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John Robbins **832-280-5815**
Jun Gai **281-498-4310**

Mr. Lee's Commentary and Dairy

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

Tuesday December 29 2020 | www.today-america.com | Southern News Group

U.S. House approves \$2,000 coronavirus aid checks sought by Trump



WASHINGTON/PALM BEACH, Fla. (Reuters) - The Democratic-led U.S. House of Representatives voted 275-134 to meet President Donald Trump's demand for \$2,000 COVID-19 relief checks on Monday, sending the measure on to an uncertain future in the Republican-controlled Senate.

The Republican Trump last week threatened to block a massive pandemic aid and spending package if Congress did not boost stimulus payments from \$600 to \$2,000 and cut other spending. He backed down from his demands on Sunday as a possible government shutdown loomed, brought on by the fight with lawmakers.

But Democratic lawmakers have long wanted \$2,000 relief checks and used the rare point of agreement with Trump to advance the proposal - or at least to put Republicans on record against it - in the vote on Monday, less than a month before he leaves office.

A total of 130 Republicans, two independents and two Democrats opposed the increase on Monday, which required two-thirds of those present and voting to pass it.

Trump, who lost November's election to Democratic challenger Joe Biden but has refused to concede defeat, finally signed the \$2.3 trillion package into law after holding it up with a veiled veto threat. But he continued demanding \$2,000 checks.

The \$2.3 trillion includes \$1.4 trillion in spending to fund government agencies and \$892 billion in COVID-19 relief.

It is not clear how the measure to increase aid checks will fare in the Senate, where individual Republican lawmakers have complained the higher amount would add hundreds of billions of dollars to the latest relief bill.

Increasing the checks would cost \$464 billion, according to the Joint Committee on Taxation, which prepares cost estimates for legislation before Congress.

The Senate is due to convene on Tuesday. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell on Sunday made no mention of Senate plans for a vote, after welcoming Trump's signing of the relief bill.

The coronavirus pandemic has killed nearly 330,000 people in the United States and led to widespread economic hardship, with millions of families relying on unemployment benefits and COVID-19 relief funds.

Global markets were buoyed after Trump approved the package.

Wall Street's main indexes hit record highs on Monday as Trump's signing of the aid bill bolstered bets on an economic recovery and drove gains in financial and energy stocks.

House lawmakers on Monday will also seek to override Trump's recent veto of a \$740-billion bill setting policy for the Defense Department. If successful, it would be the first veto override of Trump's presidency.

Asked at the end of an event in Wilmington, Delaware, whether he supported expanding the payments to \$2,000, Biden replied: "Yes."

Georgia Republicans Kelly Loeffler and David Perdue, who face crucial Senate runoffs next month that could determine who controls the chamber, welcomed Trump's move, without saying whether the payments should be increased.

As the floor debate was under way, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said: "Republicans have a choice, vote for this legislation, or vote to deny the American people the bigger paychecks that they need."

And Democratic U.S. Representative Dan Kildee said: "We would have included much larger payments in the legislation had he (Trump) spoken up sooner. But it's never too late to do the right thing."

But Republican Representative Kevin Brady said the bill does nothing to help people get back to work. "I worry that as we spend another half a trillion dollars so hastily, that we are not targeting this help to the Americans who are struggling the most and need that help," he said.

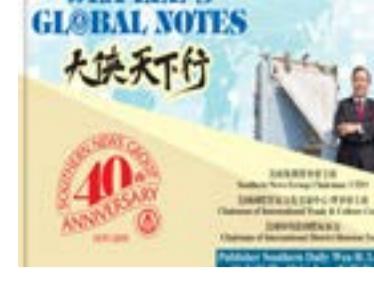
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WEA LEE'S

12/28/2020

GLOBAL NOTES

CORONAVIRUS DIARY

Wealee@scdaily.com

An Anxious and Frustrating Christmas

President Trump signed the stimulus bill and the government spending bill Sunday night to avoid government shutdown.

We are really very sad at this Christmas time. So many people are suffering while the politicians are living a life of luxury and don't have any feelings for those people in the bottom rungs of society.

We are also watching many citizens who are lending a helping hand to their neighbors and friends. Some of the people deliver food bags in front of their neighbor's

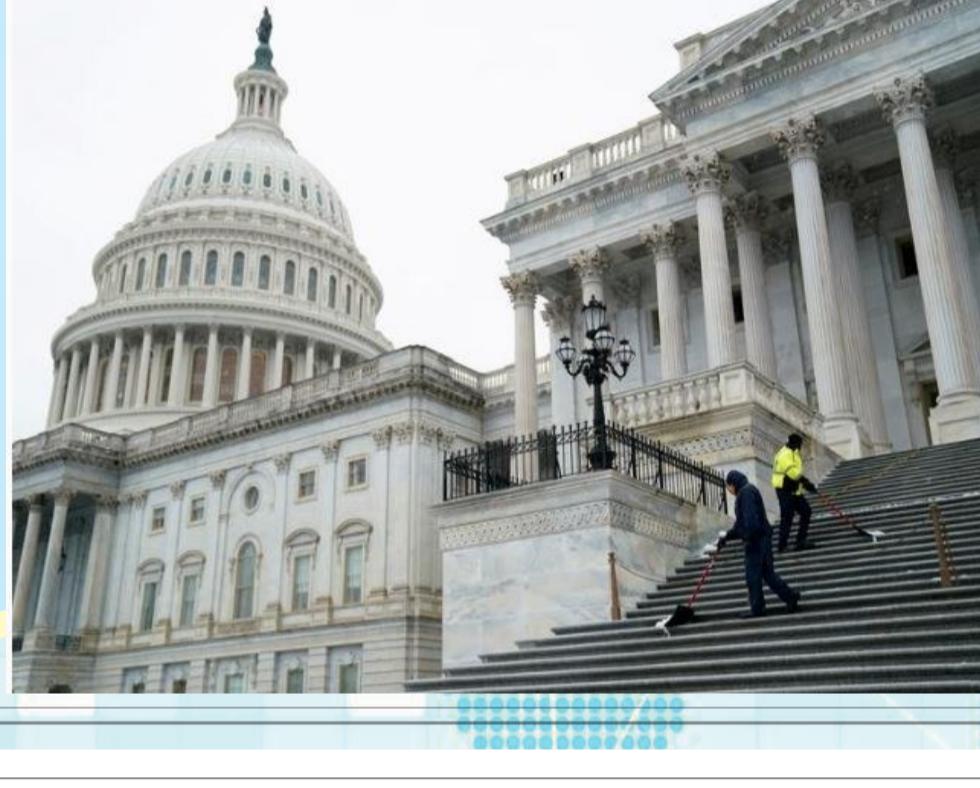
door. Some students were singing songs in front of their teacher's house. Other people are giving out toys to the disadvantaged kids. After all, we are all brothers and sisters.

