

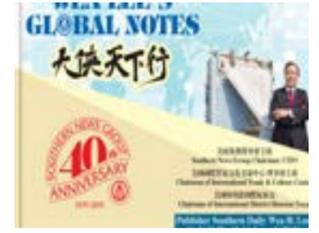


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Mr. Lee's Commentary and Dairy



Inside C2

Southern DAILY

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China bans German pork imports after African swine fever case



FILE PHOTO: A blue wildlife fence along the border between eastern Germany and western Poland is pictured after a case of African swine fever (ASF) in a wild boar was confirmed in Guben, Germany, September 10, 2020. REUTERS/Martin Schlicht

SHANGHAI (Reuters) - China banned pork imports from Germany on Saturday after it confirmed its first case of African swine fever last week, in a move set to hit German producers and push up global prices as China's meat supplies tighten.

China's ban on imports from its third largest supplier comes as the world's top meat buyer deals with an unprecedented pork shortage after its own epidemic of the deadly hog disease.

The ban on Germany, which has supplied about 14% of China's pork imports so far this year, will push up demand for meat from other major suppliers like the United States and Spain, boosting global prices.

China pork imports from top suppliers:

Reuters Graphic

German pork exports to China are worth around 1 billion euros (\$1.2 billion) annually, and volumes had doubled in the first four months of this year on soaring demand after Chinese output shrank around 20%.

A spokeswoman for the German Food and Agriculture Ministry confirmed the ban, adding that the ministry remained in talks with the Chinese government on the matter.

German farmer's association DBV urged the German gov-

ernment to continue talks with China about using a regional ban on imports involving only the local area in which an ASF case was found, rather than a blanket national import ban.

Germany's huge pork sales to China involve huge volumes of pigs' ears, feet and tails. These are hardly eaten in Europe and the ban has created intense concern among German farmers about where this can now be sold, said DBV president Joachim Rukwied.

The ban, announced by China's customs agency and its agriculture ministry, had been widely anticipated given Beijing's history of moving quickly to implement bans in such cases.

It comes two days before Chinese President Xi Jinping attends a meeting via video link with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and European Union leaders.

EXPORT BOON

The move is expected to benefit other major suppliers like the United States, Spain and Brazil.

"Spain's white pig sector is fully prepared to continue its growth trend in sales of safe and quality pork products to the Chinese market," Daniel de Miguel, international director of trade body Interporc, said on Friday ahead of the ban.

Unlike other European countries, Spain has not had to shut any pork processing plants due to coronavirus outbreaks in recent weeks, he added.

The United States is also "well positioned" to ship more pork to China, said Joe Schuele, spokesman for the U.S. Meat Export Federation.

U.S. live hog futures climbed on Thursday and Friday on anticipation of the ban.

African swine fever spreads through contact with infected animals' body fluids and can also be spread by people and trucks. It is almost always fatal in pigs and there is no cure or vaccine available. It does not harm people.

Reporting by Josh Horwitz and Dominique Patton; Additional reporting by Paul Carrel in Berlin, Michael Hogan in Hamburg, Nathan Allen in Madrid and Thomas Polansek in Chicago; Editing by Edwina Gibbs, Clelia Oziel and Frances Kerry



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BUSINESS

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Russian Coronavirus Vaccine Shows No Serious Side-Effects And Triggers Antibody Response In Early Trials



KEY POINT

As people across the globe wait for a safe, effective coronavirus vaccine to emerge, Russian scientists reveal their version may be ready for distribution sooner than later.

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

MOSCOW, Russia — While “Operation Warp Speed” is helping the United States sprint towards a coronavirus vaccine, other countries are also making progress in stopping the global pandemic. Russian scientists reveal their potential COVID vaccine is successfully battling the virus while only causing mild side-effects. Their report in *The Lancet* shows a two-part vaccine may be the key to keeping patients from becoming resistant to the drug.

In two recent trials, a total of 76 people took part in the 42-day tests which experiments with both a frozen and freeze-dried formula. Researchers say the frozen version of the vaccine would likely be shipped around the globe like normal medications. Their freeze-dried formula is said to be more stable and ideal for use in hard-to-reach regions if kept in cold storage (2-8 degrees Celsius). During the phase 1 trial, scientists only gave participants one portion of the coronavirus vaccine. This tests how the human body reacts to the medication and what side-effects emerge. The results find the most common adverse effects include pain at injection site (58% of the 76 patients), running a high temperature (50%), headache (42%), lack of energy (28%), and muscle or joint pain (24%). Fortunately, the effects seem to be minor and researchers note

these symptoms are typical after taking other vaccines as well. In phase 2, the study reports all patients receiving both parts of the vaccine are now producing antibodies against SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing COVID-19. More importantly, all patients in the phase 2 are producing neutralizing antibodies by Day 42. This is important as neutralizing antibodies help the body protect against re-infection from illnesses.

