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Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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## Republicans press attacks on U.S. Supreme Court nominee Jackson

WASHINGTON, March 23 (Reuters) - Republicans on Wednesday pressed their attacks on a range of issues against Ketanji Brown Jackson, President Joe Biden's nominee to become the first Black woman on the U.S. Supreme Court, as she inched closer to the end of an intense two days of questioning with Democrats coming to her defense.

Jackson faced more questioning by Senate Judiciary Committee members on the third day of her confirmation hearing after a marathon session on Tuesday. Republicans renewed their attacks, again accusing her of being improperly lenient as a judge in sentencing child pornography offenders - an accusation she again rejected.

Under hostile questioning from her former Harvard Law School classmate Senator Ted Cruz, Jackson said that if confirmed to the lifetime job by the Senate she planned not to participate in a major upcoming Supreme Court case involving the university because she serves on its board of overseers.

The case, to be heard by the court in its next term that begins in October, involves a challenge to the affirmative action admissions policy Harvard uses to increase the number of Black and Hispanic students on campus.

Asked by Cruz whether she would recuse herself in the case, Jackson responded, "That is my plan, Senator." Justices sometimes recuse themselves from cases in which they may be seen to have a conflict of interest.

Jackson, who since last year has served as a federal appellate judge after eight years as a federal district judge, has remained unflappable and calm throughout periods of antagonistic questioning, beginning most of her responses with a polite "thank you, Senator."

So far, there is no sign that the Republican attacks are likely to derail Jackson's confirmation, with Democrats narrowly controlling the Senate. With a simple majority needed for confirmation and the Senate divided 50-50 between the parties, she would get the job if Democrats remain united regardless of how the Republicans vote.

Democratic Senator Dick Durbin praised Jackson for her poise during the hearing and said some Republicans had used it

as "an opportunity to showcase talking points for the November election" when control of Congress is up for grabs, including the argument that Democrats are "soft on crime."

"Well, you have made a mess of their stereotype," Durbin said, pointing to the fact that she has been endorsed by law enforcement groups, including the National Fraternal Order of Police.

Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson takes her seat as she arrives prior to start of the third day of Senate Judiciary Committee confirmation hearings on Judge Jackson's nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court, on Capitol Hill in Washington, U.S., March 23, 2022. REUTERS/Elizabeth Frantz

Republicans also have criticized her legal representation earlier in her career of some detainees at the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and tried to link Jackson to activist groups on the left and to "critical race theory," which argues American history and institutions are infused with racial bias.

Republican Senator Lindsey Graham

joined those who have sought to paint Jackson's sentencing in child pornography cases as too lenient, frequently interrupting her while she attempted to answer his questions.

"All I can say is your view of how to deter child pornography is not my view. I think you're doing it wrong. And every judge who does what you're doing is making it easier for these children to be exploited," Graham said.

Republican Senator Mike Lee later said Jackson's refusal to issue longer sentences was "of great concern to me."

"I know how serious these crimes are," Jackson said in her defense, adding that her approach was to ensure "the most serious offenders get the longest time."

Democratic Senator Chris Coons told Jackson that the Republican attacks were an "unfair representation of your record." Democrats have said Jackson's approach to child pornography

sentencing was similar to the vast majority of federal judges.

Graham also accused Jackson of being an activist judge, citing one immigration case as "exhibit A of activism."

Her confirmation would not change the court's ideological balance - it has a 6-3 conservative majority - but would let Biden freshen its liberal bloc with a 51-year-old jurist young enough to serve for decades. The Democratic president nominated Jackson last month to the lifetime post to succeed retiring liberal Justice Stephen Breyer.

There are signs that not all Republican senators agree with the targeting of Jackson's record on sentencing. Republican Senator Thom Tillis said during the hearing that he was "sympathetic to some of it, not necessarily all of it" when describing claims made by his colleagues. Republican Senator Mitt Romney told the Washington Post the attacks on Jackson were "off course."