The year of 2020 is almost over. And as President-elect Biden said, "Our dark days are not over yet."

We just all need to stick together. Later, history will give all those arrogant politicians a serious judgment.



The Coronavirus is still attacking our nation in many ways. We all want the vaccine to come more quickly to let more people have a chance to get vaccinated. This is probably the only way we can survive



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Stay Home!

BUSINESS

Wear Mask!

Lockdown Order Includes Los Angeles And San Diego, Home To About 24 Million People Or Almost Half Of The State's Population

California Gov. Newsom Orders New limits On Businesses And Activities As COVID-19 Soars



California Gov. Gavin Newsom has outlined his administration's response to the rapid virus spread.

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

The vast region of Southern California has been placed under new lockdown orders as the state scrambles to slow the rapid escalation of coronavirus cases that threatens to overwhelm hospitals. The California Department of Public Health announced Saturday that a shortage of intensive care beds in the 11-county Southern California region had triggered the new measures. The new restrictions went into effect in Southern California at 11:59 p.m. Sunday and will last for at least three weeks. The region includes the cities of Los Angeles and San Diego and is home to about 24 million people, almost half of the state's population. The order was also put in effect for the San Joaquin Valley. The new state stay-at-home order bans all on-site restaurant dining and closes hair and nail salons, movie theaters and many other businesses, as well as museums and playgrounds. It also means people may not congregate with anyone outside their household and must always wear masks when they go outside.

The following sectors will stay open but with limited capacity, mandatory masks and social distancing measures in place:

- Outdoor recreational facilities, but without food, drink or alcohol sales, and no overnight camping
- Retail businesses and malls, with indoor capacity limited to 20%; no eating or drinking will be allowed inside stores
- Hotels and offices that support critical infrastructure
- Restaurants offering takeout, pick-up or delivery
- Places of worship can hold outdoor services
- Professional sports and entertainment production without live audiences
- Non-urgent medical and dental care



With so many hospitals in the state experiencing a rapid surge of patients with the disease,

the "regional stay-at-home" order described by Newsom is likely to limit activities across California throughout the holiday season and possibly into the new year.

"The bottom line is, if we don't act now, our hospital system will be overwhelmed," Newsom said in a midday news conference. "If we don't act now, we'll continue to see our death rate climb, more lives lost."

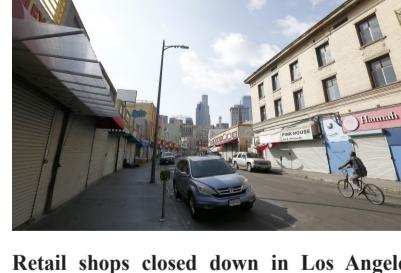
Despite initial indications that 11 counties in Southern California and 12 counties in the San Joaquin Valley could be required to implement the new restrictions immediately, state health officials later provided a list showing no regions currently at the threshold for closure — meaning no more than 85% of their intensive care unit beds are filled. State officials intend to update the estimates of ICU capacity daily and post the information online. Once a region's ICU bed capacity falls below 15%, the shutdown rules will take effect within 24 hours. But with the state's decision to have the public health order take effect Saturday afternoon, the earliest any region could see closures would be Sunday. A shutdown affecting the Southern California region includes Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Imperial, Inyo and Mono counties. State officials divided California's counties into five regions for the purpose of determining intensive care unit capacity and potential shutdowns of local services.

COVID-19 stay-at-home regions
California's new stay-at-home orders are broken down by five regions based on ICU capacity within regional hospital networks. No region is under the order, but would be locked down if its ICU availability falls below 15%.



tionwide, the highest national level ever and soaring above the first two waves of the pandemic, according to the COVID Tracking Project. More than 276,000 people have died, according to Johns Hopkins University. Affected communities will be required to close personal service businesses, including hair and nail salons, playgrounds, zoos, museums, aquariums and wineries. Overnight, short-term stays at campgrounds would be prohibited. Restaurants will be required to return to take-out service only. Retail businesses will be limited to 20% of their customer capacity inside at any one time, with requirements for store officials to ensure there's no indoor drinking or eating. The California governor, who remains in quarantine with his family after his children were exposed to people who subsequently tested positive for COVID-19, said the new order is "fundamentally predicated on the need to stop gathering with people outside of your household [and] to do what you can to keep most of your activities outside."

Data compiled by The Times show the state has averaged nearly 15,000 cases a day over the last week, triple the rate in the last month. COVID-19 hospitalizations have also tripled over the same period. And an average of 67 Californians were dying daily from COVID-19 over the last week, a 60% jump from mid-November.



Retail shops closed down in Los Angeles complying with Gov. Newsom's lockdown order. The order could last for three weeks.

