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Wea Lee's Global Notes



Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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U.S. Postal Service puts changes on hold after mail-in voting outcry



A U.S. Postal Service badge is pictured during a news conference about the postal service in the Manhattan borough of New York City, New York, U.S., August 18, 2020. REUTERS/Carlo Allegri

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. Postmaster General Louis DeJoy on Tuesday suspended all mail service changes until after the November election, bowing to an outcry by Democrats that the moves appeared to be an attempt to boost President Donald Trump's re-election chances.

A U.S. Postal Service badge is pictured during a news conference about the postal service in the Manhattan borough of New York City, New York, U.S., August 18, 2020. REUTERS/Carlo Allegri

The reversal follows charges by Democrats and others that service cuts could slow the handling of mail-in ballots, the use of which is expected to skyrocket for the election as the coronavirus pandemic raises fears of crowds.

These critics have accused the Republican president of trying to hobble the Postal Service to suppress mail-in voting as he trails Democratic presidential challenger Joe Biden in opinion polls ahead of the Nov. 3 election.

"I am suspending these initiatives until after the election is concluded," DeJoy said in a statement, adding that the changes are to "avoid even the appearance of any impact on election mail."

DeJoy, a major political donor and ally of Trump, assumed the job in June.

DeJoy also said that the Postal Service will not change retail hours at post offices as well as that mail collection boxes will remain where they are and no mail processing facilities will be closed.

The reversal followed a lengthy call by the postal board of governors on Monday night, two people briefed on the matter said.

Trump said last week he was against Democratic efforts to include funds for the Postal Service and election infrastructure in coronavirus relief legislation because he wanted to limit mail-in voting during the coronavirus pandemic.

Earlier on Tuesday, states including Washington, Pennsylvania, Connecticut and New York said they were planning legal moves to block the Postal Service changes.

Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro suggested he might welcome DeJoy's proposed actions.

"I'll believe it when I see it," Shapiro said. "Hopefully the American people can breathe a sigh of relief. But I will not let my foot off the gas so long as the postal officials continue to violate the law."

Trump has repeatedly and without evidence claimed that mail

balloting is vulnerable to fraud. Voting by mail is nothing new in the United States, and one in four voters cast ballots that way in 2016.

Democrats have raised concerns that Postal Service cost cutting could lead to missed or delayed ballots. They have pointed to reductions in overtime, restrictions on extra mail transportation trips and new mail sorting and delivery policies as changes that threaten to slow mail delivery - and in some cases, already have.

DeJoy is scheduled to testify on Friday before the Republican-led Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, spokesmen for the committee and the Postal Service said. DeJoy also is scheduled to testify on Monday before the Democratic-led House of Representatives Oversight and Reform Committee.

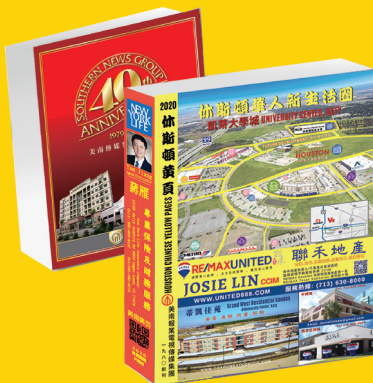
Mark Dimondstein, president of the American Postal Workers Union that represents more than 200,000 employees, told Fox News that DeJoy's policy changes "are truly slowing down mail, the customers see it ... the postal workers see it - mail is getting all backed up."

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GLOBAL NOTES

08/18/2020

CORONAVIRUS DIARY



Democratic leaders pushed a message of competence and unity in the first night of the party’s convention. Former Ohio Governor John Kasich endorsed Biden saying that our country is at the crossroad.

Michelle Obama in her speech said that right now kids in this country are seeing what happens when we stop requiring empathy of one another. They are looking around and wondering if we’ve been lying to them this whole time about who we are and what we truly value.

New York Governor Cuomo said, “COVID is the symptom and not the illness. Our nation is in crisis and in many ways COVID is just a metaphor.”

Democrats also accused President Trump of trying to slow down the mail delivery in the election time, but he said

that he had encouraged everybody to speed up the mail and not to slow down the mail. Newly appointed Postmaster General Louis DeJoy agreed to testify before Congress next week.

This is really a critical time for all of us and we need to take action now. The United States of America is in a pandemic crisis and our unemployment rate is the highest since the great depression. We really don’t care what politicians say. We care about what we can put on the dinner table for our families.

We are living in two different worlds right now: in one world live those people who hold the power of the country with their luxurious lifestyle, and in the other world are the poor people suffering and just trying to survive.

We Are At

The Crossroad



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Stay Home!

BUSINESS

Wear Mask!

