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Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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## Blinken defends Afghan withdrawal at angry U.S. congressional hearing

WASHINGTON, Sept 13 (Reuters) - Secretary of State Antony Blinken beat back criticism of the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan on Monday, at a contentious congressional hearing where at least one Republican called on him to resign.

In testy exchanges with lawmakers, Blinken defended President Joe Biden's decision to pull out and pushed back on accusations that the State Department might have done more to help Americans and at-risk Afghans to be evacuated, blaming the previous administration for lacking a plan.

He repeatedly noted that Republican former President Donald Trump had negotiated the withdrawal agreement with the Taliban, and said President Joe Biden's administration did not consider renegotiating because of threats from the group to resume killing Americans.

"There's no evidence that staying longer would have made the Afghan security forces or the Afghan government any more resilient or self-sustaining," Blinken said. "We inherited a deadline. We did not inherit a plan," Blinken said, referring to the Trump administration's agreement to remove all U.S. forces from Afghanistan by May 1.

Members of Congress - Biden's fellow Democrats as well as opposition Republicans - have planned hearings since the Taliban seized control of the country last month after a rapid advance.

Blinken appeared on Monday before the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee and was to testify on Tuesday before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the first Biden administration official to testify publicly to lawmakers since the Islamist militant group's takeover.

Fireworks had been expected, given the amount of finger-pointing over how the two-decade-long U.S. presence in the country ended. Republicans offered harsh criticism.

"The American people don't like to lose, especially not to the terrorists. But this is exactly what has happened," said Representative Michael McCaul, the panel's top Republican.

McCaul asked why assets like the Bagram Air Base were not maintained and why the administration had not reached surveillance and counterterrorism agreements with neighboring countries.

"This is a national security threat as China moves in. For all I know they make take over Bagram," McCaul said.



## Congressman Al Green Remarks on Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance 2021



(Houston, TX) – On Saturday, September 11, 2021, Congressman Al Green (TX-09) released the following statement: "9/11 serves as a reminder that onto each person a watch is given. A reminder that this is our watch. A reminder that our mission is to protect the flame of freedom. Protect it from those who would smother flickers of hope with ashes of hate. Protect it from those who would extinguish precious embers of enlightenment with raging rivers of ignorance. Protect it from those who would suffocate the bright sparks of freedom with a dark blanket of servitude. On this day, some 20 years ago, the flame of freedom was under attack. On this day some 20 years ago, there were those who responded not on our watch." Congressman Al Green – who

spoke at various 9/11 remembrance ceremonies across the community today – went on, "They were the first responders who rushed in to save lives in the twin towers as others rushed out. They were the passengers on Flight United 93, a plane destined to take the lives of persons at the Capitol. Their response was not on our watch. They had to know that their lives would be lost. But their mantra was 'let's roll.' They had to know that they would never spend time with their wives, their husbands, their mothers, their fathers, their babies, their sisters, or their brothers, ever again. Yet, their mantra was 'let's roll.' In so doing, they, with great sacrifice, protected the flame of freedom and spared the lives of many. Today, I say to you America, 'let's

roll.' Let's roll beyond the ignorance that engenders hate. Let's roll across the chasms that divide us. Let's roll onto the path of unity our nation found on 9/11 some 20 years ago when the flame of freedom was under attack. Let's roll America."

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# WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

## CORONAVIRUS DIARY

09/13/2021

### Pastor Wong's Smile



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We were so glad to visit Pastor Wong and his wife at their beautiful home in The Woodlands, Texas. We had not seen them in many years since the last time at their old house in Sugar Land. When we walked into their house, we were so happy to see them with such smiling faces.

Many years ago when Pastor Wong came to Houston, Texas, and started the West Houston Chinese Church in west Houston, it was because of his hard work that he built up the foundation for the church. Today, the West

Houston Chinese church has become one of the largest Chinese churches in Texas.

For more than thirty years Pastor Wong was a community spiritual leader and he attended many community events and delivered good will messages to all of them. As wife of the pastor, Mrs. Wong always accompanied him and took care of his many scheduling details.

Today we are so happy to see that Pastor Wong has retired to a beautiful home with a garden in the backyard. In our communication we all felt that the time has just passed so fast, but Pastor Wong's contributions to our community will last forever.

Pastor Wong has now reached his 80's. Both he and his wife are retired with a happy family and with big smiles. Both of them are spiritual winners.



## Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

## Editor's Choice



A protester confronts riot police officers during a demonstration against France's restrictions, including compulsory health passes, to fight the coronavirus pandemic, in Paris, France. REUTERS/Benoit Tessier



Emma Raducanu of Great Britain celebrates with the championship trophy after her match against Leylah Fernandez of Canada in the women's singles final at the 2021 U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York. Robert Deutsch-USA TODAY Sports



A choir sings as people wait for Pope Francis to arrive in Heroes' Square in Budapest, Hungary. REUTERS/Remo Casilli



Firefighters attend a ceremony marking the 20th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks, at the FDNY Engine 1/Ladder 24 fire house in New York City. REUTERS/Shannon Stapleton



Kacey Musgraves arrives at the MTV Video Music Awards at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, New York. REUTERS/Andrew Kelly



Models interact while they present protective suits made for medical professionals, designed by the Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology in collaboration with Dishang, during China Fashion Week in Beijing. REUTERS/Ting-shu Wang



# Biden To Require COVID-19 Vaccines, Tests For Millions Of Private Workers



President Biden will announced a new rule Thursday to require all private employers with 100 or more employees to mandate vaccines or weekly testing.

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

A senior administration official said the rule will be issued from the Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration “in the coming weeks,” and the implementation timeline will likely mirror the roughly 90 day window other private sector employers, like Tyson Foods and United Airlines, have required. The requirement could impact nearly 80 million workers, the administration official said, and if a business fails to comply with the rule they could face fines up to \$14,000 per violation. The administration will also require those same companies to give employees paid time off to get vaccinated. The new rule for employers is one in a series of new aggressive steps that Biden will announce in a speech Thursday evening to boost vaccination rates in the coming weeks and rapidly scale up the country’s COVID-19 testing capacity, according to senior administration officials familiar with the plans. The new national strategy, dubbed “Path Out of the Pandemic,” represents a redoubling of the administration’s efforts to combat the threat of the delta variant of the coronavirus. The administration has muddled through a summer marked by rising infections and fierce resistance to public health measures from many Republican

governors.



The speech comes as Biden faces pressure to act more forcefully on the pandemic. After receding earlier this summer, the delta variant has fueled a new spike, with about 150,000 new cases daily and over 1,000 deaths per day. Biden is also dramatically expanding vaccination requirements for health workers. Last month, the administration said it would require all staff at about 15,000 nursing homes to be vaccinated to receive Medicare and Medicaid funding, a move that would affect about 1.3 million employees. The rule is expected to be issued later this month. Under the new plan, workers in most other health care settings that receive Medicare or Medicaid reimbursement, including major hospitals, will need to be vaccinated. The rules would affect 50,000 providers and about 17 million

workers, but officials did not have an immediate effective date. The administration will also impose sweeping new vaccination requirements on federal employees and contractors.



A senior administration official told reporters that under a new executive order to be announced by the president, federal employees will have 75 days to be fully vaccinated, with limited exemptions for religious or medical reasons. There will be no testing option. The order will cover about 100 million workers. “It’s simple; if you want to work for the federal government, you must be vaccinated. If you want to do business with the government, you must vaccinate your workforce,” the official said. Vaccines will also be mandatory for all teachers and staff at Head Start and Early Head Start programs, as well as schools and youth programs operated by the Department of Defense and the Bureau of Indian Education. The embrace of mandates represents a major escalation for the administration, which was previously reluctant to impose them. But significant questions about implementing the new requirements remain, and the administration is sure to face opposition, and not just from GOP governors like Texas’s Greg Abbott and Florida’s Ron DeSantis. The American Federation of Government Employees, the largest union of federal workers, immediately pushed back on the stronger mandate. The union said that while it has been urging members to get vaccinated, changes in policy need to be bargained.



“Put simply, workers deserve a voice in their working conditions,” AFGE President Everett Kelly said. President Biden will also call on gover-

nors to get all teachers and school staff vaccinated, and will urge schools to set up regular COVID-19 testing, consistent with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines. Public health experts think regular screening of children and staff will help stop infections from spreading. The federal government in the spring set aside \$10 billion in funding for COVID-19 screening tests for teachers, staff and students, but few took advantage as cases dropped. (Courtesy thehill.com)

Related

## GOP Governors Who Resist Vaccine Mandates Will Be ‘Run Over’ By The Administration, Advisor Says

White House senior adviser Cedric Richmond said President Joe Biden is willing to “run over” any Republican governors who attempt to fight back against federal vaccine mandates. After Biden unveiled a plan to impose either vaccination or frequent testing on over 80 million workers who are employed at companies that have 100 employees or more, Richmond told CNN that the White House is ready for GOP opposition. “The one thing I admire about this president is the fact that we are always going to put people above politics. And we’re going to fight for those who really need our help,” Richmond, a former Democrat congressman from Louisiana, said in response to a question about governors resisting the mandate. “And those governors that stand in the way, I think, it was very clear from the president’s tone today that he will run over them,” he said.



