

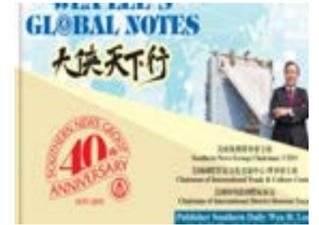


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Mr. Lee's Commentary and Dairy



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Southern DAILY

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Economic clout makes China tougher challenge for U.S. than Soviet Union



U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo smiles as he arrives for a Czech senate meeting, at the start of a four-nation tour of Europe, in Prague, Czech Republic August 12, 2020. Petr David Jozek/Pool via REUTERS

range of issues including Beijing's handling of the coronavirus; telecoms-equipment maker Huawei; China's territorial claims in the South China Sea; and the clampdown on Hong Kong.

Pompeo's visit to the Czech Republic, part of the Soviet bloc until the 1989 democratic Velvet Revolution, marked the first stop on a swing through the region to discuss cyber and energy security.

He used the occasion to swipe at both Russian and Chinese influence and lauded officials in the central European nation of 10.7 million who took on Beijing over the past year.

He cited the Czech Republic's efforts to set security standards for the development of 5G telecommunications networks after a government watchdog warned about using equipment made by China's Huawei.

Pompeo and Prime Minister Andrej Babis signed a declaration on 5G security in May, but the country has not made an outright decision to ban Huawei technology. Its President Milos Zeman has been promoting closer ties with China.

Pompeo also acknowledged the chairman of the Czech Senate Milan Vystreil, who followed through on a plan by his deceased predecessor to visit Taiwan at the end of this month, a trip that has angered China.

Pompeo said some nations in Europe would take longer to wake up to the threats, but there was a positive momentum.

"The tide has turned (in the United States), just as I see it turned here in Europe as well. The West is winning, don't let anyone tell you about the decline of the West," he said.

"It will take all of us... here in Prague, in Poland, in Portugal. We have the obligation to speak clearly and plainly to our people, and without fear. We must confront complex questions... and we must do so together," he said.

PRAGUE (Reuters) - China's global economic power makes the communist country in some ways a more difficult foe to counter than the Soviet Union during the Cold War, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on a visit to the Czech Republic on Wednesday.

in a speech to the Czech Senate. "The challenge of resisting the CCP threat is in some ways much more difficult."

"The CCP is already enmeshed in our economies, in our politics, in our societies in ways the Soviet Union never was."

The Cold War reference came after China's ambassador to London last month warned that the United States was picking a fight with Beijing ahead of the U.S. presidential election in November.

U.S.-China ties have quickly deteriorated this year over a

Pompeo called on countries around Europe to rally against the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), which he said leverages its economic might to exert its influence around the world.

"What's happening now isn't Cold War 2.0," Pompeo said

Why Kamala Harris may prove an elusive target for Trump

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Joe Biden's selection of Senator Kamala Harris as his running mate provides a brand-new target for President Donald Trump's re-election campaign that has struggled to find an effective line of attack against his Democratic rival.

But there is little evidence at the moment that suggests that the public views Harris, a former California prosecutor and attorney general with strong ties to the Democratic establishment, as a radical.

In fact, she's more liked by Republicans than Biden, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll conducted on Aug. 10-11, just before she was announced as Biden's pick. The poll showed 21% of registered Republican voters have a favorable impression of Harris, compared with 13% who had a similarly favorable view of Biden.

More concerning for Trump: Attacks that could appear sexist or racist against the first Black woman on a major party ticket in U.S. history could complicate his campaign's effort to shore

up his standing among suburban women, a critical voting bloc he must win back in order to get re-elected, strategists on both sides say.

Already, leading Democratic women warned against a replay of Trump's match-up in 2016 with then Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton, who was subject to gender-based critiques as the first female presidential candidate. Trump has also called Clinton "nasty" and accused her of playing the "woman's card."

"If he wants to use misogynistic tropes against Kamala Harris, I think that is deeply challenging for him," said Neera Tanden, a top aide to Clinton during her presidential bid. "He has no room for error with suburban women."

According to the latest Reuters/Ipsos poll, Biden had an advantage of 10 percentage points among women and a 6-point lead among those who live in the suburbs. Overall, Biden leads Trump by 11 points, less than three months to go before the Nov. 3 vote.

