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Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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Cop who shot Black man after traffic stop arrested, to face manslaughter charge

MINNEAPOLIS (Reuters) -Minnesota authorities arrested the white police officer who fatally shot a Black man during a scuffle that followed a routine traffic stop and said they would charge her with second-degree manslaughter on Wednesday.

FILE PHOTO: A person uses a megaphone as activists confront State troopers, National Guard members and other law enforcement officers following a march for Daunte Wright, 20, who was shot and killed by former Brooklyn Center Police Officer Kim Potter, in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, U.S., April 13, 2021. REUTERS/ Nick Pfosi
Kim Potter, a 26-year veteran who resigned from the Brooklyn Center police force on Tuesday, was booked into Hennepin County jail on Wednesday for fatally shooting 20-year-old Daunte Wright three days ago, the state's Bureau of Criminal Apprehension said in a statement.

Potter, 48, was being held without bail, jail records showed. The Washington County Attorney's office was expected to file the charge against her later on Wednesday.

Washington County Attorney Pete Orput and Potter's attorney, Earl Gray, did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Wright was shot on Sunday after being pulled over for what police said was an expired car registration. Officers discovered there was a warrant out for his arrest, and Officer Potter accidentally drew her pistol instead of her Taser during a struggle with Wright, who got back into his car, officials said.

In police video of the incident, Potter can be heard shouting, "Holy shit, I just shot him."

In addition to Potter, Brooklyn Center police chief Tim Gannon also tendered his resignation on Tuesday.

To convict Potter of second-degree manslaughter under Minnesota law, prosecutors must show that she was "culpably negligent" and took an "unreasonable risk" in her actions against Wright. The charge carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and a \$20,000 fine.

Attorney Benjamin Crump, representing Wright's family, said in a statement on Wednesday that the charge was a step but fell short of fulfilling a greater need for police reform in the United States.

Taser vs. gun mix-ups draw fresh scrutiny in wake of Minnesota killing
"While we appreciate that the district attorney is pursuing justice for Daunte, no conviction can

give the Wright family their loved one back. This was no accident. This was an intentional, deliberate, and unlawful use of force.

"Driving while Black continues to result in a death sentence," Crump said.

TASER USE AN ISSUE
The shooting has renewed criticism of discretionary vehicle stops for minor traffic violations, in which police officers have legal leeway to act on racial bias, civil rights advocates say.

It has also drawn attention to potential issues with the use of Tasers by police officers, with some experts saying problems persist with training and the weapon's design.

Potter is at least the third U.S. law enforcement officer to face charges after claiming they mistakenly killed someone with a gun when they meant to use a Taser.

The previous two are former Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) police officer Johannes Mehserle, who fatally shot a man named Oscar Grant in 2009 in Oakland, California, and reserve deputy Robert Bates, who killed Eric Harris in Oklahoma in 2015.

Mehserle was convicted of involuntary manslaughter and sentenced to two years in prison. Bates was sentenced to four years in prison for second-degree manslaughter.

Wright was killed in Hennepin County, just miles from the Minneapolis courthouse where the trial of Derek Chauvin, the former Minneapolis policeman charged with murdering George Floyd last May, is taking place.

Potter's case was referred to nearby Washington County under a year-old, five-county agreement to avoid the appearance of conflicts of interest in police use-of-deadly-force cases.

Floyd, 46, who died in handcuffs with his neck pinned to the street under Chauvin's knee, became the face of protests against racism and police brutality that swept the United States last year.

Protesters assembled outside Brooklyn Center's police headquarters for a third night on Tuesday, some throwing bottles and other projectiles over a fence around the building. Officers fired teargas, nonlethal rounds and flash-bang rounds, to disperse the crowd.



More than 100 companies sign letter opposing U.S. state voting restrictions

(Reuters) -More than 100 U.S. companies including Apple Inc, Amazon.com Inc, Ford Motor Co and Starbucks Corp have declared their opposition to voting curbs that a number of states are considering implementing. Activist groups say the restrictions - outlined in voting rights bills already passed in Georgia and being weighed in, among others, Texas and Arizona - are specifically targeting Black people and other racial minorities.

