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Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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## China power crunch spreads, shutting factories and dimming growth outlook

BEIJING, Sept 27 (Reuters) - Widening power shortages in China have halted production at numerous factories including many supplying Apple and Tesla, while some shops in the northeast operated by candlelight and malls shut early as the economic toll of the squeeze mounted.

China is in the grip of a power crunch as a shortage of coal supplies, toughening emissions standards and strong demand from manufacturers and industry have pushed coal prices to record highs and triggered widespread curbs on usage. Read the explainer

Rationing has been implemented during peak hours in many parts of northeastern China since last week, and residents of cities including Changchun said cuts were occurring sooner and lasting for longer, state media reported.

On Monday, State Grid Corp pledged to ensure basic power supply and avoid electricity cuts. The power crunch has hurt production in industries across several regions of China and is dragging on the country's economic growth outlook, analysts said.

The impact on homes and non-industrial users comes as night-time temperatures slip to near-freezing in China's northernmost cities. The National Energy Administration (NEA) has told coal and natural gas firms to ensure sufficient energy supplies to keep homes warm during winter.

Liaoning province said power generation had declined significantly since July, and the supply gap widened to a "severe level" last week. It expanded power cuts from industrial firms to residential areas last week.

The city of Huludao told residents not to use high energy-consuming electronics like water heaters and microwave ovens during peak periods, and a resident of Harbin city in Heilongjiang province told Reuters that many shopping malls were closing earlier than usual at 4 p.m. (0800 GMT).

Given the current power situation "the orderly use of electricity in Heilongjiang will continue for a period of time," CCTV quoted the provincial economic planner as saying.



The power squeeze is unnerving Chinese stock markets at a time when the world's second-largest economy is already showing signs of slowing.

China's economy is grappling with curbs on the property and tech sectors and concerns around the future of cash-strapped real estate giant China Evergrande (3333.HK).

### PRODUCTION FALLOUT

Tight coal supplies, due in part to a pickup in industrial activity as the economy recovered from the pandemic, and toughening emission standards have driven the power shortages across China.

China has vowed to cut energy intensity - the amount of energy consumed per unit of economic growth - by around 3% in 2021 to meet its climate goals. Provincial authorities have also stepped up the enforcement of emissions curbs in recent months after only 10 of 30 mainland regions managed to achieve their energy goals in the first half of the year.

China's focus on energy intensity and decarbonization is unlikely to abate, analysts said, ahead of COP26 climate talks - as the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference is known - which will be held in November in Glasgow and where world leaders will lay out their climate agendas.

The power pinch has been affecting manufacturers in key industrial hubs on the eastern and southern coasts for weeks. Several key suppliers of Apple (AAPL.O) and Tesla (TSLA.O) halted production at some plants.

At least 15 Chinese companies have said in exchange filings that production had been disrupted by power curbs, while more than 30 Taiwan-listed firms with China operations had stopped work to comply with the power limits.

The steel, aluminium and cement industries have also been hard hit by the output curbs, with about 7% of aluminium production capacity suspended and 29% of national cement production affected, Morgan Stanley analysts wrote in a Monday note. Paper and glass could be the next industries to face supply disruptions, they said.

Producers of chemicals, dyes, furniture and soymeal have also been affected.

China's seasonal output of key industrial products  
China's seasonal output of key industrial products  
GDP CUTS

Workers of grid operator China Southern Power Grid inspect power cables connecting transmission towers in Dongguan, Guangdong province, China May 29, 2018. Picture taken May 29, 2018. REUTERS/Stringer

The fallout of the power shortage has prompted some analysts to downgrade their 2021 growth outlook.

Nomura cut its third and fourth-quarter China GDP growth forecasts to 4.7% and 3.0%, respectively, from 5.1% and 4.4% previously, and its full-year forecast to 7.7% from 8.2%.

"The power-supply shock in the world's second-biggest economy and biggest manufacturer will ripple through and impact global markets," analysts at Nomura said in a Sept. 24 note, warning that global supplies of textiles, toys and machine parts could be affected.

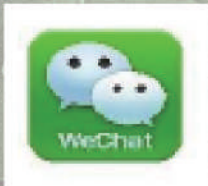
Morgan Stanley analysts said production cuts, if prolonged, could knock 1 percentage point off China's GDP growth in the fourth quarter.

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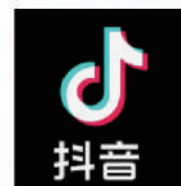
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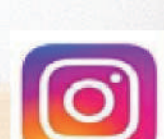
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# WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

## CORONAVIRUS DIARY

09/27/2021



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# Meng Wenzhou Is Going Home



After 1,030 days of detention in Canada, the U.S. Justice Department reached an agreement clear the way for senior executive of Huawei, Meng Wenzhou, to return to China. This action removed one of the major irritants between U.S. and China. Within a few hours China also released two Canadians who China had held after Meng Wenzhou had been detained in Canada.

