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Mr. Lee's Commentary and Dairy

# Southern DAILY Make Today Different

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## Oregon state police called to Portland as officials warn of escalating violence



FILE PHOTO: Police officers detain a demonstrator during a protest against police violence and racial injustice in Portland, Oregon, U.S., August 24, 2020. REUTERS/Terray Sylvester/File Photo

(Reuters) - Oregon state police were poised on Monday to return to Portland after a fatal shooting this weekend, as clashes escalated between an armed right-wing group and protesters demanding racial justice and police reforms.

Governor Kate Brown, a Democrat, released a plan Sunday night in response to violence that she said was stoked by an armed right-wing group called Patriot Prayer. In addition to bringing in state police, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Attorney would commit more resources to prosecuting criminal offenders.

"Every Oregonian has the right to freely express their views without fear of deadly violence. I will not allow Patriot Prayer and armed white supremacists to bring more bloodshed to our streets," Brown said in a statement.

Protests have roiled downtown Portland every night for more than three months following the May 25 killing of George Floyd, the Black man who died under the knee of a white police officer in Minneapolis.

The demonstrators, demanding reforms of police practices they view as racist and abusive, have frequently clashed with law enforcement and on occasion with counter-protesters associated with right-wing militia groups.

On Monday, Portland police said 29 people were arrested overnight after taking part in an unlawful gathering in northeast Portland where rocks and eggs were thrown at

officers.

Two people arrested had loaded handguns and others had knives and rocks, the police said in a statement.

The clashes have exacerbated national political divisions. Republican President Donald Trump has blamed the unrest on the failure of Democratic-run governments, while Democrats say his divisive rhetoric has emboldened violent right-wing activists.

"Portland is a mess, and it has been for many years. If this joke of a mayor doesn't clean it up, we will go in and do it for them!" Trump wrote on Twitter on Monday.

Trump has sought to crack down on protests as part of his bid to win re-election on Nov. 3. In July, he deployed federal agents to Portland to guard a federal courthouse in the midst of protests, which Democrats and civil liberties groups criticized as federal overreach.

Trump was scheduled to visit Kenosha, Wisconsin, this week, the latest U.S. city where protests against racism and excessive use of force by police at times degenerated into violence. Violent protests have rocked the city since the Aug. 23 shooting by a white police officer that left a Black man, Jacob Blake, paralyzed. Last week, a white teenager was charged with shooting three demonstrators - two fatally.

Authorities have not identified the shooting victim in Portland, but the New York Times reported the man gunned down was wearing a hat with the insignia of the right-wing group Patriot Prayer. On Sunday, the leader of the group, Joey Gibson, appeared to confirm that the victim was a member whom he knew.

Trump later re-tweeted a photo of a man identified as Jay Bishop and described him in that post as "a good American that loved his country and Backed the Blue," an apparent reference to police. "He was murdered in Portland by ANTIFA."

Trump wrote, "Rest in Peace Jay!" in his retweet.

Members of the small right-wing group Patriot Prayer have clashed with Black Lives Matter protesters for the past two weekends in Portland.

Gibson, who faces felony riot charges for a 2019 clash in Portland, said in an Aug. 17 post on the group's Facebook page, "If the 'leaders' refuse to protect the innocent then it is the obligation of the people to stand for justice."

Portland Police Chief Chuck Lovell said on Sunday that authorities were investigating whether Saturday's shooting was connected to skirmishes that night between a caravan of protesters driving through the downtown district in pickup trucks waving pro-Trump flags and counter-protesters on the streets. Video on social media showed individuals in the beds of the pickups firing paint-balls and spraying chemical irritants at opposing demonstrators as they rode by, while those on the street hurled objects at the trucks.

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## BUSINESS

Wear Mask!

