



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

Wednesday, February 23 2022|

U.S. targets Russian banks with new Western sanctions over Ukraine crisis

MOSCOW/DONETSK/WASHINGTON, Feb 22 (Reuters) - U.S. President Joe Biden announced on Tuesday new sanctions in retaliation for Russia recognising two breakaway regions of Ukraine and sending troops there, adding to Western efforts to stop what they fear is the beginning of a full-scale invasion.

The measures target Russian banks and sovereign debt, among other steps.

One of the worst security crises in Europe in decades is unfolding as Russian President Vladimir Putin authorised sending what he calls peacekeeping troops to the separatist areas of Donetsk and Luhansk after recognising them as independent. Both adjoin Russia and have been controlled by Russian-backed fighters since 2014.

Weeks of intense diplomacy have so far failed as Moscow calls for security guarantees, including a promise that its neighbour Ukraine will never join NATO, while the United States and its allies offer Putin confidence-building and arms control steps.

“He’s setting up a rationale to take more territory by force,” Biden said at the White House.

“I’m going to begin to impose sanctions in response, far beyond the steps we and our allies and partners implemented in 2014,” he added, in a reference to Russia’s annexation of Crimea from Ukraine.

nk drives along a street after Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered the deployment of Russian troops to two breakaway regions in eastern Ukraine following the recognition of their independence, in the separatist-controlled city of Donetsk, Ukraine February 22, 2022. REUTERS/Alexander Ermochenko

Sanctions are being applied to VEB bank and Russia’s military bank, referring to Promsvyazbank, which does defence deals, Biden said. Starting on Wednesday U.S. sanctions will begin against Russian elites and their family members.

The hit to Russia’s sovereign debt meant the Russian government would be cut off from Western financing, according to



Earlier on Tuesday, Germany put the brakes on a new gas pipeline from Russia and Britain also hit Russian banks with sanctions. The Russian foreign ministry criticised the new measures as “illegitimate”.

The European Union also agreed new sanctions that will blacklist more politicians, lawmakers and officials, ban EU investors from trading in Russian state bonds, and target imports and exports with separatist entities.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov earlier brushed off the threat of sanctions.

“Our European, American, British colleagues will not stop and will not calm down until they have exhausted all their possibilities for the so-called punishment of Russia,” he 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

02/22/2022

Eileen Gu Did It



Up until recent days, now close to the spring of the Year of Tiger, it does not seem to have brought significant change. The weather in Texas is still sometimes cold and the flowers in my courtyard have not sprouted. This may be due to the climate change around the globe.

The Covid-19 pandemic has swept the world for more than two years. The Beijing Winter Olympics brought some peace of mind and the closing ceremony

was a perfect stage to show the world Chinese culture and national strength. We have to remember the spirit of harmonious coexistence pursued by the Olympic Games, even if we can't agree on various opposite systems.

After the games, the world's attention is now on the Ukraine. Many refugees are now fleeing from their homes. The games of the big powers may be a disaster for the small country.

conference was perfect.

We are constantly reminded by everyone that America is a multi-ethnic country. We must continually respect our own culture to be respected by others.

Eileen Gu — she did it.



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



Southern DAILY Make Today Different

Editor's Choice



A demonstrator hurls stones towards the riot police during a protest against the \$500 million U.S infrastructure grant under the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) near the parliament in Kathmandu, Nepal. REUTERS/Navesh Chitrakar



Waves crash against a lighthouse during Storm Franklin at Boulogne-sur-Mer, France. REUTERS/Pascal Rossignol



General view of an eruption of the South East volcano of Etna, as seen from Nicolosi, Italy. REUTERS/Antonio Parrinello



Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau walks to attend a news conference after police ended three weeks of occupation of the capital by protesters seeking to end coronavirus vaccine mandates in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. REUTERS/Patrick Doyle