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WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

03/23/2022

The Sad Song Of Our Society



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This morning when I went to downtown Houston to visit my attorney I couldn't find a parking space nearby. After I drove for several blocks, I parked in a parking lot which cost twenty dollars.

After I parked and came out on the street, I saw many homeless people occupying the street corner. Some of them were young people with long hair and laying down in the street. It

was really the first time I had come to the center of a homeless people's camp. At that time, I also gave out some one dollar bills to them, but it really aroused a strong emotion in my heart.

We live in the richest and most prosperous nation in the world, so why don't those young people go to work instead of making a living by begging?

I remembered many

years ago when I first arrived in America and saw the beautiful city of San Francisco at the airport. When I went into the restroom, I met a very strong and six-foot tall cleaning man who smiled at me and showed his white teeth. My feeling was that this guy was happy with what he was doing as a

cleaner without any complaining. Because it is a job.

Many of us came to this country empty-handed. Over the years we worked with rough hard labor, a rough job, but we never complained about it. But today, many young people were born in this country

so they don't cherish everything they already have, so some of them just become homeless on the street.

When I looked back on the street at the homeless people, I felt very sad. Are we living in America?



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Editor's Choice



A car lies overturned among debris in the Arabi neighborhood after a large tornado struck New Orleans, Louisiana. REUTERS/Kathleen Flynn



Members of the Ukrainian Territorial Defense Forces check a man as they patrol during a long curfew in Kyiv, Ukraine. REUTERS/Gleb Garanich



A couple watches the sunset at the top of the 'Porte d'Aval', a famous arch of the Etretat's cliffs in western France. REUTERS/Pascal Rossignol



U.S. Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) holds up the children's book "Antiracist Baby" by Ibram X. Kendi as he questions Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson during her testimony before a Senate Judiciary Committee confirmation hearing on her nomination to the U.S....MORE



Prince William, Duke of Cambridge and Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge meet The Jamaica National bobsleigh team during a visit to Trench Town, the birthplace of reggae music, in Kingston, Jamaica. Chris Jackson/Pool



Jennifer Lopez wears a long white coat with the words "Equality" on it as she performs at the iHeartRadio Music Awards, at Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, California. REUTERS/Mario Anzuoni



# BUSINESS

## Covid Crisis On Campus

### How Colleges Are Dealing With High-COVID Case Counts On Campus

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



Cases of COVID-19 on college campuses are on the rise across the country. In the first week of spring semester, the University of Georgia reported nearly 1,000 positive cases, more than any week so far in the pandemic. At Dartmouth College in New Hampshire, the last 7 days saw 1,196 confirmed cases. At Penn State University, the positive case count hit a 12-month high.

Cases are spiking on college campuses because, despite the rapid spread of the omicron variant, most schools are beginning their spring semesters in-person. Just 14% of colleges are beginning the semester online, according to new data from the College Crisis Initiative. This time last year, before there were vaccines, about 40% of colleges started online.

"You feel the stress on campus," says Aisha Ghorashian, a senior at the University of Oregon.

Despite having a student body that is more than 96% vaccinated, her university logged 960 COVID-19 cases in the first week of January as students returned to campus. Ghorashian was one of them.

"People, I think, don't feel safe," she says. "You see that double masking and you see those N95s that I've never seen people wear before."

When NPR spoke with her, she was out of isolation — sporting a blue surgical mask as she sat in the law school building, students milling around behind her. Ghorashian is surprised that things seem to be, for the most part, business-as-usual. And she's not the only one.

"Across the board, the faculty, staff and students were shocked that we decided not to be online," Ghorashian says, "Even though the data showed that there is going to be a surge."



