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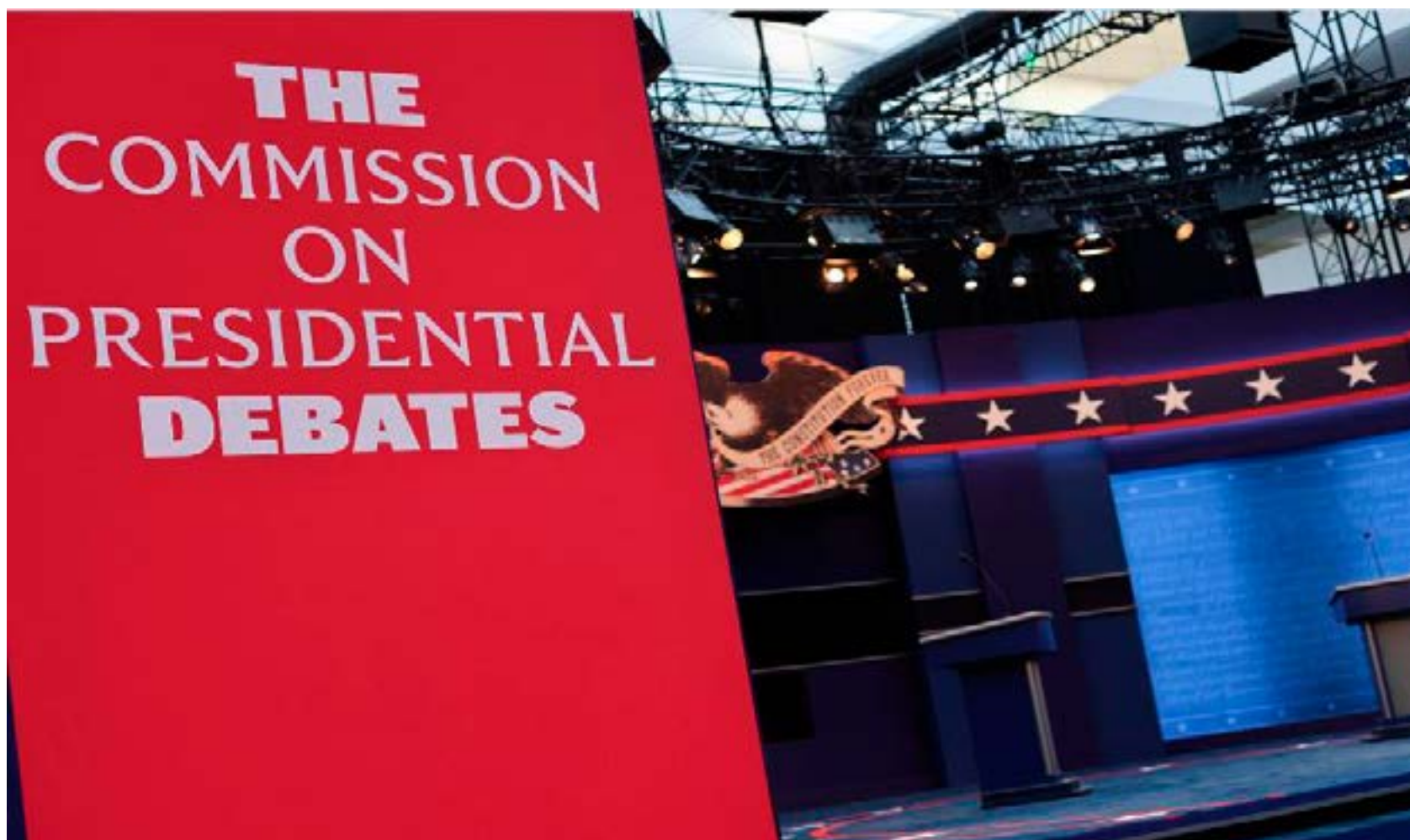
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Biden campaign tees up Trump tax issue on eve of first debate



WASHINGTON/WILMINGTON, Del. (Reuters) - Joe Biden's campaign seized on a fresh line of attack on the eve of the Democratic presidential nominee's first debate with President Donald Trump, accusing the Republican incumbent of gaming the system to avoid paying his fair share of taxes.