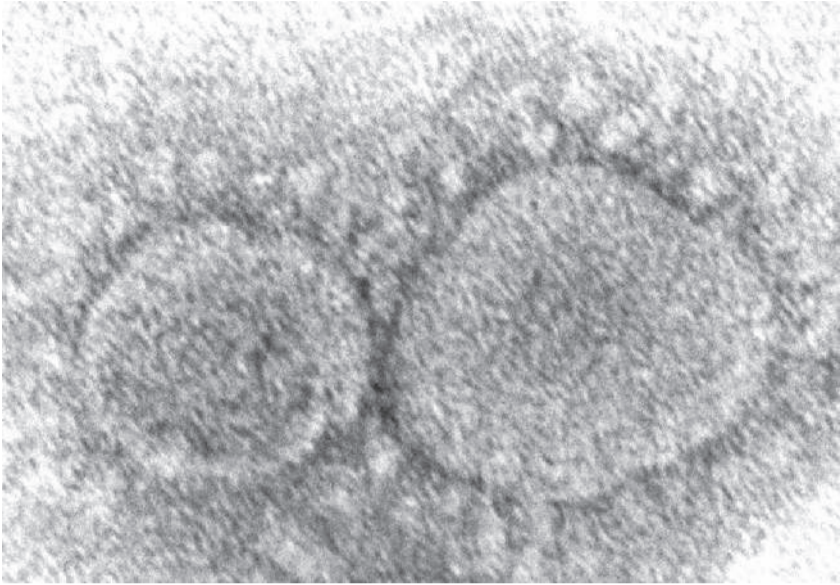


People holding Canadian flags protest at the Ottawa International Airport, as truckers and their supporters continue to protest against coronavirus vaccine mandates, in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. REUTERS/Patrick Doyle



First responders work amid debris from the crashed fighter jet, in Tabriz, Iran. Mehr News/WANA

New COVID-19 Variants Raise Concerns About Virus Reinfections

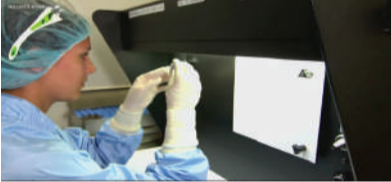


A 2020 electron microscope image made available by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows SARS-CoV-2 virus particles which cause COVID-19. According to research released in 2021, evidence is mounting that having COVID-19 may not protect against getting infected again with some of the new variants. People also can get second infections with earlier versions of the coronavirus if they mounted a weak defense the first time. (Hannah A. Bullock, Azaibi Tamin/CDC via AP)

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

Evidence is mounting that having COVID-19 may not protect against getting infected again with some of the new variants. People also can get second infections with earlier versions of the coronavirus if they mounted a weak defense the first time, new research suggests. How long immunity lasts from natural infection is one of the big questions in the pandemic. Scientists still think reinfections are fairly rare and usually less serious than initial ones, but recent developments around the world have raised concerns. In South Africa, a vaccine study found new infections with a variant in 2% of people who previously had an earlier version of the virus. In Brazil, several similar cases were documented with a new variant there. Researchers are exploring whether reinfections

help explain a recent surge in the city of Manaus, where three-fourths of residents were thought to have been previously infected. In the United States, a study found that 10% of Marine recruits who had evidence of prior infection and repeatedly tested negative before starting basic training were later infected again. That work was done before the new variants began to spread, said one study leader, Dr. Stuart Sealfon of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York.



“Previous infection does not give you a

free pass,” he said. “A substantial risk of reinfection remains.” Reinfections pose a public health concern, not just a personal one. Even in cases where reinfection causes no symptoms or just mild ones, people might still spread the virus. That’s why health officials are urging vaccination as a longer-term solution and encouraging people to wear masks, keep physical distance and wash their hands frequently. “It’s an incentive to do what we have been saying all along: to vaccinate as many people as we can and to do so as quickly as we can,” said Dr. Anthony Fauci, the U.S. government’s top infectious disease expert. “My looking at the data suggests ... and I want to underline suggests ... the protection induced by a vaccine may even be a little better” than natural infection, Fauci said.



Doctors in South Africa began to worry when they saw a surge of cases late last year in areas where blood tests suggested many people had already had the virus. Until recently, all indications were “that previous infection confers protection for at least nine months,” so a second wave should have been “relatively subdued,” said Dr. Shabir Madhi of the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. Scientists discovered a new version of the virus that’s more contagious and less susceptible to certain treatments. It now causes more than 90% of new cases in South Africa and has spread to 40 countries including the United States. Madhi led a study testing Novavax’s vaccine and found it less effective against the new variant. The study also revealed that infections with the new variant were just as common among people who had COVID-19 as those who had not.

“What this basically tells us, unfortunately, is that past infection with early variants of the virus in South Africa

does not protect” against the new one, he said. In Brazil, a spike in hospitalizations in Manaus in January caused similar worry and revealed a new variant that’s also more contagious and less vulnerable to some treatments.



