



If you would like to share news or information with our readers, please send the unique stories, business

news organization events, and school news to us including your name and phone number in case more information is needed.

For news and information consideration, please send to News@scdaily.com or contact

John Robbins 281-965-6390
Jun Gai 281-498-4310

Publisher: Wea H. Lee
President: Catherine Lee
Editor: John Robbins

Address: 11122 Bellaire Blvd.,
Houston, TX 77072
E-mail: News@scdaily.com



Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

Tuesday, February 08 2022

Macron tells Putin he seeks to avoid war and build trust

MOSCOW, Feb 7 (Reuters) - French President Emmanuel Macron, the top Western leader to visit Moscow since Russia began massing troops on the border with Ukraine, told Vladimir Putin at the start of talks in the Kremlin on Monday that he aimed to avoid war and build trust.

Macron, who is expected to seek re-election in April, has positioned himself as a potential mediator on Ukraine, with Paris voicing scepticism about predictions by Washington and other Western capitals that a Russian assault is imminent.

Macron told the Russian president he was seeking a "useful" response "that of course allows us to avoid war and to build bricks of trust, stability, visibility". Putin, for his part, said Russia and France shared "a common concern about what is happening in the security sphere in Europe".

"I see how much efforts the current leadership of France and the president personally is applying in order to solve the crisis related to providing equal security in Europe for a serious historical perspective," Putin said.

On the eve of his trip, Macron, who is also due in Kyiv on Tuesday, told the Journal du Dimanche newspaper: "The geopolitical objective of Russia today is clearly not Ukraine, but to clarify the rules of cohabitation with NATO and the EU."

On his arrival, Macron told reporters: "I'm reasonably optimistic but I don't believe in spontaneous miracles."

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said ahead of the talks: "The situation is too complex to expect decisive breakthroughs in the course of one meeting."

In Washington, U.S. President Joe Biden said as he hosted German Chancellor Olaf Scholz that they were "working in lock-step" to address the crisis.

Russia has deployed more than 100,000 troops near Ukraine's borders. It denies planning an invasion, but says it is ready to take unspecified "military-technical measures" if its demands are not met, including a promise by NATO never to admit Ukraine and to withdraw some troops from Eastern Europe.

Washington has rejected those demands



but says it is willing to talk about arms control and confidence-building steps, which Moscow says are beside the point.

"In recent days there has been nothing new on the topic of security guarantees for Russia. Our Western interlocutors prefer not to mention this topic," Peskov said.

The United States and its allies have ruled out defending Ukraine with military force but say they would respond to any invasion with sanctions, arms shipments and reinforcement of NATO countries nearby.

Germany announced on Monday it would deploy 350 troops to Lithuania to reinforce a NATO battle group there.

Russian-backed separatist leaders in eastern Ukraine warned that a full-scale war could break out there and urged Moscow to send 30,000 soldiers to reinforce rebel forces. Kyiv says 15,000 people have been killed in fighting between government forces and separatists in the breakaway Donetsk region since 2014.

‘DEFENSIVE ALLIANCE’

In London, a spokesman for British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said Russian concerns about potential NATO aggression

were "fundamentally unfounded as NATO is a defensive alliance at its heart". He said Britain wanted to work with Moscow to provide it with reassurance on that point.

Russia sees NATO's addition of 14 new east European members since the Cold War ended three decades ago as an encroachment on its sphere of influence and a threat to its security.

On her second visit to Kyiv in three weeks, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock promised unequivocal support, stressing that Germany was willing to pay a high economic price to contain Moscow. read more

Ukrainian officials have publicly criticised Berlin for refusing to sell defensive weapons to Kyiv and over its perceived reluctance to stop gas flowing through the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline from Russia if Moscow launches an attack.

European countries are heavily reliant on Russian energy, high prices for which are already fuelling inflation. European Central Bank chief Christine Lagarde warned last week of "geopolitical clouds" over the European economy.

Former Facebook employee and whistleblower Frances Haugen testifies during a Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation hearing entitled 'Protecting Kids Online: Testimony from a Facebook Whistleblower' on Capitol Hill, in Washington, U.S., October 5,

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said "a frank conversation" with Baerbock about weapons had found "both common ground and a draft solution" but did not give details.

Germany has ruled out sending lethal weapons for historical reasons arising from its role in the 20th Century world wars. Kyiv's mayor last month derided an offer of 5,000 military helmets as "a joke".

Biden, a long-time opponent of Nord Stream 2, will make clear in his meeting with Scholz that the pipeline will not move forward if "Russia invades Ukraine in one way or another", a U.S. official said.

敬請關注我們的新媒體帳號

Follow us on social media



Southern News
美南新聞



美南微信
公眾號



今日頭條
美國美南網



抖音
美國美南網



西瓜视频
美國美南網



Facebook Page
Southern News
美南新聞



Tik Tok ID:
Southern News Group



Instagram ID:
Southern News

WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

02/07/2022

We Are Giving Out Red Envelopes



Wea H. Lee
Wealee@scdaily.com

Chairman of International District Houston Texas
Publisher Southern Daily Wea H. Lee
Southern News Group Chairman / CEO
Chairman of International Trade & Culture Center
Republic of Guiana Honorary consul at Houston Texas



Last Saturday I led our STV cultural and performance group to visit the Coshatta Casino Resort in Louisiana to celebrate the Chinese Lunar New Year and bring them red envelopes and tell them the year of the Tiger has arrived.