Can Masks Save Us From More Lockdowns? What The Science Says



Scientists estimate that near-universal mask use could make a major difference in bringing down coronavirus infections in the United States. (Photo/Sean Gardner/Getty Images)

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

The American conversation around masks and COVID-19 has taken a dizzying turn. For months, wearing masks has been politicized as a sign of liberal leanings. But in recent days, ever more governors — many of them Republican — have moved to mandate masks. This week President Trump — arguably the nation’s most visible mask un-enthusiast — started referring to wearing them as “patriotic.”

Now prominent scientists are proposing a radical — and hopeful — possibility: Even as coronavirus cases spiral upward across the United States to levels surpassing this spring’s surge, these experts argue that if Americans start wearing masks en masse, the U.S. may yet avoid a return to lockdown measures.

“Look, we’ve never tried to use masks as our primary strategy when outbreaks are this bad,” says Ashish Jha, director of the Harvard Global Health Institute. “But I do believe that if we want to avoid a complete lockdown, we’ve got to at least give it a shot.”

Modest — but widespread — protection adds up fast

It seems obvious that masks would re-

duce the spread of a respiratory bug like the coronavirus to at least some degree. After all, when a healthy person wears a mask, the barrier filters out some airborne droplets containing the virus. Even more importantly, when a sick person wears a mask, the barrier holds in many of the viral droplets they exhale.

But quantifying the magnitude of this effect on an entire population is more complicated. There are reams of studies using a range of methods to determine how much mask wearing curbs transmission. Many compare what has happened in places where most people have used masks with what has happened in settings where most have not.



These include analyses from China, Germany and states within the United States.

Ali Mokdad is on a research team that has tried to make sense of a large number of these studies. Mokdad and colleagues with the University of Washington’s Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation did what’s called a meta-analysis.

“You take every study that has been published on the protective effect of masks, and then you reanalyze all the data,” says Mokdad.

Their bottom-line estimate: If 95% of people wear cloth masks when they’re out and about interacting with other people, it reduces transmission by at least 30%. In other words, each infected person will go on to infect 30% fewer people. Mokdad stresses that this is a conservative finding. It uses the lower bound within the range of estimates. And it assumes all the masks are cloth rather than surgical masks or N95 respirators, which are even more effective. “Widespread mask [use] could be even more powerful,” says Mokdad, because some portion of people would likely be using those more protective versions.

Yet even with a 30% reduction in transmission, the cumulative impact on a community can be massive. To understand why, it helps to consider some math: The coronavirus spreads exponentially. For example, let’s say in a place where no one is wearing masks, each infected person is currently passing the virus to 1.03 others. This means 100 infected people will go on to infect 103 others, who in turn infect 106 others, who infect 109 and so on. The result is that in, say, seven five-day cycles of infection, a total of 889 people will have contracted the virus.



But if you curb the transmission rate by 30%, this means that instead of infecting 1.03 others, each infected person passes the virus on to only 0.72 others. So now 100 infected people go on to infect only 72 people. These 72 go on to infect just 52 people in the next cycle. By the seventh cycle, only 10 new people are infected, and only a total of 332 people

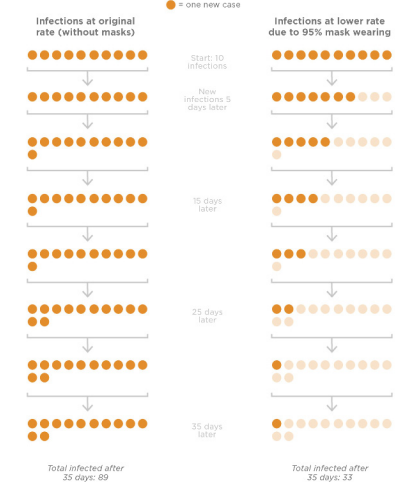
have contracted the virus altogether. Essentially, instead of exponential growth you’ve triggered what’s called exponential decay.

Wearing Masks And Infection Rates

Studies suggest that wide adoption of masks can reduce the spread of the coronavirus. A meta-analysis by Ali Mokdad and his research group at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation estimates at least a 30% reduction and up to 50%, which can lead to a big difference. (Infographics/Connie Jin, coronavirus, mask, NPR)

If Masks Reduce Transmission By 30%, The Impact Adds Up Fast

In this hypothetical example, with no mask wearing, each infected person passes on the virus to 1.03 others. With 95% mask wearing, transmission drops 30%, so each person now infects 0.72 others. Here’s what happens over seven five-day cycles:



To see how this would translate for the entire U.S. population, Mokdad’s team at IHME ran a simulation. Based on the pandemic’s current trajectory through the U.S., they forecast that by Nov. 1, nearly 80,000 more people will die from COVID-19. But if Americans ramp up from their current level of mask use to 95% use, about 34,000 of those deaths could be avoided, says Mokdad.

