

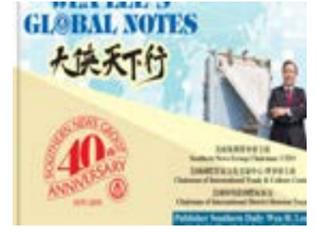


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Southern DAILY

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Biden close to U.S. election victory as a defiant Trump vows to fight



A general view shows the front doors of the U.S. Supreme Court building the day after Election Day as results are still being counted and election-related lawsuits are expected to make their way through the court system in Washington, U.S. November 4, 2020. REUTERS/Jonathan Ernst

WILMINGTON, Del./WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Democrat Joe Biden edged closer to winning the White House on Friday, expanding his narrow leads over President Donald Trump in the battleground states of Pennsylvania and Georgia even as Republicans sought to raise \$60 million to fund lawsuits challenging the results.

Trump remained defiant, vowing to press unfounded claims of fraud as a weary, anxious nation waited for clarity in an election that only intensified the country's deep polarization.

On the fourth day of vote counting, former Vice President Biden had a 253 to 214 lead in the state-by-state Electoral College vote that determines the winner, according to Edison Research.

Securing Pennsylvania's 20 electoral votes would put Biden over the 270 he needs to win the presidency after a political career stretching back nearly five decades.

Biden would also win if he prevails in two of the three other key states where he was narrowly ahead on Friday: Georgia, Arizona and Nevada. Like Pennsylvania, all three were still processing ballots on Friday.

As Biden's lead grew in Pennsylvania, hundreds of Democrats gathered outside Philadelphia's downtown vote-counting site, wearing yellow shirts reading "Count Every Vote." In Detroit, a crowd of Trump supporters,

some armed, protested outside a counting location, waving flags and chanting, "Fight!"

Biden planned to deliver a prime-time address on Friday, according to two people familiar with his schedule. His campaign expected that could be a victory speech if television networks call the race for him in the coming hours.

Meanwhile, Trump showed no sign he was ready to concede, as his campaign pursued a series of lawsuits that legal experts said were unlikely to alter the election outcome.

"From the beginning we have said that all legal ballots must be counted and all illegal ballots should not be counted, yet we have met resistance to this basic principle by Democrats at every turn," he said in a statement released by his campaign.

Trump vows to keep fighting, press ahead with legal challenges Georgia presidential vote likely to go to a recount, state official says

"We will pursue this process through every aspect of the law to guarantee that the American people have confidence in our government," Trump said.

Trump earlier leveled an extraordinary attack on the democratic process, appearing at the White House on Thursday evening to falsely claim the election was being "stolen" from him. Election officials across the nation have said they are unaware of any significant irregularities.

The Republican National Committee is looking to collect at least \$60 million from donors to fund Trump's legal challenges, two sources familiar with the matter said.

In both Pennsylvania and Georgia, Biden overtook Trump as officials processed thousands of mail-in ballots that were cast in urban Democratic strongholds including Philadelphia and Atlanta.

The number of Americans voting early and by mail this year surged due to the coronavirus as people tried to avoid large groups of voters on Election Day. The methodical counting process has left Americans waiting longer than they have since the 2000 election to learn the winner of a presidential contest.

A sense of grim resignation settled in at the White House on Friday, where the president was monitoring TV and talking to advisers on the phone. One adviser said it was clear the race was tilting against Trump, but that Trump was not ready to admit defeat.

The campaign's general counsel, Matt Morgan, asserted in a statement on Friday that the elections in Georgia, Nevada and Pennsylvania all suffered from improprieties and that Trump would eventually prevail in Arizona.

He also said the campaign expected to pursue a recount in Georgia, as it has said it will do in Wisconsin, where Biden won by more than 20,000 votes. A margin that wide has never been overturned by a recount, according to Edison Research.

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WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

11/06/2020

CORONAVIRUS DIARY

We Are Writing New Pages Of History

Nineteen former U.S. attorneys, all of whom served under Republican presidents, issued a joint statement today calling President Trump's legal threats and claims of fraud and his false declaration of victory, "premature, baseless and reckless."

They called on the president to wait patiently and respectfully and allow the lawful vote-counting process to continue in accordance with applicable federal and state laws. President Trump claimed again that some legitimate tallying efforts should be stopped and again tried to assert his victory in the election.

While votes were still being counted, former Vice President Joe Biden broke

the record for most votes received by a presidential candidate, amassing more than 70 million. The record was formally held by Barack Obama who received 69,498,516 votes in 2008.

So far, in the 2020 Presidential Election, we are setting a record of voting that is the highest ever recorded in the history of the country.

The U.S. Presidential Election has really caught worldwide attention, especially with our allies all around the world.

In the last several years, because of Trump's policies under his Make America Great Again initiatives, we have been withdrawing from international organizations and partnerships, and most regrettably, this has led to the cooling down of the relationship with China which has happened at the worst time ever.

The United States has been the leader of the world in the last hundred years. We are a nation of

immigrants. We are the model for the world of a democratic nation. Today our election chaos is causing us to write

some of the darkest pages in all of our history.



