, Cuomo said.

Visitors found violating the order, which takes effect from midnight, could face fines of \$1,000 for a first violation and \$5,000 for repeat offenses, he said.

Such quarantines are not unprecedented. Hawaii requires visitors from the U.S. mainland to self-quarantine for two weeks. Florida and Texas at one point required people coming in from New York area airports to quarantine for two weeks.

The U.S. Department of Justice has filed its support for a lawsuit challenging Hawaii's quarantine, saying visitors are being denied rights granted to most island residents.

While some of the increased numbers of cases can be attributed to more testing, the numbers do not correlate.

The average number of tests has risen 7.6% over the last seven days, according to data from The COVID Tracking Project, while the average number of new cases rose 30%.

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WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

06/24/2020

CORONAVIRUS DIARY

Coronavirus Has Brought This Nation To Its Knees

Dr. Robert Redfield, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said yesterday that the COVID-19 has brought this nation to its knees and we probably are going to spend \$7 trillion because of this one little virus. Redfield's comments were made as half of the nation is seeing spikes in new coronavirus cases.

Dr. Redfield also pointed out that this crisis needs to be a partnership. It's not all the burden of the federal government to invest in public health at the local level. He said in reality if your funding of CDC was to go away tomorrow, the public health infrastructure across this nation would just crash.

Dr. Anthony Fauci also warned that if we don't get control of the coronavirus pandemic by fall, we are essentially chasing after the forest fire.

It is true that when you look at our medical system, most of it is made up of private businesses that have as their goal to be financially sound. But because the majority of people do not have insurance, they just can't take



advantage of the service.

Sadly, when this pandemic attacked the nation, the federal government just could not control and coordinate the whole nation to mobile very effectively.

We are urging all the politicians and congress to take dramatic action to face the reality of this disaster. Don't talk too much political language. Just look at how much people are suffering now.



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Publisher Southern Daily Wea H. Lee

Stay Home!

BUSINESS

Wear Mask!

In First U.S. Study Of COVID-19 Blood Plasma Transfusions.... 76% Of Patients Improve



(Photo/Vital - Adobe.com/Health & Medical)

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

KEY POINTS

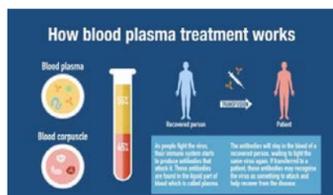
More patients have already been given plasma transfusions since this first trial. In all, 74 critically ill COVID-19 patients have received blood from recovered patients at Houston Methodist. Of that group, 50 have been discharged thus far. There's also no shortage, it seems, of blood to work with; over 150 recovered coronavirus patients have donated so far, with many making more than one

Compiled And Edited by John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor
HOUSTON — New research from Houston Methodist concludes that plasma transfusions from recovered COVID-19 patients are a safe and at least somewhat effective treatment option for people still dealing with severe coronavirus symptoms. Out of 25 patients given a transfusion, 19 saw their condition improve and 11 were discharged.

This was the first U.S. convalescent plasma transfusion trial, and participating patients saw no negative nor any adverse side effects after receiving the treatment. There have, however, been smaller studies conducted on blood plasma transfusions for COVID-19 patients. All of those projects came to similar conclusions.

“While physician scientists around the world scrambled to test new drugs and

treatments against the COVID-19 virus, convalescent serum therapy emerged as potentially one of the most promising strategies,” comments corresponding study author Dr. James M. Musser, chair of the Department of Pathology and Genomic Medicine at Houston Methodist, in a statement. “With no proven treatments or cures for COVID-19 patients, now was the time in our history to move ahead rapidly.”