Two vectors better than one

The Russian formula uses two adenovirus vectors, recombinant human adenovirus type 26 (rAd26-S) and recombinant human adenovirus type 5 (rAd5-S). Adenoviruses are weak strains of the common cold which don't replicate and don't get people sick. Scientists use them to deliver genetic material into patients which codes itself to seek out the “spike” protein of SARS-CoV-2. Coded cells head to the lymph nodes where the immune system creates new antibodies that recognize coronavirus and attack it. The spike protein of SARS-CoV-2 is the virus's defining feature. It grabs on to specific genes (ACE-2) on the surface of human cells and then slices into them; hijacking cells and making them reproduce the virus. Using two different adenovirus vectors, researchers hope to keep humans from developing a tolerance to their vaccine. They add that

the body can start creating antibodies to adenoviruses as well as COVID-19.



Russian Coronavirus Vaccine

“To form a powerful immune response against SARS-CoV-2, it is important that a booster vaccination is provided. However, booster vaccinations that use the same adenovirus vector might not produce an effective response, because the immune system may recognize and attack the vector,” explains Dr. Denis Logunov in a media release.

“This would block the vaccine from entering people's cells and teaching the body to recognize and attack SARS-CoV-2. For our vaccine, we use two different adenovirus vectors in a bid to avoid the immune system becoming immune to the vector.”

Phase 2 gives patients the rAd26-S dose on the first day of testing, followed by rAd5-S on day 21. The report also shows a two-dose may be necessary. Only 61 percent of the people in phase 1 (which only gives one dose) develop neutralizing antibodies to COVID-19.

Helping the healing process The results compare the potential vaccine to the blood of nearly 5,000 recovering COVID-19 patients. The Russian team says people receiving the vaccine have a higher antibody response than those recovering from COVID without it. Both groups have about the same level of neutralizing antibodies in their systems. Researchers add that even when some patients develop neutralizing antibodies to one of the adenovirus vectors, they do not impact the other part of the vaccine. Patients continue to fight coronavirus regardless of the body targeting one of these vectors. T cell response, the body's ability to fight off infections, also sees a boost. All patients in phase 2 saw a T cell response within 28 days. This includes both T-helper (CD4) cells and T-killer (CD8) cells forming in vaccinated individuals. The frozen formula tends to have slightly better results, causing T-helpers to increase by 2.5 percent and T-killers to rise by 1.3 percent. The freeze-dried vaccine only produces a 1.3 percent and 1.1 percent increase, respectively.

Coronavirus vaccine a work in progress Study authors caution these trials aren't at the finish line yet. “The phase 3 clinical trial of our vaccine was approved on 26 August 2020. It is planned to include

40,000 volunteers from different age and risk groups, and will be undertaken with constant monitoring of volunteers through an online application,” says Professor Alexander Gintsburg.

“In view of the ongoing painful toll of the COVID-19 pandemic and its magnitude, the more vaccine candidates that have successful early results the better. Ultimately, all vaccine candidates will need to show safety and prove durable clinical efficacy (including in groups at greater risk) in large randomized trials before they can be put into widespread use.” (Courtesy studyfinds.org)

Related

AstraZeneca expects COVID vaccine result by year-end if trials resume

ZURICH/FRANKFURT (Reuters) - AstraZeneca should still know by year-end whether its experimental vaccine protects people against coronavirus, as long as it is cleared to resume trials soon, its chief executive said on Thursday amid doubts over its rollout.



A test tube labeled with the vaccine is seen in front of AstraZeneca logo in this illustration taken, September 9, 2020. (File photo/REUTERS/Dado Ruvic/Illustration)

Governments desperate to put an end to the COVID-19 pandemic which has caused more than 900,000 deaths and huge economic and social disruption during 2020 are pinning their hopes on a vaccine. However, British drugmaker AstraZeneca suspended late-stage trials on its potential vaccine this week after an illness in a participant in Britain who was reported to be suffering from symptoms associated with transverse myelitis, a rare spinal inflammatory disorder.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has flagged the AstraZeneca vaccine, which is being developed with the University of Oxford, as the most promising for coronavirus. CEO Pascal Soriot said during an online event on Thursday that AstraZeneca AZN.L did not yet know the diagnosis of the participant who was ill, adding that it was not clear if the volunteer had transverse myelitis and more tests were needed. The diagnosis would be submitted to an independent safety committee and this would usually then say whether trials can be resumed, Soriot said, adding it was usual for such pauses.

“It's very common, actually, and many experts will

tell you this,” Soriot said, adding: “The difference with other vaccine trials is, the whole world is not watching them, of course. They stop, they study, and they restart.”

Shares in AstraZeneca fell on Wednesday after the trial halt raised doubts about the timeline for the vaccine's rollout. AstraZeneca would supply vaccines to countries at the same time to ensure a fair and equitable distribution, Soriot said, reiterating that the company was close to having capacity to produce 3 billion doses at sites set up around the world to prevent governments from restricting distribution. With up to 60,000 people set to participate in the study program, AstraZeneca's CEO said the volume was typical of vaccine trials and large enough to spot rare side effects.



