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Tents and immunity testing: U.S. colleges weigh return to campus life



FILE PHOTO: Students take their seats for the diploma ceremony at the John F. Kennedy School of Government during the 361st Commencement Exercises at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts May 24, 2012. REUTERS/Brian Snyder

Classes in tents. Roommates assigned based on coronavirus antibody tests. Residences set aside for quarantined students. U.S. college life could look dramatically different when classes resume in the fall.

Colleges emptied dormitories and moved classes online in March as the pandemic worsened — a decision that left many students clamoring for partial refunds.

Facing budget shortfalls, several colleges have said they are putting infrastructure investments on hold, freezing hiring, and furloughing employees. Now, universities are exploring creative, once-improbable approaches to make sure students can return to campus in the 2020-2021 academic year.

“There will be changes for sure, but one way or another we are going to be open,” said James Herbert, president of the University of New England (UNE), a private college in Maine.

The selling point of residential colleges is campus life and the sense of community it fosters, said Brian Rosenberg, president of Macalester College in Minnesota.

When classes are online, private schools cannot make money from housing and dining services, and they struggle to justify tuition costs, Rosenberg said.

The average tuition and fees at an in-state public college was \$10,116 for the 2019-2020 year and \$36,801 at private schools, according to U.S. News and World Report.

“The best scenario from a financial perspective for any residential college is to try get in as much of a full year open on campus as possible,” Rosenberg said. School administrators are eyeing changes to dormitory life. Herbert of UNE said the university is looking into assigning roommates based on the results of tests that can detect if someone has antibodies to the coronavirus. Ideally, a student without antibodies would be paired with one who has them to prevent roommates from infecting each other, Herbert said. “We require students to be vaccinated — to have certain vaccines — so I think you could certainly require students to have the antibody test,” Herbert said. He added the plan is a “work in progress” and depends on the accuracy of tests and ongoing research.

“If the science improves, and the availability improves over the coming months, it could be a really useful tool.”

David Greene, president of Colby College in Maine, said he expected some residential facilities would be set aside for infected students.

UNE is considering renting rooms at a hotel near campus to space students out, Herbert added. Social distancing measures will also impact on-campus classes, transforming academic life for students. Because the virus spreads more easily in confined spaces, Stanford University in California is considering holding classes outdoors in large tents, a university spokesman said. Colleges could suspend lecture classes that pack hundreds of students into big auditoriums and, instead, host smaller classes in auditoriums so students can sit further apart, Rosenberg said. Brown University in Rhode Island may require students and faculty to wear face masks and place limits on athletics, concerts and parties, the school’s president Christina Paxson wrote in an April 26 op-ed for the New York Times. Even with precautions, colleges cannot eliminate the risk of outbreaks and should be transparent about it, Herbert said. University of New England may send “consent forms” to students and their parents making clear they are “assuming a somewhat higher risk” by returning to campus, Herbert said. Questions also remain about whether students on packed college campuses, known for partying and athletic culture, will adhere to social distancing and other safety measures.

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Trump administration drafting ‘Artemis Accords’ pact for moon mining - sources

WASHINGTON(Reuters) - The Trump administration is drafting a legal blueprint for mining on the moon under a new U.S.-sponsored international agreement called the Artemis Accords, people familiar with the proposed pact told Reuters.

The agreement would be the latest effort to cultivate allies around NASA's plan to put humans and space stations on the moon within the next decade, and comes as the civilian space agency plays a growing role in implementing American foreign policy. The draft pact has not been formally shared with U.S. allies yet.

The Trump administration and other spacefaring countries see the moon as a key strategic asset in outer space. The moon also has value for long-term scientific research that could enable future missions to Mars - activities that fall under a regime of international space law widely viewed as outdated.

The Artemis Accords, named after the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's new Artemis moon program, propose "safety zones" that would surround future moon bases to prevent damage or interference from rival countries or companies operating in close proximity.

The pact also aims to provide a framework under international law for companies to own the resources they mine, the sources said.

In the coming weeks, U.S. officials plan to formally negotiate the accords with space partners such as Canada, Japan, and European countries, as well as the United Arab Emirates, opening talks with countries the Trump administration sees as having "like-minded" interests in lunar mining.

Russia, a major partner with NASA on the International Space Station, won't be an early partner in these accords, the sources said, as the Pentagon increasingly views Moscow as hostile for making "threatening" satellite maneuvers toward U.S. spy satellites in Earth orbit.

The United States is a member of the 1967 Outer Space Treaty and sees the "safety zones" as an implementation of one of its highly debated articles. It states that celestial



FILE PHOTO: The full moon, known as the "Buck Moon", is seen from West Orange, in New Jersey, U.S. July 16, 2019. REUTERS/Eduardo Munoz

bodies and the moon are "not subject to national appropriation by claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation, or by any other means."