Unlike the shutdown Newsom issued in the spring, most outdoor activities, including beach access and hiking, are not affected. But similar to other state government rules, the order allows local leaders to impose public health rules that are stricter. But stronger orders by the state would supersede more permissive local orders. That means the expected implementation of the order in Southern California would require, for example, restaurants to shutter outdoor dining currently allowed in their local jurisdiction.

Strict new limits on shoppers in the run-up to the holiday season could strike a powerful blow to the state's already hobbled economy. In recent days, Newsom has announced a variety of loan and grant efforts for small businesses as well as the expansion of a program that allows businesses to delay payment of sales tax collections and use the money as a short-term bridge loan. In most of the state, nonessential retail stores are capped at 25% capacity. Some counties, however, already meet this stricter threshold: L.A. County on Monday lowered its cap on capacity at nonessential retail stores to 20%, and Santa Clara County has limited its cap on nonessential retail to 10% of capacity.



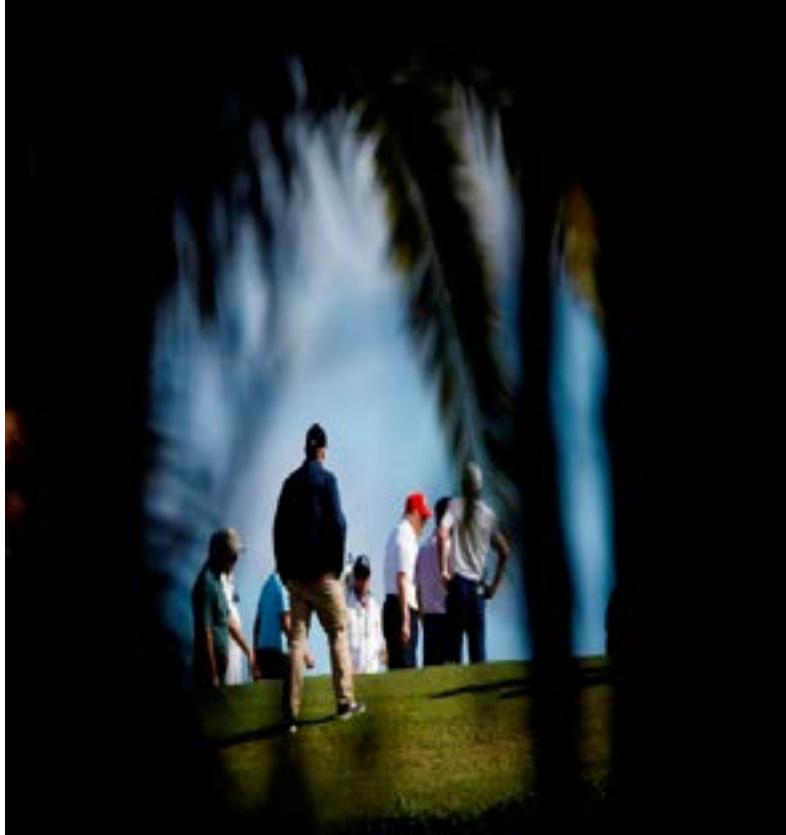
California governor said without another lockdown, hospitals will run out of beds.

One sector of life unchanged by the new rules: K-12 schools. Public school campuses that were allowed to open for at least partial in-person instruction when conditions were better in early fall can remain open. Epidemiologists said state officials had no choice but to impose a stricter shutdown to avoid one of the worst public health catastrophes in the state's modern history, with California's death toll of nearly 20,000 plausibly doubling by the end of winter. The initial coronavirus wave "has now become a viral tsunami," said Dr. Robert Kim-Farley, a medical epidemiologist and infectious disease expert at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health. "The virus is now everywhere, and so, therefore, the restriction of activities needs to also be applied everywhere to be able to return to where we were — on a decreasing trend." The governor defended Thursday his administration's actions as rooted in science and public health best practices. "We want to mitigate mixing, period, full stop," he said. "We want to diminish the amount of mixing. And we really need to send that message broadly. And we need to create less opportunities for the kind of contact and extended period, extended time of contact, that occurs in many of these establishments." (Courtesy www.latimes.com)

Tuesday, December 29, 2020

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Editor's Choice



U.S. President Donald Trump plays golf at the Trump International Golf Club in West Palm Beach, Florida. REUTERS/Marco Bello



The Duomo Cathedral is seen during a snowfall, in Milan, Italy. REUTERS/Flavio Lo Scalzo



Investigators work near the site of an explosion on 2nd Avenue that occurred the day before in Nashville, Tennessee. REUTERS/Harrison McClary



A relative of mother and son Sonya and Frank Anthony Gregorio, who were shot and killed by an off-duty police officer, cries at their funeral, in Paniqui, Tarlac province, Philippines. REUTERS/Eloisa Lopez



Lorries queue on the M20 motorway as part of Operation Stack near Harrietsham, Britain. REUTERS/Peter Cziborra



A Palestinian man is seen reflected in broken glass in a mosque damaged in an Israeli air strike in Gaza City. REUTERS/Mohammed Salem



A street vendor sells roasted chestnuts on Via Frattina, as Italy goes back to a complete lockdown, in Rome, December 24. REUTERS/Yara Nardi



People gather near an illuminated installation depicting polar bears ahead of the New Year and Christmas holiday season in a park in Moscow, Russia. REUTERS/Evgenia Novozhenina

Immigrants Were Handed A Big Win - And The Implications Go Far Beyond Immigration

Judge Orders Government To Fully Reinstate DACA Program



A June demonstration in San Diego in support of beneficiaries of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. (Photo/S. Huffaker/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images)

KEY POINT

Up to 300,000 additional undocumented immigrants could be allowed to apply for protection from deportation under a new court ruling. President Trump had sought to cancel the program.

