

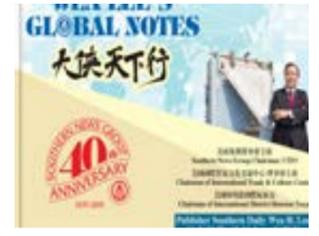


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Southern DAILY

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Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

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E-mail: News@scdaily.com

Saturday January 02 2021 | www.today-america.com | Southern News Group

Local funding crisis threatens U.S. vaccine rollout



FILE PHOTO: A box of the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccine is seen at Crown Heights Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, a nursing home facility in Brooklyn, New York, U.S., December 22, 2020. REUTERS/Yuki Iwamura/File Photo

NEW YORK (Reuters) -Seattle public health officials have so little COVID-19 funding on hand they worry they will have to shut down some virus testing sites as they mount a campaign to dose their 2.3 million residents with Pfizer Inc's and Moderna Inc's vaccines.

King County, which represents greater Seattle, has \$14 million of COVID-19 funding for 2021, roughly what it spends in a month to run public testing sites and other services, and a fraction of the \$87 million emergency COVID-19 aid it received in 2020, said Ingrid Ulrey, the public health policy director for King County.

"We've been on pins and needles the whole last three or four months, watching what's happening at the federal level, waiting, watching," she said. When newly approved federal funds finally trickle down to her level, she expects them to be less than this year, insufficient and too late.

"It's shockingly low," she added. "We have a huge new, unprecedented, daunting task of vaccine delivery." King County is at risk of being unable to hire the up to 40 additional nurses and administrators needed to begin the next wave of public vaccinations.

In counties across the United States, the funding crisis has limited the hiring of needed vaccine staff, delayed the creation of vaccination centers, and undermined efforts to raise public awareness, officials told Reuters.

The federal government spent more than \$10 billion to speed COVID-19 vaccine development but has so far disbursed little funding for distribution, even as it pushed the responsibility of actual immunizations onto state and local governments.

A new \$2.3 trillion pandemic aid and spending package provides \$8.75 billion to states to assist in vaccinations, in line with what state and local officials had requested, but months after distribution work should have begun.

"The Federal Government has distributed the vaccines to the states. Now it is up to the states to administer. Get moving!" U.S. President Donald Trump tweeted on Wednesday.

The promised wave of newly approved vaccinations has been only a ripple: around 2.8 million Americans have received a shot, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, far fewer than the 20 million the federal government promised for December.

Nearly 10 million of the 12.4 million doses the government has distributed to states sit unused, and on Tuesday, President Elect Joe Biden said it would take years, not months, to vaccinate most Americans at the current pace.

Hospitals and pharmacies CVS and Walgreens are in charge of the first wave of vaccinations of health care workers and long term care residents. But local health systems will take a leading role in immunizing the next, bigger waves, and will be critical for groups such as the uninsured, underinsured, home-

less and others.

The shortage of local public health staff will only grow more challenging as the vaccination effort expands to essential workers and older Americans, said Claire Hannan, the director of the Association of Immunization Managers, a trade group for local public health departments.

Brandon Meline, logistics chief for Illinois's Campaign-Urbana Public Health District said their district was tapping a rainy day fund until more federal assistance arrives.

"We're four weeks into significant planning and two weeks into active distribution and we don't have a secure funding stream," Meline said in a Christmas Eve interview while waiting for a vaccine shipment to arrive.

Coconino County, the largest in Arizona, needs to hire around 20 people to run vaccination clinics and get to residents who live hours from hospitals, including some who are at the bottom of the Grand Canyon, said Kim Musselman, director of the county's health and human services department.

Musselman said its nurses are stretched thin as they staff the free vaccination clinic it set up in Coconino County and will struggle to maintain it, let alone set up additional clinics, without more funding. The state has not signaled help is forthcoming.



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New Hope For The New Year

It was the most horrible year for all of us. Finally, it will be gone. Too many sad stories were brought to our community.

Earlier this year, on January 26, we were celebrating the Lunar New Year Festival in front of our building. Suddenly the COVID-19 virus arrived in our community.

In the land of America, George Floyd, a Houston native, was arrested on May 25. Video taken by a passerby showed a white police officer, Derek Chauvin,

kneeling on his neck while he was being pinned to the ground. After the video of Floyd's arrest was shared widely on social media, hundreds of demonstrators took to the streets of Minneapolis and vandalized police cars and a police station was set on fire.

Protests then spread to other cities. President Trump blamed the violence on a lack of leadership in Minneapolis and threatened to send in the Na-



tional Guard. Ten of thousands of protesters once again took to the streets. One of the largest protests was in Floyd's hometown of Houston.

In the middle of the social unrest, another

political contest was taken on the road. Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden and President Trump were fighting in every corner of the land. Then suddenly the president was confirmed with COVID-19 and was sent to the hospital. The whole world was watching, but after a few days, President Trump got well and restarted his campaign all over the nation. Finally, Election Day came and Joe Biden was declared the winner. But up until now, President Trump has refused to admit that he was the loser.

The year of 2020 has been a year of tragedy for most of us. A lot sad things have happened right in our own community. Now, finally, the rescuer vaccine is arriving. We all hope this is the light at the end of the tunnel. We all hope the year of 2021 will be a prosperous and happy one for all.



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Publisher Southern Daily Wea H. Lee

Stay Home!

BUSINESS

Wear Mask!

COVID-19 Is The Driving Force Of Change

Report: China Could Overtake U.S. As World's Largest Economy By 2028



A woman wearing a mask labors in a garment factory in Donghai county in east China's Jiangsu province Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2020.