An alternative to lockdowns

It gets better. Mokdad’s team estimates that communities where the virus is now

surging out of control could still avoid economy-killing lockdowns if they would massively increase mask use. Here’s how they figure this. Based on the U.S. experience this past spring, Mokdad’s team estimates there’s a point at which local or state health officials will feel they have no choice but to reimpose lockdowns, in spite of the economic and political consequences. That point, they estimate, is when the number of daily deaths tops eight per million people.

Texas is one month from hitting this threshold, according to IHME’s current forecast. But if 95% of residents there started wearing masks right now, IHME forecasts that Texas would bend its curve enough to remain under the threshold and could avoid a lockdown.

“There is a lot of hope here,” says Mokdad. (Courtesy npr.org)

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Editor's Choice



A man rides a motorbike during heavy rains in New Delhi, India. REUTERS/Adnan Abidi



A television at Buck Bradley's Saloon and Eatery shows former First Lady Michelle Obama speaking at the Democratic National Convention (DNC) in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. REUTERS/Brian Snyder



A health worker and relatives wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) carry the body of a man, who died due to the coronavirus, for his cremation, at a crematorium in New Delhi, India. REUTERS/Adnan Abidi



U.S. President Donald Trump gestures in front of supporters at Basler Flight Service in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. REUTERS/Tom Brenner



Alexa Callander virtually teaches a second grade class for students who are either at home or in a separate classroom as in-person learning resumes with restrictions in place to prevent the spread of coronavirus at Rover Elementary School in Tempe, Arizona. REUTERS/



Former first lady Michelle Obama speaks in a frame grab from the live video feed of the all virtual 2020 Democratic National Convention as participants from across the country are hosted over video links to the originally planned site of the convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



The control room where live feeds are managed is in operation for the first night of the virtual Democratic National Convention (DNC) at the Wisconsin Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Scott Olson/Pool via REUTERS



Democratic U.S. presidential candidate and former Vice President Joe Biden appears by video feed from the start of the virtual 2020 Democratic National Convention as participants from across the country are hosted over video links to the originally planned site of the convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. 2020 Democratic National Convention/POOL via REUTERS

Obesity Ups The Odds For Severe COVID-19--Age Is A Factor



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

(HealthDay News) -- If you're younger than 65 years old and obese, COVID-19 poses a special danger to you. A new study reports that the more obese you are, the more likely you are to either die from infection with the new coronavirus or require lifesaving mechanical ventilation to survive. Morbidly obese COVID-19 patients are 60% more likely to die or require intubation, compared with people of normal weight, researchers found. Patients who were mildly obese were 10% more likely to die or need a breathing machine, while those who were moderately obese were 30% more likely, according to the study. "Increasing obesity was associated with an increased risk of lung failure or death in COVID-19," said lead researcher Dr. Michaela Anderson, a pulmonologist at Columbia University Irving Medical Center in New York City. But obesity only posed a risk for people under 65, researchers added. Anderson said that's probably because older folks are sicker, more frail, and more likely to develop respiratory failure with COVID-19 due to health problems unrelated to their weight. She and her colleagues reviewed medical records for nearly 2,500 patients hospitalized for COVID-19 in March and April at Co-

lumbia University Irving Medical Center. They looked at body mass index (BMI), which is based on height and weight. Obesity begins at a BMI of 30; morbid obesity is 40 or over. "At the beginning of the pandemic in New York, we noticed there were a lot of young and obese people who required breathing tubes to help them breathe," Anderson said. "We were hoping to figure out if weight or body mass index or obesity were associated with the likelihood of developing lung failure if you got infected with COVID." About 25% of the patients died and 22% required mechanical ventilation. On average, they were hospitalized for one week, researchers found. Looking at BMI, researchers found that excess pounds did increase patients' risk of severe COVID-19 -- but only if they were young or middle-aged. Anderson said there are several reasons why obesity might worsen COVID-19 symptoms, starting with simple body mechanics. "If you have a big, obese belly, does that push up on your lungs and make it harder for you to expand your lungs?" she said. Fat tissue also produces biochemicals known to promote inflammation and blood clotting -- two factors linked to more severe COVID-19 infection, Anderson

added.