“Reinfection could be one of the drivers of these cases,” said Dr. Ester Sabino of the University of Sao Paulo. She wrote an article in the journal Lancet on possible explanations. “We have not yet been able to define how frequently this is happening,” she said. California scientists also are investigating whether a recently identified variant may be causing reinfections or a surge of cases there. “We’re looking at that now,” seeking blood samples from past cases, said Jasmine Plummer, a researcher at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. Dr. Howard Bauchner, editor-in-chief of the Journal of the American Medical Association, said it soon would report on what he called “the Los Angeles variant.” A study by the Naval Medical Research Center involved several thousand Marine recruits who tested negative for the virus three times during a two-week supervised military quarantine before starting basic training. Among the 189 whose blood tests indicated they had been infected in the past, 19 tested positive again during the six weeks of training. That’s far less than those without previous infection — “almost half of them became infected at the basic training site,” Sealfon said.



Evidence is mounting that having

COVID-19 before may not protect against getting infected again with some of the new variants emerging around the world. (Feb. 8) The amount and quality of antibodies that previously infected Marines had upon arrival was tied to their risk of getting the virus again. No reinfections caused serious illness, but that does not mean the recruits were not at risk of spreading infection to others, Sealfon said. “It does look like reinfection is possible. I don’t think we fully understand why that is and why immunity has not developed” in those cases, said an immunology expert with no role in the study, E. John Wherry of the University of Pennsylvania. “Natural infections can leave you with a range of immunity” while vaccines consistently induce high levels of antibodies, Wherry said. “I am optimistic that our vaccines are doing a little bit better.” (Courtesy apnews.com)



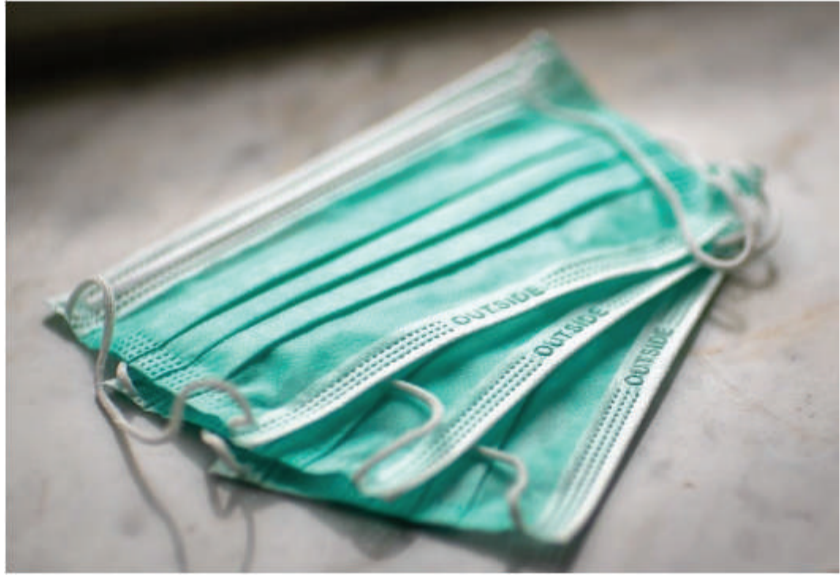
Every 8 minutes, we respond to a disaster. Your donation can help impact lives.



HELP NOW

redcross.org

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.

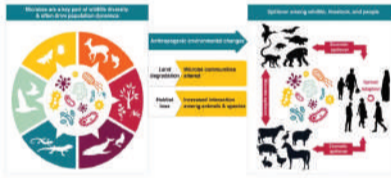
But it’s not too late to change course and rebuild our defences.

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: IPBES)

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

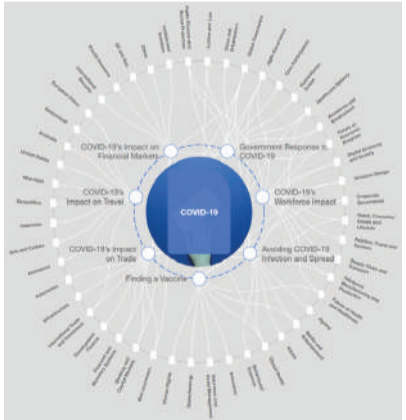
Forecasting that the global cost of the COVID-19 pandemic may already be as high as \$16 trillion, the IPBES report calls for the creation of a high-level intergovernmental council on pandemic prevention to coordinate a global action to prevent future outbreaks. If no action is taken, the report says 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

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.

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. (Courtesy weforum.org)

