

# WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

08/13/2020

CORONAVIRUS DIARY

## Kamala Harris Officially On Biden Team

Senator Kamala Harris has officially teamed up with Vice President Joe Biden to run in the 2020 presidential election. This represents that in our great nation, every citizen and race has the opportunity to lead this country.

Harris was born and raised in Oakland, California. Her father was an immigrant from Jamaica and her mother was from



India. Both of them like most of us came to America to seek a better education and a better life. Harris represents the immigrant family and the spirit of hard work and good education and a don't complain and never give up attitude. Even when she was at an early age, a lot of kids still discriminated against her and her sister because of their strong and hard work attitude. But this also led her to become an attorney and took her all the way to the U.S. Senate. Her story has really become a model for all American immigrants.

Whether the Biden-Harris ticket can win or not is still an unanswered question for Biden. But because Harris has partnered with him it definitely was the best choice.

Because the coronavirus pandemic has already attacked our community for over half of the year, a lot of young kids have gone back to school with great risks. People don't have full confidence with the new Russia vaccine. The American death total is now way over 160,000. This is a national tragedy for all of us.

We as ordinary citizens really don't know what to say or what to do. We all hope that the 2020 election will bring us new hope.



Southern News Group Chairman / CEO  
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Publisher Southern Daily Wea H. Lee

Stay Home!

# BUSINESS

Wear Mask!

## Russia Approves 'World's First' Coronavirus Vaccine, Putin Says



The speed at which Russia is moving to roll out its vaccine highlights its determination to win the global race for an effective product. (Photo/AP)

### Key points

- Russia approves a vaccine before other countries—
- Putin hopes mass production will start soon
- Putin says vaccine 'forms strong immunity', own daughter has been vaccinated

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

Last Tuesday Russia declared itself the first country to approve a coronavirus vaccine with President Vladimir Putin saying one of his daughters had been inoculated. Dubbing the vaccine "Sputnik V" after the Soviet-era satellite that was the first launched into space, Russian officials said it provided safe, stable immunity and denounced Western attempts to undermine Moscow's research. Scientists in the West have raised concerns about the speed of development of Russian vaccines, suggesting that researchers might be cutting corners and coming under pressure from authorities to deliver. The World Health Organisation said any WHO stamp of approval on a Covid-19 vaccine candidate would require a rigorous safety data review.



Russia approves 'world's first'

### Covid-19 vaccine, President Vladimir Putin says.

"We are in close contact with the Russian health authorities and discussions are ongoing with respect to possible WHO pre-qualification of the vaccine," said the UN agency's spokesman Tarik Jasarevic in Geneva. Putin had told a televised video conference call with government ministers, "This morning, for the first time in the world, a vaccine against the new coronavirus was registered.

"I know that it is quite effective, that it gives sustainable immunity," he said. The president said one of his daughters had been inoculated with the vaccine, developed by the Gamaleya research institute in coordination with the Russian defence ministry and other government bodies.

"In this sense she took part in the experiment," Putin said, adding that she had a slight temperature after a second injection and "that's all". The chief of Russia's sovereign wealth fund, which is financing and helping

to coordinate the vaccine efforts, told reporters that Phase 3 trials on a large group of people would start on Wednesday. Kirill Dmitriyev, who heads the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF), said industrial production was expected from September and that 20 countries had made "preliminary applications for over one billion doses" of the vaccine.



Russian President Vladimir Putin. (Photo/AP)

He said that along with foreign partners Russia was ready to manufacture 500 million doses of vaccine per year in five countries.

Dmitriyev denounced "coordinated and carefully orchestrated media attacks" designed to "discredit" Russia's vaccine. "We should leave politics behind and enjoy this moment," he said. "We are not forcing this vaccine on anyone."

The pandemic has seen an unprecedented mobilisation of funding and research to rush through a vaccine that can protect billions of people worldwide. Russia has been pushing hard to quickly develop a coronavirus vaccine and said earlier this month it hoped to launch mass production within weeks and turn out "several million" doses per month by next year. The WHO had last week urged Russia to follow established guidelines and go "through all the stages" necessary to develop a safe vaccine. Spokesman Christian Lindmeier told reporters at the time that the WHO had not been officially notified of any Russian vaccine on the verge of being deployed.



