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Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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## Many Californians under new pandemic curbs; New York readies fresh restrictions



PHOTO: U.S. President Donald Trump participates in a medal ceremony in the Oval Office at the White House in Washington, U.S. December 3, 2020. REUTERS/Jonathan Ernst/File Photo

LOS ANGELES/NEW YORK (Reuters) - Much of California on Monday faced a raft of new restrictions aimed at slowing the spread of COVID-19, while a ban on indoor restaurant dining loomed in New York City as the United States braced for another surge during the upcoming holidays. The order issued on Thursday by California Governor Gavin Newsom, which does not immediately cover the entire state, kicked in at the regional level in places where fewer than 15% of intensive-care hospital beds remain available.

It is currently in effect throughout Southern California and the state's San Joaquin Valley breadbasket. Jurisdictions in the state's heavily populated San Francisco Bay Area have imposed similar orders on their own. Combined, these three areas cover about three-quarters of the state's nearly 40 million people.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the U.S. government's top infectious disease expert, said on Monday that the state's action will "rescue them from possibly getting their hospitals overrun."

In reporting more than 30,000 new cases on Sunday, the state exceeded its previous high of 21,986 set on Friday, and notched a record high for hospitalized COVID-19 patients as well. Nationwide, COVID-19 infections are at their peak with an average of 193,863 new cases reported each day over the past week, according to a Reuters tally of official data.

There have been 14.7 million confirmed infections and more than 282,000 coronavirus-related deaths reported in the United States since the pandemic began, the most in the world.

California's order, due to last at least three weeks, bans private gatherings of any size in affected areas, shuts all but critical infrastructure and retail operations, and requires everyone to wear a mask and maintain physical distancing.

The sheriffs of Los Angeles, Orange and Riverside counties have said they would not enforce the order. NEW YORK RESTRICTIONS LOOM In New York, Governor Andrew Cuomo said the state would tie any new restrictions to hospitalization rates in an effort

to avoid a repeat of last spring when the state was at the epicenter of the pandemic in the United States.

Cuomo said he would suspend indoor dining at New York City restaurants as soon as Monday if hospitalizations continue on their upward trajectory. At the end of September, restaurants resumed serving meals to diners seated inside, at 25% of capacity.

Cuomo floated the possibility of a broad shut down of non-essential businesses across the state like one imposed in the spring if its hospitals become overwhelmed, though he said the current situation was not dire enough to warrant such a step

"If you are at a rate that is going to overwhelm your hospitals, you must shut down," he added.

Restaurants in other regions of the state could face stricter restrictions also if hospitalization trends worsen.

Other non-essential businesses in New York City, such as beauty parlors and retail, would not be affected, Cuomo said. Meanwhile, the city's school system - the

country's largest - welcomed back up to 190,000 of its 1.1 million students this week after a two-week shutdown.

In another move to avoid a critical shortage of beds, New York state health officials will order hospitals to increase their capacity by 25% and ask retired doctors and nurses to come back to work, Cuomo said.

HOLIDAY WARNING Fauci, tapped by President-elect Joe Biden to serve as his chief medical adviser on the pandemic ahead of taking office on Jan. 20, said the nationwide surge could worsen after the year-end holiday season.

After millions of people ignored advice from public health experts and traveled for the Thanksgiving holiday in November, Fauci said he feared Americans would again resist calls to avoid gathering during the next round of holidays, with Christmas and New Year's Day on the horizon.

Death toll spikes typically occur about three weeks after surges in infections and hospitalizations.

"Without substantial mitigation, the middle of January can be a really dark time for us," said Fauci, appearing with Cuomo during the governor's video news conference.

Biden has said he will make tackling the pandemic his top priority upon taking office as he replaces Republican President Donald Trump.

Anticipating U.S. Food and Drug Administration emergency authorization of the first COVID-19 vaccine in the coming days, the White House will host a vaccine distribution summit on Tuesday with state governors, retail pharmacy chains and shipping companies, U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar told Fox News.