(Photo/Dimitrios - stock.adobe.com)

This treatment approach for viral diseases certainly isn't new; blood transfusions

were used in the same way during the Spanish Flu outbreak of 1918, and more recently during the 2003 SARS pandemic, the 2009 influenza H1N1 outbreak, and the 2015 Ebola outbreak in Africa. The first signs that plasma transfusions from recovered COVID-19 patients could help others came from China. A small number of Chinese patients showed improvement after receiving blood transfusions. Once news of that project was reported to the team at Houston Methodist, they immediately started thinking about how to apply convalescent serum therapy to COVID-19. Many of the patients' health outcomes following the plasma transfusions mirrored what happened to COVID-19 patients who were given the antiviral drug remdesivir. Furthermore, while some patients in this trial study did experience complications after receiving blood, the research team believe those problems were caused by the coronavirus infection itself and not the transfusions.



Blood Plasma

All of the plasma transfusions given for this trial were done on an emergency basis for patients in critical condition. With that in mind, the study's authors say much more research is needed before the therapeutic effects of convalescent serum therapy can be determined. The Methodist study included 25 patients, all on oxygen support. Seven days after getting plasma therapy, nine had improved, seven enough to be discharged. At 14 days, another 10 had improved, four enough to be discharged. One patient died. A randomized control trial for just this purpose may take place at Houston Methodist in the future. Wherever

it happens, that trial will focus on more specific aspects of the treatment like timing of the transfusion in reference to the emergence of coronavirus symptoms, the number and volume of transfusions (depending on the patient), and anti-body levels in the plasma. In theory, a more thorough trial will help inform doctors of the best time to administer transfusions for individual patients. (Courtesy study-finds.org)

Related

Houston Methodist study reports plasma therapy safe, has helped 3/4 of patients

More than three quarters of 25 critically ill Houston Methodist COVID-19 patients improved after receiving blood plasma from people who have recovered from the disease, according to the first U.S. study to be published on the century-old therapy's use against the deadly pandemic.



More than three quarters of 25 critically ill Houston Methodist COVID-19 patients improved after receiving blood plasma from people who have recovered from the disease. (Photo/Houston Chronicle / Staff)

A preliminary report by the Methodist research team concluded that what's known as convalescent serum therapy is a safe treatment option for patients with COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus. The report has not yet been peer reviewed. Because it is not known if the patients would have improved without the experimental treatment, the report called for a clinical trial comparing patients who receive the plasma therapy to patients who receive either a placebo or some standard of care.

The study, the largest to date assessing the therapy's use in COVID-19 patients,

comes two weeks after study leader Dr. James Musser told the Chronicle that 30 of the first 50 patients treated with the therapy had recovered and gone home. He said then he would be submitting results to a journal shortly.



Debra Ammons is recovering from COVID-19 after receiving a plasma treatment at Baylor College of Medicine, in Houston, Thursday, April 30, 2020. (Photo/Houston Chronicle/Staff) Methodist gained attention for the therapy in late March when it became one of the first two U.S. hospitals -- Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City was the other -- to transfuse patients with recovered patients' blood plasma. The two patients transfused that night at Methodist were among those that recovered and were discharged. The therapy is based on the idea, well-documented in laboratory research, that transfusing plasma from patients who've recovered from a virus transfers its healing power. Such plasma contains antibodies made by the immune system to attack the infection. (Courtesy Houston Chronicle) This study was published in The American Journal of Pathology.

Editor's Choice



A person views the sunrise from beside the remains of Saint Michael's Church on top of Glastonbury Tor, as the hottest day so far of the summer in Britain is predicted, in Glastonbury, southwest Britain June 24. REUTERS/Toby Melville



President Donald Trump talks with U.S. Border Patrol Chief Rodney Scott as he tours a section of the U.S.-Mexico border wall in San Luis, Arizona, June 23, 2020. REUTERS/Carlos Barria



Tomika Miller, the widow of Rayshard Brooks who was shot dead June 12 by an Atlanta police officer, raises her hand during a prayer while holding their 2-year-old daughter Memory at his funeral at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia, June 23



A damaged building is seen after an earthquake in Mexico City, Mexico June 23. The building had already been damaged in a 2017 earthquake. REUTERS/ Carlos Jasso



Assa Traore, sister of Adama Traore, a 24-year-old Black Frenchman who died in a 2016 police operation, attends a gathering in front of a fresco in memory of Adama Traore and George Floyd, in Stains, France. REUTERS/Benoit Tessier