Trump, a self-proclaimed billionaire who is seeking reelection in the Nov. 3 vote, paid only \$750 in federal income taxes in both 2016 and 2017, after years of reporting heavy losses from his businesses to offset hundreds of millions of dollars in income, the New York Times reported on Sunday, citing tax-return data.

The Times also reported that Trump paid no federal income tax in 10 of the previous 15 years through 2017, despite receiving \$427.4 million through 2018 from his reality television program and other endorsement and licensing deals.

Jared Bernstein, one of Biden's top economic advisers, said the report highlighted the need to simplify the tax code and make people like Trump pay their fair share.

"The vast majority of us pay taxes and get on with life. But the richer you are, the more tax lawyers you employ, the more complex you can make your holdings - all of this can, as the piece shows reduce your tax liability to zero," Bernstein said on Twitter.

Within hours of the report, Biden's campaign had released a video listing the thousands of dollars in income tax typically paid by an elementary school teacher, firefighter, construction manager and registered nurse, before contrasting Trump's reported \$750 bill in 2017. The campaign also started selling stickers that say, "I Paid More In Taxes Than Donald Trump."

Trump has dismissed the report as "fake news." On Monday, he tweeted that he had paid "many millions of dollars in taxes" but was entitled to depreciation and tax credits and was "extremely under-leveraged" in terms of his debt and assets.

White House spokeswoman Kayleigh McEnany described the report as a hit job that was straight out of the Democratic playbook. "We've seen this play out before ... purported tax information dropping the eve of a debate. They tried this in 2016 - it didn't work," she told Fox Business Network.

U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a Democrat, told MSNBC the president's reported debts raised questions of national security.

FIRST DEBATE

Trump and Biden will square off in their first debate in Cleveland, Ohio, on Tuesday, five weeks before the election. Polls show Biden leading Trump nationally and in a number of key battleground states.

"I am looking very forward to the debate," Trump told reporters at the White House on Monday.

The 90-minute televised debate is likely to focus in part on

Trump's handling of the coronavirus pandemic, which has killed more than 200,000 Americans, and his push to fill the late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's seat on the high court.

The re-emergence of Trump's tax history as an election issue - in 2016 he broke a decades-old tradition of presidential nominees releasing their tax returns when seeking the White House - offers Biden another avenue of attack Tuesday evening.

The former vice president is trying to turn the tables on Trump, who ran successfully as an economic populist four years ago and is regarded by some observers as having an edge among voters on the issue of who would best manage the economy.

In recent days, Biden has characterized the race as a clash between Scranton, the working-class Pennsylvania city where he spent part of his childhood, and Park Avenue. Trump Tower, which serves as headquarters for the Trump Organization, is located near that tony boulevard in Manhattan.

Trump has painted his economic record in glowing terms, saying his policies were responsible for boosting growth and reducing U.S. unemployment to near 50-year lows prior to the outbreak of the pandemic. His message, however, has been badly dented by the virus-triggered recession, which has put millions of Americans out of work. Democrats say Trump has mishandled the U.S. response and embraced policies that favored corporations and the rich.

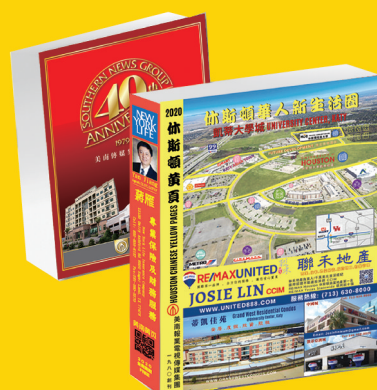
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Is The Coronavirus Weakening? Patients’ Viral Loads In Decline, As Well As Death Rates



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

DETROIT, Mich. — While some health experts warn of a possible second wave in the coronavirus pandemic, a new study is pointing to signs that COVID-19’s severity may be fading. Researchers at Wayne State University say viral loads from patients are continuing to decrease as the pandemic progresses. This is also showing a connection to a lowering death rate.