The end of the three years' case may lead President Biden and President Xi into a

better relationship, but in the meantime, Biden was meeting for the first time at the White House with the leaders from Australia, India and Japan.

Ms. Meng spent three years in

Vancouver on a bail of about \$8 million and was detained by Canadian authorities as the United States sought her extradition back to New York.

Since Biden took office, the U. S. government has prevented the Chinese company Huawei from buying key chips needed for its equipment.

We all hope the end of this case will bring better relations between the two countries.

We really don't want to see the two most powerful countries continue to fight. They both need to cooperate in many fields for world peace.



**Southern DAILY** Make Today Different

## Editor's Choice



A boy sits among thousands of white flags on the National Mall in Washington, September 26, 2021. The exhibition of white flags, each one representing a person who has died of COVID-19 in the United States, covers more than 20 acres of the National Mall. REUTERS/Joshua Roberts



A white flag with a memorial written on it stands on the National Mall, September 26, 2021. Last year, artist Suzanne Brennan Firstenberg created an outdoor installation in Washington comprised of more than 267,000 white flags - one for every person in the United States who had died from COVID-19. This year, she has reprised her work. Now, there are some 650,000 flags placed



A couple hugs as they look at the white flags, September 26, 2021. "Once you take one flag and think about all the grief that is embodied by that flag, then you lift your gaze. That's the power of this art - understanding the immensity of our loss," said Firstenberg, adding that the flags are meant to mimic the headstones at Arlington National Cemetery. REUTERS/Joshua Roberts



People view thousands of white flags, September 26, 2021. "When numbers get so large, it becomes difficult to really understand them, so I as a visual artist wanted to make the number physical," she said. "Taken holistically, this is a physical manifestation of empathy," said Firstenberg during the opening ceremony of the art installation. REUTERS/Joshua Roberts



Mick Jagger, Keith Richards and Ronnie Wood of The Rolling Stones perform in St. Louis, Missouri, September 26, 2021. The Rolling Stones kicked off the U.S. leg of their "No Filter" tour on Sunday with a video tribute to their late drummer Charlie Watts, who died in August at the age of 80 after undergoing surgery for an unspecified condition. REUTERS/Lawrence Bryant



President Ronald Reagan waves to the crowd immediately before being shot outside the Washington Hilton Hotel on March 30, 1981. A U.S. judge says he will grant John Hinckley an "unconditional release," saying the would-be assassin no longer poses a danger. Courtesy Reagan Library/via REUTERS



## Hospitals Are Seeing More Young Adults With Severe Covid Symptoms, CDC Says



### Key Points

**CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky said hospitals are seeing more and more younger adults with severe Covid-19.**

**“Data suggests this is all happening as we are seeing increasing prevalence of variants, with 52 jurisdictions now reporting cases of variants of concern,” Walensky said.**

**The B.1.1.7 variant has since spread and now accounts for more than 16,000 cases across 52 jurisdictions in the country.**

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

Hospitals are seeing more and more younger adults in their 30s and 40s admitted with severe cases of Covid-19, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky said Wednesday. “Data suggests this is all happening as we are seeing increasing prevalence of variants, with 52 jurisdictions now reporting cases of variants of concern,” Walensky said at a press briefing on the pandemic.

Scientists say new variants of the coronavirus are more transmittable and some of them may be more lethal as well, resulting in more severe cases. The highly contagious B.1.1.7 variant from the United Kingdom has become the dominant strain circulating in the United States, Walensky said.



Walensky previously warned that traveling for spring break could lead to another rise in cases, especially in Florida where the variant was rapidly spreading.

“I’m pleading with you, for the sake of our nation’s health,” Walensky said at a briefing last month. “Cases climbed last spring, they climbed again in the summer, they will climb now if we

# BUSINESS

stop taking precautions when we continue to get more and more people vaccinated.”

The B.1.1.7 variant has since spread and now accounts for more than 16,000 cases across 52 jurisdictions in the country. The variant is about 50% more transmissible than the original wild strain of the coronavirus. (Courtesy cnbc.com)

### Related

**States and Cities Look to Schools, Camps, Even Beaches To Vaccinate Younger Teens**



**Covid shots being administered by a health program in Denver that works with schools to vaccinate older teenagers — and soon, younger ones — at health clinics it runs in six public schools. (Photo/Kevin Mohatt for The New York Times)**

### Key Point

**The F.D.A.’s authorization of Pfizer’s Covid shot for 12- to 15-year-olds is a milestone in battling the coronavirus, but actually getting them vaccinated involves new challenges.**

The race is on to vaccinate the nation’s nearly 17 million 12- to 15-year-olds against Covid-19. The Food and Drug Administration’s decision on Monday to authorize the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for younger adolescents presents a new opportunity in the push for broad immunity against the coronavirus in the United States. But the challenges of getting them vaccinated are more complicated than for adults and older teenagers.