The meeting's aim is "to be very transparent and show the world how comprehensively we have planned out every aspect of this distribution," Azar said.



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# WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

12/07/2020

CORONAVIRUS DIARY

Wealee@scdaily.com

## My Diplomat Dream



It was many years ago when I was a college student in Taiwan as a major in diplomacy that my big dream was to become a diplomat, but my whole career was later focused on the mass communication media business.

But it just so happened that in September of last year, we had the honor to host a welcome party for the

West African country of Guinea's president, His Excellency Alpha Conde and more than thirty of his cabinet ministers.

During the reception, President Conde asked me to serve as Guinea's Honorary Consul to Houston. I was quite surprised his offer and immediately accepted his offer. Later this year, in July 2020, I received a diplomatic notice from the U.S. State Department from Guinea's Ambassador in Washington, D.C., H.E. Kerfalla Yansane, with approval of my appointment as Guinea's Honorary Consul In Houston. That night I was so excited I could not sleep. Suddenly I remembered that when I was just eleven years old, I had to go to the city from our village to attend middle school. When my dad left me at the school, I cried and didn't want to let him go. Many years later I had to go to work and when I was in college, my life changed to different stage. I then spent all my career time in the media business and never thought about becoming a diplomat again.

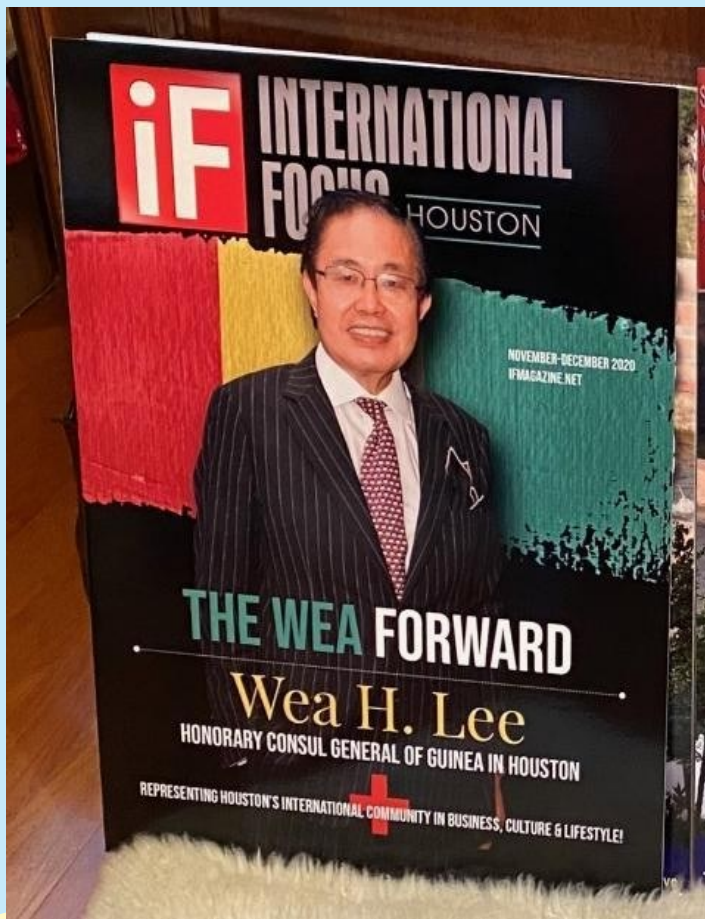
Ambassador Yansane has now called me and he will sponsor a virtual seminar titled, "U.S.-Guinean Opportunities & Introduction Of The New Honorary Consul In Texas." He will formally introduce me to the general public and business community during this event.

In the meantime, we will cover topics including Trade and Investment, Agriculture, Tourism, Healthcare and Education.

This workshop will also provide the platform to gain insight and update information about Guinea.

It is such an honor and responsibility to serve in the consular position. I will definitely do my best to promote good relations between Texas and Africa.

This is my dream come true.