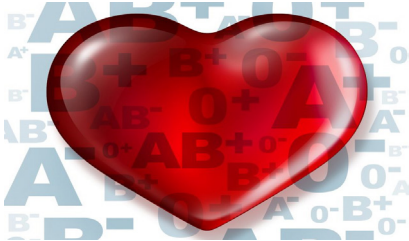
"Fat tissue doesn't just sit there and store fat," she said. "It also does lots of other things that can influence your health." It also might be that other illnesses associated with obesity, such as diabetes or high blood pressure, contribute to COVID-19's impact on the body, said Dr. Aaron Glatt, chief of infectious diseases at Mount Sinai South Nassau in Hewlett, N.Y. He said this study basically confirms what experts have suspected. "Clearly every study has shown obesity potentially contributes to more severe illness, more intubations and even death," said Glatt, who wasn't part of the new research. Based on the evidence, folks who are obese might want to hew even more closely to social distancing and other methods of protecting themselves against infection, Anderson said. "It's important for doctors and patients to really think about how long they should prolong social distancing, whether they should continue to try to avoid contact until the pandemic is under better control," she said. "People who are obese and young may want to consider prolonged social distancing and minimizing risks for a little longer than people who are not obese. Glatt agreed. "Every person should attempt to minimize their exposure to COVID, regardless if they are obese or not, regardless if they have risk factors or not," Glatt said. "The more risk factors you have, the more risk-averse you should be." (Courtesy WebMD) **Related** **New Blood Test Might Spot Most Dangerous COVID Cases** A simple blood test may predict which COVID-19 patients are likely to get worse and die, a new study suggests. "When we first started treating COVID-19 patients, we watched them get better or get worse, but we didn't know why," said researcher Dr. Juan Reyes. He's an assistant professor of medicine at the George

Washington School of Medicine and Health Sciences, in Washington, D.C. "Some initial studies had come out of China showing certain biomarkers were associated with bad outcomes. There was a desire to see if that was true for our patients here in the U.S.," Reyes said in a school news release.



For the study, Reyes and his colleagues evaluated nearly 300 patients with COVID-19 admitted to George Washington Hospital between March 12 and May 9, 2020. Of these, 200 had all the biomarkers being studied, namely, IL-6, D-dimer, CRP, LDH and ferritin. Higher levels of these markers were tied with inflammation and bleeding disorders, and an increased risk of being admitted to the intensive care unit, needing ventilator support, and death, the researchers found. Study author Dr. Shant Ayanian said, "We hope these biomarkers help physicians determine how aggressively they need to treat patients, whether a patient should be discharged, and how to monitor patients who are going home, among other clinical decisions." Ayanian is an assistant professor of medicine at George Washington School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Currently, doctors base the risk of COVID-19 getting worse or being fatal on age and underlying medical conditions. But this simple blood test may aid in making clinical decisions, the researchers said. (Courtesy HealthDay News and WebMD). This report was also published online in the journal Future Medicine. **Related** **How your blood type could influence your risk of getting COVID-19** Some people are more at risk of getting COVID-19. More men seem to get the virus than women. People between 30 and 79 years old seem to get the virus more than people in their 20s. And people in their 20s get it more than teens and children. All that said, there's still a lot we don't know about the virus and

risk factors, which is why researchers are working around the clock to get this virus figured out. And the good news is, they're uncovering more information every day. But some of the information that's coming to light is surprising. **People with this blood type may have a bigger risk** A recent study from researchers in China shows that people with type A blood have a significantly higher risk of COVID-19 than people with other blood types. The study included data from 2,173 people with COVID-19 who were admitted to three hospitals in Wuhan and Shenzhen. Researchers looked at blood type distribution among the general population in those areas and compared it to blood type distribution among people with COVID-19.



Here's what they found. **People with type A blood had the highest risk. People with type B blood had the second-highest risk. People with type AB blood had the third-highest risk. And people with type O blood had the lowest risk.** Now, this study is preliminary. It hasn't been peer-reviewed, and it's far from the last word on the matter. But it appears that having type A blood could put you at an elevated risk for COVID-19. And actually, the connection between blood type and viral susceptibility has been demonstrated before. Blood type is determined by the antigens (molecules) on the surface of blood cells. Certain viruses require certain antigens to latch on to. Norovirus, the virus that causes stomach flu, is one example. It affects people with type B blood less because that blood doesn't have the antigens it needs to do its dirty work. There may be something similar happening with COVID-19, but it's far too early to know for sure. (Courtesy <https://easyhealthoptions.com/>)



前第一夫人在民主黨全國代表大會上指責特朗普的白宮“混亂”和“缺乏同情心”

【美南新聞記者泉深報道】美國前第一夫人米歇爾·奧巴馬（Michelle Obama）在周一（8月17日）晚上的一場嚴密而充滿火藥味的民主黨全國代表大會開幕之夜的演講中，指責特朗普總統的白宮在“混亂”中運作，而沒有“同情心”。她敦促選民衆喬·拜登投票，選民的生活取決於這次投票。

米歇爾在預先錄制的講話中強調了“總統職位的強大力量”，同時表示這項工作“需要頭腦清醒的判斷力，對複雜和相互競爭的問題的掌握力，以及道德的指南針和傾聽的能力。

她補充說：“每當我們向白宮尋求一些領導力，或諮詢或任何穩定跡象時，我們所得到的就是混亂、分裂和完全缺乏同情心。”

民主黨人廣泛地稱贊前第一夫人的講話是對現政府的有力起訴。但是，這也是在第一個晚上計劃會議結束之前進行的。該計劃有時帶有暗淡的語氣，尤其是在參議員伯尼·桑德斯（Bernie Sanders）一再表示美國正面臨“威權主義”威脅的情況下。