Dr. Said El Zein and his team analyzed viral loads of SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing COVID-19, coming from patient nasal swabs over two months. From April 4 to June 5, a downward trend in the amount of virus detected in patients at Detroit Medical Center was discovered.

To estimate the viral loads coming from nasopharyngeal swabs, study authors use a cycle threshold (Ct) value that comes from the tests on these samples. A higher Ct means a sample has less SARS-CoV-2 in it. Their scale rates a high viral load as a Ct of 25 and under, intermediate loads as a Ct between 26-36, and low viral loads as a Ct over 37.

Lower viral loads lead to better out-

comes for COVID patients

During the week of April 4, just under half (49%) of COVID-19 patients had an intermediate viral load (VL). Low and high VL counts both came in at 25.5 percent of the patient samples.



By the fifth week of the study however, 70 percent of positive COVID-19 swabs fall into the low VL category. El Zein adds that this drop in viral production coincides with a decrease in patient deaths. Researchers say 45 percent of patients in the high VL group died from the virus. This number falls to 32 percent for COVID-19 patients with intermediate loads and 14 percent for the low VL group.

“During the April-June 2020 period of

the COVID-19 pandemic, the initial SARS-CoV-2 load steadily declined among hospitalized patients with a corresponding decrease in the percent of deaths over time,” the Wayne State team says in a media release. “Though confounding variables have not been evaluated, this suggests an association between initial viral load and mortality.”

Face masks, social distancing still the keys

Dr. El Zein admits the team doesn’t know the exact reason why viral loads are dropping over time, but suggests the pandemic’s severity is fading since a global crisis was officially declared on March 11. Part of this, he adds, may be due to the public’s actions to curb the spread.

“Rapid implementation of social distancing measures, lockdown and widespread use of facemasks may have contributed to a decrease in the exposure to the virus.”

The findings were presented at the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases’ Conference on Coronavirus Disease. (Courtesy studyfinds.org)

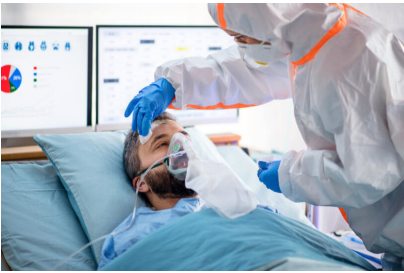
Related

Men 62% more likely to die from COVID, greater inflammation may be why

REGENSBURG, Germany — It’s been discussed in vague terms for months that men appear to be more susceptible in general to the coronavirus than women. Now, a new study is providing more exact figures and a possible explanation for this discrepancy between genders.

The research, conducted at University Hospital Regensburg, concludes that men have a 62% higher risk of a COVID-19 associated death in compar-

ison to women. Researchers say it may be due to higher levels of inflammation among male coronavirus patients.



To come to these findings, the authors analyzed 3,129 adults who were treated for COVID-19 between March and July of this year. For each patient, they had access to data pertaining to both socio-demographics and co-morbidities.

Analysis of male COVID patients versus female

The progression of each patient’s condition was classified over time according to four phases: uncomplicated (asymptomatic/mild symptoms); complicated (need for oxygen assistance); critical (need for critical care); and recovery. Across each phase, patients’ vital signs, symptoms, inflammatory markers, and treatment methods were recorded.

Among the entire patient group, the male-female ratio was 1.48. Moreover, there were more men receiving coronavirus treatments than women across all age groups. That being said, this abundance of male patients over female patients is most obvious among the 65-75 year old age group. More men also showed signs of coronary artery disease (18% vs 10%), and admitted to being smokers (14.5% vs 10.5%).

The study also shows that men have more admissions to ICU care (thus placed in the “critical” phase) than women (30.6%

vs 17.2%). In all, male patients spent more time in the hospital than females (15.4 vs 13.3 days).

When it comes to patients who died, men were more likely to suffer a COVID-related death than women (17.1% vs 10.3%).