Swiss acrobat Ramon Kathriner performs in the Wheel Of The Death during the Airshow, marking the reopening of facilities after the coronavirus disease lockdown in Les Diablerets, Switzerland, June 23. REUTERS/Denis Balibouse



A white House staff member watches President Donald Trump's motorcade arrive as U.S. Secret Service counter assault team (CAT) snipers stand watch atop a U.S. border patrol armored tactical as the president arrives to tour a recently constructed...MORE



Twana and her baby Bonita pose for a portrait near the White House as racial inequality protests continue, in Washington, June 23. REUTERS/Leah Millis

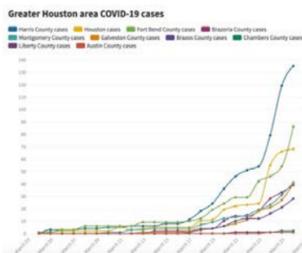
Harris County's 'Stay Home, Work Safe' Order Expired Last Week, But A New One Is In The Works And Coming Soon



Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo

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

HOUSTON, Texas -- Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo's extended "Stay Home, Work Safe" order during the COVID-19 pandemic ends today, but a new one is already in the works. Hidalgo spoke to the media following the funeral service for George Floyd last Tuesday afternoon. "We'll be issuing a different order after it expires. We don't want to give the impression the danger has passed. Transmission rates continue to rise. So we'll be issuing a new order in the next couple of days," Hidalgo said. The initial order was first issued in March to help "flatten the curve" of coronavirus cases in the area. Under the order, only essential businesses were allowed to remain open. Many people began to work from home and were urged to practice social distancing. The order was extended again in May as businesses across the state began to re-open. That order, which expired on June 10, had two sets of rules designed to ensure the safety of employees returning to work.



One set of guidelines covered public-facing workers such as retail and restaurant employees, and another set was in place for employees in the manufacturing sector. Now that the state's reopening is well underway, it's not clear what the new order Hidalgo talked about briefly Tuesday will look like. Also on Tuesday, the state reported over 2,000 hospitalizations, the highest number since the pandemic started here in March. **Related** **Houston mayor says city 'moving very fast in the wrong direction' as record cases reported**

HOUSTON, Texas -- "We are moving very fast in the wrong direction," said Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, who on Monday echoed disappointment about skyrocketing COVID-19 cases, not just in the city but across the state of Texas. Turner's remarks came as the city reported 1,789 new COVID-19 cases, adding to Houston's total of 14,322. Monday's total is the most the city has reported in one day so far. "There were 1,789 new cases (over last Sunday and Monday.) So this is, this is very real. This is a healthcare crisis. And quite frankly, your failure, for example, to wear masks and or to engage in social distancing directly impacts on somebody else," said a clearly exasperated mayor.



Miya Shay



Mayor @SylvesterTurner & other city officials sound very frustrated. They are seeing massive spike in #covid19 cases, and have little power to slow the spread. #abc13 live coverage: <https://abc13.com/health/houston-mayor-weighs-in-as-texas-reaches-record-cases/6260232/> ...36 3:26 PM - Jun 22, 2020 Twitter Ads info and privacy 38 people are talking about this

The mayor's remarks came shortly after Gov. Greg Abbott called the rate at which COVID-19 is spreading "unacceptable." The rate was 4.5 percent in May. In June, it's 9 percent. As of Monday, the state counted 114,881 cases. In addition, Texas counted more than 3,400 coronavirus patients in hospitals. There were 162 new patients reported Monday, which marked another record for the 10th day in a row.

For Turner's Houston, hospitalizations, as well as deaths, are rising. Turner counted five more deaths in the city, bringing Houston's death toll from the coronavirus to 196. Turner impressed upon the importance of mask-wearing on the first day of a mandate directing all businesses and customers in Harris County to wear face coverings. Still, Turner didn't hide his frustration over what he can do to stop the spread through enforcement.



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