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Inside C2

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Make Today Different

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GM hits reverse on Trump effort to bar California emissions rules



FILE PHOTO: Mary Teresa Barra, Chairwoman and CEO of General Motors Company attends the unveiling its redesigned mid-engine C8 Corvette, the 2020 Chevrolet Corvette Stingray, in Tustin, California, U.S., July 18, 2019. REUTERS/Mike Blake/File Photo/File Photo

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - General Motors said on Monday it was reversing course and will no longer back the Trump administration's effort to bar California from setting its own emissions rules in an ongoing court fight.

GM Chief Executive Mary Barra said in a letter to environmental groups it was "immediately withdrawing from the preemption litigation and inviting other automakers to join us."

The about-face came as GM sought to work with President-elect Joe Biden, who has made boosting electric vehicles (EVs) a top priority. The Detroit automaker has laid out an ambitious strategy to boost EV sales and last week said it will increase spending on EVs and autonomous vehicles by 35% from previous disclosed plans.

The announcement reflects corporate America's move to engage quickly with the incoming Democratic administration.

Barra said she believes "the ambitious electrification goals of the president-elect, California, and General Motors are aligned, to address climate change by drastically reducing automobile emissions."

The White House declined to comment. Environmental Protection Agency spokesman James Hewitt said of GM's announcement "it's always interesting to see the changing positions of U.S. corporations."

In October 2019, GM joined Toyota Motor Corp, Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV and other automakers in backing the Trump administration in its bid to bar California from setting its own fuel efficiency rules or zero-emission requirements for vehicles.

California and 22 other states and environmental groups challenged the Trump administration's determination that federal law bars California from setting stiff tailpipe emission standards and zero-emission vehicle mandates.

Barra was among corporate and labor leaders that met virtually last week with Biden.

Speaking on Monday, Barra said she was "confident that the Biden Administration, California, and the U.S. auto industry, which supports 10.3 million jobs, can collaboratively find the pathway that will deliver an all-electric future."

The Trump administration in March finalized a rollback of fuel efficiency standards to require 1.5% annual increases in efficiency through 2026, well below the 5% yearly boosts in Obama administration rules it discarded.

Other automakers, such as Ford Motor Co, Honda Motor Co and Volkswagen AG, which announced a deal with California in 2019 on emissions requirements that was finalized in August, did not intervene on the administration's side in the California fight.

Toyota said Monday that "given the changing circumstances, we are assessing the situation, but remain committed to our goal of a consistent, unitary set of fuel economy standards applicable in all 50 states

Other automakers backing the Trump administration include Hyundai Motor Co, Mazda, Nissan Motor Co, Kia Motors Corp and Subaru Co.

GM had drawn the ire of many California officials and environmental groups.

Dan Becker, director of the Safe Climate Transport Campaign, said "GM tried to prevent California from protecting its people from tailpipe pollution. They were wrong. Now the other automakers must follow GM and withdraw support for (President Donald) Trump's attack on clean cars."

In September, California Governor Newsom said the state planned to ban the sale of new gasoline powered passenger cars and trucks starting in 2035 in a bold move to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

California is the largest U.S. auto market, accounting for about 11% of all U.S. vehicle sales, and many states choose to adopt its green vehicle mandates.

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Breakingviews - Vaccine euphoria may be headed for a reality check

LONDON (Reuters Breakingviews) - On a sinking ship, women and children are typically saved first. In a pandemic the opposite is true. After AstraZeneca on Monday became the latest drugmaker to say its vaccine offers high levels of protection from Covid-19, elderly citizens have high hopes of getting their jabs soon. However, younger people will have to wait longer. Investors counting on a rapid recovery may be disappointed.

There's a sound logic to vaccinating the most vulnerable. Britain's Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation reckons that if the over-50s, healthcare workers and people with compromised immune systems were inoculated, 99% of Covid-19 deaths would be avoided. That should allow countries which have imposed tough restrictions to protect their healthcare systems to begin opening up their economies.

The imminent arrival of multiple vaccines makes this a real prospect. AstraZeneca said on Monday its treatment, developed with the University of Oxford, could be effective in as many as 90% of patients at the right dosage. Rival jabs developed by Pfizer and Moderna appear to be 95% effective.

However, a swift rollout is still ambitious. In the United Kingdom alone, there are 3.2 million people over 80, who will be among the first in line for a vaccine. Due to the high risk of infection, authorities will be reluctant to offer inoculations in hospitals and doctors' offices. Some countries are exploring drive-in centres for the double doses, which must be administered one month apart.

Reaching herd immunity, where the virus no longer spreads, means inoculating some 70% of the population, according to the World Health Organization. Sceptical citizens are another impediment. Only 40% of Americans say they will sign up for a first-generation vaccine, according to an index compiled by Axios and Ipsos.