Men show higher levels of inflammation ‘during all phases of COVID-19’

All in all, even after accounting for other factors, researchers calculate that men have a 62% higher overall chance of passing away from COVID-19-associated causes. Researchers say that male patients shows significantly higher markers of inflammation (IL-6, CRP, PCT, ferritin) during all four aforementioned phases.

“Men are more likely to progress to critical phases of COVID-19. Men have higher death rates as well as more frequent ICU admissions and longer hospital stays, that are all associated with higher inflammatory parameters during all phases of COVID-19. In our cohort, this effect was not explained by differences in comorbidities, age or BMI between male and female patients,” researchers conclude in a media release.



“We need further studies on what exactly makes men more vulnerable to COVID-19”, study leader Dr. Frank Hanses adds. “We do not yet know which biological or possibly social factors lead to these marked differences.”

This research is being presented at the ESCMID Conference on Coronavirus Disease. (Courtesy studyfinds.org)


WEA LEE’S

09/28/2020

GLOBAL NOTES

CORONAVIRUS DIARY

Brain–Eating Amoeba Found In Water



The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality issued a water advisory to residents of Lake Jackson, Freeport, Angleton, Richmond and Oyster Creek to not to use any public water until further notice due to the presence of Naegleria fowleri, a Brain–eating amoeba, that was found in the area’ s water supply last Friday evening.

The incident started on September 8th, when the city was made aware of a six–year old boy who was hospitalized with the amoeba infection. The boy’ s illness was traced back to a civic center water fountain or the hose at the boy’ s home.

Texas Department of State Health Services tested the local water on September 25th and three of the 11 water samples tested positive for Naegleria fowleri.

The CDC says this type of infection is rare, yet most cases are fatal. From 2009 to 2018 only 34 cases of Naegleria fowleri were reported in the United States. Of those reported cases, 30 people were infected by recreational water. From 1962 to 2018, 145 people were infected and only four survived.

This is a very difficult time for the people in Texas with the coronavirus still attacking our community. It will possibly take at least three days to clear the amoeba from the water system.

We urge all residents in the area to please pay attention to all the latest announcements and developments on this situation from city health authorities.

9/26/20 Reuters: Texas city declares disaster after brain-eating amoeba found in tap water

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Editor's Choice



People hold a moment of silence during the march for Breonna Taylor in New York City, New York, September 25, 2020. REUTERS/Jeenah Moon



President Donald Trump arrives to hold an event to announce his nominee of Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit Judge Amy Coney Barrett to fill the Supreme Court seat left vacant by the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who died on September...MORE



Embers are seen from a burning tree during the Glass Fire in St. Helena, California, September 27, 2020. REUTERS/Stephen Lam



Members of Proud Boys gather for a rally in Portland, Oregon, September 26, 2020. REUTERS/Jim Urquhart



People wave through the window of a student accommodation building with a 'Covid Positive' sign displayed in it, in Manchester, Britain, September 27, 2020. REUTERS/Phil Noble



Members of a feminist collective clash with police officers during a march to mark the International Safe Abortion Day in Mexico City, Mexico September 27, 2020. REUTERS/Toya Sarno Jordan



President Donald Trump speaks to reporters during a news conference inside the James S. Brady Briefing Room at the White House in Washington, September 27, 2020. REUTERS/Ken Cedeno



People are seen seated in outlined sections, created to promote social distancing, while viewing a screening as part of Movie Nights with Tribeca Film Festival at the Backyard at Hudson Yards in Manhattan, New York City, September 26, 2020

Global Coronavirus Vaccine Development Heading For The Final Stretch



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

We are inching closer to having a coronavirus vaccine ready and if reports are true, the first doses could arrive by early 2021. India’s Prime Minister Modi’s recent statement at the UN general assembly also attested to the fact that vaccine development is going on at full swing. With at least 9 vaccines in critical stages and two being registered for use, here are all the updates regarding a COVID vaccine development: After a lot of delays and speculations, Oxford University developed COVID vaccine, which is being marketed by British-Swedish firm, AstraZeneca worldwide has finally begun phase III testing in India. To be sold as ‘Covishield’, the prime vaccine candidate has been administered to three volunteers at KEM hospital, Mumbai and the next batch would be given the vaccine jab starting this week (September 28). At least 17 sites have been shortlisted for conducting the trials in India. Over 1600 participants were part of the phase II trials in the past month. As per guidelines, one out of four participants will be given a placebo drug,

since it would be a randomized trial. Necessary observations and checks would be made after a gap of four days, seven days and so forth.