參議員伯尼·桑德斯說2020年總統大選是美國現代史上最重要的選舉。

特朗普競選顧問史蒂夫·科爾特斯告訴福克斯新聞的勞拉·英格拉漢姆，他們展示了美國的“反烏托邦”照片。而且，在伊娃·朗格利亞（Eva Longoria）主持的音樂表演和新聞形式的視頻插播立法者的言論時，這種不尋常的格式在有史以來的第一次的虛擬政治大會上也引起了人們的關注。

但是米歇爾·奧巴馬在慷慨激昂的講話中，試圖將一切都綁在一起，認為特朗普是“我們國家的錯誤總統”。

她說：“他已經有足夠的時間了……他顯然已經過了頭。”“他無法滿足這一刻（冠狀病毒大流行），他根本不能成為我們需要他為我們服務的人。”

她補充說：“他就是這樣。”（這可能是特朗普對冠狀病毒死亡的臭名昭著的評論。）

前第一夫人繼續警告：“如果您認為事情不會變得更糟，請相信我，他們可以，如果我們在這次選舉中不做任何改變，他們也會這樣做。”

她說：“如果我們有希望結束這場混亂局面，我們必須像喬·拜登一樣投票，就像我們的生活取決於它一樣。”“我認為喬是一個以信仰為指導的極為體面的人。”盡管她指出喬·拜登也是有缺點和錯誤，但總統也不是完美的人。



前第一夫人沒有提到拜登的競選夥伴、加利福尼亞州參議員卡馬拉·哈里斯（Kamala Harris），她是第一位被提名為主要政黨副總統候選人的有色女性。福克斯新聞被告知視頻是在哈里斯被任命之前錄制的。在這麼重要的會議，這麼關鍵的問題上，前第一夫人沒有提到副總統候選人，顯然是一次嚴重失誤，也會讓哈里斯的支持者失望。

前第一夫人還感歎“正在向下一代展示的美國”。

她說：“一個表現不佳的國家，不僅在政策問題上，而且在品格問題上，不僅令人失望，而且令人發指。”她指出，她知道全國各地的“善良與恩典”。

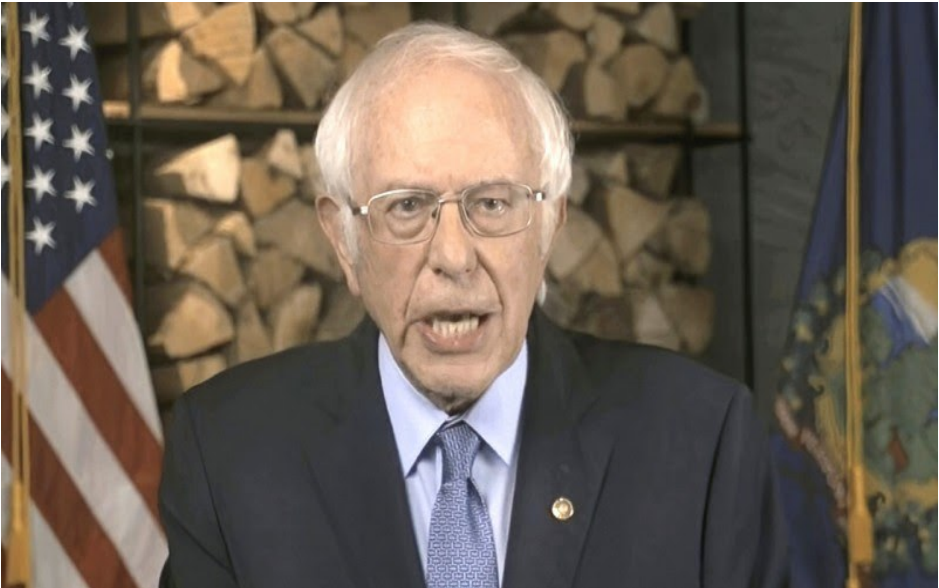
前第一夫人說，“同情”是她最近“一直在思考的東西”。白宮卻缺乏同情心。

她說：“有能力穿上別人的鞋子，認識到別人的經歷也很有價值。”“我們大多數人對此深有體會。”

她繼續說，美國的孩子們“正在看到當我們停止要求彼此同情時會發生什麼。”

她說：“他們四處張望，想知道我們是否一直在對他們說謊。”“他們看到人們在雜貨店裏大喊大叫，不願戴口罩以確保我們所有人的安全；他們看到人們只是因為膚色的原因而呼籲警察關注他們的生意……他們看到我們的領導人在標榜同胞為敵人的州政府，同時鼓舞了持火炬的白人至上主義者。”（看來自由女神像也在清除名單之列）。