The dancing group

led by Ruolan Han performed a jazz dance that was intoxicating and dangerous. Other performances included Cheng Dequen's solo, "Horse Race," Han Limei's vocal solo, "Beautiful Spanish Girl," Liu Xin's violin solo, "Morning in the Miao Lin" and

Shao Lin Kufung's

wonderful performance on the stage.

The Tiger represents strength and perseverance all over the world. The Chinese consider the Lunar New Year the most important festive festival. We always remember former Secretary of Transportation Elaine Hao who said, "We

are very proud of our Chinese heritage."

Today Southern News Group is doing our best to promote our culture. I am very proud that we could send this cultural group to perform the show and we hope everybody will have a happy and healthy new year to come.



Southern DAILY Make Today Different

Editor's Choice



Residents take part in a military exercise for civilians conducted by veterans of the Ukrainian National Guard Azov battalion, amid threat of Russian invasion, in Kyiv, Ukraine. REUTERS/Gleb Garanich



Veterans of the Ukrainian National Guard Azov battalion conduct military exercises for civilians amid threat of Russian invasion, in Kyiv, Ukraine. REUTERS/Gleb Garanich



A Veteran of the Ukrainian National Guard Azov battalion conducts military exercises for civilians amid threat of Russian invasion, in Kyiv, Ukraine. REUTERS/Gleb Garanich



Residents take part in a military exercise for civilians conducted by veterans of the Ukrainian National Guard Azov battalion, amid threat of Russian invasion, in Kyiv, Ukraine. REUTERS/Gleb Garanich



Residents take part in a military exercise for civilians conducted by veterans of the Ukrainian National Guard Azov battalion, amid threat of Russian invasion, in Kyiv, Ukraine. REUTERS/Gleb Garanich



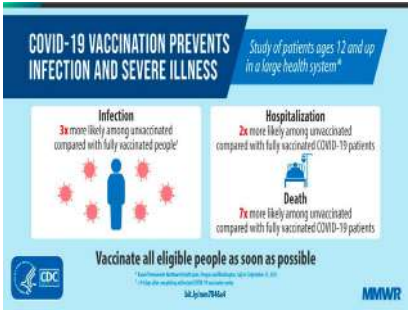
A Veteran of the Ukrainian National Guard Azov battalion conducts military exercises for civilians amid threat of Russian invasion, in Kyiv, Ukraine. REUTERS/Gleb Garanich

BUSINESS

The Fight Against The Virus Continues

900,000 Americans Deaths From COVID After Two Years Of The Global Pandemic

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



The U.S. has crossed yet another tragic landmark in the battle against COVID-19. On Friday, the country surpassed 900,000 deaths from the disease, two years after the first COVID-19 cluster was reported in Wuhan, China. Public health experts say coming close to the 1 million death mark from the coronavirus is “inevitable.”

“It’s absolutely staggering,” said Jennifer Nuzzo, an epidemiologist at Johns Hopkins University, which has tracked the number of COVID-19 deaths during the pandemic. “It’s unreal, frankly. And what makes it an even ... greater heartbreak — as if the loss of 900,000 souls weren’t enough of a heartbreak — is the fact that it’s probably an undercount of the number of people that we’ve lost.”

University of Texas at Austin professor and epidemiologist Lauren Ancel Meyers said the “horrible milestone” didn’t have to happen. “It was not inevitable. There are things that we could have done and should have done ... to protect those who were most vulnerable,” she said. “It’s a very sad day.”

President Joe Biden marked the “tragic milestone,” recognizing the “emotional, physical and psychological weight of this pandemic” and urged Americans to do their part.

“I urge all Americans: get vaccinated, get your kids vaccinated, and get your booster shot if you are eligible,” Biden said in a statement. “It’s free, easy, and effective — and it can save your life, and the lives of those you love.”

Daily deaths remain high even as overall case numbers dip

The rolling seven-day average for daily COVID-19 deaths has been above 2,000 since Jan. 23, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That’s nearly three times higher than in November, when the agency was reporting a seven-day average of 700 daily deaths.

Vaccines are preventing most severe disease and death

As COVID-19 vaccines have become widely available for Americans, the number of those who have received at least one dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccine continues to increase.

However, the percentage of fully vaccinated Americans is still relatively low at approximately 64%. Amid the most recent surge of the now dominant omicron variant, unvaccinated people were 97 times more likely to die compared with those who were boosted, according to data cited this week by CDC Director Rochelle Walensky.

Public health experts note that broader vaccination and boosting would have reduced the number of deaths. “We would have at least 300,000 fewer deaths. Probably more ... than that,” if the early pace of vaccination had been sustained, said Dr. Ashish Jha, dean of the Brown University School of Public Health. “But at least 300,000 Americans who have perished would still be with us. It’s tragic.”