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

A federal judge on Friday ordered the Trump administration to fully restore an Obama-era program designed to shield young, undocumented immigrants from deportation, dealing what could be a final blow to President Trump's long-fought effort to end the protections. The program, known as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, was created by President Barack Obama in 2012. Over the years, it has protected more than 800,000 individuals, known as "dreamers," who met a series of strict requirements for eligibility.

But those protections have been under legal and political siege from Republicans for years, leaving the immigrants who were enrolled in DACA uncertain whether the threat of deportation from the United States could quickly return with a single court order or presidential memorandum. Judge Nicholas G. Garaufis of the U.S. District Court in Brooklyn directed the administration on Friday to allow newly

eligible immigrants to file new applications for protection under the program, reversing a memorandum issued in the summer by Chad Wolf, the acting secretary of Homeland Security, which restricted the program to people who were already enrolled. As many as 300,000 new applicants could now be eligible, according to the lawyers who pushed for the reinstatement.

People hold signs during a rally in support of the Supreme Court's ruling in favor of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, in San Diego, on June 18.

Photo: S. Huffaker/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images

(Photo/S. Huffaker/AFP/Getty Images)

The memo from the Department of Homeland Security also limited benefits under the program, including permits to work, to one year, but the judge ordered the government to restore them to a full two years. Judge Garaufis, who was appointed by President Bill Clinton, also said the government must find a way to contact all immigrants who are eligible for the program to inform them of the change.

The judge said the government must announce the changes to the program on its website by Monday.

Lawyers who had challenged the Trump administration in the case celebrated the decision, saying that amid a pandemic and global economic recession, it granted some stability to a vulnerable group.

"This is a really big day for DACA recipients and immigrant young people," said Karen Tumlin, director of the Justice Action Center, who litigated the class-action case. "It's a day that many of them have been waiting for over three years." She said it could open the door for hundreds of thousands of immigrant youths "who have been unfairly denied their chance" under the DACA program.

The program still faces other challenges, including a case in federal court in Texas, where Republican attorneys general have asked a judge to declare it unlawful. And Mr. Trump's administration could appeal the ruling by Judge Garaufis in the days ahead.



Immigration advocates said they hoped the administration would not continue its legal fight to end the program given the arrival of a new, Democratic administration in less than two months.

President-elect Joseph R. Biden Jr. has vowed to restore the DACA program when he takes office, but a legislative solution that would permanently allow the dreamers to live and

work legally in the United States remains elusive, leaving their fates to the shifting political winds in Washington.

If the judge's order still stands by the time Mr. Biden takes office in January, the new president would need to do nothing to make good on his promise. But Mr. Biden is certain to face intense pressure from immigrant groups to fight for a broad overhaul of the nation's immigration laws that would take care of the dreamers and millions of other undocumented immigrants.

Comprehensive legislation, including one that would provide a path to citizenship for some immigrants, would be less vulnerable to legal challenges than DACA, which Mr. Obama created using the executive powers of his office after Congress repeatedly refused to act.

But securing passage of a bill that includes citizenship for undocumented immigrants could be difficult for Mr. Biden, especially if Republicans still control the Senate after two runoff elections in Georgia early in January.

Americans have historically considered DACA beneficiaries to be among the most sympathetic categories of immigrants. Having violated immigration laws through no fault of their own by being brought to the United States as minors, they are required to have a high school diploma or G.E.D., unless they have served in the military, and they must maintain a clean criminal record to hold on to their status.

In a Pew survey conducted in June, about three-quarters of respondents, including majorities of both Democrats and Republicans, favored extending a pathway to permanent legal status to dreamers. (Courtesy www.nytimes.com)



The program has had generational impact. Researchers estimate that 250,000 U.S.-born children have at least one parent who is enrolled in DACA, and that about 1.5 million people in the United States live with a beneficiary of the program.

The judge's ruling on Friday is a significant legal setback to Mr. Trump's yearslong attempt to terminate the program.

As a candidate, Mr. Trump insisted that DACA was unconstitutional, and as president he moved to end it in September 2017. That effort was put on hold by federal judges while the merits of the president's actions were evaluated. The legal battle culminated in a Supreme Court ruling this summer in which the justices said the president had not followed proper procedures to end the program.

In the wake of that ruling, Mr. Wolf only partially reinstated the program, refusing to allow new immigrants to apply and slashing the length of renewals to one year, instead of the two years previously allowed.

In November, Judge Garaufis determined that the partial reinstatement was invalid because it had been issued in the form of a memo by Mr. Wolf, who Judge Garaufis found had been unlawfully appointed to his position.

Officials at the Department of Homeland Security and the Justice Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Friday night.

But the administration has disputed the judge's determination that Mr. Wolf was not properly appointed and has signaled in the past that it intends to fight challenges to the president's efforts to end or scale back the program. (Courtesy www.nytimes.com)

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分類廣告



香港現超級傳播者 1傳19

聯合醫院醫患紛中招 袁國勇：疑空氣傳播

抗擊新冠肺炎

香港觀塘基督教聯合醫院出現“1傳19人”的“超級傳播者”，令該醫院懷安科紓緩治療病房先後有12名病人、7名醫護人員確診及初步確診，其中一名83歲病人出院後才證實染疫。香港特區政府專家顧問、香港大學微生物學系講座教授袁國勇26日下午到醫院視察後指出，相信超級傳播者是病房內一名84歲女病人，其病毒CT值約14至18，即病毒載量高，並認為很大可能是透過空氣傳播病毒，令多人“中招”。他對醫院提出四項改善方案，包括若病人入院時檢測呈陰性，但出現病徵及肺片X光出現問題且情況持續，應再次檢測。

■香港文匯報記者 芙釵、文森

香港醫管局總行政理（質素及標準）劉家獻26日在疫情簡報會上指出，聯合醫院懷安科病房早前有3名病人確診後，醫院追蹤調查及為病人和醫護人員進行檢測，結果過去兩天再發現有12名病人及7名醫護人員確診或初步確診，令該病房累計有19人中招。