Rep. Cedric Richmond (D-La.) speaks during a House Judiciary Committee markup of the articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump, on Capitol Hill, in Washington, on Dec. 11, 2019. (Jose Luis Magana-Pool/Getty Images)

“And it is important. It’s not for political purposes. It’s to save the lives of

American people. And so, we won’t let one or two individuals stand in the way. We will always err on the side of protecting the American people.” Richmond’s comment, however, raises questions about how the federal government plans to “run over” states, as the United States government is federalist and combines the central government with state and local governments. A number of Republican governors on Thursday, following Biden’s speech, said they would resist the vaccine mandate. Should the federal government direct the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to impose testing or vaccine mandates on private employees, Biden will face an avalanche of lawsuits. “My legal team is standing by ready to file our lawsuit the minute Joe Biden files his unconstitutional rule,” South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem, a Republican, wrote in a Twitter post. “This gross example of federal intrusion will not stand.”



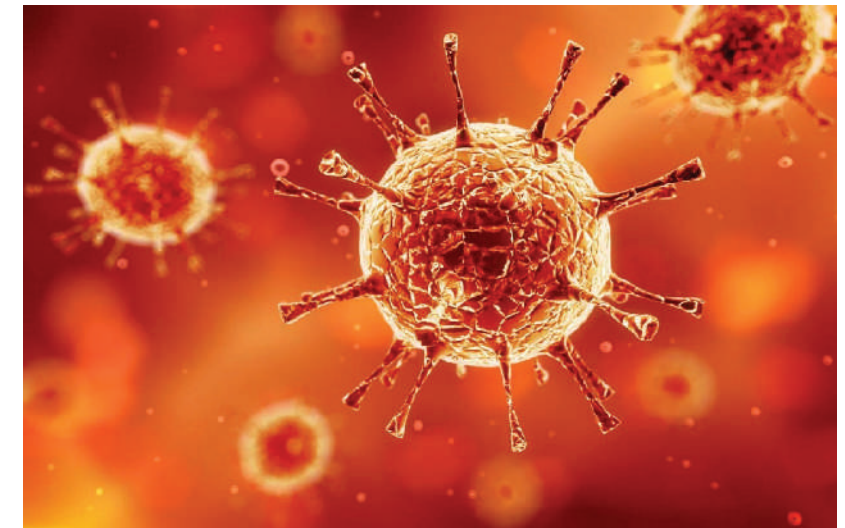
## Kay Ellen Ivey is the 54th and current governor of the state of Alabama .

Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp, also a Republican, wrote that his administration will “pursue every legal option available” in order to halt what he called a “blatantly unlawful overreach.” And Gov. Doug Ducey of Arizona said his state will “push back” against federal mandates, saying “Biden-Harris administration is hammering down on private businesses and individual freedoms in an unprecedented and dangerous way. This will never stand up in court.” He wrote: “This dictatorial approach is wrong, un-American and will do far more harm than good. How many workers will be displaced? How many kids are kept out of classrooms? How many businesses fined? The vaccine is and should be a choice.”

Other than an order targeting private businesses, Biden also said he would mandate that all federal workers and contractors get the shot, mandate Medicare and Medicaid hospital staff to get vaccinated, and other mandates. (Courtesy ntd.com)

# COMMUNITY

## Weapons In The Fight Against Coronavirus COVID-19 Your Blood Type And pH Level Play Important Roles In Coronavirus Survival



### OVERVIEW

(Editor’s Note: During this time of new COVID-19 threat from the Delta variant and other variants, it may be useful to many people to take advantage of the information in this article and make the effort to determine their own and their loved ones’ *Blood Type* and *pH levels*. As the article suggests, once this information is known, people can take advantage of this knowledge in their battles against COVID-19.)

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

### Blood Type

•*Coronavirus: Your blood type may make you more vulnerable, says study*  
*People with blood type A more vulnerable, finds Chinese research*  
(Beijing) -People with blood group ‘A’ may be more prone to the new coronavirus (COVID-19) infection while those with blood type ‘O’ have a lower risk of contracting the deadly virus, a first-of-its-kind study claimed on Tuesday. Reported by the South China Morning Post (SCMP), the preliminary study looked at the blood group of patients in China who contracted the disease. Researchers led by Wang Xinghuan with the Centre for Evidence-Based and Translational Medicine at Zhongnan Hospital of Wuhan University looked

at blood group patterns of more than 2,000 infected patients in Wuhan and Shenzhen.



They found that blood type A patients showed a higher rate of infection and developed more severe symptoms.

Of 206 patients, 85 had type A blood -

63 per cent more than the infected 52 who had type O.