Sarah Longwell, a Republican pollster, said Trump's advisers would likely want the president, known for fiery and bombastic rhetoric against his political rivals, to be more cautious about attacking Harris unless they had reason to believe suburban women distrusted or disliked her.

But going after Harris comes with its own risks and challenges.

Within minutes of Biden's announcement on Tuesday, Trump had called Harris "nasty," "horrible" and "disrespectful," while his campaign painted her as an extremist who would yank the moderate Biden to the left.

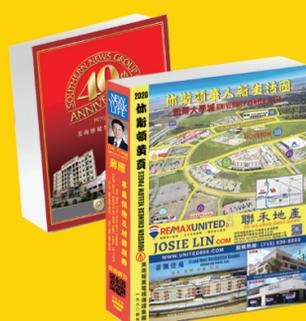
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WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

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CORONAVIRUS DIARY

African American Kamala Harris Will Be Vice President Nominee

Joe Biden has chosen Senator Kamala Harris as his running mate. She made history again as the first Black Asian American woman to grace a presidential ticket.

Biden, who played a central role in Barack Obama's history making journey to the presidency in 2008, now presents himself to voters as a transitional figure choosing Harris as a way to shape the future of the party.

Harris grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area. Her background includes being the

daughter of Jamaican and Indian immigrants and now embodies the new American story.

We are very excited that Kamala Harris is the one who can represent the immigrant community and write a new chapter in the history of the United States.

President Trump has attempted to brand Harris as a big raiser of taxes, a proponent of socialized medicine and one of the most liberal members of the U. S. Senate.



Given the nation's current focus on race relations and criminal justice issues, her background is a natural fit for the

position.

As Joe Biden has said, Harris has long been a fearless fighter for the little guy.



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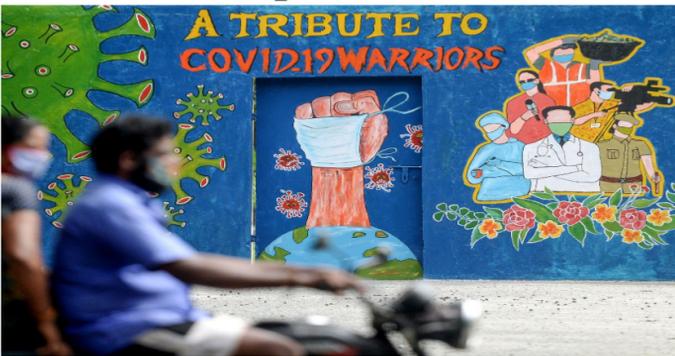
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Global Coronavirus Case Count Surpasses 20 Million



A mural in Chennai, India, celebrates workers on the front lines against the coronavirus pandemic. The global case count crossed the 20 million threshold on Monday, with the U.S., Brazil and India in the lead. Arun Sankar/AFP via Getty Images

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

More than 20 million people worldwide have tested positive for the coronavirus as of Monday evening, nearly five months to the day after the World Health Organization declared it a global pandemic. This is according to data from Johns Hopkins University, which puts the total number of deaths globally at nearly 734,000. On Monday, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director-general of the World Health Organization, acknowledged that "behind these statistics is a great deal of pain and suffering" and urged governments and citizens worldwide to do their part to suppress the virus. "I know many of you are grieving and that this is a difficult moment for the world," he said. "But I want to be clear, there are green shoots of hope and no matter where a country, a region, a city or a town is - it's never too late to turn the outbreak around." The U.S. leads the world with more than 5 million coronavirus cases and 163,400 deaths.