同時，前第一夫人提到了“他們（共和黨）在走下坡路，我



們（民主黨）在走上坡路”的口號，並解釋說“走上坡路是唯一有效的方法”，但並不總是意味著好。

她說：“當我們走下坡路，貶低其他人並使其失去人性時，我們只是成為淹沒其他一切聲音的一部分。”“我們要明確一點：當面對惡毒和殘酷時，走上坡路並不意味著對人微笑並說出好話。”（該出手時刻出手）。

她補充說：“走上坡路意味著要走的更高，爬到那個山巔。”

由傳奇導演克裏斯托弗·諾蘭(Christopher Nolan)執導的最新原創科幻動作奇觀大片《信條》(Tenet)將於9月4日登陸中國內地大銀幕。影片今日震撼曝光“特工出擊”版預告，展現神秘特工組織為阻止第三次世界大戰，以“信條”為線索和武器開啟了時間謎題。諾蘭這次打破常規，再探新領域，打造了壹部前所未見、超級高能的特工片，引領全新銀幕革命，將於9月4日與北美同步。

信條特工出擊 拯救“三戰”危機

此次曝光的“特工出擊”版預告揭示了影片中人類面臨的巨大危機——第三次世界大戰。“三戰”危機被描述為比核毀滅更糟，而神秘組織也現身嘗試阻止“三戰”爆發，“信條”則成為關鍵的線索和武器。不同於壹般特工間諜影片，《信條》拋出了“逆轉時空”的時間謎題。預告中近身肉搏搏鬥詭異的逆向動作、撞毀的汽車翻轉著復原等場景，都彰顯著正向時空中“逆向化”的高能設定，電影為觀眾呈現了壹個需要用全新方式來審視和理解的新世界，引爆無限猜想與期待。而以約翰·大衛·華盛頓和羅伯特·帕丁森為首的特工成員，也亮出了十八般武藝，喬裝執行任務、貼身徒手格鬥、公路極速飆車、駕駛遊艇馳騁海上……

出生於英國倫敦的克裏斯托弗·諾蘭曾對媒體坦言自己是007的忠實粉絲，在他的導演從業生涯中，也壹直想拍壹部特工間諜題材的電影，“從小就有這個想法。當我第壹次有了拍電影的想法時，我就想拍特工片了。”然而直到《信條》，諾蘭執導的第11部長片，他才終於有機會實現了這個願望。從預告片就能感受到，《信條》與任何壹部007電影都完全不同，也區別於其他特工片，成為了顛覆類型的“諾蘭式”特工片，諾蘭導演對此也直言不諱：“這是壹部規模宏大、極具野心的類型片，也就是特工電影，但是又打破了常規特工片的模式。它帶給觀眾的體驗將是超乎想象、前所未有的。”不少影迷看過預告片後都開啟腦暴模式，預測《信條》劇情，甚至將其與《盜夢空間》做了大膽聯想，而諾蘭給出的答案是兩者完全不同卻也有相似之處，“《盜夢空間》之所以令人驚喜，是因為它在偷盜片的框架加入了新的元素，打破了觀眾的思維定勢。與它類似，《信條》意在給予觀眾非凡的特工片體驗，在觀眾不自覺陷入常規套路時，把電影推向壹個出乎意料的走向。”

《信條》由華納兄弟影片公司出品、克裏斯托弗·諾蘭執導，約翰·大衛·華盛頓(John David Washington)、羅伯特·帕丁森(Robert Pattinson)、伊麗莎白·德比齊(Elizabeth Debicki)、肯尼思·布拉納(Kenneth Branagh)、邁克爾·凱恩(Michael Caine)等聯袂主演。影片將於9月4日，與北美同步登陸中國內地各大影院。

R級片“我非籠鳥”曝預告

外國女孩迷失東京 情趣酒店隱藏著危險



亞歷珊德拉·達達裏奧主演的R級驚悚愛情片《我非籠鳥》曝光預告片，該片英文原名也許更能展現影片主題：Lost Girls and Love Hotels（迷失女孩和情趣酒店）。這部電影改編自凱瑟琳·漢拉漢的同名小說，由威廉·奧爾森（《美國情事》）執導。和斯嘉麗·約翰遜主演的《迷失東京》類似，講述的也是外國姑娘在東京的情事。達達裏奧飾演壹名空姐英文培訓

師瑪格麗特，在東京，她和壹名叫Kazu（平嶽大飾演）的黑幫成員相遇，該片講述了二人之間愛和情欲故事。他們因壹些事分開，但東京的酒吧、小巷子和情趣酒店重塑了他們。官方描述稱這是壹部“探索東京令人陶醉的兩面性的作品”。曾在《真探》中“壹脫成名”的達達裏奧再次獻出大尺度表演，並毫不掩飾地說自己是“受”。該片將於9月18日開啓點播。