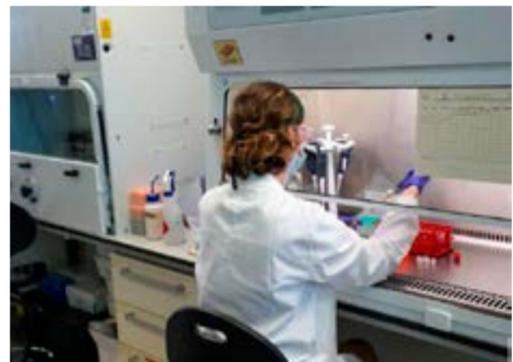
Even if they're willing, young and able-bodied people may have to wait until 2022 to be vaccinated, according to the WHO. Though some may be willing to live with



Scientists are seen working at Cobra Biologics, they are working on a potential vaccine for COVID-19, following the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), in Keele, Britain, April 30, 2020.

the risk, others are likely to keep avoiding public transport and mass gatherings. That will put a cap on any recovery in corporate profitability.

Investors are pricing in a faster recovery. Analysts expect companies in the Global MSCI index to report a 17% drop in profits this year, according to data from JPMorgan, but that next year's earnings will exceed 2019 levels. Despite the good news about vaccines, those expectations may prove overly euphoric.



Stay Home!

BUSINESS

Wear Mask!

A Holiday Checklist

The Centers For Disease Control: "Celebrate Thanksgiving Safely"



KEY POINTS

More than 1 million COVID-19 cases were reported in the United States over the last 7 days.

As cases continue to increase rapidly across the United States, the safest way to celebrate Thanksgiving is to celebrate at home with the people you live with.

Gatherings with family and friends who do not live with you can increase the chances of getting or spreading

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

Travel Travel may increase your chance of getting and spreading COVID-19. Postponing travel and staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others this year. If you are considering traveling for Thanksgiving, here are some important questions to ask yourself and your loved ones beforehand. These questions can help you decide what is best for you and your family. Are you, someone in your household, or someone you will be visiting at increased risk for getting very sick from COVID-19? Are cases high or increasing in your community or your destination? Check CDC's COVID Data Tracker for the latest number of cases. Are hospitals in your community or your destination overwhelmed with patients who have COVID-19? To find out, check state and local public health department websites.



Does your home or destination have requirements or restrictions for travelers? Check state and local requirements before you travel. During the 14 days before your travel, have you or those you are visiting had close contact with people they don't live with? Do your plans include traveling by bus, train, or air which might make staying 6 feet apart difficult? Are you traveling with people who don't live with you? If the answer to any of these questions is "yes," you should consider making other plans, such as hosting a virtual gathering or delaying your travel. It's important to talk with the people you live with and your family and friends about the risks of traveling for Thanksgiving. **If you do travel** Check travel restrictions

before you go. Get your flu shot before you travel. Always wear a mask in public settings, when using public transportation, and when around people who you don't live with. Stay at least 6 feet apart from anyone who does not live with you. Wash your hands often or use hand sanitizer. Avoid touching your mask, eyes, nose, and mouth. Bring extra supplies, such as masks and hand sanitizer. Know when to delay your travel.

Everyone Can Make Thanksgiving Safer



Wear a mask



Stay at least 6 feet away from others Wear a mask with two or more layers to help protect yourself and others from COVID-19. Wear the mask over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin. Make sure the mask fits snugly against the sides of your face. Wear a mask with two or more layers to help protect yourself and others from COVID-19. Wear the mask over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin. Make sure the mask fits snugly against the sides of your face. Remember that people without symptoms may be able to spread COVID-19 or flu. Keeping 6 feet (about 2 arm lengths) from others is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick. **Wash your hands** Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Keep hand sanitizer with you and use it when you are unable to wash your hands.



Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

Attending a Gathering Celebrating virtually or with the people you live with is the safest choice this Thanksgiving. If you choose to attend a gathering, make your celebration safer. In addition to following the steps that everyone can take to make Thanksgiving safer, take these additional steps if attending a Thanksgiving gathering:



Bring your own food, drinks, plates, cups, and utensils. Wear a mask and safely store your mask while eating and drinking. Avoid going in and out of the areas where food is being prepared or handled, such as in the kitchen. Use single-use options, like salad dressing and condiment packets, and disposable items like food containers, plates, and utensils.

Hosting a Thanksgiving Gathering Celebrating virtually or with the people you live with is the safest choice this Thanksgiving. If having guests to your home, be sure that people follow the steps that everyone can take to make Thanksgiving safer. These steps include:



Have a small outdoor meal with family and friends who live in your community. Limit the number of guests. Have conversations with guests ahead of time to set expectations for celebrating together. Clean

and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and items between use.

If celebrating indoors, bring in fresh air by opening windows and doors, if possible. You can use a window fan in one of the open windows to blow air out of the window. This will pull fresh air in through the other open windows.

Limit the number of people in food preparation areas. Have guests bring their own food and drink. If sharing food, have one person serve food and use single-use options, like plastic utensils.

Consider Other Thanksgiving Activities Host a virtual Thanksgiving meal with friends and family who don't live with you



Schedule a time to share a meal together virtually. Have people share recipes and show their turkey, dressing, or other dishes they prepared. Watch television and play games with people in your household. Watch Thanksgiving Day parades, sports, and movies at home. Find a fun game to play.