"We all should feel a responsibility to defend the right to vote and oppose any discriminatory legislation or measures that restrict or prevent any eligible voter from having an equal and fair opportunity to cast a ballot," the companies said in a letter published as a two-page advertisement nyti.ms/3e0fvnL in Wednesday's New York Times.

The statement was the initiative of former American Express Chief Executive Officer Ken Chenault and Merck & Co CEO Ken Frazier.

"It was important for companies to assert some of the core principles of our democracy and the most fundamental is the right to vote," Chenault said in an interview with Reuters.

The two executives pushed for companies to take a stance on a Zoom call with about 100 CEOs, investors, lawyers and corporate directors on Saturday.

Republican lawmakers have criticized CEOs for speaking out on the issue. Chenault said the group that sponsored the letter, which includes the Black Economic Alliance, was not going to be "prescriptive" about how companies should voice their opposition to specific pieces of legislation.

Republicans across the country are using former President Donald Trump's false claims of voter fraud to back state-level voting changes they say are needed to restore election integrity.

Opponents of the moves say they are intended to disenfranchise citizens who tend not to vote Republican.



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WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

CORONAVIRUS DIARY

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Ukraine Stand-Off Intensifies



Russia has warned the United States to stay away from the annexed Crimean peninsula for their own good as the situation in Ukraine intensifies.

U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken met with allies and Ukrainian ministers in Brussels and made it clear that the Biden administration along with its allies in Europe have Ukraine's back and considers Russia's ongoing

military buildup in the region "very provocative."

Two U.S. warships passed through Turkish waters this week to be deployed in the Black Sea.

In 2014 Russia unilaterally annexed Crimea, a peninsula that sticks out into the Black Sea and is home to a Russian naval base.

Today President Biden



phoned Putin and proposed that they meet in a third country to cool down the situation in the region.

But Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Ryabkov said, "The United States is our adversary and does everything it can to undermine Russia's position on the world stage."

We are really worried when the world is facing the pandemic and an economic crisis, we don't want to see a conflict between two superpowers.

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

Editor's Choice



Brooklyn Center resident Jose Chavez wraps his arms around his daughter Cattleya Chavez, 3, as they listen to speakers during a protest outside the Brooklyn Center Police Department, days after Daunte Wright was shot and killed by a police officer, in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota. REUTERS/Leah Millis



Children sit near a mosque as they wait to break the fast during the holy fasting month of Ramadan in Palu, Central Sulawesi Province, Indonesia. Antara Foto/Mohamad Hamzah



Nurses from Humber River Hospital's mobile vaccine clinic administer the first dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine at a Toronto Community Housing building in Toronto, Canada. REUTERS/Carlos Osorio



Logan Evans, son of slain U.S. Capitol Police officer William "Billy" Evans, walks past the casket during a ceremony at the Capitol in Washington. J. Scott Applewhite/Pool