"This isn't some territorial claim," said one source, who requested anonymity to discuss the agreement. The safety zones - whose size would vary depending on the operation - would allow for coordination between space actors without technically claiming territory as sovereign, he said.

"The idea is if you are going to be coming near someone's operations, and they've

declared safety zones around it, then you need to reach out to them in advance, consult and figure out how you can do that safely for everyone."

ARTEMIS AS 'NATIONAL POWER'
The Artemis Accords are part of the Trump administration's plan to forgo the treaty process at the United Nations and instead reach agreement with "like-minded nations," partly because a treaty process would take too long and working with non-spacefaring states would be unproductive, a senior admin-

istration official told Reuters.

As countries increasingly treat space as a new military domain, the U.S.-led agreement is also emblematic of NASA's growing role as a tool of American diplomacy and is expected to stoke controversy among Washington's space rivals such as China.

"NASA's all about science and technology and discovery, which are critically important, but I think less salient is the idea that NASA is a tool of diplomacy," NASA administrator Jim Bridenstine said Tuesday.

Stay Safe! BUSINESS Wash Your Hands!

Models Double In Size To Predict More U.S. Deaths As States Relax To Social Distancing



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

A key model of the coronavirus pandemic favored by the White House nearly doubled its prediction Monday for how many people will die from the virus in the U.S. by August – primarily because states are reopening too soon.

The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington's School of Medicine is now projecting 134,000 coronavirus-related fatalities, up from a previous prediction of 72,000. Factoring in the scientists' margin of error, the new prediction ranges from 95,000 to 243,000.

Dr. Christopher Murray, the director of IMHE, told reporters on a call Monday the primary reason for the increase is many states' "premature relaxation of social distancing."

For the first time, Murray explained, the model is factoring in data from four different cell phone providers showing a major uptick in Americans' going out in public.



The document projects upwards of 175,000 new cases of Covid-19, the respiratory illness caused by the novel coronavirus, each day. (AP Photo)

This rise of mobility in the last week or 10 days is likely leading to an increase in transmission, he said.

Monday's update is the fourth since the model debuted in late March. It's been relied on by the White House in recent months because it presents a more optimistic forecast on health system capacity, cases and deaths than other experts have predicted.

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A man walks along a street closed to vehicle traffic as the city expands areas for pedestrians to walk and to keep a recommended safe distance on May 04, 2020 in New York City. (Photo/ Getty Images)

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Even with its latest forecast, the University of Washington model is still far more optimistic than a model developed by Johns Hopkins for CDC predicting as many as 3,000 deaths per day by June.

Murray said that model, which the New York Times published Monday, is likely inaccurate.

"Our numbers are nowhere near that level," he said, noting that IMHE is forecasting 890 deaths per day by June 1.

"This relates very much to whether the models think there is going to be a large, New York-style epidemic in some states. We don't see that because we're building into the modeling the rising temperatures and rising testing and contact tracing. That will put the brakes on transmission enough that we won't see 3,000 deaths a day by June 1."

The White House on Monday acknowledged the existence of the internal administration document but asserted that the grim modeling had not gone through interagency vetting and "is not reflective" of any projections from or analyzed by the White House coronavirus task force.



In a statement to reporters, White House deputy press secretary Judd Deere said that the internal report obtained by The New York Times was "not a White House document" and hadn't been presented to the coronavirus task force.

The alarming modeling comes as some states are already beginning to put parts of the White House's phased reopening plan into motion despite concerns that the administration's guidelines for doing so have not yet been met. It also underscores fears that moving too fast to relax strict social-distancing restrictions could fuel a dangerous second wave of infections.

The CDC document found some reason for optimism, noting that nationwide, the trajectory of new illnesses in "multiple counties, including hard hit areas in

Louisiana and in the New York City region" has continued to decrease, and that incidence rates have recently plateaued around Chicago.

Still, it found that there "remains a large number of counties whose burden [of illness] continues to grow or are in an elevated incidence plateau, including in the Great Lakes region, parts of the Southeast, Northeast, and around southern California." The document includes a color-coded map of the country with darker spots peppered throughout, and it states that the goal "is to have all communities be represented in the lighter colors, demonstrating little to no disease burden and no increase in trajectory."



Deere on Monday defended the White House plan, which President Donald Trump released last month with the goal of returning to some semblance of normalcy and reviving an economy that has been shuttered over the past two months due to the virus.

The guidelines "are a scientific driven approach that the top health and infectious disease experts in the federal government agreed with," Deere said. "The health of the American people remains President Trump's top priority and that will continue as we monitor the efforts by states to ease restrictions."

For now, IMHE is assuming that every degree Celsius the temperature goes up will lead to a 2 percent decline in transmission.