Shopping Shop Check out online sales the day after Thanksgiving and days leading up to the winter holidays. Use contactless services for purchased items, like curbside pick-up. Shop in open air markets staying 6 feet away from others and wear a mask.



Other Activities Safely prepare traditional dishes and deliver them to family and neighbors in a way that does not involve contact with others (for example, leave them on the porch). Participate in a gratitude activity, like writing down things you are grateful for and sharing with your friends and family. (Courtesy /www.cdc.gov/)

Editor's Choice



Merlin Coles, 3, watches horse racing from Royal Ascot on TV at his home, while seated on his horse Mr Glitter Sparkles with his dog Mistress, in Bere Regis, Dorset, Britain, June 17, 2020. REUTERS/Paul Childs



People participate in an outdoor yoga class by LMNTS Outdoor Studio, in a dome to facilitate social distancing, in Toronto, Ontario, Canada June 21, 2020. REUTERS/Carlos Osorio



Nurses hold newborn babies wearing protective face shields at the Praram 9 hospital in Bangkok, Thailand, April 9, 2020. REUTERS/Athit Perawongmetha



Tercio Galdino, 66, and his wife Aliceia, 65, wear their protective 'space suits' as they walk on the sidewalk of Copacabana Beach amid the coronavirus outbreak in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 11, 2020. REUTERS/Ricardo Moraes



A seagull carries a protective face mask at the port of Dover, Britain, August 11, 2020. REUTERS/Peter Nicholls



A person dressed up as Spider-Man sits next to cabs as taxi drivers hold a protest against taxi-hailing apps such as Uber, Cabify and Didi at Angel de la Independencia monument, in Mexico City, Mexico, October 12, 2020. REUTERS/Edgard Garrido



Nursery plants are seen placed in seats during a rehearsal before Barcelona's Gran Teatre del Liceu opera held a concert for plants to raise awareness about the importance of an audience after the coronavirus lockdown, in Barcelona, Spain June 22



A Kashmir goat is seen as a herd invaded a Welsh seaside resort after the coronavirus lockdown left the streets deserted in Llandudno, Wales, Britain, March 31, 2020. REUTERS/Carl Recine

Elon Musk's SpaceX To Provide Free Starlink Internet Service For Families In Texas School District



Tesla Inc. and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk.

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

ODESSA, Texas - (NEXSTAR) - Dozens of families in Odessa, Texas, will be getting free access to internet service provided by Elon Musk's SpaceX aerospace company, according to the Ector County Independent School District.

with us share our vision for equity and access for all students. Today, we take a giant leap forward in closing the digital divide that exists within our community."

School officials say the pandemic and transition to remote learning revealed just how many students don't have access to high speed Wi-Fi.



A Starlink internet satellite in orbit. Musk's SpaceX is launching mini satellites into space as part of a plan to provide global internet coverage.

in Florida. "The total global constellation we're targeting is 1,440 satellites, of which a good number of those are already on orbit," Jonathan Hofeller, SpaceX's vice president of Starlink, told Spaceflight Now.

SpaceX Launches Another Batch Of Starlink Satellites Into Orbit

AMPA, Fla. (WFLA)—Following a string of postponed launches, SpaceX was finally able to make a launch happen on Tuesday. Their Falcon 9 rocket successfully launched into orbit Tuesday morning following several recent aborts, scrubs and delays.

The rocket is carrying another batch of 60 Starlink satellites into orbit. SpaceX is trying to build a network for about 12,000 small satellites to provide high-speed and affordable Internet to people around the world. It is said to be building 120 satellites each month.

The rocket lifted off at 7:29 a.m.

Florida Named Finalist For

U.S. Space Command Headquarters TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP/WESH) — After first being shunned, Florida is a finalist to be the home of the U.S. Space Command headquarters.

The U.S. Air Force announced its finalists Thursday and included Florida in its list of six. Patrick Air Force Base, along the state's Space Coast, is in the running. The other finalists include Peterson AFB in Colorado Springs, Colorado; Kirtland AFB in Albuquerque, New Mexico; Offutt AFB in Bellevue, Nebraska; Red-

stone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama; and Joint Base San Antonio in San Antonio, Texas.

The Air Force initially announced six other finalists in 2019, and Florida wasn't on the list. But the selection process was restarted after complaints that the initial phase wasn't transparent enough.



U.S. Rep. Michael Waltz said Florida is

well-equipped to host the headquarters, given its history with NASA and private space companies. The Space Force was created in 2019 when President Donald Trump signed the National Defense Authorization Act into law.

Space Command is currently headquartered at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado for the next six years until the U.S. Air Force establishes a permanent base. If Patrick Air Force Base is selected, it could have significant economic benefits for the Space Coast.

Air Force officials will be touring the six locations in the running and expect to announce a decision in January. (Courtesy www.wfla.com)

Winter Wonderland Food Fair! FREE! Join us for some holiday fun! Saturday, December 7th, 2019 10:00am-1:00pm Alief SPARK Park & Nature Center 8409 1/2 Dairy View Lane Houston TX 77072

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