U.S. Hits 5 Million Coronavirus Cases As

Debate Lingers Over The Path Forward

After surging in July, infections remain widespread in much of the U.S., especially in the South, West and parts of the Midwest. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said on Wednesday that 11 states had recorded more than 10,000 new cases in the previous week. The country is logging more than 1,000 deaths per day, or about 40 people an hour, as NPR's Allison Aubrey has reported. The coronavirus is on track to become the third leading cause of death in the U.S. this year, following cancer and heart disease. Two other countries have case counts in the millions: Brazil is at more than 3 million and India surpassed the 2 million mark last week. They are followed by Russia, South Africa, Mexico and Peru. While many countries in Europe and Asia were largely able to bring the virus under control earlier this spring, cases have surged there and in other parts of the world. The Philippines has overtaken Indonesia as the coronavirus hot spot in Southeast Asia. Mexico has the world's third highest death toll after the U.S. and Brazil. Australia is struggling with a COVID-19 resurgence, and has greatly restricted the city of Melbourne in an effort to slow the spread. Ghebreyesus said that there are two elements to addressing the pandemic effectively: leaders

taking action, and citizens embracing new measures. He cited several examples of countries that have successfully clamped down on the virus. He called New Zealand, which has gone more than 100 days without community transmission, as a "global exemplar."



In New Zealand, Life Is Ordinary Again After 101 Days With No Community Spread

In Rwanda, he said, a "similar combination of strong leadership, universal health coverage, well-supported health workers and clear public health communications" helped make progress. Many countries are using all available public health tools to respond to new spikes, he said. For example, U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson put parts of northern England under stay-at-home orders and French President Emmanuel Macron mandated masks in busy outdoor areas. Ghebreyesus encouraged all countries to focus on rapid case identification, contact tracing, clinical care, physical distancing, mask wearing and good hygiene practices to slow the spread of the virus. "Whether countries or regions have successfully eliminated the virus, suppressed transmission to a low level, or are still in the midst of a major outbreak," he said. "Now is the time to do it all, invest in the basics of public health and we can save both lives and livelihoods." (Courtesy npr.org) Related At Least 97,000 Children Tested Positive For Coronavirus In Last 2 Weeks Of July At least 97,000 children tested positive for the coronavirus during the last two weeks of July, according to a new review of state-level data by the American Academy of Pediatrics and Children's Hospital Association. The increase represents a 40% surge in the nation's cumulative total of child cases.

"I think it's showing that, yes, kids can get infected and can spread the infection," said Dr. Sean O'Leary, a pediatric infectious disease specialist at Children's Hospital Colorado and vice chair of the Committee on Infectious Diseases for the American Academy of Pediatrics. The report comes as schools across the country grapple with when and how to reopen safely - with those decisions becoming increasingly politicized. President Trump has attempted to pressure the nation's K-12 schools to reopen, threatening to withhold federal funds and falsely claiming in an interview last week on Fox & Friends that "children are almost, I would almost say definitely, but almost immune from this disease." This new report reiterates that children are not, in fact, immune to this disease. Since the beginning of the pandemic, at least 340,000 children have tested positive for the coronavirus, representing roughly 9% of U.S. cases to date. The rise in child cases, according to the report, was largely fueled by states in the South and West, including Missouri, Oklahoma, Georgia, Florida, Montana and Alaska.



The report comes with a few important caveats. The uptick in cases is due, in part, to an increase in testing. Different states also define a "child" differently. For data reporting purposes, a majority of states use an age range between 0-17 and 0-19, but, in Tennessee and South Carolina, the cutoff is 20. In Alabama, it's 24. Also, according to the report, the number of positive tests among children could be far higher because of incomplete reporting from New York and Texas. In fact, Texas provided age distribution for just 8% of its confirmed COVID-19 cases and was excluded from many of the report's findings. If there is good news in such a report, it's that, in spite of the uptick in child infection rates, the data also show that most children do not get critically ill with the disease and that, among the states that reported hospitalization data, the

current hospitalization rate for children remains low, at 2%. What's less clear is how effectively children would spread the virus in a classroom setting, not only to friends and classmates but to teachers and school staff. Data from South Korea suggest that children younger than 10 may not spread the disease easily, but that teenagers do - perhaps as effectively as adults. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offers another cautionary tale, for schools considering reopening: In late June, the disease spread quickly among staff and children at a Georgia sleepaway camp. In a matter of days, at least 260 campers and teen staffers tested positive. Interestingly, of the campers tested, the youngest campers, ages 6 to 10, had the highest infection rate: Fifty-one percent tested positive. In recent weeks, school districts across the country have announced their plans for the fall. Last week, Chicago became the latest big-city district to announce it would not yet allow students to return to classrooms because of a recent surge in coronavirus rates there. "While Chicago remains in a better place than many other regions of the country," said Dr. Allison Arwady, the Chicago Department of Public Health commissioner, "these recent trends are very concerning." (Courtesy npr.com)