According to the scientists responsible for monitoring the trials, the jab has been studied to deliver a strong immune response and spiked antibody levels in the body 14 days post inoculation. Moderna Therapeutics’ vaccine, which will mark the company’s foray into the world of commercial vaccine sale and use is also seeing good advancements. The company was second only to Oxford to kick off phase III trials and

has so far, enrolled 25,000 of the planned 30,000 volunteers and experimental inoculation is underway. According to company reports, the earliest study from the wide-scale trials is expected by last week of October or early November, making way for a review in the last months of the year.

While Moderna has been excessively facing the pressure to release a vaccine early, the company has announced no such plans. However, reports so far have suggested that the mRNA technology, made use of in the development of the vaccine is safe and effective, and could potentially work for the younger and older age groups as well. The company is also in talks with several countries to roll out their vaccines in the coming months but no mention of India has been made of yet.



Amid news of rolling out a vaccine for the masses, China, which was the epicentre of the disease outbreak has reportedly inoculated at least a lakh people across the country with doses of experimental vaccines being developed by Chinese scientists. While five vaccines are being worked on, two are in phase II/III trials are were also granted military approval in the month of June. While China’s move follows Russia’s plans of mass inoculation, the uncomplacent safety studies of the vaccines are making global leaders worry. While questions are being raised over the lack of efficacy and safety issues, China has reportedly said that the plans for emergency authorisation were given the go-ahead by the World Health Organisation. No other details, from the name to the workability of the vaccine has been released. Interestingly, news of a link-up between

China and the World Health Organisation (WHO) downplaying the COVID-19 risk has been doing the rounds of late, after a whistleblower, Chinese virologist Dr Li-Meng Yan spoke in an interview about the same, reportedly suggesting that the virus has been engineered in a lab by Chinese scientists.



Amid controversies and news of expedited trials abroad, the latest report surrounding Sputnik V suggests that the vaccine is able to live upto its promised aim, and delivers tolerable immunity after the first shot. Alexander Gintsburg, the head of Moscow’s state-run Gamaleya research institute, heading the trials said that enough samples have been observed to conclude the safe workings of the vaccine. He also added that an additional dose would only be required to ‘extend’ the immunity period. However it is unclear as to how long would the first bout of immunity last: “For some, the protective level of antibodies is produced after the first vaccination and they need the second one to extend that protection. They will likely be protected two weeks after the first vaccination,” Gintsburg also stated that the chances of reinfection, post-vaccination are likely to be “low” or “weak”. “If there is [an infection between the first and second shots], it will occur in a weaker form.” Russia is in the middle of country-wide inoculation. First batches of the vaccine have been made ready to be administered to essential workers first. Talks have also been made with India, with pharma giant,

Dr Reddy’s all set to bring the vaccine to India, produce ample doses for the public after it goes through phase III trials, clearances and required nods from the DGCI. As per reports, the administration could start as early as January next year.



Bharat Biotech, ICMR and National Institute of Virology, Pune (NIV) backed Covaxin is making steady progress and winning praise from proud Indians. According to chief investigators monitoring the phase II trials of the vaccine, the candidate is able to deliver strong immunogenicity response and delivers low, or no side-effects. If all goes well, phase III of the vaccine would be started soon pan India, beginning in Lucknow. The vaccine candidate, one of the first ones to head to crucial trial stage in India is also seeing active participation from the general public. From businessmen, students, PhD scholars, experts from the medical community, doctors have been flooded with volunteer queries, 80% of them being men. (Courtesy <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/>)



美南傳媒最新電視節目



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三個女人 一台戲
主持人: 黃梅子



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