Rising case counts puts pressure on campus

#### resources

In the past two years, colleges have worked non-stop to adapt to the pandemic and return to in-person classes safely. By the fall of 2021, more than 1,100 campuses required vaccines and many more instituted indoor masking policies; the collective sense among schools was they'd cracked the code of living with COVID-19. Plus, colleges are some of the most vaccinated places in the country. By September 2021, 74% of college students had received one dose of the vaccine — compared to 54% of the general population in that same month, according to a study by the COVID States Project. But still, the omicron variant has taken campuses by storm.

"It's a crisis," says Gerri Taylor, co-leader of the COVID Task Force for the American College Health Association. "I think the numbers we're hearing about are, at this point, underreported." Taylor says the biggest worry for colleges is their capacity to handle "rapidly increasing" case numbers.

"In trying to isolate [students], they need resources in terms of housing, staffing to track them," says Taylor. "They need staff to test them and to record all that ... to have a sense of how many kids on campus are sick."

**You feel the stress on campus ... people, I think, don't feel safe ... you see that double masking and you see those N95s that I've never seen people wear before.**

A big part of Taylor's job is to work with health directors on campus to coordinate their COVID response. One campus director recently told her: "We have never, through even this entire pandemic, been in a situation as difficult as this one right now in January of 2022."

Colleges are deploying emergency measures as they scramble to deal with the surge in cases. Some schools are using hotels to house students who test positive. At California Polytechnic State University, students who test positive are offered a \$400 gift card to the campus store if they move home to isolate.

**Students are in limbo as they anxiously watch case counts go up**

For students, there's a lot of uncertainty around how this semester will pan out. Senior Sophia Kriz is back on campus at Dartmouth College. The school is requiring all students to get a booster shot by the end of this month. It also implemented weekly testing and moved most of the social activities online, although classes remain in-person.

Even with all those precautions, Kriz is worried the high numbers of positive cases on campus could shut it all down.



"It sort of feels like we're in a state of limbo," she says, "We're all on campus, but you know, we're all just sort of waiting to hear...how things are going..."

Kriz is in the middle of planning rush for her sorority. They know the first round of recruitment events will be virtual, but beyond that, it's all up in the air. So, they're planning for two alternate universes — one where their social life stays virtual, and one where omicron eases up. For Kriz, a lot of things in the near future are laced with that same uncertainty. As she dives into her final semester of college, Kriz is just glad to be on campus and getting as close to a typical senior year as possible.

"All I can do from there is just hope that, you know, things get a little more normal," she says. (Courtesy npr.org)

#### Related

**Colleges with high vaccination rates must now decide if they'll require boosters**

This week, Wesleyan University in Connecticut held its first booster vaccine clinic on campus. CJ Joseph, a first-year student still figuring out what to major in, wasted no time signing up.

"I was like, 'Heck, yes, I will be the first person to get it' " says Joseph, who was one of the first students to get the shot at Wednesday's clinic at Beckham Hall.

Convenience was a major selling point. "I have a lot of work to do," Joseph explains. "Being able to walk like a good four minutes just to get my COVID vaccine made it so much easier for me and I didn't have to spend money to get an Uber to go over to Walgreens or to CVS."

The liberal arts campus, which serves about 3,000 students, will require COVID-19 booster shots for those on campus this spring. It is one of the first colleges to do so.



Health mobile vaccination clinic at the California State University, Long Beach campus. Patrick T. Fallon/AFP via Getty Images

"There's no good reason to hesitate," says Michael

Roth, the president of Wesleyan University. "Some people don't like to be first. But in this case, being first for public health doesn't seem to be a particularly risky place to be."

More than 1,000 colleges across the country required COVID-19 vaccines for students and staff this year, according to data from the Chronicle of Higher Education.

With the CDC recommendation that all adults get booster shots, colleges now must weigh how to incorporate the additional dose into their pandemic response plans.

For now, many schools are simply encouraging students and staff to get the extra dose. Among them are Duke University, an early adopter of a campus vaccine mandate last spring. Rutgers, largely cited as the first U.S. university to require COVID-19 vaccinations, issued a statement saying "we have no impending plans to require boosters for any community member." But administrators are encouraging "everyone to take advantage of booster shots as a way of increasing their personal protection against the virus."



