

WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

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CORONAVIRUS DIARY
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First African-American Secretary of Defense

President-elect Biden appointed the first black man, retired General Lloyd J. Austin III, as the Secretary of Defense. Austin rose to the highest military role in spite of the largely white leadership in the ranks.

General Austin was the director of the Joint Staff, one of the most powerful behind the scenes positions in the military.

In September 2010 at a ceremony at the Al-Faw palace in Baghdad attended by then Vice President Biden, General Austin was commanding general in Iraq. It was at this time they started a

relationship.

In the Obama administration, General Austin was appointed head of the United States Central Command—the country's premier military command and the one that fights the war in the Middle East.

We are so glad that President-elect Biden is keeping his promise to name all color and ethnic groups to the top positions.

Today President Trump still doesn't want to admit that he has lost the election. The legal fight for the election still continues to the U.S. Supreme Court



while people around the world still can't understand why the democratic system didn't function very well this time.

As an old saying goes, "If a family is in

harmony, everything will be successful."

For America today, we really don't see that happening



Stay Home!

BUSINESS

Wear Mask!

Coronavirus News Roundup 12/11/20



Illustration: Aida Amer/Axios

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

1. **Health:** Hospitals will consider which workers to vaccinate first.
2. **Politics:** West Wing fears COVID spread after Trump lawyer Jenna Ellis attends White House party — Why Congress is doubling down on the Paycheck Protection Program — Biden prioritizing schools, teachers in coronavirus playbook.
3. **Vaccine:** Study confirms AstraZeneca's vaccine is moderately effective — FDA review of Pfizer vaccine clears way for emergency authorization — Most Americans don't trust social media on COVID vaccine info.
4. **World:** U.K. begins first Pfizer vaccinations — Trudeau says "first Canadians will be vaccinated next week" if regulators OK Pfizer doses.
5. **Business:** The "central bank of central banks" warns asset prices are disconnected from reality.

Pfizer plans to ship 6.4 million doses of its vaccine across the U.S. in mid-December. Health care workers and vulnerable people will receive the first doses.



Pfizer's Covid-19 vaccine. Biontech, via EPA, via Shutterstock

6. Pennsylvania will not allow bars and restaurants to sell alcohol after 5 p.m. today, in an effort to dissuade gatherings on what is usually one of the busiest bar nights of the year.
7. Qantas, Australia's largest airline, says it will eventually require passengers to present proof that they have been vaccinated before flying internationally.
8. New York is fining the organizers of a Hasidic wedding with thousands of guests \$15,000. Mayor Bill de Blasio called it "amazingly irresponsible."

FDA Review Of Pfizer Vaccine Clears Way For Emergency Authorization



Deputy charge nurse Katie McIntosh administers the first of two Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine jabs to clinical nurse manager Fiona Churchill in Edinburgh, Scotland on Dec. 8. (Photo/A. Milligan/pool/AFP via Getty Images)

The FDA's vaccine advisory committee released a detailed analysis on Tuesday finding that Pfizer's coronavirus vaccine appears to meet the safety and efficacy requirements necessary for an emergency use authorization (EUA).

Why it matters: The FDA's initial review suggests that the agency will issue an EUA after its advisory committee meets on Thursday. The publication of the analysis comes the same day that the U.K. began administering its first doses of the Pfizer vaccine, which regulators cleared for emergency use last week.

Details: The FDA found that there are no specific safety concerns from Pfizer's vaccine by race, age, ethnicity, medical co-morbidities, or a prior COVID infection.

- The most common negative side effects of vaccination were fatigue, headache, muscle pain, chills, joint pain, and fever.
- Severe adverse reactions only occurred

in 0.0% to 4.6% of Pfizer's study participants, and were more frequent after the second dose than the first dose. Adults under 55 experienced less serious side effects.

- Pfizer's data suggests that the vaccine could help prevent COVID infections following the first dose, but available data did not allow for a firm conclusion, the FDA said.



Of note: Two people in the vaccine group died over the course of the study — one participant with pre-existing atherosclerosis and another participant that went through cardiac arrest after the second dose and died three days later.

The bottom line: The FDA writes that although Pfizer's data shows the vaccine is highly effective against symptomatic COVID-19 patients, data from more people is needed to determine how effective the vaccine is at saving lives.