84歲女患者病毒載量高

新增的染疫病人年齡介乎20歲至92歲，另外，一名83歲女病人本月18日入住該間懷安科病房，當時檢測結果呈陰性，翌日轉入骨科病房並於20日出院，但她其後在社區檢測中心進行病毒測試，結果發現初步確診。她曾入住的骨科病房同病格7名病人均被列為密切接觸者，需要接受檢測及隔離，其中兩人早前已出院，衛生防護中心會跟進追蹤。

至於7名涉事職員，包括4名護士、一名抽血員、一名病房助理及一名外判清潔工，工作期間均有穿着合適個人防護裝備，具體染疫原因需要調查。

據悉，有關的抽血員曾在不止一間病房工作，醫院會對其接觸過的病人進行追蹤及測試。其餘接受檢測的職員暫時對病毒呈陰性，醫院會加強懷安科病房的感染控制措施。

袁國勇26日到聯合醫院協助調查後表示，發現病房一名84歲女子疑是超級傳播者，其確診後發現病毒CT值約有14至18，病毒載量高。病人第一次檢測時已發現右邊肺部下方出現病變，但由於她本身糖尿病酮酸中毒，處於神志不清狀態，因此有可能是因口水流入右邊肺部引起的輕微肺炎，加上檢測結果呈陰性，故當時未發覺其感染新冠病毒，患者過了數天病徵仍持續，再檢測發現是陽性。

倡肺部異常者做二次測試

他指出，九龍東社區疫情壓力非常大，九龍灣麗晶花園以至油塘及藍田等都錄得多宗確診個案，而一旦有市民在社區感染，就會入住聯合醫院，令院內爆發機會大增，而該名疑為超級傳播者的老婦，居住的地點便有爆發疫情，而院內是次爆發，很大機會是透過空氣傳播病毒。

袁國勇向院方提出四項改善建議，指由於超級傳播者首次檢測後呈陰性，但病徵及肺部情況未有好轉，在病毒潛伏期七八日後爆發，導致醫院出現感染群組，故建議若有病人首次檢測陰性，但X光片顯示肺部感染無好轉，必須做第二次病毒測試。

護士護理患者未戴眼鏡中招

他續說，病毒散播得如此迅速，是因為懷疑超級傳播者曾調往另一病區，結果把病毒傳開，因此建議院方盡量避免將病人調離原有病區。同時，其中一名護士曾為懷疑是超級傳播者的病人清洗口部，但並沒有配戴眼鏡，建議醫護人員為病人做任何措施時，除了戴口罩，亦要保護雙眼，包括戴護目鏡以防飛沫入眼。

袁國勇補充，由於懷安科病房的空氣系統仍然是每小時六次空氣轉換，當中有四次是空氣循環，因此建議要增加病房的空氣清新機，增加空氣流量。

劉家獻則表示，懷安科病房近期曾有18名探訪者，當時已收緊恩恤探訪條件，其中5名探訪者與較早確診的3名病人有接觸，檢測結果均呈陰性，餘下13人中暫有12人結果呈陰性。因為目前的確診者都是病人或職員，估計與探訪者關係不大。

他又提到，染疫病人除一人20歲外，大部分都是七八十歲，戴口罩情況未必理想。

■被稱為“超級傳播者”的是一位84歲女病人，她於本月中經香港聯合醫院急症室入住該院。
香港文匯報記者 摄



■香港聯合醫院懷安科及內科病房先後有12名病人和7名醫護確診或初步確診感染新冠病毒。
中新社



■袁國勇26日到爆發疫症的聯合醫院視察。
香港文匯報記者 摄

續有醫護染疫堪憂

香港文匯報訊（記者 成祖明）新冠病毒在香港深入社區，除醫院病人出院可能將病毒帶入社區外，近日相繼出現醫護人員確診新冠病毒，更有個案是源頭不明，令人擔心病毒也會經染疫醫護帶到醫院。香港明愛醫院26日就有一名隔離病房男護士初步確診，其妻子為同院骨科護士，已接受檢測，暫未有結果。該男護士傳染期間曾與家人朋友進餐，暫時未能確定其感染源頭，經過接觸追蹤後，兩名醫院員工曾與他一齊進餐，均須接受隔離檢疫。

香港醫院管理局總行政理（質素及標準）劉家獻26日表示，該名明愛醫院隔離病房男護士25日出現發燒病徵，遂到明愛醫院急症室求診，結果接受病毒檢測後，26日初步確診，目前正在接受隔離治療，情況穩定。他表示，該名男護士23日為最後工作天，其日常工作負責護理確診病人，但工作時有穿着合適保護裝備，而經接觸追蹤後發現，他曾與兩名員工一同用膳，曾經未有戴口罩交談，故兩名員工被列為密切接觸者，須要接受檢疫並進行病毒檢測，當中一人檢測結果呈陰性，另一人暫未有結果。

明愛男護初確 多員工須檢測

劉家獻指出，該名男護士居住的大廈近

過去十天醫護染疫個案

日並無確診個案，其妻子為同院骨科護士，已經接受檢測，暫亦未有結果，而該名男護士傳染期內曾與家人和朋友一起進餐，暫時未能確定感染源頭。醫院已在相關病房、茶水間和員工更衣室進行清潔消毒，也會安排相關病房員工接受檢測。

翻查資料，單在過去10天已有5名醫護染疫，早前一個醫護家族便有三名護士和醫生確診，他們在本月13日曾參與家庭生

日聚會，人數超過10人，相信是在聚會時感染。聯合醫院外科病房一名護士和伊利沙伯醫院骨科一名兼職護士學生均確診，而聯合醫院外科病房女護士無病徵，伊利沙伯醫院骨科病房一名兼職護士學生則因咳嗽、發冷而進行檢測。

