

# WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

11/05/2020

## CORONAVIRUS DIARY

# From Divide To United?

Is this Democracy working for progress? Officials in the key battleground states still have mountains of uncounted absentee ballots as president Trump cast doubt on their work. Biden early on called for patience while workers continued to count the ballots. The Trump campaign requested a recount in Wisconsin as the Republican party scaled up for a large legal battle saying that they have thousands of volunteer lawyers and several law firms already on retainer in these battleground

states. We really can't predict who will be the final winner and become the president of the United States. But one thing is for sure: the people of the world are watching our election because America will still be leading the world for many years to come. We all hope when this election battle is over that we can sit down and talk about our shared future.



We need to go from a divided nation to a united country. So many of us are from different parts of the globe. Our goal was very simple – just looking for a better life for us and our next generation. When you look at the recent coronavirus pandemic, many people are our brothers and sisters and just suffering so much.

Most of them are at the bottom of society and not the rich class.

Our president and political leaders have responsibility to serve them all. We urge all our people when the ordeal is over to reconsider our community to be united and not divided.



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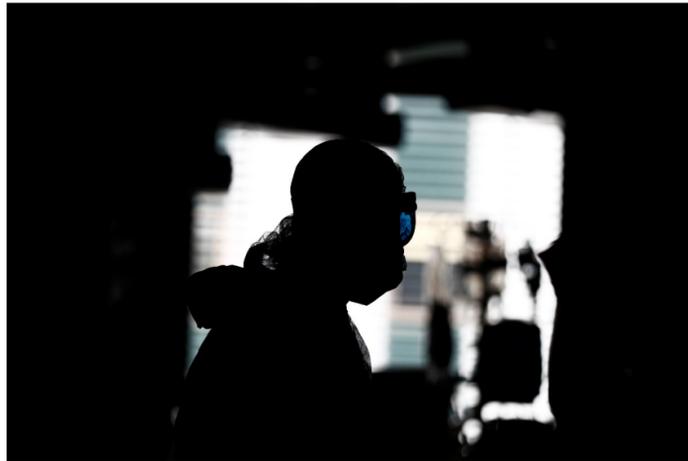
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# BUSINESS

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## COVID-19 Roundup 11/07/20

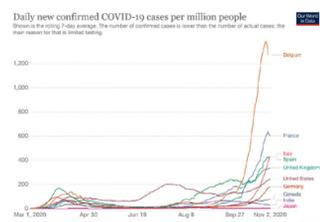


Spain has seen a record one-day increase in confirmed cases. (Image: REUTERS/Sergio Perez)

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

**How COVID-19 is affecting the globe**  
Confirmed cases of COVID-19 have now passed 46.8 million globally, according to the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center. The number of confirmed deaths stands at more than 1.2 million. **Australia** has reported one locally acquired case of COVID-19. Meanwhile, **New Zealand** has registered its first community transmissions in more than two weeks, after two workers at a quarantine facility tested positive. **India** has recorded 38,310 new COVID-19 infections - the ninth straight day that numbers have been under 50,000. **Britain** is set to launch a mass-testing pilot scheme in Liverpool. Everyone in the city will be offered a test, regardless of whether they have symptoms or not.

introducing a state of emergency to fight the spread of the virus. The number of new COVID-19 cases hit a record high in the **United States** last week, after rising 18% to more than 575,000, according to a Reuters analysis. **Spain** has seen a record one-day increase in new coronavirus cases, after they rose by 55,019.



**A snapshot of how daily cases are changing in selected countries. (Image: Our World in Data)**  
**2. Hope for 'cellular immunity'**  
A small UK study has found that 'cellular immunity' to COVID-19 is present in people who had mild or asymptomatic COVID-19 after six months. The study, which is yet to be peer reviewed, looked at 100 non-hospitalized COVID-19 patients in Britain. It showed that while some patients' antibody levels fell, their T-cell response remained strong. "While our findings cause us to be cautiously optimistic about the strength and length of immunity generated after SARS-CoV-2 infection, this is just one piece of the puzzle," said Paul Moss, a professor of haematology at Britain's Birmingham University, who co-led the study. "There is still a lot for us learn before we have a full understanding of how immunity to COVID-19 works."

**Invest in the basics: WHO**  
World Health Organization Director General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has urged countries to once again invest in the basics of public health systems. His call came as countries, particularly in Europe, are putting in place restrictions to ease the pressure on their systems.