**For one small college, a booster requirement was an easy decision**

At Wesleyan, Roth says there were some colleagues who questioned making it a requirement, insisting that compliance would be high anyway among a student population that was already nearly all vaccinated. He says requiring the booster makes it a social norm rather than an individual decision.

"The majority of our people would have gotten the booster without the encouragement," he says, "but we want to get the rate up as high as possible."

He points to other vaccine requirements on the college campus, like meningitis and measles, mumps and rubella, noting that much of the ambivalence he sees comes from the politicization of the COVID-19 vaccine. "It just seemed like our obligation," he says.

Joseph, who is at high risk due to asthma, is grateful for that clear message.

"I really appreciate the fact that it is required that we get our booster shots," Joseph says, "because I feel like there are people who kind of view next step shots as a 'Oh, whatever. I don't really have to get it.'"

The mandate, Joseph says, plus the ease of access, makes the campus feel safer.

About an hour after Joseph got the booster, Hallie Sternberg, a junior studying history and French, waited in line to get hers. She saw friends in line; she caught up with them to talk about Thanksgiving break and the upcoming needle they were

bracing for.



"People are excited and ready to have it over with," she said after she'd gotten the shot. "Everyone's like, 'I'm just going to manifest that I will not be sick [with side effects] because we don't have time. We have finals.' I have presentations next week and papers to do the week after that, so I'm just trying to get it out of the way."

**Will more campuses require a booster shot?**

One question that colleges and universities still need to answer is, will the CDC update the definition of what "fully vaccinated" means, given that boosters are now encouraged for all adults? "Fully vaccinated, that term is extremely important to determine what that means for the community," explains Gerri Taylor, co-chair of the American College Health Association's COVID-19 task force. "If, in fact, the CDC says that fully vaccinated means having a booster within six months of getting your vaccine, as an example, then the colleges may put that into their requirements."

Her organization will issue guidance to colleges once that happens, but in the meantime, she recommends that colleges set up booster clinics on campus and encourage their communities to get an extra shot.

"Colleges are well prepared to do boosters," she says. They "have a captive population, and the stakes are there: We want students to be back in school and we've heard that over and over from the American Academy of Pediatrics and from students."



She points to two complicating factors: staffing and timing. A recent survey by the American College Health Association found the top two concerns for college health centers were staffing and burnout, because of the intensity and the duration of the pandemic.

When it comes to timing, there's not much left of the fall semester before finals and winter break. "Timing is so critical and has been throughout this pandemic," says Taylor. "So, do you start a booster clinic now? Or do you do it in January or February when students return for this spring semester?"

Those, she says, are decisions colleges are making right now. (courtesy npr.org)

# COMMUNITY

## Will The New, Fast 5G Mobile System Put Lives At Risk?

### 5G Signal Could Jam Satellites That Provide Weather Forecasting

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



**Forecasters may no longer be able to warn of storms such as 2018's 'beast from the east', which dumped heavy snow on cities on the East Coast of the U.S. (Photo/ Humphreys/PA)**

The introduction of 5G mobile phone networks could seriously affect weather forecasters' ability to predict major storms.

That is the stark warning of meteorologists around the world, who say the next-generation wireless system now being rolled out across the globe is likely to disrupt the delicate satellite instruments they use to monitor changes in the atmosphere. The result will be impaired forecasts, poorer warnings about major storms, and loss of life, they say.

"The way 5G is being introduced could seriously compromise our ability to forecast major storms," said Tony McNally of the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts in Reading, Pennsylvania. "In the end it could make the difference between life and death. We are very concerned about this."