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Editor's Choice



People sit in the shade away from the midday sun in Battery Park in Manhattan, during hot weather in New York City. REUTERS/Mike Segar



A meteor streaks past stars in the night sky above medieval tombstones during the Perseid meteor shower in Radimlja near Stolac, Bosnia and Herzegovina. REUTERS/Dado Ruvic



Eliza, 3, scoots over a piece of temporary floor art depicting a swimming pool in London. REUTERS/Toby Melville



A girl hugs her sister as she cries before they leave the Palestinian Rafah border crossing with Egypt, which was reopened for the first time since it was closed in March due to concerns about the spread of the coronavirus, in the southern Gaza



Football fans look through a closed gate at the Ohio State university football facilities as the Big Ten postpones their 2020-21 fall sports season, citing coronavirus concerns, in Columbus, Ohio. REUTERS/Megan Jelinger



A demonstrator holding a flare climbs on top of a trolleybus during a rally following the presidential election in Minsk, Belarus. The opposition rejected official election results handing President Alexander Lukashenko a landslide re-election



A man stands next to graffiti at the damaged port area in the aftermath of a massive explosion in Beirut, Lebanon. REUTERS/Hannah McKay



A Brazilian Institute for the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA) fire brigade member attempts to control a fire in a tract of the Amazon jungle in Apui, Amazonas State, Brazil. REUTERS/Ueslei Marcelino

Indoor Air Is The Next Coronavirus Frontline

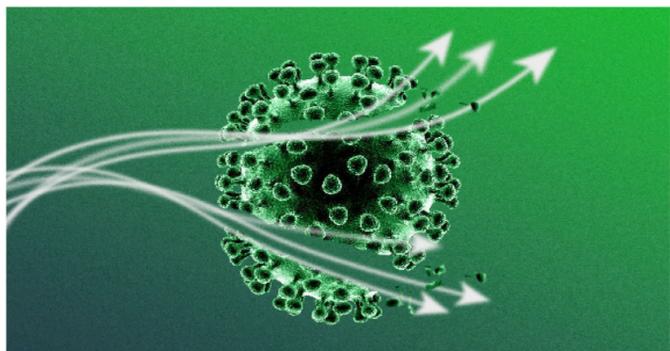


Illustration: Eniola Odetunde/Axios

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

A growing body of research has made it clear that airborne transmission of the coronavirus is possible. **Why it matters:** That fact means indoor spaces can become hot spots. Those spaces also happen to be where most business and schooling takes place, so any hope for a return to normality will require better ways of filtering indoor air. **What's happening:** After a concerted campaign by scientists, the WHO last month updated its guidelines on COVID-19 to include the possibility that the coronavirus could be airborne.

- That marked a shift from initial assumptions that the virus was mostly transmitted via contaminated surfaces and respiratory droplets emitted at close range, like an infected person coughing near someone susceptible.
- More evidence was added to the airborne hypothesis last week, when researchers at the University of Nebraska Medical Center reported in a paper published in Nature that they had found coronavirus-filled aerosols — small airborne particles of fluid — in the air of COVID-19 patients' hospital rooms.
- It's still not clear just how much or how often the airborne transmission happens, a question Anthony Fauci has said the White House coronavirus task force will examine.

Context: If coronavirus-contaminated

aerosols can indeed hang in the air, perhaps for hours, then “mitigating airborne transmission should be at the front of our disease-control strategies for COVID-19,” Joseph Allen of Harvard’s Healthy Building program wrote in the Washington Post.

- Schools in particular “definitely present a challenge,” says Barry Po, president of connected solutions for mCloud Technologies, a provider of cloud-based remote HVAC management. Many school buildings in the U.S. are old and poorly ventilated, which makes them prime locations for indoor transmission.



UV lighting can be added to existing room fan fixtures.

The good news is there are existing technologies that can filter out or destroy coronavirus trapped in indoor air.