**CDC Drops COVID-19 Fatality Bombshell**  
**CDC Says 94% Of COVID Deaths Had An Underlying Condition**



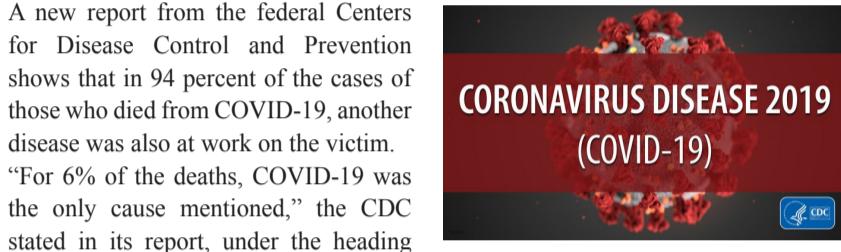
Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

A new report from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows that in 94 percent of the cases of those who died from COVID-19, another disease was also at work on the victim. "For 6% of the deaths, COVID-19 was the only cause mentioned," the CDC stated in its report, under the heading "Comorbidities."

"For deaths with conditions or causes in addition to COVID-19, on average, there were 2.6 additional conditions or causes per death," the report continued. The report showed that in 18,116 of 42,587 deaths in the 75-84 age group, the individual who died also had the flu or pneumonia, while in 15,100 cases the underlying condition was respiratory failure. Overall, of the 161,392 deaths covered by the report, 42 percent (68,004) of those who died also had the flu or pneumonia while 34 percent (54,803) had an underlying condition of respiratory failure.

**CDC@cdc.gov**

Underlying conditions like diabetes mean greater risk for getting or transmitting COVID-19 within the home, a CDC study finds.



Diabetes was an underlying condition in 16 percent of the deaths (25,936 people) while various heart-related conditions including cardiac arrest, ischemic heart disease (also known as hardening of the arteries), cardiac arrhythmia and heart disease (58,687 people) were found in 36 percent of those who died. In June, the CDC listed as high-risk individuals for COVID-19 those who had chronic kidney disease; COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease); obesity (BMI of 30 or higher); immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from solid organ transplant; serious heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies; sickle cell disease; Type 2 diabetes.

Although the CDC's initial guidance suggested those over 65 were at high risk, the CDC later revised that to note than risk increases with age and that there is no single age at which risk sud-

denly rises. In comments released at the time, CDC Director Dr. Robert Redfield said risk "is a continuum."



**CDC@cdc.gov**  
**@CDCgov**

If you have certain underlying medical conditions, you are at increased risk of severe illness from #COVID19, no matter your age.



"Based on what we've learned, we now understand that as you get older, your risk for severe disease, hospitalization, and death increases. We also updated the list of underlying health conditions that can put you at higher risk for severe disease, hospitalization, and death, based on the latest review of scientific evidence to date," he said.

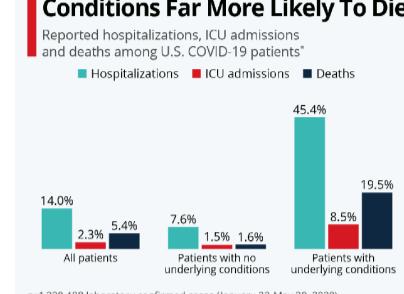
"A key point is that we want to make sure that people know that as your numbers of underlying medical conditions increase, your risk of severe illness from COVID also increases," he said.

As of Sunday afternoon, the coronavirus had infected almost 6 million Americans, according to the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center, and roughly 25 million worldwide. As of Sunday, 843,826 people had been reported as killed by the virus, with 182,909 of those being Americans. Spread of the disease resulted in mass lockdowns across the country. Risk is one of the factors that will go into distributing COVID-19 vaccines once those that are now in trials are ready for the market, according to CNBC.

"At first, there will likely be a limited

supply of one or more of the Covid-19 vaccines, because limited doses will be available," Redfield said Friday, CNBC reported. "It's important that the early vaccines are distributed in a fair, ethical and transparent way."

**COVID-19 Patients With Existing Conditions Far More Likely To Die**



statista

The list of those to be vaccinated will include health care workers, those considered essential workers at the time a vaccine is ready for distribution, and those considered at high risk due to age and underlying health conditions, according to the CDC. (Courtesy [westernjournal.com/](https://www.westernjournal.com/))

**Related**

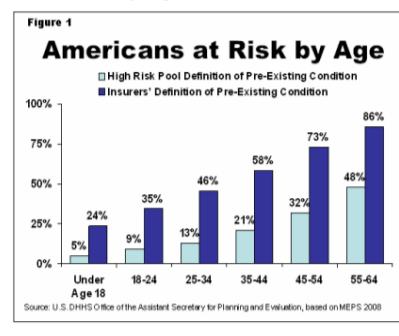
**CDC updates, expands list of people at risk of severe COVID-19 illness**

Based on a detailed review of available evidence to date, CDC has updated and expanded the list of who is at increased risk for getting severely ill from COVID-19. Older adults and people with underlying medical conditions remain at increased risk for severe illness, but now CDC has further defined age- and condition-related risks. As more information becomes available, it is clear that a substantial number of Americans are at increased risk of severe illness – highlighting the importance of continuing to follow preventive measures.