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U.S. Expecting A 'Substantial Third Wave' Of Coronavirus Cases

NATIONWIDE COVID-19 METRICS. 7-DAY AVERAGE LINES

Apr 1 - Oct 25



Source: The COVID Tracking Project

KEY POINTS

Infectious disease experts have warned that the daily new number of coronavirus cases remains dangerously high and could push even higher ahead of the flu season.

Unlike previous outbreaks across the U.S., the coronavirus is now widely circulating through many of America's more rural communities, threatening their hospital capacity.

Europe is also dealing with a resurgence of cases. When adjusting for population, the number of new coronavirus infections in the EU and the U.K. has now overtaken the United States.

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

Colder temperatures are arriving in the Northern Hemisphere, and an insidious rise in new coronavirus cases in the U.S. and Europe is underway.

For months, health officials have warned against this possibility, and as these trends begin to materialize, countries are weighing whether to impose stricter measures to contain the virus' spread.

"Our worry has been that we would see a fall wave, that we'd see a big resurgence in the fall," said Justin Lessler, an associate professor of epidemiology at the Johns

Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. "And that has really been something I think all of us in the public health community have been worried about for a while."



Dr. Scott Gottlieb says the "hardest

part" of the coronavirus pandemic lies ahead.

In the U.S., coronavirus cases were growing by 5% or more in 38 states, as of Friday, according to a CNBC analysis of data compiled by Johns Hopkins University that uses a weekly average to smooth out the reporting. The nation is averaging roughly 55,000 new coronavirus cases every day, a more than 16% increase compared with a week ago. "It's still not too late to vigorously apply good public health measures, and again I emphasize without necessarily shutting down the country," White House coronavirus advisor Dr. Anthony Fauci told Johns Hopkins University during a recorded Q&A on Thursday.

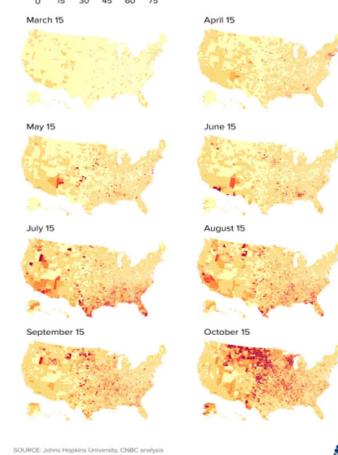
Fauci, the nation's leading infectious disease expert, has warned the daily number of new coronavirus cases in the U.S. remains dangerously high, especially as the forthcoming flu season threatens to complicate the nation's response to the pandemic. When the U.S. descended from its first peak in April, where cases were largely driven by New York and other states in the Northeast, the number of new coronavirus cases "got stuck" around 20,000 per day, Fauci said. Ideally, the U.S. would've reported less than 10,000 cases every day, he said.

Then cases resurged in America's Sun Belt over the summer as states tried to reopen their economies. The number of daily new Covid-19 cases swelled to a high of nearly 70,000 cases a day before subsiding once again. However, new cases have since hovered between 40,000 to 50,000 cases a day.

"You can't enter into the cool months of the fall and the cold months of the winter with a high community infection baseline," Fauci said. He added that the positivity rate, or the percentage of tests that are positive, is "going in the wrong direction" in more than 30 states.

Coronavirus in the United States

Sevenday average of daily new cases per 100,000 people



SOURCE: Johns Hopkins University, CNBC analysis

"I'm pretty glum at the moment because it does look as though in the majority of states there's an increasing number of cases," Dr. William Schaffner, an epidemiologist at Vanderbilt University, said. "There's a growing sense of coronavirus fatigue out there. People really want to get back to the old normal."

Schaffner said he expects the U.S. to experience a "substantial third wave" of infections and that it will be further complicated this winter by the spread of seasonal influenza, which causes many similar symptoms to that of the coronavirus.

People will spend more time indoors and likely fail to follow public health guidance as the colder temperatures arrive, which creates a greater risk for the coronavirus' spread compared with outdoor activities, Schaffner said.

"During the summer, people went indoors for air conditioning, but they did spend more of their time outdoors. Nonetheless, it spread as people became lax in their attention to social distancing and mask wearing," he said. "As far as I can tell, that's growing."

Cases, hospitalizations climb in America's Great Plains

Unlike previous outbreaks across the U.S., the coronavirus is now widely circulating through many of America's more rural communities.

North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and

Wisconsin continue to report the highest number of cases per 100,000 residents in the country, according to Johns Hopkins data.

Dr. Allison Suttle, the chief medical officer at Sanford Health, which has hospitals located in North Dakota and South Dakota, said they've seen more Covid-19 patients and have added beds to help treat people.



Cases and hospitalizations climb in the Great Plains states.

Because the current surge of coronavirus patients is happening now versus earlier in the nation's response to the pandemic, Sanford Health has had time to prepare and stock up on needed supplies, Suttle said, adding that she's confident they can treat patients who seek medical care.

However, people in more rural states delayed their routine health-care visits in the spring after they were told to stay home as the coronavirus swept through the coasts. Now, those people are coming into the hospitals in worse condition amid the growing number of Covid-19 patients, Suttle said.