"Are we sure about that? No," he said. (Courtesy <https://www.msn.com/>)

Editor's Choice



Indians build their own lockdown barricades in the country's slums



A day fighting the coronavirus: US hospital staff share hardest moments on shift



A U.S. tribe's uphill battle against climate change



life is slowly re-emerging in Wuhan



High noon in a coronavirus-stricken world



Quarantine millennials face bedtimes and old rules as they move home



From schools in Shanghai to picnics in Caracas: How coronavirus is moving global life online



Lavinia Tomassini uses her iPad to take part in a online French class in Milan, Italy.

Houston Surgeon, Nurse Saving Lives Aboard Navy Hospital Ship In California



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

A Houston Methodist Hospital surgeon and ICU nurse are helping to save lives in California. They’ve spent the past several weeks aboard the Navy’s hospital ship, the USNS Mercy. For Lt. Eduardo Lopez, while the surroundings may feel familiar, his latest assignment is far from home. “We are a hospital ship, so day to day, I am typically in the O.R.” Lt. Lopez said. It’s a deployment of a different kind. “We know we’re going into kind of harm’s way. It’s different because we’re used to going to other countries to deal with whatever conflicts, and this is at home. So it hits a little differently,” Lt. Lopez said. Lt. Lopez is on the USNS Mercy, a hospital ship that was sent to the coast of Los Angeles to help with emergency surgeries to ease pressure on hospitals there dealing with COVID-19. But Lopez is not alone. There’s a familiar face beside him: Lt. Commander Tim Sehorn.



Houston Methodist Hospital surgeon Lt. Eduardo Lopez and ICU nurse Lt. Commander Tim Sehorn. “The operating room is excellent here. It’s fully staffed with excellent people and excellent facilities,” Lt. Commander Sehorn said. The two are used to working side by side. They do so often at Houston Methodist Hospital where Sehorn is a general surgeon and Lopez is a nurse anesthetist. Both were in Houston when they got the

call to come aboard the Mercy. “I had just got off a call shift at Methodist. I was on my way to buy an elliptical when I got the phone call asking me if I wanted to go on Mercy,” Lt. Lopez said. Lopez was a combat medic in the Navy, and Sehorn joined the Navy Reserves a few years ago. This is just another way they’re serving their country. “I think it gives you a great sense of pride, to come in with people, providers, nurses, caregivers from all over the country, come in and serve an area of the country we don’t usually see,” Lt. Commander Sehorn said. But with their families here Houston, we all hope these two heroes can come home soon.



“I love y’all. I miss y’all. Estella, I love you very much. To my Abuela, te quiero mucho,” Lt. Lopez said. “I love you. Look forward to seeing you in the future,” Lt. Commander Sehorn said.

Coronavirus symptoms

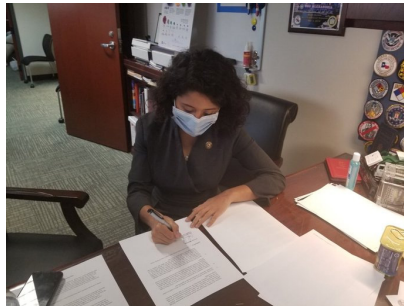
The symptoms of coronavirus can be similar to the flu or a bad cold. Symptoms include a fever, cough and shortness of breath, according to the Centers for Disease Control. Some patients also have nausea, body aches, headaches and stomach issues. Losing your sense of taste and/or smell can also be an early warning sign. Most healthy people will have mild symptoms. A study of more than 72,000 patients by the Centers for Disease Control in China showed 80 percent of the cases there were mild. **Harris County Judge Signs New Stay-Home, Work-Safe Order** MAY 2 11:34 a.m. — Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo has signed a new stay-home, work-safe order instructing

non-essential businesses and workers not listed in Texas Gov. Greg Abbott’s reopening plan to remain closed until May 20. “We need to remain vigilant for a phased reopening to work,” the judge tweeted.



Lina Hidalgo
@LinaHidalgoTX

I’ve signed a NEW stay-home work-safe order. Non-essential Harris County businesses and others that were not “reopened” by the Governor’s order need to stay closed through May 20th. We need to remain vigilant for a phased reopening to work.