■整理：香港文匯報記者 成祖明

出院者染疫恐社區播毒

香港文匯報訊（記者 成祖明）香港聯合醫院爆發的感染群組，其中一名曾入住該院懷安科病房的83歲女病人，出院4天接受社區檢測才發現初步確診，25日亦有兩宗個案是患者離開醫院後證實染疫。民建聯衛生事務發言人、立法會議員蔣麗芸26日指出，醫院為高危地點，擔憂這些病人會將病毒帶往社區，故建議所有留院病人在康復出院前，均應接受新冠病毒檢測，待檢測結果呈陰性才准出院，以免成為播疫漏洞。

九龍東醫院聯網感染控制主任馮秀珍透露，該名離開聯合醫院後確診的83歲女病人是麗晶花園第四座居民，出院後進行社區檢測時發現初步確診。

香港醫管局總行政理（質素及標準）劉家獻26日被問及醫院會否加強入院篩查和改善採集樣本方式時表示，院方現時一般會採用深

喉唾液樣本為病人檢測，倘病人做不到相關程序，才改由醫護人員採取鼻咽或喉嚨拭子樣本，只要深喉唾液樣本留得好，敏感度和準確度與鼻咽或喉嚨拭子樣本相若，以此方式採樣病人不會感到不適，過程亦毋須醫護人員穿上全套保護衣，也不需在負壓空間進行。

蔣麗芸倡病人出院前再做檢測

蔣麗芸認為，25日已經最少有兩宗個案是病人出院後確診，包括長沙灣元州村元盛樓4宗個案。

據她了解，該4名患者屬同一家人，同居

於元盛樓一單位的包括一名70歲男子，有街坊指他上周在明愛醫院住院接受手術後出院，出

院前院方並未安排為其進行病毒檢測。

香港衛生署衛生防護中心資料顯示，該男

患者其後出現病徵，同住家人包括69歲女子和

45歲女子亦先後出現病徵，另一41歲女子雖無病徵，但4人最終確診染疫。

蔣麗芸續說，另一個案是仁濟醫院郭玉章夫人護理安老院一名80歲女院友，她本周到明愛醫院覆診，留院一天後返回院舍，結果在接受檢測後確診，因該院舍不准探訪，為免院舍可能有爆發，故安排40多名院友與職員接受檢測。

她認為，事件或與院方沒有為所有出院病人安排檢測有關，病人或在醫院留醫期間感染新冠病毒，但因出院前未有進行檢測，而將病毒帶回社區。

蔣麗芸建議醫管局應即時堵塞漏洞，規定一般病人出院前要採取與新冠肺炎病人同樣的標準，即病人沒有發燒徵狀、不須吸氧且相隔24小時檢測兩次均呈陰性才能出院，相信此舉能大大減低病毒帶入社區的風險。

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福平鐵路開通

接通北上廣深高速通道 台商：“開到了家門口，實現多年願望，選擇平潭創業正確、未來可期”

香港文匯報訊（記者 蘇榕蓉 福州報道）26日上午9時43分，隨着G5322次動車從平潭站緩緩駛出，祖國大陸距離台灣島最近的鐵路——福（州）平（潭）鐵路正式開通運營。當日，中國首座公鐵兩用跨海大橋——平潭海峽公鐵大橋同步投入使用，福州至平潭間最快35分鐘可達。多名在平潭投資創業的台胞體驗首發列車，見證這一時刻。他們表示，福平鐵路通車的“磁吸效應”將吸引越來越多台胞“登陸”發展，兩岸共同家園建設迎來“加速度”。

全長88公里的福平鐵路連接福建省會福州與全國第五大島平潭，為國鐵I級雙線客貨共線鐵路，共設福州、福州南、長樂、長樂東、長樂南、平潭6座客運車站，最高運營時速200公里。平潭是祖國大陸離台灣島最近的地方，與台灣新竹相距僅68海里。2009年，國家在平潭設立綜合實驗區，探索建設“兩岸同胞共同家園”，目前實驗區已註冊台資企業上千家。

開啟兩岸融合新大門

當日，不少台胞台商前往體驗搭乘，在動車旁合影留念。台商、宗仁科技（平潭）有限公司總經理陳孟邦接受香港文匯報採訪時難掩興奮與喜悅之情，陳孟邦是平潭交通變遷的親歷者，他感慨萬千地回憶說，2010年他帶一個芬蘭客戶赴平潭考察，當時客戶從國外飛香港再到廈門，兩人又從福州搭汽車，再坐輪渡幾經周折才進到平潭。“如今鐵路開到了家門口，實現了我多年的願望，也證明了我當初選擇平潭創業是正確的。”陳孟邦表示。

據陳孟邦介紹，公司業務主要與集成電路、芯片設計有關，供應商和客戶主要集中在長三角和珠三角地區，福平鐵路打通了平潭到長、珠三角、北上廣深的高速通道，拉近了他們和供應商、客戶之間的距離，“有利於公司在大陸業務的拓展，平潭未來可期。”陳孟邦說。

中國鐵路南昌局平潭站相關負責人李飛表示，通過福平鐵路，在福州樞紐與合福高鐵、杭深高鐵、昌福鐵路等鐵路通道連接，平潭將直接通達北京、上海、深圳等大城市。

平潭首批台灣專才、平潭管委會金融辦副主任楊哲安向香港文匯報表示，福平高鐵是國家“八縱八橫”高速鐵路網京福高鐵的重要延伸，



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平潭海峽公鐵大橋同步投入使用。中新社

2021
全國兩會
3月開幕

香港文匯報訊（記者 劉凝哲 北京報道）2021年全國兩會召開時間正式確定。十三屆全國人大常委會第二十四次會議26日表決通過了關於召開十三屆全國人大四次會議的決定。