AstraZeneca CEO Pascal Soriot

“With this you are going to pick up very rare events,” he said, adding that a planned staggered launch, prioritizing at-risk groups, would provide further assurance for the masses that are set to be covered by government plans at a later stage. A 2009 review in the journal *Lupus* of nearly 40 years of English-language publications found 37 cases of transverse myelitis associated with hepatitis B vaccines, measles-mumps-rubella, diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis and others. The vaccines remained on the market, Stephen Evans, a professor of pharmacoepidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, said. Linking such an autoimmune response to a single factor like a vaccine is problematic, he said, given the number of immunological, hormonal or environmental factors at play. “It's terribly difficult to be sure,” Evans said. RBC Capital Markets analyst Bryan Abrahams cautioned the trial participant's condition must be thoroughly investigated.

“Even a single case could possibly imply a rate or association higher in the study than what is normally observed sporadically” he wrote to investors, adding a one in 10,000 risk, if confirmed, would likely be unacceptable. BioNTech BNTX.O, among the frontrunners in the vaccine race with partner Pfizer PFE.N, echoed remarks by Soriot that clinical halts are a common feature of immunization trials.

“Safety is a top priority,” its CEO Ugur Sahin told Reuters. (Courtesy <https://uk.reuters.com/>)

WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

09/12/2020

CORONAVIRUS DIARY

The 2020 Election Is Here

The 2020 Presidential election is coming. This is the most important election in our recent history. The results will not only be for America, but also for the whole world.

Starting this week, Southern News Group has invited Professor Esther Lee to be our guest to talk about the 2020 election. Dr. Lee is a Republican. She is one of the pioneer politicians in our community. Not only recognized for her academic achievements, she is also an important leader for all of us.

When we naturalized as U.S. citizens, it became both our right and responsibility to go and vote in local or national



elections because we are the ones who make the decisions for our future. In our immigrant community, a lot of people just ignore their voting rights. But this time, we strongly urge all of you to go out and vote. For those seniors over 65, they can vote by mailing in their vote, or they can go and vote early too.

In this pandemic time, all the people are suffering in different ways, but we still need to fight our battle to overcome this disaster.

The light is at the end of the tunnel now. The vaccine should be on the way.

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Editor's Choice



People hug as they sit on a bench at the south refecton pool during ceremonies. REUTERS/Carlo Allegri



A woman places her hand on names of victims at the edge of the North pool during ceremonies. REUTERS/Carlo Allegri



People place flowers on the names of victims at the edge of the South pool during ceremonies. REUTERS/Carlo Allegri



A woman pauses at the edge of the South pool. REUTERS/Carlo Allegri



Flowers and American flags are seen left in the names of victims at the edge of the North pool. REUTERS/Carlo Allegri



New York City Fire Department firefighters stand in formation outside Ladder Co. 10, Engine Co. 10 on the 19th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center in Manhattan. REUTERS/Shannon Stapleton



New York City Fire Department firefighters salute outside Ladder Co. 10, Engine Co. 10 on the 19th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks. REUTERS/Shannon Stapleton



People embrace during ceremonies in Manhattan. REUTERS/Andrew Kelly

Singing Among The Easiest Ways To Spread COVID, Study Shows



Photo by Papa Yaw on Pexels.com

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

LUND Sweden — The coronavirus pandemic is giving new meaning to the phrase "silence is golden." As scientists examine how COVID spreads through the air, a new study finds singing may be the worst thing you can do around other people.

Singing for science To test their theory that singing could have "super-spreader" potential, the Swedish team recruited 12 healthy singers and two people testing positive for COVID-19.



Researcher tests theory that singing spreads COVID-19

Using a high-speed camera, strong lamps, and particle-measuring instruments, the study reveals loud and consonant-rich singing spreads aerosols and other droplets into the air.

Face masks, social distancing still best for stopping COVID spread The study shows that the two participants with COVID had no detectable levels of the virus in their air samples while singing.



"Singing does not need to be silenced, but presently it should be done with appropriate measures to reduce the risk of spreading infection," Löndahl explains.

Related "Every day is the same": Americans becoming more lethargic, less focused during COVID pandemic

NEW YORK — Bill Murray's 1993 classic Groundhog Day is as relevant as ever, according to a recent survey of 2,000 Americans. In total, 62% say that every day during the coronavirus pandemic feels the same.



Hobbies help during COVID pandemic

Of course, with everyone spending more time alone and inside, Americans are turning to new hobbies and activities to pass the time. When respondents were asked about quarantine hobbies, reading (46%) came in as the number one response.

Other popular answers include doing crosswords (31%), learning a new skill (28%), playing Sudoku (17%), and learning a new language (17%).

Using supplements in hopes of improving focus

Regarding new supplements or vitamins, 56% of Americans say they are "overwhelmed" by all of the different wellness products to choose from.



On a positive note, 83% of respondents think they've sculpted a great vitamin and supplement plan for themselves. "Not all supplements are created equal," says Dr. Andrew Shao, Ph.D.

Advertisement for American Red Cross disaster relief services, featuring a disaster relief van and the text "Every 8 minutes, we respond to a disaster."

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