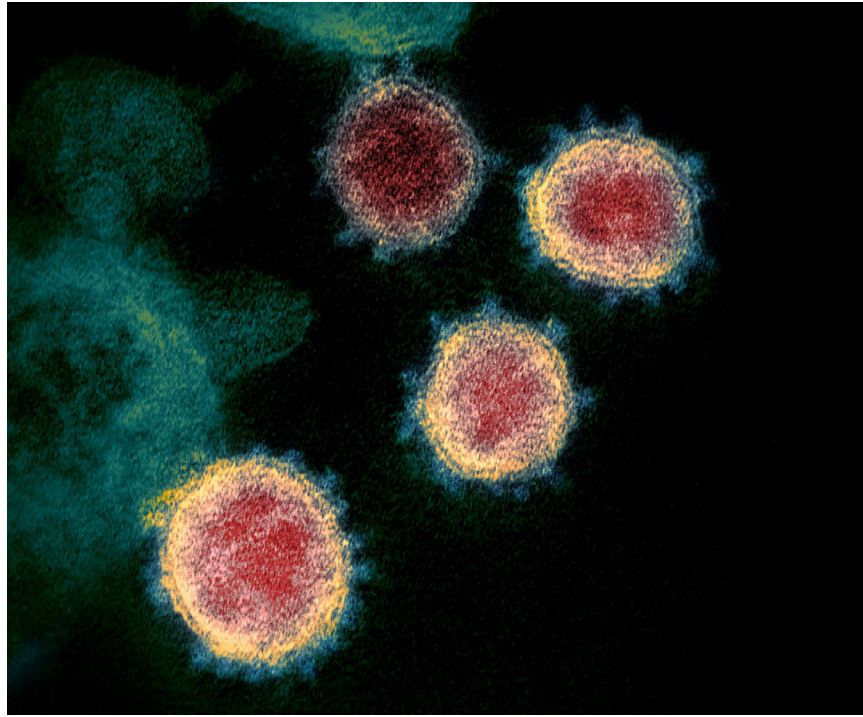


A U.S. flag carried upside down with the names of people of color killed in police custody and in other incidents is seen before a protest march, days after Daunte Wright was shot and killed by a police officer, in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota. REUTERS/Leah Millis



Militants of the self-proclaimed Luhansk People's Republic (LNR) stand guard at fighting positions on the line of separation from the Ukrainian armed forces in Luhansk Region, Ukraine. REUTERS/Alexander Ermochenko

‘Double Mutant’ COVID-19 Strain Emerges In California



Double Mutant Coronavirus Variant From India Found In California.

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

A new “double mutant” variant of the coronavirus has been discovered in California, with scientists worrying the strain could be more infectious. The Stanford Clinical Virology Lab identified and confirmed one case of the variant — which first emerged in India — in the Bay Area, Stanford Health Care spokesperson Lisa Kim told the San Francisco Chronicle Sunday. Seven other presumptive cases are also being screened by Stanford. The emerging strain is called the “double mutant” because it carries two mutations in the virus that helps it latch onto cells, the news outlet reported. The “double mutant” variant has been found in 20 percent of cases sequenced from India’s hard-hit state of Maharashtra, where coronavirus cases have surged more than 50 percent in the past week, noted Dr. Peter Chin-Hong, an infectious disease ex-

pert at the University of California, San Francisco.



A new strain of COVID-19 has been found in California. (Photo REUTERS)

It is not yet known whether this new COVID-19 variant is more infectious or resistant to the coronavirus vaccine, but Chin-Hong said it “makes sense” that it could be more transmissible. “It also makes sense that it will be more transmissible from a biological perspective as the two mutations act at the

receptor-binding domain of the virus, but there have been no official transmission studies to date,” he told the San Francisco Chronicle.

One of the variant’s mutations is similar to one found on the coronavirus variants first detected in Brazil and South Africa, and the other mutation is also found in a variant first detected in California, Chin-Hong added.



The variant, originally identified in India, carries two mutations in the virus that help it latch onto cells. (Photo EPA)

“This Indian variant contains two mutations in the same virus for the first time, previously seen on separate variants,” the scientist said. “Since we know that the domain affected is the part that the virus uses to enter the body, and that the California variant is already potentially more resistant to some vaccine antibodies, it seems to reason that there is a chance that the Indian variant may do that too,” he explained.



It is not yet known whether this new COVID-19 variant is resistant to the coronavirus vaccine. Getty Images Several other COVID-19 variants have already been detected in the US — including the highly contagious UK variant, known as B.1.1.7, the South African variant called B.1.351, and the Brazilian variant known as P.1.

The UK variant accounts for 12,505 cases in the US, while the South Africa and the Brazil variants make up 323 and 224 cases in the country, respectively, according to the latest data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (Courtesy <https://nypost.com/>)

Related

Fully Vaccinated People Do Not Need Masks Or Physical Distancing: CDC

(CNN)The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Friday released a highly anticipated update to travel guidance for people who are fully vaccinated against Covid-19, eliminating some testing and quarantine recommendations. Fully vaccinated people can travel at low risk to themselves, CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky said Friday, but travel still isn’t recommended at this time because of rising numbers of coronavirus cases. The agency said that as long as coronavirus precautions are taken, including mask wearing, fully vaccinated people can travel within the United States without getting tested for Covid-19 before or self-quarantining after.