Southern News Group Chairman / CEO  
Chairman of International Trade & Culture Center  
Chairman of International District Houston Texas



Publisher Southern Daily Wea H. Lee

Stay Home!

## BUSINESS

Wear Mask!

### WH Coronavirus Task Force: States Must "Flatten The Curve" To Sustain Health System



A walk-up Covid-19 testing site in San Fernando, California, on Nov. 24, ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday.

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

The White House coronavirus task force warned states "the COVID risk to all Americans is at a historic high" and to brace for another surge following Thanksgiving, per a report that emerged last Wednesday.

**Driving the news:** "If you are under 40, you need to assume you became infected during the Thanksgiving period if you gathered beyond your immediate household," said the report, dated Nov. 29, first published by the Center for Public Integrity.

**"Most likely, you will not have symptoms; however, you are dangerous to others and you must isolate away from anyone at increased risk for severe disease and get tested immediately."**

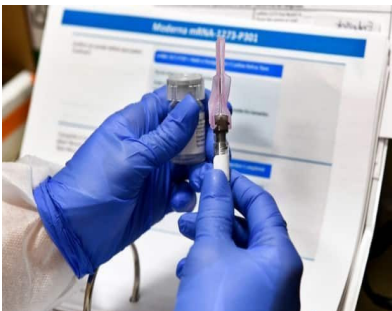
The report states that people who are over age 65 or have significant health conditions "should not enter any indoor public spaces where anyone is unmasked due to the immediate risk to your health; you should have groceries and medications delivered."

**Why it matters:** The warning is in contrast to the messaging of President Trump and some members of his administration, with invitations to White House holiday parties hosted by the Trumps sent out last month.

• "We are in a very dangerous place due to the current, extremely high COVID baseline and limited hospital capacity; a further

post-Thanksgiving surge will compromise COVID patient care, as well as medical care overall," per the report.

• On Wednesday, over 100,200 Americans were hospitalized with COVID-19 for the first time since the outbreak began in early 2020.



**The bottom line:** The report warns "all states and all counties must flatten the curve now in order to sustain the health system for both COVID and non-COVID emergencies."

"If state and local policies do not reflect the seriousness of the current situation, all public health officials must alert the state population directly." (Courtesy axios.com)

**Related**

**Hackers Are Going After COVID-19 Vaccine's Rollout**

**The cyberattacks are targeting distributors who will be distributing and storing vaccines for the coronavirus pandemic**

#### KEY POINTS

**Big game hunting (BGH) escalated, and ransom demands soared into the millions, causing unparalleled disruption.**

**Cybercriminals are weaponizing sensitive data to increase pressure on ransomware victims.**

**The eCrime ecosystem continues to evolve, mature and develop increasing specialization.**

Hackers aren't just looking to steal information on the vaccines for COVID-19 -- they're also going after its distribution and suppliers, security researchers warned in a report released on Thursday. Researchers from IBM's X-Force team detailed a global hacking campaign targeting government agencies, tech companies and energy suppliers in countries like Germany, Italy, South Korea and Taiwan. The companies and government agencies are all connected to the Cold Chain Equipment Optimization Platform (CCEOP), a partnership between UNICEF, Gavi the Vaccine Alliance and other organizations to help with vaccine distributions.



**One hacking campaign posed as a cold storage container company. Pfizer's vaccine needs to be stored at extremely low temperatures.**

The attacks came as emails pretending to be from Haier Biomedical, a Chinese company that says it's the world's only complete cold chain provider. The cold chain is a crucial part of the Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine rollout as it needs to

be stored at a temperature of -70 degrees Celsius (-94 degrees Fahrenheit).

Haier Biomedical is working CCEOP, the World Health Organization and the United Nations to help with the COVID-19 vaccine's rollout, and the hackers sent emails to targets asking for price quotes, IBM's researchers said. The emails contained a malicious attachment that would ask people to enter their passwords to view the files, which the hackers would steal. It's unclear if any of the attacks were successful, but the purpose was likely to gather information for future attempts, IBM's researchers said.