**COVID-19 risk related to age**

CDC has removed the specific age threshold from the older adult classification. CDC now warns that among adults, risk increases steadily as you age, and it's not just those over the age of 65 who are at increased risk for severe illness. Recent data, including an MMWR published last week,

has shown that the older people are, the higher their risk of severe illness from COVID-19. Age is an independent risk factor for severe illness, but risk in older adults is also in part related to the increased likelihood that older adults also have underlying medical conditions.



**COVID-19 risk related to underlying medical conditions** CDC also updated the list of underlying medical conditions that increase risk of severe illness after reviewing published reports, pre-print studies, and various other data sources.

CDC experts then determined if there was clear, mixed, or limited evidence that the condition increased a person's risk for severe illness, regardless of age. There was consistent evidence (from multiple small studies or a strong association from a large study) that specific conditions increase a person's risk of severe COVID-19 illness: Chronic kidney disease; COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease); Obesity (BMI of 30 or higher); Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from solid organ transplant; Serious heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies; Sickle cell disease; Type 2 diabetes.

These changes increase the number of people who fall into higher risk groups. An estimated 60 percent of American adults have at least one chronic medical condition. Obesity is one of the most common underlying conditions that increases one's risk for severe illness – with about 40 percent of U.S. adults having obesity. The more underlying medical conditions people have, the higher their risk. (Courtesy <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases>)

## WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

08/31/2020

CORONAVIRUS DIARY

# This Is The Chance To Rescue Our Nation

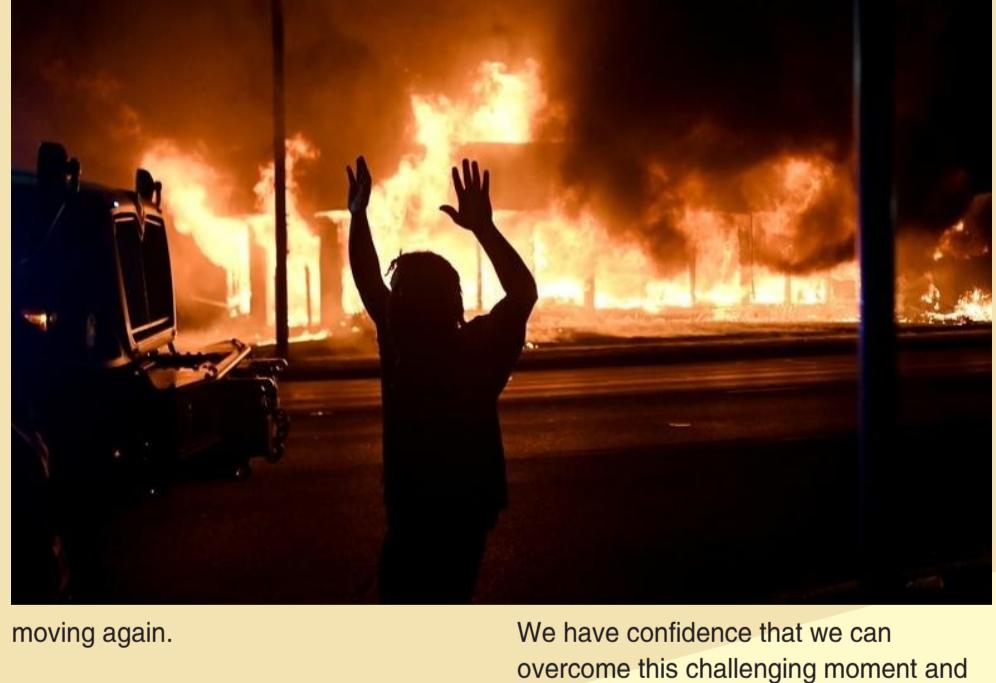
According to the latest polls with people living in America, 72% of us believe that this is the worst time we have ever experienced, and that 42% of the jobs lost to the current crisis will never return.