“The game changes when you go down as young as 12 years old,” said Nathan Quesnel, the superintendent of schools in East Hartford, Conn., adding, “You need to have a different level of sensitivity.”

A recent survey by the Kaiser Family Foundation’s Vaccine Monitor found that many parents — even some who eagerly got their own Covid shots — are reluctant to vaccinate pubescent children. Yet doing so will be critical for further reducing transmission of the virus, smoothly reopening middle and high schools and regaining some sense of national normalcy. Vaccination for the age group is expected to begin across the

country later this week. Sites are anticipating an initial surge in demand before an inevitable softening, much as happened with adults.



**A vial of the Pfizer vaccine at the Denver School of Science and Technology Green Valley Ranch this month. (Photo/Kevin Mohatt for The New York Times)**

Sites are anticipating an initial surge in demand before an inevitable softening, much as happened with adults.

States, counties and school districts around the country are trying to figure out the most reassuring and expedient ways to reach younger adolescents as well as their parents, whose consent is usually required by state law. They are making plans to offer vaccines not only in schools, but also at pediatricians’ offices, day camps, parks and even beaches.

Children’s Minnesota, a Minneapolis-based hospital system where the main Covid vaccination site has offered stress balls, colored lights and images of playful dolphins projected on the ceiling, is planning to provide shots beginning later this week in at least a dozen middle schools and a Y.W.C.A.



In Columbus, Ohio, public health nurses will drive a mobile vaccination unit around neighborhoods “just like you would an ice cream truck,” said Dr. Mysheika Roberts, the city health commissioner. In Connecticut, Community Health Center, a statewide primary care provider that vaccinated the busloads of high school seniors, is aiming to reach younger adolescents by offering shots at amusement parks, beaches and camps, among other locales.

“You’re going to Dollar General?” said Yvette Highsmith-Francis, a vice president of Community Health Center. “Guess what? We’re in the

parking lot.”

But with the school year ending soon, many health officials are racing against the academic clock to schedule both recommended doses, seeing schools as the best place to reach many students at once.

“We have a very finite amount of time,” said Dr. Anne Zink, the chief medical officer for Alaska. “In Alaska, kids go to the wind as soon as summer hits, so our opportunity to get them is now.”

A number of places are revving up vaccination efforts in schools. In Colorado, Denver Health will expand clinics it operates in six public schools to middle school students. For the last few weeks, it has provided 150 to 400 vaccines every Saturday and Sunday, reaching not just high school juniors and seniors but sometimes their parents and older siblings, too.

“It’s been really successful because we are doing it in their communities, where the kids are familiar,” said Dr. Sonja O’Leary, the medical director for Denver Health’s school-based health centers.



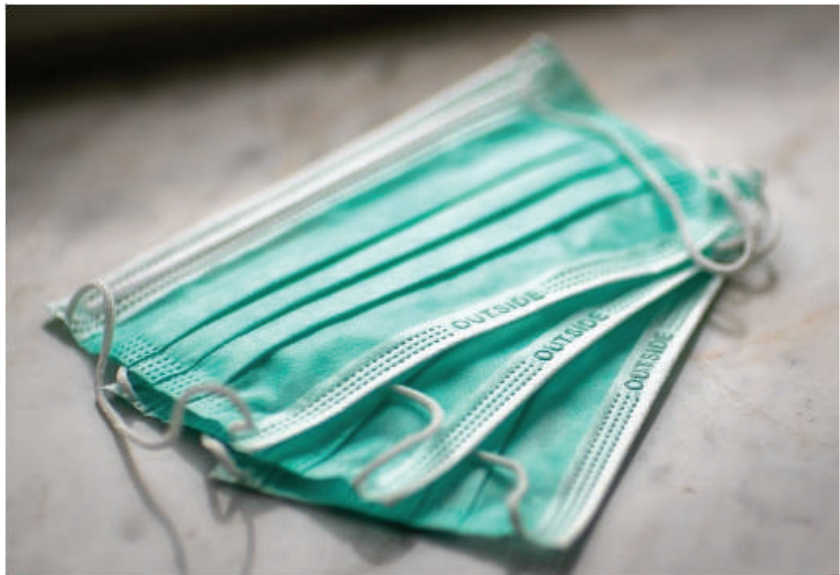
Other states believe pediatricians’ and family doctors’ offices will be the best places to catch teenagers — and children as young as infants as companies plan eventually to seek authorization for the shots to be given to the youngest children. Until recently, few doctors had vaccines on hand for patients. But in recent weeks, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has made a major push to enroll pediatricians to give the shots.