**5G boxes are being attached to street signs across America.**

The crisis facing the world's meteorologists stems from the fact that the radio frequencies the new 5G networks will use could contaminate critical Earth observations made by weather satellites. Instruments onboard the satellites peer down into the atmosphere and study variables such as water vapor, rain, snow, cloud cover and ice content — all crucial factors that influence our weather. One example is the 23.8 gigahertz (GHz) fre-

quency. Water vapor emits a faint signal at this specific natural wavelength, and this data is monitored and measured by weather satellites. Forecasters then use this information to work out how a storm or weather system is likely to develop.

Such data is critical to our ability to make forecasts," said Niels Bormann, also of the Reading weather centre. "They are a unique natural resource, and if we lose this capability, weather forecasts will get significantly worse."

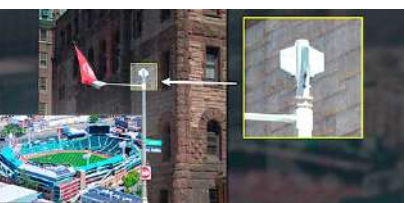


**A 5G box attached to a pole on the Las Vegas Strip, just one block from Caesar's Palace.**

The problem is that some 5G phone networks may transmit near a frequency similar to that emitted by water vapor, and so would produce a signal that looks very like the presence of water vapor in the atmosphere.

"We would not be able to tell the difference and so would have to discard that data," added Bormann. "That would seriously compromise our ability to make accurate forecasts."

The urgency of the problem is underlined by the fact that US Federal Communications Commission and similar agencies in other countries have already started to auction off frequencies close to the 23.8 GHz frequency to future 5G network providers. In addition, other bands that are used to probe our weather include the 36-37 GHz band, which is used to study rain and snow; the 50 GHz band, which is used to measure atmospheric temperature; and the 86-92 GHz band, which helps to analyze cloud and ice.



**A 5G box high on a pole near Boston's Fenway Park.**

All these contain sections of waveband that are being auctioned off in the US. It remains to be

seen if other nations will follow suit and sell these frequencies in their own countries over coming months. The issue is set to be debated at a global conference in Egypt later this year. Forecasters say the US move has already compromised their ability to collect data, and promise to lobby other nations to limit use of crucial frequencies to preserve their ability to provide accurate forecasts. They accuse phone operators of ransacking the radio spectrum for wavelengths to exploit, and regulators of failing to protect the natural frequencies vital for Earth observation from space.

"The more we lose, the greater the impact will be," states meteorologist Jordan Gerth of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, in the current issue of Nature. "This is a global problem." (Courtesy https://www.theguardian.com)

#### Related

**5G Health Effects: Dangers Of New Wireless Technology**



5G, the next-generation mobile wireless technology, will create the always-on, always-connected wireless world long-sought by the wide-eyed champions of this technology. It will infuse billions of connected devices, which will ceaselessly emit and receive wireless signals as they work to satisfy users all around the world. The electromagnetic radiation from the hundreds of billions of 5G-connected devices will bombard the entire planet and most every human on it every second of every day. And herein lies the problem, say critics of 5G concerned about the health hazards of this new technology. 5G is a health risk, they contend, and a mounting number of studies seem to prove this point. This new tech took its biggest leap forward in April when South Korea proudly boasted to the world that it had become the first country to deploy a nationwide 5G network. Samsung then revealed the world's first 5G mobilephone, the Samsung Galaxy S10 5G.



The United States plans to roll out nationwide 5G networks over the next few years. China wants to beat the U.S. to this landmark while the 27 countries in the European Union will deploy the tech by the next decade. 5G will be everywhere by the 2020s, and so will be its health dangers. For a start, getting 5G to become ubiquitous will mean building new cell towers, millions and millions of them. These towers bring with them all the health risks associated with overexposure to electromagnetic radiation.

The preliminary results of a the \$25 million National Toxicology Program study released in 2016 found a link between cell phone radiation and cancer. It also found an increased risk of radiation exposure beyond what's deemed safe by the U.S. government.