'Robust immune responses' found in

### Covid-19 vaccine clinical trials point to 2021 release

Experts said they were concerned that not enough was known about Russia's research.

"There seems to be rather little detail thus far on Russian (vaccine) candidates," said Danny Altmann, a professor of Immunology at Imperial College London.

"The collateral damage from release of any vaccine that was less than safe and effective could exacerbate our current problems insurmountably."

The vaccine developed by Russia is a so-called viral vector vaccine, meaning it employs another virus to carry the DNA encoding of the needed immune response into cells. Gamaleya's vaccine is based on the adenovirus, a similar technology to the coronavirus vaccine prototype developed by China's CanSino.

The state-run Gamaleya institute came under fire after researchers and its director injected themselves with the prototype several months ago, with specialists criticising the move as an unorthodox and rushed way of starting human trials. Moscow has dismissed allegations from Britain, the United States and Canada that a hacking group linked to Russian intelligence services tried to steal information about a coronavirus vaccine from labs in the West.



The Philippines indicated on Tuesday that it was ready to work with Russia in testing and producing a coronavirus vaccine. President Rodrigo Duterte said: "When the vaccine arrives, I can be the first one to be experimented on ... If it is good for me, then it is good for everyone."

With more than 897,000 confirmed infections, Russia's coronavirus caseload is currently fourth in the world after the United States, Brazil and India.

Meanwhile, the Philippines said on Tuesday it was ready to work with Russia in testing and producing a coronavirus vaccine.

Russia hopes to start mass production of its vaccine in October, and has offered to supply the Philippines or to team up with local firms to manufacture it in the country.

"The Philippines stands ready to work with Russia on clinical trials, vaccine supply and production, and other areas deemed practicable by relevant Philippine and Russian agencies to address this global health emergency," a government statement said.

In a public address late Monday, President Rodrigo Duterte said: "When the vaccine arrives, I can be the first one to be experimented on ... If it is good for me, then it is good for everyone."

The Department of Health on Tuesday reported 2,987 additional coronavirus infections, bringing the country's total caseload to 139,538. The death toll rose to 2,312 with 19 more deaths, it added. (Courtesy <https://www.scmp.com/>)



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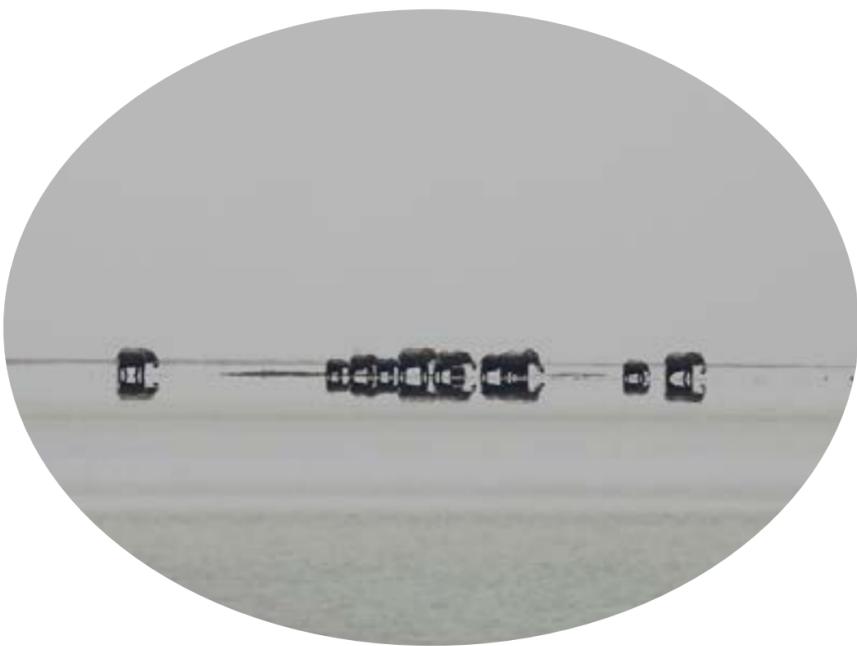
# Editor's Choice



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



Police take cover as they are pelted with stones during a protest against racial and economic inequalities in Kaya-mandi township near Stellenbosch, South Africa. REUTERS/Mike Hutchings



Elephants are seen as they cross lake Kioko in the Amboseli National Park, Kenya. REUTERS/Baz Ratner