Americans now have gone for 150 days without any kind of relief deal from Congress. While they were still on vacation, many of their constituents still faced eviction, hunger, illness and despair.

With only two months remaining before

we will go to vote in the next presidential election, both Democrats and Republicans are working hard to gain the victory. No matter who is going to be the president, their first priority will be to rescue the people from the coronavirus pandemic, to resume our economic activities and resume our leadership around the world.

Handing out the stimulus relief funds is not the solution. We need to create jobs to stimulate the economy, to rebuild our infrastructure and get our economy



moving again.

We are the nation with the richest resources and the most talented people.

We have confidence that we can overcome this challenging moment and begin to rebuild our country.



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Publisher Southern Daily Wea H. Lee

Tuesday, September, 2020

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## Editor's Choice



U.S. President Donald Trump accompanied by Department of Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf and FEMA Administrator Pete Gaynor are seen during a visit to areas damaged by Hurricane Laura in Lake Charles, Louisiana. REUTERS/Tom Brenner



Visitors watch fireworks at Toshimaen amusement park which will close 94 years after it first opened with part of the site to be turned into a new Harry Potter theme park in 2023, in Tokyo, Japan. REUTERS/Issei Kato



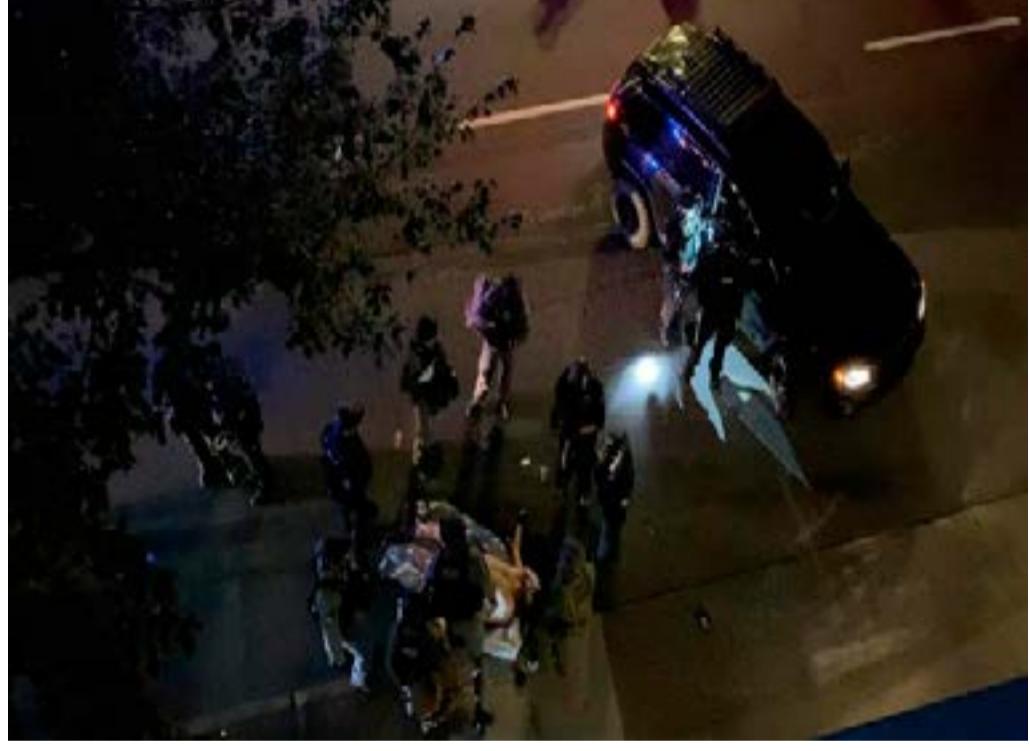
Law enforcement officers detain an opposition supporter, who was protesting against presidential election results, by carrying him into a van in Minsk, Belarus. BelaPAN via REUTERS



Miley Cyrus performs during the 2020 MTV VMAs. VIACOM/via REUTERS



Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton celebrates on the podium after winning the F1 Belgian Grand Prix. Pool via REUTERS/Francois Lenoir