"Moving laterally through networks and remaining there in stealth would allow them to conduct cyber espionage and collect additional confidential information from the victim environments for future operations," Claire Zaboeva, a cyber threat analyst at IBM's X-Force and co-author of the report, said.



The hacking targets included the European Commission's Directorate-General for Taxation and Customs Union, who would be in direct contact with several countries and could open pathways for more targeted attacks. The hackers also sent malware-laced emails to companies making solar panels, which provide power for cold storage containers in countries without access to electricity, and IT companies in South Korea and Germany who support pharmaceutical manufacturers.

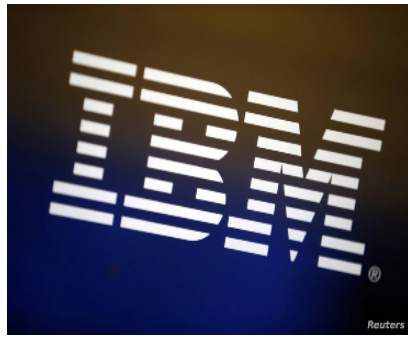
"A breach within any part of this global alliance could result in the exposure of numerous partner computing environments worldwide," IBM's researchers said.

The report didn't indicate who was behind this hacking campaign, but suggested that

it's likely a nation-state behind it because of how sophisticated the targeting is. In recent months, countries like China, Russia and North Korea have launched cyberattacks against pharmaceutical companies developing COVID-19 vaccines.

**IBM Warns Hackers Targeting COVID-19 Vaccine Operations**

In a blog post released Thursday, IBM said it had uncovered a phishing plot targeting "organizations associated with a COVID-19 cold chain," referring to the chain of people and businesses responsible for storing the vaccine at the necessary cold temperatures. The U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency shared the report Thursday along with a warning to anyone involved in operations related to the vaccine.



"The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) encourages Operation Warp Speed (OWS) organizations and organizations involved in vaccine storage and transport to review the IBM X-Force report," its post read.

On Wednesday, the Wall Street Journal reported that North Korean hackers have targeted at least six pharmaceutical companies on the US, UK and South Korea that have been working on COVID-19 vaccines. The US's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency released a statement on the hacking campaign, urging companies involved with COVID-19 vaccines to review IBM's report. (Courtesy www.cnet.com/)



Editor’s Choice



A member of Lebanese army walks past the rubble at the site of a blast in Beirut’s port area, Lebanon, August 7, 2020. REUTERS/Mohamed Azakir



A homeless man holds up a sign outside Westminster underground station that reads “Self isolate? Sorry but if you did not notice, I’m homeless. What about us Boris, where we gunna isolate? Help!” in London, Britain, March 19, 2020. REUTERS/Hannah...



Dana Baer and her son Jacob Baer wish Avery Slutsky a happy sixth birthday from their car during a drive-by birthday celebration as they maintain social distance in West Bloomfield Township, Michigan, March 24, 2020. REUTERS/Emily Elconin



Plants are placed in people’s seats during a rehearsal as the Gran Teatre del Liceu opera reopens its doors with a concert for plants to raise awareness about the importance of an audience after lockdown, in Barcelona, Spain June 22, 2020...



American tourist boat Maid Of The Mist, limited to 50% occupancy under New York state’s coronavirus rules, glides past a Canadian vessel limited under Ontario’s rules to just six passengers, in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada July 21, 2020....



Two-year-old Bianca Toniolo draws a microscopic view of the coronavirus on the 14th day of quarantine at home in San Fiorano, northern Italy, March 5, 2020. Marzio Toniolo/via REUTERS



People stand in a queue to receive food aid at the Itireleng informal settlement, near Laudium suburb in Pretoria, South Africa, May 20, 2020. REUTERS/Siphiwe Sibeko



Ballet dancer and performer Ashlee Montague of New York wears a gas mask while she dances in Times Square in Manhattan, New York City, March 18, 2020. REUTERS/Andrew Kelly