根據決定，十三屆全國人大四次會議將於2021年3月5日在北京召開。

日前召開的政協第十三屆全國委員會第四十七次主席會議，審議通過了關於召開政協第十三屆全國委員會第四次會議的決定（草案），建議全國政協十三屆四次會議於明年3月4日在北京召開。

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耶路撒冷地區，以色列考古學家在當地發掘出2000年前古跡。據報道，以色列文物管理局與天主教會的學者表示，他們在耶路撒冷的客西馬尼發現了兩個有2000年歷史，可追溯到耶穌時代的儀式浴場。

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美國味全產品—令人懷念的家鄉風味

(本報記者秦鴻鈞報導)「美國味全公司」是一家在美生產中式冷凍食品和進口傳統華人食品的公司，銷售網遍及美國、加拿大及中南美洲。美國味全設有兩個工廠，六個負責銷售配送的分公司。兩個工廠，一是位於加州洛杉磯地區(Los Angeles)的八萬多呎廠房，第二個廠座落在田納西州納什維爾地區(Nashville)的十四萬多呎廠房。負責銷售配送的六個分公司分別位於洛杉磯、舊金山、休士頓、亞特蘭大、芝加哥和紐澤西，各自具備3萬多到10萬多呎不等的倉儲規模。秉持四十七年來對食品的熱忱及對品質的堅持，美國味全堅持傳統再創新，藉由不斷投入之專業與技術，致力於生產優質的傳統美食，便利現代人的生活，並滿足海外華人對家鄉味的思念。與此同時，美國味全積極拓展美國主流與國際市場，希望可以讓更多人品嚐中華美味。

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在品質管理方面，美國味全擁有現代技術與設備、嚴謹的品質管理團隊和六個分公司溫控的配送車隊。在產品冷凍技術上採用IQF(急速單凍)或液態氮，在最短時間內有效保存食品的鮮度與

營養，減少食品解凍後的水份流失，藉此降低了產品因冷凍而造成的品質差異，達成最好的保鮮效果。產品包裝亦使用全自動磅秤及裝袋機，快速準確地將產品裝袋封合。每一袋產品均須通過金屬及重量檢測機，確保產品的重量與安全性。美國味全食品公司堅守企業對社會的責任，強調品質安全，落實我們對消費者的承諾。

在傳承傳統方面，美國味全在美國生產的產品包括水餃、煎餃、鍋貼、肉包、餛飩、小籠湯包、春捲皮、木須皮等幾十個品項，皆為傳統的中華美食。同時，美國味全的進口部通過實地考察、質量把控，帶來了數百種來自不同國家不同地域各俱特色的產品。在美國味全團隊整體努力合作下，實現了在美國生產、國外進口的整合，從而保證了產品組合的完成性及多樣性，除此之外，美國味全擁有全美配送一條龍服務，將南北傳統美食、各地特色風味都呈現於市場上，以滿

足不同國家、不同地域的消費者懷念家鄉味的需求。

在開拓創新方面，美國味全產品的不斷創新來源於企業內部源源不斷的活力以及經驗豐富、具備專業技術與創新精神的研發團隊。美國味全在傳承中華傳統美食的基礎上，不忘與時俱進，推陳出新，切合當下美國中餐流行趨勢，開發出XO、是拉差辣味系列、四川麻辣系列等辣味產品。同時，美國味全也開發出全天然系列、有機系列等綠色食品，滿足了不同消費者的多樣性需求。

無論現今或未來，美國味全食品公司都將以一貫的堅持，用心傳承美味，用心傳遞關懷，為社會盡最大的一份力量。憑藉著對食品的熱忱，品質的堅持，以及人文的關懷，朝向永續經營的目標邁進。

味全水餃系列：山東手藝

絕代双椒

香辣濃郁·麻香綿長

味全京廚珍品系列

四川麻辣雞肉

藤椒柔順·麻香綿長

四川麻辣豬肉

花椒香辣·濃郁鮮純

美國味全食品公司

www.weichuanusa.com

全新上市

『山東手藝』是美國味全精心研發的水餃系列之一，經由國家特級廚師群五年實地取經，走訪青島、濟南、煙台，融合在地風情與道地風味而成，無論內餡或外皮，都十分講究。不同於一般的

冷凍水餃，味全要你品嘗的是如同現包現煮的好滋味。吃『山東手藝』，除了讓你感受特級麵皮中水與麵粉的黃金比例，還有內餡中蘊含的道地美味，滿足你的胃。

美國味全『山東手藝水餃』，無論內餡或外皮都是十分講究的，內餡蘊含山東在地滋味，晶瑩飽滿，鮮香爽口，麵皮講究水與麵粉的黃金比例，勁道十足，耐煮不爛。『山東手藝』師法名廚，

沿襲正宗口感，除了大眾熟悉的經典口味例如葷菜豬肉、大白菜豬肉、三鮮豬肉之外，還有搭配清新爽口蔬菜風味，例如：玉米豬肉、黑木耳豬肉和香菇雞肉，好吃又重視菜肉配比，幫助均衡營養，多元養分輕鬆取得。

美國味全堅守食品安全和品質至上的企業理念，在人才培訓和質量衛生管理方面都非常嚴格，透過完善的經營模式和高素質的經營團隊層層把關，工廠標準化生產高品質的冷凍食品，衛生又安全。味全冷凍食品工廠位於加州洛杉磯，嚴守GMP (Good Manufacturing Practice) 和 HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points) 之相關作業規定，所有生產材料和製作過程謹遵食品和藥物管理局(FDA)和美國農業部(USDA)的法規，更有USDA官員駐廠監督，保證所有產品都在最嚴謹的質量管理下生產。特選食材均遵循48小時政策，亦即生鮮食材都必須在48小時內使用完畢，以保新鮮。而成品都是經由急速單凍IQF (Individually Quick Frozen) 之先進設備來冷凍，保有最佳鮮度和美味，衛生又可靠。

味全在美國有六大銷售配送中心，包括紐澤西、芝加哥、亞特蘭大、休士頓、舊金山和洛杉磯，形成完善的冷凍即時配送網絡，將新鮮美味遍及全美華人世界。消費者吃到的不只是『五味俱全』，更有味全對產品的『用心』和對消費者的『關心』。敬請支持味全，盡情享受品質安全與歡樂美味。味全將不定期在各超市舉辦試吃與促銷活動，歡迎共襄盛舉。

美南國際電視 15.3《美南時事通》 中日東協 15 國 RCEP 簽署後，美國的選擇、台灣的去路...?