2,761
10:41 AM - May 2, 2020
Twitter Ads info and privacy 1,587
people are talking about this

But infections can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death, according to the World Health Organization. Older people with underlying health conditions are most at risk for becoming seriously ill. However, U.S. experts are seeing a significant number of younger people being hospitalized, including some in ICU. The CDC believes symptoms may appear anywhere from two to 14 days after being exposed. **Human coronaviruses are usually spread through...** • The air by coughing or sneezing

- Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands
 - Touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose or eyes before washing your hands.
- Help stop the spread of coronavirus**
- Stay home when you are sick.
 - Eat and sleep separately from your family members
 - Use different utensils and dishes
 - Cover your cough or sneeze with your arm, not your hand.
 - If you use a tissue, throw it in the trash.
 - Follow social distancing
- Lower your risk**
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
 - Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
 - Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
 - If you are 60 or over and have an underlying health condition such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes or respiratory illnesses like asthma or COPD, the World Health Organization advises you to try to avoid crowds or places where you might interact with people who are sick.
- Get complete coverage of the coronavirus by texting ‘FACTS’ to 713-526-1111.**



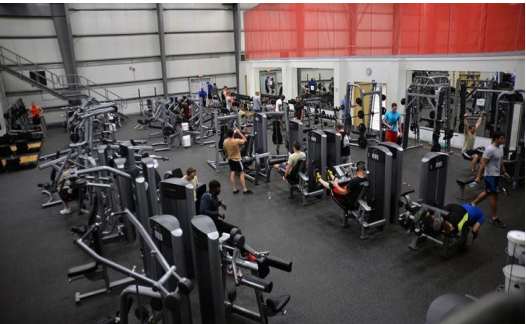
州長宣布：德州美容美甲院、健身房將恢復營業



【美南新聞記者蕭永群】德州州長艾伯特（Greg Abbott）於5日再次宣布有關重啟事宜，表示如今美容美甲院、健身房也即將被允許開放。美容美甲院等場所在本周五8日開放，而健身房將於18日有條件開放。艾伯特表示，目前美容院、美甲院、理髮廳將被允許於周五開放，但要嚴格遵守社交

18日開放25%的使用量，顧客在使用健身器材時務必「帶手套」並遵守社交隔離。而業者必須頻繁的為這些設施、淋浴間、儲物櫃禁止開放。州長提到了酒吧，但他表示希望能看到完善重啟的計畫，才會考慮是否將酒吧也加入開放名單。

隔離規範，且員工和顧客應該要配戴口罩。而健身房、運動設施將會在本月



州長還對重新開放德州的第一階段作了重要說明，他表示婚禮、葬禮、紀念館和墓園，應與教堂保持相同的指導原則，人們在這些地方也都要相隔六英尺。此外，他也建議高危人群（包括65歲及65歲以上和/或有潛在健康狀況的人群）繼續留在家裡，並在可能的情況下進行遠程監控。艾伯特表示，已經對42萬7210名德克薩斯人進行了新冠測試，其中有一半以上是在最近兩週內測試的。他

表示，隨著德州每天增加檢測到近3萬個檢測，預計每日確診病例數會因此增加。在5月第一周，德州衛生官員才回報新冠確診病例，連續幾天增幅達到最大，5月2日和3日增加了2000多例新病例。但是艾伯特指出，在他重新開放州的那一天（本月1日），有超過95%接受測試者，都呈現陰性反應。



淪全德州冠狀病毒罪犯「傾倒場」？福便郡長發聲明表憤慨

【美南新聞記者蕭永群報導】德州刑事司法部通知，將要把新冠肺炎陽性囚犯轉移到福便郡99號公路上，Richmond的傑斯特一號監獄（Jester 1 Unit），對此，KP George發表了聲明表達不滿。「我震驚地發現，德州政府一直以來，都把福遍郡作為冠狀病毒罪犯的傾倒場。州政府完全沒有告知我，等我發現時他們早就開始把新冠陽性的囚犯轉移到位在Richmond的傑斯特州立監獄。令人憤慨的是，周政府官員將把所有生病的囚犯遣送至這裡，從而危害了福遍郡公



民的健康和安全。」郡長還指出：「我聯絡了德州司法部門的官員，有關這個轉移囚犯的資訊，州政府沒能力在自己的監獄內保障這些囚犯的健康與安全。我被告知他們要將德州境內全部新冠犯人聚集，送來Richmond的傑斯特監獄裡。重罪者尚未康復。仍然可能會傳染給與他們接觸的任何人。」



郡長表示，州政府指出等到囚犯到達監獄，將會被要求要隔離14天來防止病毒傳播，而監獄內員工會受到檢測，確保沒有發燒等症狀，並被要求要配戴口罩，但他認為「這些標準對於密閉

又拘禁的監獄空間，是完全不足又危險的。」他表示：「在我們從病毒大流行中恢復過來並重新營業之際，我不會為我們的公民帶來風險。我要求德州將具傳染性的囚犯從我們郡撤出，並將其運送到其他設施。我要求所有福遍郡居民提供幫助，可以與在奧斯丁的州立法機關聯繫，要求將被冠狀病毒確診的罪犯送往其他地方。」福遍警局也在網站上，貼出了抗議書的聯署，並呼籲民衆一起聯署請願。