Medics and police personnel surround the victim of a shooting in Portland, Oregon. Courtesy of Sergio Olmos/Social Media via REUTERS

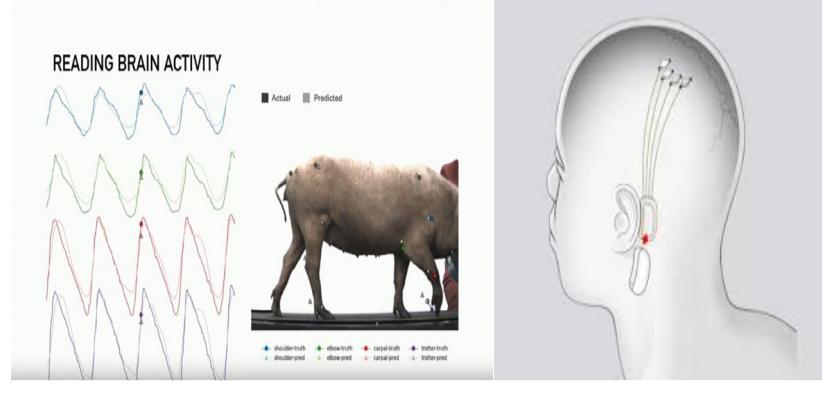


A health worker collects a sample using a swab from a person at a local health center to conduct tests for the coronavirus in New Delhi, India. REUTERS/Adnan Abidi



Demonstrators, one with a rose, hold hands in a rally against racial inequality and to call for justice a week after Black man Jacob Blake was shot several times by police in Kenosha, in Boston, Massachusetts. REUTERS/Brian Snyder

## Elon Musk Shows Off A Working Brain Implant — In Pigs



Elon Musk's Neuralink will connect the human brain to a computer.

**Key Points**

Elon Musk demonstrated his brain-computer tech Neuralink in live pigs. He described it as "like a Fitbit in your skull." Musk said the Neuralink can help fight blindness, memory loss, insomnia, and other medical conditions.

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

(CNN Business) Elon Musk promised that he'd show a working demo of his latest technology moonshot, a new kind of implantable chip for the brain, on Friday. And he did, but it wasn't with a human subject: Rather, it was with a pig named Gertrude.

In a live-streamed event that began characteristically late, Musk unveiled three not-so-little pigs: one that did not have an implant from his brain-computer interface company, Neuralink; one that had been implanted in the past; and Gertrude, who currently has a prototype of the device.

Gertrude shuffled around her pen, sniffing the ground and eating, while loud beeps and blips filled the air and a display showed real-time spikes in her brain activity. Musk explained that Gertrude had the implant inserted in her head two months before, and that it connected to neurons in her snout. When she touched something with her snout, it sent out neural spikes that were detected by the more than 1,000 electrodes in the implant.

Why show pigs when you're developing a product aimed at humans? Musk says he hopes the implant could one



Elon Musk's brain-machine interface company, Neuralink, conducted a live demo of its technology on Friday, showing a coin-sized device without wires. Gertrude the pig has had an implant for 2 months.

"Pigs are actually quite similar to people. If we're going to figure out things for people, then pigs are a good choice," Musk explained during a question-and-answer session after the pig reveal, soon adding, "If the device is lasting in the pig, as it lasted in there for two months and going strong, then that's a good sign the device is robust for people."

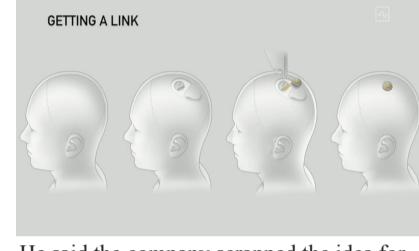
The presentation came more than a year after Musk first introduced his plan for a new kind of implantable computer chip. Last July, he sketched out a vision of a computer chip connected to extremely slim wires with electrodes on them, which would be embedded in a person's brain by a surgical robot. The implant would connect wirelessly to a small, behind-the-ear receiver that could communicate with a computer.

Musk says he hopes the implant could one

# COMMUNITY

day help quadriplegics control smartphones, and perhaps even endow users with a sort of telepathy. Like existing brain-machine interfaces, it would collect electrical signals sent out by the brain and interpret them as actions.