A podium with the logo for the CDC. (Kevin C. Cox/Getty Images)

For international travel, fully vaccinated people don’t need a Covid-19 test prior to travel -- unless it is required by the destination -- and do not need to self-quarantine after returning to the United States. They should still have a negative Covid-19 test before boarding a flight to the US, and a follow up test three to five days after their return, the CDC noted. The CDC considers someone fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving the last required dose of the Covid-19 vaccine. The updated guidance does not apply to unvaccinated people. The CDC advises

anyone who hasn’t been fully vaccinated to continue to avoid travel. (Courtesy bing.com)



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Don’t Worry If You Get These Side Effects From A Covid-19 Vaccine. They Can Actually Be A Good Sign



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

(CNN)With millions more Americans getting vaccinated every day, some have complained about fever, fatigue and other ailments they weren’t expecting. Don’t panic, doctors say. Side effects from Covid-19 vaccines won’t last long. And they’re actually proof that your immune system is working the way it’s supposed to. (Though vaccines are still very effective even without side effects.) In this article we will cover some of the most common side effects from Covid-19 vaccines, how you can manage them, and why you shouldn’t use them as an excuse to skip vaccination: “The kinds of things we’re seeing are arm soreness, body aches, sometimes fatigue, sometimes even low-grade fever,” said Dr. Peter Hotez, a vaccinologist and dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine. After he got his second dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, “I had shaking chills for a couple of hours,” Hotez said. “And we know why this happens -- because the vaccine is very potent in inducing an immune response. That’s one of the reasons why we’re getting such high levels of protection” against Covid-19. Other side effects can include pain, redness or swelling at the injection site and possibly headache or nausea, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.



Could I have gotten Covid-19 from the vaccine?

No. It’s literally impossible to get Covid-19 from any of the vaccines used in the US because none of them contains even a piece of real coronavirus.

How many people get side effects?

It’s not certain because millions of Americans are getting vaccinated every day, and those who do get side effects might

not report them to the federal Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System. But in vaccine trials, about 10% to 15% of immunized volunteers developed “quite noticeable side effects,” former Operation Warp Speed Chief Scientific Adviser Moncef Slaoui said late last year.

“Most people will have much less noticeable side effects,” he said.

When it comes to anaphylaxis -- or severe allergic reactions -- “the rate is now around two to five per million,” Hotez said. That means about 0.0005% (or less) of those who get a Covid-19 vaccine have a serious, negative response. The good news is even when severe outcomes do happen, “they usually happen in the first 30 minutes,” Hotez said.



“That’s why vaccine sites keep people there for 15 to 30 minutes afterward -- to make certain they’re not having an anaphylactic reaction.”

The CDC recommends people who have had a severe allergic reaction to a different vaccine or a history of anaphylaxis stay for 30 minutes after vaccination. Others could leave after 15 minutes. All places administering vaccines must be armed with epinephrine to quickly combat any cases of anaphylaxis, the CDC said.

More than 150 million doses of vaccines had been administered by the end of March. So far, there is no evidence of any death caused by a Covid-19 vaccine, the CDC said.

Do some vaccines produce more side effects than others?

Every body is different. So the exact same vaccine can

leave one person feeling sick for a day and another person feeling perfectly fine. With that said, “the mRNA vaccines -- the Pfizer and the Moderna -- they are what’s called more reactogenic, meaning there are more side effects,” Hotez said.

“They’re not serious side effects, but they can be unpleasant, and they can sometimes last a day or two. Usually they don’t. Usually they last a few hours.”

Both the Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna vaccines give about 95% protection against symptomatic Covid-19, and both are virtually 100% effective against severe Covid-19 illness. In their clinical trials, no one who was vaccinated died from Covid-19.



The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is not an mRNA vaccine. Among US trial participants, it was 72% effective against Covid-19 and 85% effective against severe Covid-19. Like the other two vaccines, no one who was vaccinated during the clinical trial died from Covid-19.

Is it true second doses are worse than the first?

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine requires only one dose, but the Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna vaccines require two doses. It’s true that some people have reported stronger side effects after their second doses, according to both Pfizer and Moderna. But again, that’s another sign the vaccines are doing what they’re supposed to.

“With the first dose, you are having to generate an immune response from the ground up,” said Michael Worobey, an evolutionary biology professor at the University of Arizona. The body produces antibodies, but also starts to generate immune cells called B cells to make targeted antibodies -- and that takes time, Worobey said.