《電力之戰》卷福領銜豪華卡司

繼《我和厄爾以及將死的女孩》獲得聖丹斯電影節最高獎後，阿方索·戈麥斯·雷洪導演的又壹好萊塢力作《電力之戰》日前已正式定檔8月28日，該片由本尼迪克特·康伯巴奇、邁克爾·珊農、湯姆·赫蘭德、尼古拉斯·霍爾特等聯合主演，展現了工業時代最偉大的天才發明家之間展開的商業惡鬥與巔峰對決，真實還原了愛迪生與特斯拉兩位絕世天才的“百年恩怨”。今日，片方發布了“天才對手”光電版角色海報，電光火石間彰顯大佬氣質，強大氣場令人心生敬畏。

在此次曝光的“光電版”角色海報中，“卷福”本尼迪克特·康伯巴奇飾演的“發明狂人”愛迪生身著優雅復古燕尾服，頭戴紳士帽，舉手投足彰顯商業大佬氣質，在剪影中更顯高傲氣場。這也是卷福繼梵高（《梵高》）、霍金（《霍金的故事》）、圖靈（《模仿遊戲》）後，再度出演天才人物。而他也在這場電力大戰中也徹底顛覆了中國觀眾熟悉的愛迪生形象，為了贏得勝利不惜動用壹切手段，野心勃勃想要主導世界，大膽操作令人咋舌。

“小蜘蛛”湯姆·赫蘭德飾演的“科學新秀”英薩爾則成為愛迪生的得力助手兼年輕知己，亦師亦友、如父如子，在電力大戰中與他共同進退。海報中，二人在金色的背景中，光電交織組成了“直流電”戰隊，大力推進直流電的商業化民用，拓展電力市場。作為愛迪生的競爭對手，“商業巨



頭”威斯汀豪斯則由《超人：鋼鐵之軀》裏的“佐德將軍、好萊塢知名演技派勞模邁克爾·珊農出演，海報中他眉頭緊鎖望向遠方，將威斯汀豪斯的貴族氣質和低調內斂演繹得淋漓盡致。而在《X戰警》中的“野獸”尼古拉斯·霍爾特此次扮演了“電力天才”特斯拉，這位才華橫溢、“最接近神的男人”與威斯汀豪斯強強聯手，共同發現了愛迪生直流電設計中的致命缺陷，研發出了更適合遠距離傳輸、但同時具有危險和風險的交流電，更是孤註壹擲為其堵上全部身家。海報中，二人在幽藍色的背景下組成了“交流電”戰隊，為爭奪全美乃至全球的電力供應系統，與愛迪生展開了連場惡鬥。當“電力巨人”們上演天才之間的巔峰對決，誰又

能成為改變世界的真正贏家？該片由奧斯卡最佳導演馬丁·斯科塞斯擔任執行制片，作為壹部曾在多倫多電影節和頒獎季收穫好評的好萊塢大片，《電力之戰》自定檔信息曝光後，就受到了廣大觀眾的熱烈關注，紛紛表示“影院見”、“這陣容堪稱神仙打架”。更令人興奮的是，這部影片不僅展現了愛迪生和“宿敵”特斯拉之間的百年恩怨，電力之爭、商業奇謀、人性對決，還能看到各路超級英雄“場外大戰”同框鏖戰，上演壹場震撼人心的銀幕盛宴。據悉，《電力之戰》即將於8月28日與內地觀眾在影院見面，“奇異博士”領銜“小蜘蛛”開啓電力天才巔峰對決，與“佐德將軍”、“X戰警野獸”重現愛迪生與特斯拉的百年恩怨。

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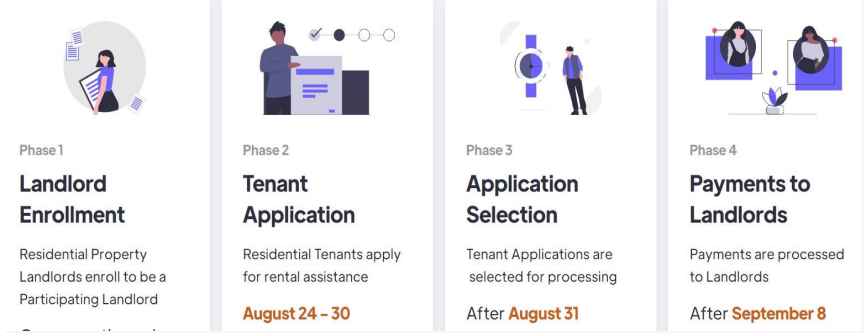
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美南新聞追蹤報導： 大休斯頓地區租房補助計畫開跑！房東現可網上登記