- It is also possible that the vaccine's efficacy against asymptomatic infection is lower than its efficacy against symptomatic infection, per the FDA.
- Additional testing is needed to see how effective the vaccine is in preventing the transmission of the virus.

Biden Prioritizing Schools, Teachers

In His Coronavirus Playbook

President-elect Biden's COVID checklist includes getting Americans to wear masks as a patriotic duty, vaccinating 50 million people and reopening the majority of schools by the end of April.

Why it matters: The remote learning adopted by many of America's biggest school districts has been a disaster for students and parents alike.

- Other countries have prioritized keeping schools and child care open, but not the U.S.
- As of October, "74% of the 100 largest

school districts ... chose remote learning only as their back-to-school instructional model, affecting over 9 million students," per EdWeek.

- This put unprecedented stress on working parents, particularly working moms.



Anthony Fauci appears via video on Tuesday with Vice President-elect Harris and President-elect Biden. Photo: Jim Watson/AFP via Getty Images

Teachers are high on Biden's list

for vaccinations, he said Tuesday:

- "[W]e'll follow the guidance of science to get the vaccine to those most at risk. That includes health care professionals, people in long-term care and, as soon as possible, it will include educators."
- "If Congress provides the funding we need to protect students, educators and staff, if states and cities put strong public-health measures in place that we all follow, then my team will work to see if the majority of our schools can be open by the end of my first 100 days."

Between the lines: The CDC and states are setting vaccination priorities, a senior Trump White House official said Monday.

What's next: The FDA's vaccine advisory committee released a detailed analysis finding that Pfizer's coronavirus vaccine appears to meet the safety and efficacy requirements necessary for an emergency use authorization, Axios' Orion Rummler reports.

The bottom line: "My first 100 days won't end COVID-19. I cannot promise that," Biden said.

"But I am convinced that in 100 days we can change the course of the disease and change life in America for the better." (Courtesy axios.com)

Editor’s Choice



A man wearing a mask looks at street art at the International Street Art Museum following the new social restrictions announced by the Dutch government, in Amsterdam, October 14. REUTERS/Piroschka van de Wouw



A doctor collects a swab sample from a man to be tested for the coronavirus outside Clinic Ajwa in Shah Alam, Malaysia, December 10. REUTERS/Lim Huey Teng



A man walks by murals along Houston Street in Manhattan, New York, October 14. REUTERS/Shannon Stapleton



People walk past a mural in Manchester, Britain, October 19. REUTERS/Phil Noble



Abdelrahman Tarek, 11-year-old cancer patient practices traditional Tanoura dance to keep his spirits high as he battles the harsh illness at a small theatre in central Cairo, Egypt. REUTERS/Mohamed Abd El Ghany



Matias Discosia, a devoted Diego Maradona fan who tattooed Maradona’s name and former jersey number on his back, looks through his closet at his home in Buenos Aires, Argentina. “In reality, I don’t think about what people say, whether he’s good or bad or whether he’s an inspiration



A boy adjusts his turban at a site of a protest by farmers against the newly passed farm bills at Singhu border near Delhi, India. REUTERS/Danish Siddiqui



Artist Lionel Stanhope paints a mural in Ladywell depicting the Supper at Emmaus by Caravaggio with added protective gloves, in London, Britain, May 5. REUTERS/Hannah McKay

UAE Says Chinese Coronavirus Vaccine Is 86% Effective After Trial



Illustration: Sarah Grillo/Axios

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

The United Arab Emirates said Wednesday that the coronavirus vaccine developed by China’s state-owned Sinopharm appears to be safe and 86% effective, according to an interim analysis of the company’s Phase III trials.

Why it matters: It’s the first public release of information about one of the main Chinese-developed COVID-19 vaccines, which was tested in the UAE in a trial involving 31,000 volunteers from 125 countries that began in September.

• The Emirati statement contained few details, only noting that the announcement is “a significant vote of confidence by the UAE’s health authorities in the safety and efficacy of this vaccine.”

• The vaccine has already been granted an emergency use authorization in the UAE, which has consistently been reporting over 1,000 new cases per day since the start of November. Over 500 deaths have been reported in total.