Critics of 5G and its health dangers admit a lot of research needs to be done before they can definitely say cell phone radiation causes cancer. But the question they pose is: "Should humans be guinea pigs in the meantime?"



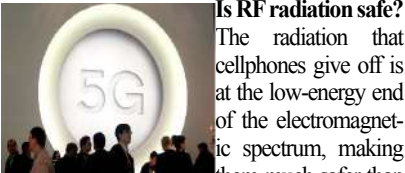
**A 5G box attached to a lamp pole at the corner of East 57th Street, close to Times Square in New York City.**

"I don't think it's clear that there are health risks, but it's also not clear that there are no health risks," said Dr Leeka Kheifets, PhD, an epidemiology professor at UCLA.

According to a 2018 study published in the journal Health Physics, extremely fast bursts of data transfers on a device as the result of 5G technology might lead to the heating of skin tissue in exposed people under current safety guidelines. (Courtesy https://www.medicaldaily.com)

**Is the 5G spectrum harmful to our health? Experts say, 'Don't worry.'**

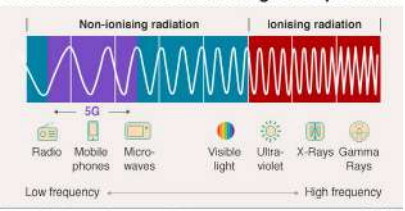
Hamming millimeter wave (mmWave) spectrum for faster data speeds is one of the biggest breakthroughs of 5G, the next generation cellular networking technology following 4G LTE. But there are concerns this very high-frequency spectrum could pose adverse health effects for the public.



**Is RF radiation safe?** The radiation that cellphones give off is at the low-energy end of the electromagnetic spectrum, making them much safer than high-energy radiation like x-rays and gamma rays. While the latter give off ionizing radiation, meaning they have enough energy to ionize an atom or molecule and thus damage cell DNA resulting in cancer, RF radiation does not. RF radiation only has enough energy to move or vibrate atoms in a molecule, not enough to ionize it. While that means RF radiation does not cause cancer by damaging DNA cells, there are still ongoing studies regarding the effects of non-ionizing radiation.

The FDA noted in 2018 statements that it believes "the current safety limits for cellphone radiofrequency energy exposure remain acceptable for protecting the public health."

#### Where 5G fits in the electromagnetic spectrum



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. National Toxicology Program (NTP) also have not formally classified RF radiation as cancer-causing. Meanwhile, the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classifies RF radiation as "possibly carcinogenic to humans" due to the finding of a possible link in at least one study between cellphone use and a specific type of brain tumor. However, the IARC considers overall evidence "limited."

It's also important to note the IARC puts coffee and talc-based body powder in the same "possibly carcinogenic" category.

In one of the most recent studies, performed by the National Toxicology Program (NTP), high exposure to 2G and 3G RF radiation led to cancerous heart tumor development in male rats. NTP senior scientist John Butcher noted, however, that the levels and duration of exposure to RF radiation were much greater than what people experience with even the highest level of cell phone use, so the findings should not be directly extrapolated to human cell phone usage. Additionally, Butcher warned that 5G likely differs dramatically from 2G and 3G, so further studies are necessary.



#### What about 5G?

The FDA told Digital Trends that, at this time, it "continues to believe that the current safety limits for cellphone radiofrequency energy exposure remain acceptable for protecting the public health."

"The limits are based on the frequency of the device, meaning that 5G has a different limit than other technologies," an agency spokesperson wrote in an email. "As part of our commitment to protecting the public health, the FDA has reviewed, and will continue to review, many sources of scientific and medical evidence related to the possibility of adverse health effects from radiofrequency energy exposure in both humans and animals and will continue to do so as new scientific data are published."

The agency noted that it lists significant ongoing research on the topic of RF exposure on its website at https://www.fda.gov/radiation-emitting-products/cell-phones/current-research-results. (Courtesy digitaltrends.com)