According to the latest CDC data, 42% of eligible Americans have received a booster. (Courtesy npr.org)

Related

CDC Cuts The Recommended Isolation And Quarantine Periods For Coronavirus Infections

People who test positive for the coronavirus need to isolate themselves for only five days if they don’t show symptoms, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Monday. This cuts in half the earlier recommendation of 10 days of isolation.

Data shows that the majority of coronavirus transmission “occurs early in the course of illness,” the CDC explained — generally in the one or two days before symptoms begin

and two or three days after.

“Therefore, people who test positive should isolate for 5 days and, if asymptomatic at that time, they may leave isolation if they can continue to mask for 5 days to minimize the risk of infecting others,” the CDC said in a statement.



A medical worker administers a coronavirus test at a new testing site at the Times Square subway station in New York City on Monday. (Photo/Scott Heins/Getty Images)

The CDC has also updated its recommended quarantine period for people exposed to the virus. It says unvaccinated people should quarantine for five days, followed by five days of “strict mask use.” Exposed people who are more than six months past their second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines, or two months out from a Johnson & Johnson vaccine, should also quarantine for five days.

People who have gotten their booster shot don’t need to quarantine after exposure but should wear a mask for the next 10 days.

“The Omicron variant is spreading quickly and has the potential to impact all facets of our society,” said the CDC’s director, Dr. Rochelle Walensky, in a statement. “CDC’s updated recommendations for isolation and quarantine balance what we know about the spread of the virus and the protection provided by vaccination and booster doses. These updates ensure people can safely continue their daily lives.”

Dr. Megan Ranney, the associate dean at Brown University’s School of Public Health, tweeted Monday that a major reason the federal government altered isolation requirements is due to the economic strain of a full quarantine.

“Our economy is going to shut down if everyone has to isolate for 10 days. Luckily the science backs up the move, at least partially,” she tweeted. “On the one hand: I’m all for following the science for the vaccinated & asymptomatic. No reason to keep people home unnecessarily.”

Kudos, she said, to the CDC “for recognizing

that our knowledge has changed - and the virus has changed” especially for the vaccinated.

Ranney said what would make this decision even safer would be to require a rapid test before ending isolation.



Alejandro Brown receives a COVID-19 vaccine from a health care worker at a drive-through site in Miami on Dec. 16. (Photo/Joe Raedle/Getty Images)

The CDC doesn’t currently require this step and rapid, at-home COVID tests have been hard to come by during the omicron surge.

The Biden administration, which has come under pressure for not increasing widespread availability of at-home tests, last week rolled out a plan to set up federal testing across the country. The government will also buy a half-billion at-home COVID test kits and mail them out. But deliveries won’t start until January.

The new guidance comes days after the CDC loosened rules for how long health care workers should isolate after infection with the coronavirus, from 10 days to seven days. If there were staffing shortages, that isolation time could be further reduced.

The next day, New York officials followed suit, reducing to five the number of days for health care workers to isolate after a positive coronavirus test. On NPR’s Morning Edition on Monday, Dr. Anthony Fauci praised the move.

Five days of quarantine should be enough for health care workers, Fauci said, adding: “That’s going to be under consideration of whether or not we want to diminish it” for the general public.

In the U.S. as of Monday, 242 million people have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, 205 million are fully vaccinated and 66 million have received a booster, according to the CDC’s COVID Data Tracker. (Courtesy np.org)

Related

WHO Says Omicron Won’t Be The Last Covid Variant As Global Cases Surge Over 20% In One Week



Maria Van Kerkhove, Technical Lead of the World Health Organization (WHO) Health Emergencies Programme attends a news conference on the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Geneva, Switzerland, March 16, 2020. (Photo/Christopher Black | WHO | Reuters)

KEY POINTS

Dr. Bruce Aylward, a senior WHO official, warned high levels of transmission give the virus more opportunity to replicate and mutate, raising the risk that another variant will emerge.

New infections have increased by 20% globally over the past week with nearly 19 million total reported cases.

“This pandemic is nowhere near over,” WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said.

The World Health Organization on Tuesday said the pandemic will not end as the omicron variant subsides in some countries, warning the high levels of infection around the world will likely lead to new variants as the virus mutates.

“We’re hearing a lot of people suggest that omicron is the last variant, that it’s over after this. And that is not the case because this virus is circulating at a very intense level around the world,” Maria Van Kerkhove, the WHO’s Covid-19 technical lead, said during a coronavirus update in Geneva.

New infections have increased by 20% globally over the past week with nearly 19 million total reported cases, according to the WHO. But Van Kerkhove noted that new infections that go unreported would make the real number much higher. Dr. Bruce Aylward, a senior WHO official, warned high levels of transmission give the virus more opportunity to replicate and mutate, raising the risk that a new variant will emerge.

“We don’t fully understand the consequences of letting this thing run,” Aylward said. “Most of what we’ve seen so far in areas of uncontrolled transmission has been we paid a price for the variants that emerge and new uncertainties we have to manage as we go forward.” (Courtesy cnbc.com)

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 transmissible 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

COMMUNITY

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 re-opening 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)