Process and Timeline



休斯敦市和哈里斯郡的租金減免計畫已合併，讓需要幫助的人更容易申請，從本月17日起到26日，房東可以開始參加這項計畫。等到8月24日後到30日，租客也能開始申請。值得注意的是，若是租客想要申請，必須要讓房東也加入該計畫，才能獲得房租減免，也就是說，房東和房客都必須一同申請。等到31日後，會開始進行篩選，待9月8日後就會開始撥款給房東。

這項房租補助計畫，預計將幫助支付今年4月1日之後，無法繳納的租金或其他費用，如滯納金。目前這項計畫總共有4500萬美元可用。其中，2000萬美元將撥給休斯敦市，2500萬美元用於哈里斯郡。在休斯敦市，租戶最多可以獲得2112美元的援助。哈里斯郡居民則最多可獲得1200美元。這些程序依個案審理，而不是先到先得制。若是房東要加入這項計畫，接受政府的幫助，就必須要承諾不能驅趕租客，特納說：「(房東)必須同意豁免所有滯納金和利息，在2020年9月之前不能驅逐房客，並在11月1日之前與租戶簽訂付款計

劃。」並指出，這項計畫將讓兩方都受益。房客也必須證明，從四月到八月期間，有無法償還房租的狀況。目前只要住在休斯敦市，收入在地區收入中位數80%以下就可以申請，年收入在63000元以下的四人家庭也可以申請。而住在哈里斯郡的居民，必須符合收入在地區收入中位數50%以下，且沒有領取過新冠相關補助，才符合資格。

哈里斯郡地區收入中位數50%以下：

Household size	Monthly income	Annual income
1	\$2,300	\$27,594
2	\$2,628	\$31,531
3	\$2,956	\$35,469
4	\$3,284	\$39,406
5	\$3,547	\$42,563
6	\$3,810	\$45,719
7	\$4,073	\$48,875
8	\$4,336	\$52,031

休斯敦市地區收入中位數50%以下：

Household size	Monthly income	Annual income
1	\$3,679	\$44,150
2	\$4,204	\$50,450
3	\$4,729	\$56,750
4	\$5,254	\$63,050
5	\$5,675	\$68,100
6	\$6,095	\$73,150
7	\$6,516	\$78,200
8	\$6,937	\$83,250

詳細申請資格與流程，請洽租客補助計畫官方網站：<https://www.bakerripleyrenthelp.org/tenants#tenant-eligibility>。



哈里斯郡官員針對USPS寄送延遲擬計畫，以因應11月大選

哈里斯郡官員正在針對11月份大選的郵寄投票擬定計畫，以應對美國郵政局USPS可能出現的寄送延遲狀況。自從新冠大流行開始以來，許多人就遇到了郵件延遲的問題。USPS發言人對媒體表示：「郵政業務在財務上難以維繫，因為郵件數量大幅下降，導致商業模式被破壞。」USPS近期向各州警告，部分選民的郵寄投票，恐怕會趕不及在大選前送回選舉辦公室計票，且逾期選票數量恐達百萬張。

面對USPS恐延遲，休斯頓怎麼做？

哈里斯郡官員克萊斯·霍林斯指出，如果民眾打算通過郵寄方式投票，但又擔心選票在選舉日之前沒辦法準時到達的話，可以直接將選票拿到當地郡政府的11個辦公室，或選擇現場投票。霍林斯提醒，如果要將選票拿到現場辦公室，必須出示證件。目前，德州民主黨正計劃向選民發送比以往更多的郵寄選票申請。官員們也正試圖讓選民放心，保證當地的郵局能夠克服這些挑戰，呼籲民眾郵寄投票。

霍林斯指出：「(郵寄投票)仍然是最安全

、最方便的投票方式，不僅因為您可以坐在餐桌旁或沙發上安全地進行投票，還可以使投票所現場人數減少。在他們面前排成一列，現場投票的人數少一個是一個，就能降低接觸風險。」他補充說，目前正在與豐田中心(Toyota Center)進行協商，可能利用豐田中心目前空置的設施作為投票地點，以幫助實行社交距離，並提高投票率。哈里斯郡(Harris County)的選舉總部已移至NRG體育場，該場館還將用作面對現場和免下車投票的位址。

川普批郵寄投票，不諱言砍郵局經費。美國總統川普對於郵寄選票大力抨擊，不僅認為這樣將造成舞弊，也會耗費許多人力經費，甚至將其稱為「史上最大災難」。面對川普告急的選情，他甚至在本月13日不諱言地指出，聯邦政府暫緩給美國郵政經費，是為了阻礙11月通訊投票，讓郵局人手不足，無法即時處理郵寄選票。對此，「全國郵差協會」(National Association of Letter Carriers)在14日公開表態支持民主黨候選人拜登。

本報記者秦鴻鈞報導

「落在紐約的灰」未映先轟動，導演梁晨再獲國際大獎——榮獲2020年IndieFest國際自主電影節評委會優秀電影獎



導演：梁晨



原著作者：秦鴻鈞