The thinking is that pediatricians are in the best position to field questions from parents and children. Not only are they experienced in giving routine childhood vaccinations, but they are also often a household’s most trusted source of health information.

President Biden announced plans last week to ship doses of the Pfizer vaccine directly to pediatricians’ offices, and he said that about 20,000 pharmacy sites were also ready to administer the vaccine to younger adolescents. (Courtesy nytimes.com)

# COMMUNITY

## How Do We Prevent Future Pandemics?



**There are 1.7 million ‘undiscovered’ viruses in mammals and birds, 827,000 of which could infect humans. (Image: Unsplash/Mika Baumeister)**

### KEY POINTS

**Human activity is to blame for COVID-19, say 22 international experts.**

**But we can prevent future pandemics by better protecting Earth’s natural resources.**

**There are 1.7 million ‘undiscovered’ viruses in mammals and birds, 827,000 of which could infect humans.**

**But it’s not too late to change course and rebuild our defences.**

**Experts say switching our efforts to prevention would reduce the threat.**

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

The good news: we can prevent future pandemics. But only if we take steps to protect the environment and restore its natural defences, according to an international group of 22 leading scientists.

“There is no great mystery about the cause of the COVID-19 pandemic – or of any modern pandemic,” said Dr Peter Daszak, chair of the panel which was convened by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

COVID-19 is the sixth global health crisis since the flu pandemic of 1918 and “its emergence has been entirely driven by human activities,” the report says, adding

that there are 1.7 million “undiscovered” viruses in mammals and birds – up to 827,000 of which could infect people.

“The same human activities that drive climate change and biodiversity loss also drive pandemic risk through their impacts on our environment. Changes in the way we use land, unsustainable trade, production and consumption disrupt nature and increase contact between wildlife, livestock, pathogens and people.” This contact allows viruses to cross over between species and spread more rapidly around the world.



**This is how pandemics start and spread – and their frequency is increasing, say scientists. (Image: IP-BES)**

**Prevention is better than reaction**

The group says that, rather than tackling pandemic outbreaks after they occur, we should be acting now to prevent them through greater conservation efforts and ending the overexploitation of Earth’s resources.

“The overwhelming scientific evidence points to a very positive conclusion,” said Daszak. “We have the increasing ability to prevent pandemics – but the way we are tackling them right now largely ignores that ability.”

Daszak says the fact that human activity has brought about such a rapid change in the natural environment proves we also have the ability to make change in the right direction – but “our approach has effectively stagnated”.

**Global action needed**

Forecasting that the global cost of the COVID-19 pandemic may already be as high as \$16 trillion, the IPBES report calls for the creation of a high-level intergovernmental council on pandemic prevention to coordinate a global action to prevent future outbreaks. If no action is taken, the report says future pandemics will happen more often, spread faster and kill more people than COVID-19. The panel says the economic cost of the current pandemic is 100 times the estimated cost of preventing it by protecting nature.

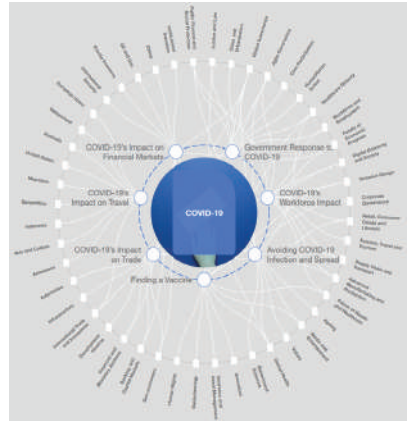
They call for “changes to reduce the types of consumption, globalized agricultural expansion and trade that have led to pandemics. This could include taxes or levies on meat consumption, livestock production and other forms of high pandemic-risk activities,” the report says.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) forecasts that by 2030

global meat consumption per head will reach 45.3 kg, almost double the level in the mid-1960s. Although COVID-19 lockdowns have reduced air pollution, a recent study warned that increased poverty caused by the pandemic could lead to more environmental damage as people return to activities like wildlife poaching and clearing forests for crops to survive.

### COVID-19 –

### Connected To The World



**COVID-19 threatens to become one of the most difficult tests faced by humanity in modern history. As the pandemic has spread it has taken lives, stirred anxiety and political drama, overwhelmed health systems, and triggered potentially lasting geopolitical change. The International Monetary Fund says the global economy faces a critical juncture, and Oxfam International has warned that half a billion people could be pushed into poverty as a result of the crisis. Around the world, desperate efforts are underway to contain what has become a profoundly disruptive outbreak.**

The World Economic Forum’s recent report, Vision Towards a Responsible Future of Consumption, called on consumer industries to encourage sustainable consumption, reducing environmental impacts and developing a circular economy, reusing resources to reduce waste. They call for “changes to reduce the types of consumption, globalized agricultural expansion and trade that have led to pandemics. This could include

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