The demo, which Musk had teased on Twitter by saying it would "show neurons firing in real time" and was mainly a recruiting effort to attract new employees, included more details about the implant Musk eventually hopes to implant in people's brains.



He said the company scrapped the idea for a behind-the-ear receiver in favor of a fully embedded implant about the size of a coin that would be placed below the skull — a plan that sounds more invasive than what Musk unveiled last summer. He showed off a prototype of this so-called Link, which he said would include many of the sensors in your smartphone, such as a six-axis inertial measurement unit and temperature and pressure sensors. The device uses Bluetooth Low Energy to communicate with a computer. The demo also featured the second version of a surgical robot that Musk introduced last July, which is meant to insert the Neuralink implant into the brain.

The idea of a brain-machine interface is not new; scientists have been working on them for decades, and they have been implanted and tested in animals such as monkeys, as well as in humans. There are some deep-brain stimulation devices approved by the US Food and Drug Administration that are meant for, among other things, controlling tremors in people with Parkinson's disease. And several tech companies have worked on their own methods for connecting the brain to computers. Facebook, for instance, has worked on a non-invasive device to let you send text messages by thinking.

San Francisco-based Synchron makes a wireless device that's placed using the blood vessels -- averting the need for surgery to get

the device into the brain. It announced it got breakthrough designation from the FDA this week. And it's begun testing the device in people.



Elon Musk showcased a new working version of the Neuralink brain implant during a livestream on August 28.

Yet these efforts tend to be confined to labs for a number of reasons: They're expensive, bulky, require training (of both the user and the computer), and, when it comes to an under-the-skull implant, the person outfitted with it generally must be physically tethered to a computer for it to work. They also tend to be limited to painstakingly slow applications, such as typing.

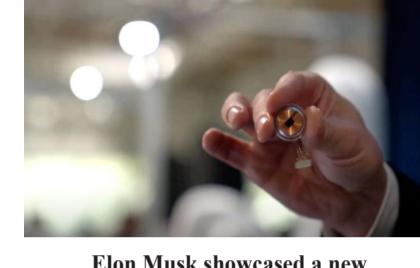
The surgical procedure required to embed these devices in the brain can be complicated, too — these days, the skull is typically cut open, the brain is exposed, chips are installed, connectors are mounted to the skull, and the head is stitched up. Musk claimed last year that Neuralink's robot would instead be able to implant wires under a person's skull as threads, bypassing blood vessels and causing "minimal trauma".

On Twitter earlier this week, in response to a question about how close the Neuralink procedure is to the simplicity of LASIK eye surgery — a comparison Musk has made in the past — Musk predicted that Neuralink "could get pretty close in a few years."

It's worth noting that Musk, who is also CEO of Tesla and SpaceX, has a history of making bold and outlandish technological predictions that don't always come to pass: He planned, for instance, to send space tourists around the moon in 2018, which hasn't yet happened.

Neuralink, which was founded in 2016, has previously tested an wired version of its implant in rats (and Musk indicated it has enabled a monkey to control a computer with its brain, as well).

On Friday, Musk said the company received an FDA "breakthrough devices" designation in July and is preparing for its first implantation in a human, though he didn't say when that would be. Previously, Musk said in July 2019 that human trials could start by the end of 2020, though the company didn't then have approval from the FDA for such a study.



Elon Musk showcased a new working version of the Neuralink brain implant during a livestream on August 28.

Elon Musk's brain-machine interface company, Neuralink, conducted a live demo of its technology on Friday, showing a coin-sized device without wires.

The Tesla and SpaceX CEO brought along three pigs, who had varying levels of interest in cooperating. Eventually, the audience was shown real-time neural signals from one of the pigs, which Musk named Gertrude. According to Musk, Gertrude has had the implant for about two months.

The start-up, which launched in 2016 and is funded primarily by Musk, said it is designing tiny flexible 'threads' that are 10 times thinner than a human hair with the goal of treating brain injuries and trauma, along with someday enabling symbiosis between humans and artificial intelligence. The design has been tested on at least 19 different animals with robots with around an 87% success rate, according to the venture's presentation last year.

Musk described it on Friday as "like a Fitbit in your skull."

Musk described the surgery to insert a Neuralink device as taking less than an hour.

Neuralink demo

This was one the company's first demonstrations of the tech in action. (Courtesy <https://www.cnn.com/>)

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