The big picture: There’s a lot at stake for China, which has invested heavily in scientific research and development over the past two decades and is aiming to become a scientific powerhouse on the global stage.

• The Chinese government was heavily criticized during the start of the coronavirus outbreak in Wuhan for a lack of health transparency, which can affect the percep-

tion of science at home and abroad — including in the vaccine race.

• Of the more than 200 COVID-19 vaccines in development around the world, 20 involve teams in China, per the Milken Institute.



China’s High-Stakes Vaccine Moment
Illustration: Sarah Grillo/Axios

As the global race for a COVID-19 vaccine heats up, the U.S. is looking to prove it can deliver in a national crisis while China is in its own moment to demonstrate its scientific capabilities. **The big picture:** Beyond protecting citizens and bolstering the economy, displays of scientific prowess and tilting geopolitics are driving the development of new vaccines and drugs.

China is “very mindful that the eyes of the world are watching them,” says virologist Richard Kuhn of Purdue University.

• “They want to demonstrate that China is not an emerging power, but a power comparable to the U.S.,” he adds.

What’s happening: Of the 202

COVID-19 vaccines in development around the world, 20 involve teams in China, per the Milken Institute.

• The Chinese teams are taking several approaches — from traditional ones that use inactivated forms of the virus to spur immunity to more experimental DNA and RNA vaccine platforms that have yet to be approved for human use for any virus.

• The vaccines from China are in various stages of development, but three — from Sinopharm and Sinovac Biotech — are in phase III human trials.

• China has controlled the country’s outbreak to the point that it has had to look abroad — to Brazil, Indonesia and the UAE, for example — to test the vaccines on a larger scale.

• It is also, controversially, testing vaccines on members of the military and construction workers traveling overseas.



There’s a lot at stake for China in this urgent moment — but also beyond it.

• The country has invested heavily in R&D over the past two decades, aiming to become a scientific powerhouse on the global stage — especially in biotechnologies.

• China already produces about 20% of the world’s vaccines. But shifting from research-for-hire and pharmaceutical manufacturing to discovering and developing new drugs is a priority under President Xi Jinping’s “Made in China 2025” plan.

Researchers in the country are pushing scientific boundaries — and at times sparking controversy — in cloning and regenerative medicine, gene editing and other areas of biomedicine.

• And China has built up its scientific infrastructure and instrumentation, constructing maximum-security biological laboratories, purchasing sophisticated cryo-electron microscopes and running massive numbers of genome sequencers — all powerful tools and major scientific

status symbols.

• Another key prong of the strategy has been attracting researchers trained overseas back to China, says Ray Yip, a former director of the U.S. CDC’s office in China.

“China’s part in this is not just the immediate race for the first safe and effective vaccine — it’s really the culmination of a much longer strategic plan that they have,” says David Fidler, an expert on cybersecurity and global health at the Council on Foreign Relations.



The headwinds: Biotech in China faces hurdles, including a continued reliance on Western countries to train researchers, and the common challenge that, even with resources and experience, it is just plain difficult to discover drugs and create vaccines. **And a lack of transparency** in the political system can affect the perception of science at home and abroad.

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• Prior to the pandemic, Chinese citizens’ trust in their country’s vaccine companies was rattled by bribery scandals and problems with ineffective vaccines.

• In the current pandemic, the Chinese government — from local to central levels — has been criticized for its early actions, including delays in the release

of the SARS-CoV-2 genome sequence and information about human-to-human spread of the virus.

• Yes, but: “WHO experts genuinely thought Chinese scientists had done ‘a very good job’ in detecting and decoding the virus, despite the lack of transparency from Chinese officials,” AP reported in June.

On the global scientific stage, transparency and data-sharing are key to science being verified and trusted.

• Russia last week announced it had approved the world’s first COVID-19 vaccine before completing phase 3 trials in humans and without publicly releasing data about the vaccine, a move that drew skepticism and criticism among scientists.

• From China, CanSino Biologics and Sinopharm recently published results from Phase 1 and 2 trials of their vaccine in scientific journals.

• Russian and Chinese hackers have been accused of trying to steal coronavirus vaccine research from the U.S.



Keep in mind: “So much of vaccine development is a game of chance,” says Ryan Ritterson of Gryphon Scientific, a consulting firm that focuses on life sciences. “Failure doesn’t necessarily mean they aren’t where they need to be.”