(本報記者黃梅子)日前，中、日、韓等 15 國在內的區域全面經濟夥伴關係協定(RCEP)在東亞合作領導人系列會議期間正式簽署。臺灣被排除於協定之外，而美國並未參與RCEP 協定。

歷經 8 年談判的區域全面經濟夥伴關係協定(RCEP)受到全球矚目，最後總算塵埃落定。這個全球最大的自貿協定的成員國包括東盟 10 國與中國、日本、韓國、澳大利亞、新西蘭。該協定的簽署標誌著世界上人口數量最多、成員結構最多元、發展潛力最大的東亞自貿區建設成功啓動。

這麼大的事件，竟然沒有美國的主導，美國主流媒體開始著急了，並且借此做文章，甚至借專家之口喊話拜登，稱世界不等我們了，催著拜登政府(雖然還沒上任)趕緊“制定亞太政策”。

如今，RCEP 和 CPTPP (全面與進步跨太平洋夥伴關係協定) “將為亞洲臺代人制定貿易、投資標準”，但美國都置身於兩項協議之外。川普四年總統任期，不斷地退群退出領導地位，這與美國壹貫的做法相悖。這使得很多美國人感覺不舒服，尤其是拜登上臺在即，雖然早已是 RCEP 和 CPTPP 的“局外人”，但臺向自命清高的美國最終怎能不來攬局？

早在協議簽署之前，美國便跳出來喊話日韓。“美國要求日本和韓國批評中國”，有媒體以此為標題報道稱，美國負責日韓事務的副國務卿克納佩12月13日對日韓喊話，煽動它們

“不要顧慮經貿活動”，要“勇於批評中國”。不過，日本、韓國壹直以

來都與中國保持著極為緊密的經貿關係，此番決定簽署協議也勢必是經過了嚴密的思考。

據相關數據顯示，2019 年全年中國與日本雙邊貿易總額達到 3150.0 億美元。中國與韓國 2019 年全年雙邊貿易總額則達到 2845.4 億美元。

2020 年 9 月發布的《日本經濟藍皮書：日本經濟與中日經貿關係研究報告(2020)》指出，中國已連續 12 年成為日本第壹大貿易夥伴國。而中國駐韓大使邢海明於 8 月指出，中國也是韓國最大貿易夥伴。

數據擺在眼前，正所謂“經濟基礎決定上層建築”，壹個國家想要發展，勢必是要重點抓經濟的，不過介於美國這位盟友的關係，日本還是會偶爾發發“嘴炮”，表表忠心，但是都無關痛癢，只求做給美國看看。

而韓國的話，對中美兩國來說都頗具戰略價值，雖然面臨美國的施壓，但韓國可以利用其戰略價值在中美之間進行討價還價，在某種程度上還可以主動創造議題，構建對自己有利的地區環境。

而最傻的可能就是印度，本應該由 16 國組成的 RCEP，最終只有 15 個國家，缺席的正是主動退出的印度。

印度決定不加入 RCEP，不僅是對協議的壹個挫折，對印度自己來說，也是壹個“歷史性的錯誤”。因為印度將被兩個決定亞洲未來的經濟集團 RCEP 和全面與進步跨太平洋夥伴關係協定(CPTPP) 排除在外。

加之疫情當下，印度的離開將會

促使該國的貿易規模與其他國家形成差距，進而在這場經濟復蘇競賽中落

於人後。

不過，印度臺向在國際組織當中表現平平，有時候甚至是“成事不足，敗事有餘”。就這壹點來說，印度不加入 RCEP，對於 RCEP 的發展可能是壹件幸事。

同樣焦慮的，還有臺灣民進黨當局。

有臺媒報道稱，由於臺灣與 RCEP 成員國的經貿往來都非常密切，在 RCEP 生效後，成員國之間關稅大幅下降，勢必排擠臺灣產品的出口。此外，未來臺灣服務業想進入成員國的障

礙可能也會更大，臺商到成員國投資

也可能會有困難，最終臺灣可能因此而被排擠在其生產鏈之外。

美國希望通過 TPP (跨太平洋夥伴

關係協定，目前改名為全面與進步跨

太平洋夥伴關係協定，即 CPTPP) 展示

自己在亞太經濟領域的領導地位，並

將中國排斥在外，但特朗普上臺後退

出了 TPP，而拜登上臺後是否會重返

CPTPP？

其實，縱觀歷史，我們不難發現

，只有開發才能經濟發展，也才能穩

固國家的地位。

美南國際電視 15.3《美南時事通》

主持人蓋軍，美南新聞記者肖永群邀

請德州資深律師包傑生談論中日東協

15 國 RCEP 簽署後，美國的選擇、臺灣的去路...?

請關註美南國際電視 15.3 頻道《美南時事通》，也可以通過 iTalkBB 平臺收看。美南新聞網站 scdaily.com，也可以在 youtube 上搜索 Stv15.3 Houston，訂閱美南新聞頻道，隨時收看美南國際電視的節目。

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