"What we're seeing as the hospitalizations of Covid increase in direct correlation to the number of cases increasing in our communities, we're also seeing sicker patients that have delayed care in March and April that are now coming in with problems," she said. "They require more intense care, longer hospital stays, so that all compounds."

(Courtesy www.cnbc.com)

Editor's Choice



Firefighters are seen on a ladder, as they spray water to extinguish fire on a building, in Dhaka, Bangladesh. REUTERS/Mohammad Ponir Hossain



President Trump departs after speaking about the election results in the Brady Press Briefing Room at the White House in Washington. REUTERS/Carlos Barria



An aerial view of vehicles lining up at a drive-thru COVID-19 testing site at the Alliant Energy Center complex in Madison, Wisconsin. REUTERS/Bing Guan



A man argues with supporters of President Trump as votes continue to be counted following the presidential election, in Detroit, Michigan. REUTERS/Shannon Stapleton



One World Trade Center building is seen through the fog in lower Manhattan in New York City. REUTERS/Brendan McDermid



A woman uses protection masks to cover her face as protestors from the Million Mask March and anti lockdown protesters demonstrate in London, Britain. REUTERS/Henry Nicholls



Supporters of President Trump hold signs at a "Stop the Steal" protest outside Milwaukee Central Count the day after all of Milwaukee County's absentee ballots were counted, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. REUTERS/Bing Guan



Louise Gombeer, suffering from the coronavirus, looks out of the window on her 100th birthday at the house for elderly "Melopee" in Brussels, Belgium. REUTERS/Johanna Geron

A Third Of Americans Might Refuse A Covid-19 Vaccine



President Trump tours the National Institutes of Health's Vaccine Research Center in Bethesda, Maryland, on March 3. (Photo/Brendan Smialowski/AFP via Getty Images)

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

When the Covid-19 pandemic became a full-fledged crisis in March, public health experts gave a prescription for riding it out: Flatten the curve with social distancing, lockdowns, contact tracing, etc., and then wait for a vaccine.

Why researchers are worried about chronic stress and Covid-19 The hesitation showing up in these polls is not about a skepticism of all vaccines (although there is some of that, for sure).



FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn speaks during a White House press conference on August 23, 2020. Authorities announced an emergency approval of blood plasma from recovered coronavirus patients as a treatment against the disease. (Photo/Saul Loeb/AFP via Getty Images)

There's so much about the US response to the pandemic that has been botched. We failed on testing early and then failed to scale it up. We failed on contact tracing, on reopening many of

our communities safely. But we haven't screwed up a vaccine campaign yet. There's still time to get it right. It requires not just developing a safe vaccine, approved without the taint of a political rush job, but also conducting a vast social science research effort to better understand people's anxieties about the vaccine, and then help move them toward acceptance.

US public health may be undermined by the US government itself Billions have been spent on developing the Covid-19 vaccines. But lacking in the development process is a key ingredient: the public's trust. There's a tension here: The White House itself is diminishing the credibility of its own Food and Drug Administration.

President Trump, Dr. Anthony Fauci, and Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar speak to reporters after visiting a vaccine research center on March 3, 2020. (Photo/Drew Angerer/Getty Images)



Even Republicans are worried about political influence on the vaccine process. Seventy-two percent of Republicans and 82 percent of Democrats

worry the vaccine approval process is being driven more by politics than science, according to a recent Stat and Harris poll.

Vaccine hesitancy is not uniform. Black communities — some of the hardest hit by Covid-19 — are particularly hesitant. If a vaccine is approved, it will likely be voluntary for people to get. Right now, the polling and research finds that some communities will be more willing to volunteer than others.

"I THINK A LOT OF PEOPLE FEEL LIKE THEY'RE GOING TO BE EXPERIMENTED ON"

Again, there are indications that this hesitancy isn't just about vaccines in general but that there's added uncertainty about the Covid-19 vaccines in development. "Black community and other minority communities vaccinate their kids for measles, mumps, rubella," says Justin Stoler, who studies health disparities at the University of Miami.

It's not just Black communities that may be less willing to vaccinate. Women also report greater hesitancy about a vaccine (they are 70 percent more likely to refuse a vaccine than men, according to Motta's research), as do political conservatives and people living in rural areas.

We need more vaccine social science research How do we get ahead of this hesitancy problem? Experts I spoke to say there needs to be wide-

spread, on-the-ground anthropological research in communities to find out what their vaccine concerns are and to test educational campaigns to address those concerns. "We are, and should be, investing an enormous amount of resources in the research and development of a vaccine," Crouse Quinn says.



"There's an assumption that if we can develop the vaccine technology, that if we build it, people will come, and we'll get vaccinated," she says. "And it's not true. The social component is as complicated if not even more complicated than developing the vaccine technology."

"We don't have a lot of research on how to communicate during a pandemic," he says. But preliminarily, "we find that if you talk about the personal health risks of Covid, that's something that seems to resonate."

"We are in a window of time right now where this can actually be addressed, and be addressed well," Brunson says. A botched vaccine campaign could undermine public health in the United States.

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