"We need countries to again invest in the basics so that measures can be lifted safely and governments can hopefully avoid having to take these measures again," he told a media briefing yesterday. He also stressed that collective action is vital. "On a macro level, this also reflects why a whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach to sustainable global preparedness is so important," he said. "Health systems and preparedness are not only an investment in the future, they are the foundation of our response today." "Public health is more than medicine and science, and it is bigger than any individual," he added. (Courtesy www.weforum.org)

**Related**  
**WHO Chief Tedros To Quarantine After Contact Gets COVID-19**  
Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus wrote on Twitter late Sunday that he is "well and without symptoms" but will self-quarantine in "coming days, in line with WHO protocols, and work from home." On Monday, the U.N. health agency's sought to dispel misinformation about Tedros' self-isolation, writing on Twitter that "contrary to some incorrect reports," he has not tested positive himself. The WHO director-general has been at the forefront of the global response to the coronavirus pandemic, which has infected at least 46.5 million people and led to more than 1.2 million deaths, according to a count of confirmed cases by Johns Hopkins University.



**The head of the World Health Organization Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus says he will self-quarantine after being identified as a contact of a person who tested positive for COVID-19.**  
The tweet did not identify who among his contacts had been infected. The U.N. health agency is based in Geneva, where cases are increasing and where tighter restrictions were announced Sunday aimed to curb the spread of the virus. More than 1,000 new cases have been recorded each day recently in an area of about 500,000 people. In what have become twice-weekly WHO news conferences, Tedros and other leaders of the health agency have generally opted not to wear protective masks, insisting that they have taken other precautions such as physical distancing and ensuring good air circulation in the vast conference room where the briefings take place. Officials at WHO Europe in Copenhagen, however, regularly wear masks

during their weekly news conferences in an effort to send a signal to viewers about precautions to take (Courtesy www.newson6.com/)



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**Portugal's President, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, said yesterday he was considering**

**Editor's Choice**



People pose their dog for pictures as they await the decision in the U.S. election in Times Square in New York. REUTERS/Carlo Allegri



Joe Biden smiles as he pulls off his face mask to speak about the results of the 2020 U.S. presidential election during an appearance in Wilmington, Delaware. REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque



Men recover plastic barrels from a business affected by a flooding caused by rains from Storm Eta, in Toyos, Honduras. REUTERS/Jorge Cabrera



Joe Biden speaking during a news conference on a screen, as they wait for the results of the 2020 presidential election in Washington. REUTERS/Carlos Barria



People are seen enjoying drinks before pubs close ahead of the lockdown in Soho, London, Britain. REUTERS/Henry Nicholls



A police officer reads during a mostly uneventful night near the White House the day after the 2020 U.S. presidential election, in Washington. REUTERS/Erin Scott



Employees from the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration and the Danish Emergency Management Agency in protective equipment are seen amid the coronavirus outbreak at a mink farm in Gjoel, North Jutland, Denmark. Ritzau Scanpix/Henning Bagger



Employees from the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration and the Danish Emergency Management Agency in protective equipment are seen amid the coronavirus outbreak at a mink farm in Gjoel, North Jutland, Denmark.

**Coronavirus Death Rates Are Falling Rapidly As Infections Move To Younger, Healthier People**

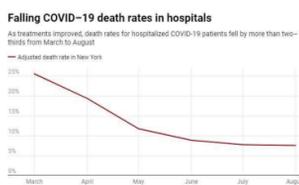


Voters wait in line on the first day of in-person early voting in Durham, North Carolina. (Photo/J. Drake/Reuters)

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

NEW YORK — As health officials fear a new wave in the coronavirus pandemic is starting, one study is delivering some optimism despite the lack of a vaccine. Researchers in New York say the death rate among COVID-19 patients is plummeting across the state. Much of this is due to a major shift in who is contracting the virus since the pandemic's start. A team from NYU Grossman School of Medicine finds the coronavirus death rate by mid-August among hospitalized patients had dropped by a stunning 24 percent, going from 27 percent in March to just three percent by the summer. One of the leading factors for the change is hospitals began seeing younger and healthier people becoming infected. These patients arrived with less severe symptoms than those hospitalized in the spring. "Our efforts to improve treatment are probably working" Study authors say there's more to the decline in deaths than just who's getting sick. The report finds healthcare workers in recovering regions continue to gain more skill in treating COVID as cases keep pouring in. Researchers say doctors have learned to rest COVID-19 patients on their stomachs instead of their backs to improve outcomes. Physicians are also delaying

the use of ventilators as long as possible as they ease people through their symptoms. The study adds less virus exposure, earlier testing and treatment, and more effective drugs are all contributing to the turnaround in recovering regions.



"Our findings suggest that while COVID-19 remains a terrible disease, our efforts to improve treatment are probably working," says study lead author Leora Horwitz of NYU Langone Health in a media release. "Even in the absence of a silver-bullet treatment or vaccine, we are protecting more of our patients through a host of small changes."