- The easiest way is simply opening windows whenever possible, which dilutes the

amount of virus in the air. In Japan windows are kept open in subway trains, which has helped prevent outbreaks in the country’s crowded transit system.

- Portable HEPA filters, which can cost as little as a few hundred dollars, are capable of capturing particles as small as the novel coronavirus and could be used to clean individual classrooms.
- Commercial HVAC systems can be adjusted to increase the number of times they exchange air per hour, analysts from McKinsey said in a report last month.

The catch: Increasing ventilation decreases energy efficiency, and Po estimates that net energy costs for buildings could increase by at least 10% in the COVID-19 era.

A more high-tech solution involves the use of specialized UV light to deactivate coronavirus in the air or on surfaces.

- Fred Maxik, the founder of Healthe Lighting, developed Far UVC 222, a short-wave UV light spectrum that the company reports can neutralize 99.9% of coronavirus in a space. The UV light breaks the chemical bonds in the virus, Maxik says, making it incapable of replicating.
- Unlike the UVB rays in sunlight that can damage DNA and cause skin cancer, Far UVC 222 doesn’t penetrate the human body.
- The Healthe system has been installed in Seattle’s reopening Space Needle, as well as the practice facilities of the Miami Dolphins. “This is one of the only methodologies where we can continually clean a space in real time,” says Maxik.

The bottom line: Despite the runs early in the pandemic on Clorox wipes, it may be the air we breathe more than the surfaces we touch that need to be kept clean. (Courtesy axios.com)



UV lighting has been installed in Seattle’s reopened Space Needle. **Related**

From the EPA: Indoor Air and Coronavirus (COVID-19)

COVID-19 is thought to spread mainly through close contact from person-to-person. However, some uncertainty remains about the relative importance of different routes of transmission of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). There is growing evidence that this virus can remain airborne for longer times and further distances than originally thought. In addition to close contact with infected people and contaminated surfaces, there is a possibility that spread of COVID-19 may also occur via airborne particles in indoor environments, in some circumstances beyond the 2 m (about 6 ft) range encouraged by social distancing recommendations

However, there are straightforward steps that can be taken to reduce potential airborne transmission of COVID-19 and the focus of this material is on those measures. The layout and design of a building, as well as occupancy and type of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system, can all impact potential airborne spread of the virus. Although improvements to ventilation and air cleaning cannot on their own eliminate the risk of airborne transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, EPA recommends precautions to reduce the potential for airborne transmission of the virus. These precautions include increasing ventilation with outdoor air and air filtration as part of a larger strategy that includes social distancing, wearing cloth face coverings or masks, surface cleaning and disinfecting, handwashing, and other precautions. By themselves, measures to reduce airborne exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19 are not enough since airborne transmission is not the only way exposure to SARS-CoV-2 could potentially occur.

How To Clean And Disinfect Clean

Wearing gloves outside of these instances (for example, when using a shopping cart or using an ATM) will not necessarily protect you from getting COVID-19 and may still lead to the spread of germs. The best way to protect yourself from germs when running errands and after going out is to regularly

wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

- Wear reusable or disposable gloves for routine cleaning and disinfection.
- Clean surfaces using soap and water, then use disinfectant.
- Cleaning with soap and water **reduces number of germs, dirt and impurities** on the surface. **Disinfecting kills germs** on surfaces.
- Practice routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces. High touch surfaces include:
 - o Tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, sinks, etc.

Disinfect

Recommend use of disinfectant products. Follow the instructions on the label to ensure safe and effective use of the product. **Many products recommend:** Keeping surface wet for a period of time (read product label). Precautions such as wearing gloves and making sure you have good ventilation during use of the product.



Always read the labels on disinfectants. Always read and follow the directions on the label to ensure safe and effective use.

- Wear skin protection and consider eye protection for potential splash hazards; Ensure adequate ventilation; Use no more than the amount recommended on the label;
- Use water at room temperature for dilution (unless stated otherwise on the label); Avoid mixing chemical products; Label diluted cleaning solutions; Store and use chemicals out of the reach of children and pets. You should never eat, drink, breathe or inject these products into your body or apply directly to your skin as they can cause serious harm. Do not wipe or bathe pets with these products or any other products that are not approved for animal use. (Courtesy <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus>)

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