Democratic presidential candidate and former Vice President Joe Biden, his wife Jill Biden, vice presidential candidate Senator Kamala Harris and her husband Douglas Emhoff pose keeping social distance after a campaign event, their first joint appearance since Biden named Harris as his running mate, at Alexis Dupont High School in Wilmington, Delaware. REUTERS/Carlos



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



A person jumps into the water as other people refresh at a public pool, in Hanau, Germany. REUTERS/Kai Pfaffenbach



Women take part in a demonstration against police violence during the recent rallies of opposition supporters following the presidential election in Minsk, Belarus. REUTERS/Vasily Fedosenko



A person jumps into the water as other people refresh at a public pool, in Hanau, Germany. REUTERS/Kai Pfaffenbach



**HOUSTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

**Houston Health Department Launches Multilingual COVID-19 Education Campaign, Mayor Turner Proclaims August “Better. Together.” Month**

**Better. Together.**



The new flu strain is similar to the swine flu that spread globally in 2009  
Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

HOUSTON — Mayor Sylvester Turner and the Houston Health Department today launched *Better. Together.*, a multilingual public health education campaign empowering Houstonians with the knowledge and skills to protect their families and communities from COVID-19.

Mayor Turner also proclaimed August 2020 *Better. Together. Month*, encouraging Houstonians to work toward the goal of reducing city’s COVID-19 positivity rate, currently at 23 percent, to 5 percent or lower.

“Thousands of our family and friends have been sickened and hundreds of Houstonians have died because of the virus,” said Mayor Turner. “*Better. Together.* means it will take Houstonians working together for our city to get better. It also reminds us the proven behaviors of wearing a mask, social distancing, washing hands and getting tested work better together to slow the spread.”

In addition to television, radio, print and digital advertisements, *Better. Together.* includes direct outreach into the city’s most vulnerable communities through neighborhood canvassing, signage in public places, toolkits for businesses and organizations, and virtual education sessions.

“In order to bring our positivity rate down, we must continue to go directly into communities,” said Dr. Faith Foreman-Hays, chief of the health department’s Office of Chronic Disease, Health Education and Wellness. “This means we must educate people in their homes, schools, parks, businesses, houses of worship, restaurants and other places.”

As of July 30, there are 45,415 cases of COVID-19 and 432 associated deaths in Houston. The city’s Hispanic community is affected disproportionately and accounts for approximately 40 percent of cases and 45 percent of deaths.



Earlier this month, the health department launched *Todos Juntos. Mejor.*, the Spanish-language segment of *Better. Together.*, educating Hispanics about preventing the spread of the virus and sharing valuable information for families needing food, housing and mental health assistance.

The health department also saturated high-positivity communities with more than 71,000 flyers, 401,000 robocalls and 71,000 text messages in English and Spanish and engaged community stakeholders, including faith-based groups, to amplify the message.

Houstonians should visit [HoustonHealth.org](http://HoustonHealth.org) for information about free testing sites and protecting their families and communities from this deadly virus. The site provides information in many languages, including a Spanish section.



**Testing decline bad sign for disease containment**

Unfortunately, fewer people are taking advantage of our free COVID-19 mega testing sites. We fear people see declining hospital numbers and think we’re out of the woods. We’re not. Getting tested empowers you to protect your family and community and is vital to identify and contain disease. Call 832-393-4220 or visit [houstonhealth.org](http://houstonhealth.org) to find a site near you.

**Spotlight Houston: COVID-19 Call Center**

With as many as 12,000 calls per day, the Houston Health Department COVID-19 call center is available to help you find

free testing sites, provide info and link you to resources. Call 832-393-4220 Monday to Saturday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Working with health department contact tracers helps slow the spread**

Making a choice to work with contact tracers helps protect you, your family and your community by slowing the spread of COVID-19.

**Free COVID-19 Testing**

Visit [HoustonEmergency.org/covid19](http://HoustonEmergency.org/covid19) to learn how to get tested for COVID-19. With sites across Houston, there’s one near you!

**Share your COVID-19 experience**

The COVID-19 Registry is a research study that provides real-time information to health departments on the spread of COVID-19, who is being affected, and how. (Courtesy International District and City of Houston)

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We are better when we all do our part to stop the spread of COVID-19. Together, we can put Houston on the road to recovery.  
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