“People of blood group A might need particularly strengthened personal protection to reduce the chance of infection,” the authors wrote, adding that Sars-CoV-2-infected patients with blood group A might need to receive more vigilant surveillance and aggressive treatment. “Blood group O had a significantly lower risk for the infectious disease compared with non-O blood groups”, said the study that is yet to be peer reviewed.

According to a study in the US National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI), ‘O’ is the most common blood group (37.12 per cent) in India, closely followed by B at 32.26 per cent, followed by A at 22.88 per cent while AB was the least prevalent group at 7.74 per cent. In the US, about 44 per cent of the population is type O, while about 41 per cent is type A. Doctors believe that the novel coronavirus has “equal potential to penetrate and spread”, irrespective of the gender, although various data show that more men are infected by the virus than women. However, If you are type O does not mean you are absolutely safe, so follow all safety guidelines issued by the local authorities. For more information, go to <https://gulfnnews.com/world/asia/coronavirus-your-blood-type-may-make-you-more-vulnerable-says-study-1.1584446718257> (Courtesy gulfnnews.com)

**Viruses Are pH Sensitive**  
Coronavirus infectivity is very sensitive to pH. For example, the MHV-A59 strain of coronavirus is quite stable at pH 6.0 (acidic) but becomes rapidly and irreversibly inactivated by brief treatment at pH 8.0 (alkaline). Human coronavirus strain 229E is maximally infective at pH 6.0. Infection of cells by murine coronavirus A59 at pH 6.0 (acidic) rather than pH 7.0 (neutral) yields a tenfold increase in the infectivity of the virus.

**Raising pH** (to an alkaline state) increases the immune system’s ability to

kill bacteria, concludes **The Royal Free Hospital and School of Medicine in London**. The viruses and bacteria which cause bronchitis and colds thrive in an acidic environment. Keeping our pH in the slightly alkaline range of 6.8-7.2 can reduce the risk and lessen the severity of colds, sore throats and bouts of influenza. Medical scientists have already concluded that a 8.4% solution of bicarbonate of soda (baking soda) is a safe inhibitory drug for respiratory bacterial, fungal, and mycobacterial growth. Viruses infect host cells by fusion with cellular membranes at low pH. Thus, they are classified as “**pH-dependent viruses**.” Drugs that increase intracellular pH (alkalinity within the cell) have been shown to decrease infectivity of pH-dependent viruses. Since such drugs can provoke negative side effects, the obvious answer would be that natural techniques that can produce the same results. There is no pharmaceutical that can compete with sodium bicarbonate for changing the pH of the bodies fluids.

### Adjust Your Body’s pH And Beome More Alkaline To Protect Against COVID-19

You can adjust your body’s pH through diet, consuming of alkakine watet and changes in lifestyle habits.



Your metabolism — the conversion of food into energy — is sometimes compared to fire. Both involve a chemical reaction that breaks down a solid mass. However, the chemical reactions in your body happen in a slow and controlled manner. When things burn, an ash residue is left behind. Similarly, the foods you eat leave an “ash” residue known as metabolic waste. This metabolic waste can be alkaline, neutral, or acidic. Pro-

ponents of this diet claim that metabolic waste can directly affect your body’s acidity.

In other words, if you eat foods that leave acidic ash, it makes your blood more acidic. If you eat foods that leave alkaline ash, it makes your blood more alkaline.

Put simply, pH is a measurement of how acidic or alkaline something is.

**The pH value ranges from 0–14:**  
•**Acidic:** 0.0–6.9  
•**Neutral:** 7.0

•**Alkaline** (or basic): 7.1–14.0  
Many proponents of this diet suggest that people monitor the pH of their urine to ensure that it is alkaline (over 7) and not acidic (below 7). According to the acid-ash hypothesis, acidic ash is thought to make you vulnerable to illness and disease, whereas alkaline ash is considered protective. By choosing more alkaline foods, you should be able to “alkalize” your body and improve your health.

### Certain food groups are considered acidic, alkaline, or neutral:

•**Acidic:** meat, poultry, fish, dairy, eggs, grains, alcohol  
•**Neutral:** natural fats, starches, and sugars  
•**Alkaline:** fruits, nuts, legumes, and vegetables

### SUMMARY

Metabolic waste — or ash — left from the burning of foods can directly affect the acidity or alkalinity of your body. For additional information, go here: [https://drsircus.com/general/viruses-are-phsensitive/?fbclid=IwAR3WMBu3efpRXQCvwbKkp-Pvx1YiOwXWx171xdLMzfYQH-COWyXsc4Trv8\\_g](https://drsircus.com/general/viruses-are-phsensitive/?fbclid=IwAR3WMBu3efpRXQCvwbKkp-Pvx1YiOwXWx171xdLMzfYQH-COWyXsc4Trv8_g) (Courtesy <https://drsircus.com>)