What to watch: Vaccine diplomacy is underway, with Pakistan, the Philippines and others entering deals for testing vaccines from China, per WSJ.

• “A vaccine can be a channel for increasing influence, and the IOUs it builds up strategically around the world are intended to increase China’s prestige vis-a-vis the U.S.,” says Fidler.

The bottom line: “If China is one of the first to develop a safe and effective vaccine, they would be in an extraordinary diplomatic and scientific moment in how they chose to share it,” says Ritterson. (Courtesy axios.com)



天下之大，吃在苏州



苏州地区水网交融，物产丰富，造就了苏州人对饮食的讲究。摄影 / 孙晓东

我们常常听闻“上有天堂，下有苏杭”，说的是苏州地区山明水秀，风景秀丽，物产丰富，生活富庶，苏州人过着天堂一般的生活。此话一点不假。然而有很大一部分要得益于苏州的美食之妙。

苏州的饮食文化历史悠久、源远流长，其特点是选料严谨，制作精细，因才施艺，四季有别。现已形成独具地方特色的苏州菜肴，简称“苏州菜”，俗称“苏帮菜”，名扬中外，成为中国饮食文化史上的重要篇章。

-01- 鱼米之乡，生活“鲜嫩”

苏州自古就是鱼米之乡，其水产之盛、谷物之多，在全国久负盛名。就苏州饮食的系统来说，确实是水产品的菜肴和稻谷所做的点心最为发达。明清，苏州的水产之盛、烹饪之珍，已经在全国获得了无上盛名。

太湖之中，常年有白鱼、白虾和银鱼的“三白”，池塘之中，则有十二个月令的可吃鱼类，还有秋天的蟹宴，夏天的三虾，一年四季，离不开水族的供养；素菜则是水八

仙，几乎离不开水里生产出来的各种物产——所以说苏州菜离不开水产的，绝对没错。

至于米，苏州人也吃得出神入化，不说家常的蛋炒饭、咸肉菜饭，就说清早的一碗粥，配它的小菜就有十几种，酱瓜、虾油瓜、水菜、虾子鲞鱼，一样样放在碟子里，陈列开来，就像宋代文会图上的场景。更值得说的，则是把米做成年糕、各色糕团，在一日三餐之外，当作点心。

-02- 食不厌精，脍不厌细

因为严格的训练，苏州餐馆菜肴的精细程度，超乎你的想象，和整体“苏工”的精细程度，同属一个系统。

拿调味品来说，苏州的菜品为了有多味，所以有很多独家的调味方法，伏酱、秋油、鲜糟、笋油、虾酱、蕈油等非常繁复，而且均要求是本地所产，正宗调料。烹饪用水也都有讲究，不少名店都有自己的专用水井。现在就算是天翻地覆，为了追求汤的质感，不少名厨做汤，还只用农夫山泉的水来烹饪。

拿苏州名菜来说，每一道菜在烹饪上都下足功夫。要不讲究刀工，如松鼠鳜鱼；要不讲究火候，如蜜汁火方；要不讲究材料的复杂性，

如荤豆瓣汤。旧时平常人家做饭，也是一路讲究下来，绝对不将就。一粥一饭，都有无数的细节在内。

这种讲究历经多少年而不改，不管时代是贫困还是富庶，精致的饮食精神已经深入苏州饮食系统的骨髓里。

-03- 素食者天堂

有人说，在苏州，如果是素食爱好者，一定会非常满足。

为什么呢？因为食材够丰富啊！各种食材不需要与荤食搭配，也可以自成一格；何况还有与素食渊源很深的佛教饮食传统的传承。苏州有许多湖泊，出产的水生植物多，最主要的就是“水八仙”。

所谓的“水八仙”，是苏州周边水域长期出产的八种水生植物，包括茭白、水芹菜、藕、荸荠、芡实、红菱、慈姑和莼菜。这些水生植物以鲜明的地方特色受到当地人欢迎，做成的家常菜因为鲜度高，所以不需要额外加工，比如油焖茭白、香干水芹、糯米藕、桂花芡实。

在荤食之外，时常让自己的身体清洁一下，如果在苏州，这点很容易做到。

往事难追，但世间百般味道，尽在苏州。