**Where are coronavirus death rates dropping most?**

Researchers say New York isn't alone in this population shift during the pandemic. The

results point to lower death rates in southern and western regions of the United States. This is also being driven by a younger and healthier group of people contracting the virus. The study examined over 5,200 cases on COVID-19 across NYU Langone hospitals in New York City and Long Island between March and August. On average, the likelihood of death fell by 22 percent among the most critically ill patients. The average age of a hospitalized coronavirus patient also dropped from 63 to 47 years-old. Doctors are seeing fewer COVID patients with chronic conditions getting sick as well. In March, 73 percent of infected patients had pre-existing health problems such as diabetes and lung disease. That number dropped to 65 percent in mid-June.



"Other pandemic hotspots should take hope from the lessons learned here in New York," study senior author Christopher Petrilli adds. "If we can do better at managing the disease, they can too." Researchers plan to expand their study beyond New York to explore the improving outlook in other areas of the country. Petrilli cautions that even though the death rate is falling, patients may still deal with fatigue, blood clots, and lung damage after they leave the hospital. The study has been scheduled to be published in the Journal of Hospital (Courtesy / www.studyfinds.org)

**Related**

**Study Helps Explain Declines In Death Rates From COVID-19**

NEW YORK, Oct. 22, 2020 /PRNewswire/ -- Fewer New Yorkers are dying from the coronavirus than health experts had anticipated, a new study shows. Regional death rates have dropped from the highs seen at the start of the outbreak, partially due to a shift in the population contracting the disease toward those who are more resilient. After New York became the epicenter for the pandemic in early March, with tens of thousands dying from COVID-19, experts had expected that the infection would remain as deadly in the following months.

Instead, a new investigation showed that by mid-August the death rate in those hospitalized with coronavirus-related illness had dropped from 27 percentage points to about 3 percentage points. Led by researchers at NYU Grossman School of Medicine, the study showed that a younger, healthier group of people were getting infected and were arriving at the hospital with less-severe symptoms than those infected in the spring.

However, the researchers' analysis showed that these factors accounted for only part of the improvement in survival. The rest, they suspect, resulted from health care providers' growing experience with the coronavirus. For example, physicians learned that resting COVID-19 patients on their stomachs rather than their backs and delaying the use of ventilators as long as possible were more effective practices, say the study authors. Drugs likely helped as well. In addition, other factors such as decreasing hospital volumes, less exposure to infection, and earlier testing and treatment, may have played a role.

"Our findings suggest that while COVID-19 remains a terrible disease, our efforts to improve treatment are probably working," says study lead author Leora Horwitz, MD, an associate professor in the Department of Population Health at NYU Langone Health. "Even in the absence of a silver-bullet treatment or vaccine, we are protecting more of our patients through a host of small changes," says Horwitz, who is also director of the Center for Healthcare Innovation and Delivery Science at NYU Langone. New York was among the first states to grapple with a severe outbreak of COVID-19. By contrast, death rates in more recent waves in southern and western regions of the country, which also had younger, healthier coronavirus patients, have been lower, says Horwitz. However, it had remained unclear whether the virus was less deadly due to the different patient demographics or improved care. Horwitz says the new study, publishing online next week in the Journal of Hospital Medicine, is the most detailed analysis to date of coronavirus death rates over time. By accounting for age, obesity, and other key factors, the researchers were able to eliminate some explanations from the analysis. "Our findings suggest that while COVID-19 remains a terrible disease, our efforts to improve treatment are probably working,"

— Study lead author Leora Horwitz, MD, associate professor, Department of Population Health at NYU Langone Health



For the investigation, the research team analyzed 5,263 patient records of people treated for COVID-19 at NYU Langone hospitals in New York City and Long Island between March 1 and Aug. 8.

Using a range of risk factors for the disease as well as indicators of the severity of the illness upon hospitalization, the study authors developed a model that predicted likelihood of death for each patient. According to the findings, the likelihood of death was on average 22 percentage points lower in August than in March for most critically ill patients. The average age of hospitalized COVID-19 patients also dropped from 63 to 47. In March, while 73 percent had chronic conditions like lung disease and diabetes, by mid-June only about 65 percent had such risk factors. "Other pandemic hotspots should take hope from the lessons learned here in New York," says study senior author Christopher Petrilli, MD, an assistant professor in the Department of Medicine at NYU Langone. "If we can do better at managing the disease, they can too."

Still, he adds that the research team next plans to expand the investigation to hospitals outside of New York. Petrilli also cautions that while death rates are improving, COVID-19 still causes symptoms in some people that continue long after hospital patients are sent home, including fatigue, blood clots, and lung damage. NYU Grossman School of Medicine provided all the necessary funding for the study.

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