“Then the second time you give a person the shot, those cells are sitting around like a clone army and can immediately start producing a very big immune response, which is what is happening when people feel like they have been kicked in the teeth.”

Some vaccines build up plenty of response with a single dose, said professor Thomas Geisbert, an expert in emerging viral threats at the University of Texas Medical Branch. But the second dose in two-dose vaccines builds a longer-lasting defense force.

Can I skip the second dose to avoid stronger side effects?

That’s a really bad idea, Hotez said.



Not only would you miss out on increased protection, but you’d also likely reduce the time span of your protection. “Your immune system is already jacked up from the first dose,” Geisbert said. So with a second dose, “you tend to build up a longer and more durable response.”

Can I take over-the-counter meds if I get side effects?

“You can take these medications to relieve post-vaccination side effects if you have no other medical reasons that prevent you from taking these medications normally,” the CDC said.

But it’s “not recommended you take over-the-counter medicine -- such as ibuprofen, aspirin, or acetaminophen -- before vaccination for the purpose of trying to prevent vaccine-related side effects.”

“It is not known how these medications might affect how well the vaccine works,” the agency said. “However, if you take these medications regularly for other reasons, you should keep taking them before you get vaccinated.

It is also not recommended to take antihistamines before getting a COVID-19 vaccine to try to prevent allergic reactions.”

When should I get help if my side effects seem severe?

“In most cases, discomfort from pain or fever is a normal sign that your body is building protection,” the CDC said. But you should contact your doctor or health care provider if your side effects are worrying you or don’t seem to be going away after a few days.

Same approach if the redness or tenderness from where you got the shot gets worse after 24 hours.

If there’s a chance for side effects, do young, healthy adults really need to get vaccinated?

There are plenty of reasons why young, healthy people should get a Covid-19 vaccine:



A dangerous, highly contagious new variant is affecting young people. “In the Upper Midwest, we’re starting to see lots of younger adults getting sick and going to the hospital from Covid because of the B.1.1.7 variant,” Hotez said. “So remember that the B.1.1.7 variant is different from past types of Covid infections that we’ve seen -- more serious and possibly more severe disease among younger people.”

Young people can get long-term Covid-19 complications. While they’re less likely to die from Covid-19, plenty of young, healthy people have turned into Covid-19 “long-haulers.”

Many have suffered chronic fatigue, chest pain, shortness of breath and brain fog months after their infection. And a

recent study found that 30% of people who had Covid-19 still had symptoms up to nine months after infection.

Young people can be easy transmitters of coronavirus.

Several states recently reported spikes in young people with Covid-19. “A lot of the spread is happening among younger people,” said Dr. Ashish Jha, dean of the Brown University School of Public Health. “That’s the group that is moving around, kind of relaxing, getting infected.”

If not enough people get vaccinated, we’ll never reach herd immunity. “It’s important to vaccinate as many adults as possible as soon as possible,” internal medicine specialist Dr. Jorge Rodriguez said. “If you want to open up America, get vaccinated.”

Should I take a day off work after getting vaccinated?

It’s not necessary, but Hotez suggests taking it easy for a day after each shot. “After your first or second dose, what I’m recommending is people not try to take on too ambitious of an agenda for the next 24 hours afterward,” he said.

“In other words, if you’re getting vaccinated, don’t schedule an important meeting or an important presentation or a meaningful family event. And then just be modest in your ambition the day you’re getting vaccinated and the day afterwards.”



That’s just to err on the side of caution, he said. “Chances are, you may be fine.”

Are the side effects worth it?

Absolutely. “Remember what we’re protecting against,” Hotez said. “We’re protecting against an illness that’s killed more than half a million Americans. And so it’s a very modest price to pay.” Even those who had bad side effects said they have no regrets. “I actually had some pretty significant symptoms after I got the second dose,” said Yasir Batalvi, who volunteered in Moderna’s vaccine trial.

“That evening was rough. I mean, I developed a low-grade fever and fatigue and chills,” he said. But by the next morning, Batalvi “felt ready to go.”

He said he encourages everyone to get vaccinated because the benefits greatly outweigh the side effects. “I think mass scale vaccination is really the only realistic way out of the pandemic,” he said. “I took the vaccine -- it was all right. I think we can get through this.” (Courtesy cnn.com)