KEY POINTS

According to data from The Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR), China will overtake the U.S. to become the world's biggest economy by 2028

The report says China's "skilful management of the pandemic" and the overall long-term impact the pandemic are the reasons for the major change

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

China will overtake the US to become the world's biggest economy by 2028, five years earlier than previously forecast, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a report has found. The Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR), a UK-based think tank, said in its annual World Economic League Table released on Saturday that one of the impacts of the global health crisis has been "to redistribute economic momentum with Asia doing best and Europe worst".

China's "skilful management of the pandemic" and the long-term impact the pandemic will have on Western growth means China's "relative performance has improved."

"We now think that the Chinese economy in dollar terms will overtake the US economy in 2028, a full 5 years earlier than we

thought last year," the report states. It notes for instance that authorities reacted "vigorously" to the COVID-19 crisis, thus inflicting less damage on the economy. As a result, while most Western economies are expected to register negative growth for the year, China is forecast to record a 2 per cent growth rate.



It is then expected to grow by an annual 5.7 per cent between 2021-205 and

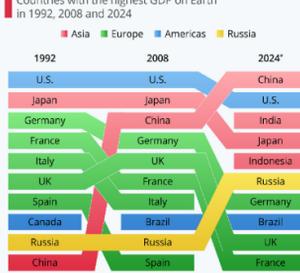
4.5 per cent annually from 2026 to 2030 and then 3.9 per cent the following five years.

In contrast, the US is projected to grow by an annual 1.9 per cent from 2022 to 2024 and then by 1.6 per cent following a "strong post-pandemic rebound" next year.

"For some time, an overarching theme of global economics has been the economic and soft power struggle between the United States and China. The Covid-19 pandemic and corresponding economic fallout have certainly tipped this rivalry in China's favour," the report says.

The US is the world's most impacted country having lost more than 330,000 lives to the pandemic and recorded nearly 19 million infections since the beginning of the outbreak, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. (Courtesy weforum.org)

Continental Shift: The World's Biggest Economies Over Time



Related World Economy Will Return To "Pre-Pandemic Levels" By 2022, Per Watchdog

Vaccinations and financial support from governments will help the global economy recover to pre-pandemic levels by the end of 2021, a global economic watchdog has predicted.

But the forecast by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) also said the bounce back will be uneven in countries around the world and will depend heavily on the

success of battling COVID-19.

"The contribution of Europe and North America to global growth will remain smaller than their weight in the world economy," OECD chief economist Laurence Boone said introducing a report published last Tuesday.



"China, which started recovering earlier, is projected to grow strongly, accounting for over one-third of world economic growth in 2021."

OECD secretary-general Angel Gurría said it was a sign of "hope" for the first time since the pandemic hit at the beginning of this year.

"The good news about vaccines has instilled a degree of optimism... but we are not out of the woods yet," he said.

The OECD predicts the global economy will shrink about 4.2% this year and rebound by the same rate in 2021. It will grow by 3.7% the following year, the watchdog predicted. But Gurría warned that "this would still leave all OECD economies smaller at the end of 2021 than they were at the end of 2019".



Many European governments have been gradually reopening their economies as virus cases come under control and the winter shopping season begins ahead of Christmas and the New Year. Boone said the vaccine would be crucial to the turnaround: "Efficient vaccination campaigns and better co-operation between

countries could accelerate the distribution of the vaccine worldwide.

"Conversely, the current resurgence of the virus in many places reminds us that governments may be forced again to tighten restrictions on economic activity." (Courtesy <https://www.euronews.com/>)



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Editor's Choice



Tanna Ingraham places the body of a patient who died due to the coronavirus inside a body bag, at United Memorial Medical Center in Houston, Texas, December 30, 2020. REUTERS/Callaghan O'Hare



Demonstrators in favor of legalizing abortion react as the Senate voted to legalize abortion, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, December 30, 2020. REUTERS/Agustin Marcarian



People walk through a flooded yard as a burning ritual takes place during a full moon festival at the entrance of Chao Mae Thap Thim shrine in Bangkok, Thailand. Bangkok's Chulalongkorn University, which owns the land, plans to construct two



Gymnast Ty-La Morris trains at the Wendy Hilliard Gymnastics Foundation, which offers free and discounted classes for children in Detroit and in New York, in New York. The 13-year-old, who said she's drawn comparisons to 2016 Olympic champion Simone



One of the 12 Hong Kong activists detained in mainland China over an illegal border crossing is seen in a vehicle after a transfer conducted at the China-Hong Kong border of Shenzhen Bay Port, in Hong Kong, China December 30, 2020. REUTERS/Tyrone Siu



The full moon known as the Cold Moon rises next to One World Trade Center and the New York City skyline as it is seen from Jersey City, New Jersey. REUTERS/Eduardo Munoz



American Airlines flight 718, the first U.S. Boeing 737 MAX commercial flight since regulators lifted a 20-month grounding in November, takes off from Miami, Florida. REUTERS/Marco Bello



Rosalia Reyes, 47, who was sentenced to eight years in prison after her baby died during a home childbirth, and her daughter Vanesa hug after Rosalia was transferred home where she will serve the rest of her time under house arrest, in Zarate,...

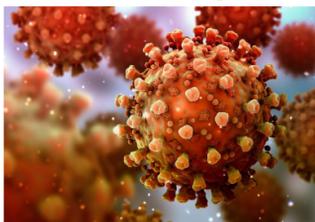
Several Countries Detect New COVID-19 Mutation



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

The highly contagious mutation of the coronavirus first detected in the United Kingdom continues to spread, now being reported in parts of Europe, the Middle East, Asia, Africa, Australia and Canada. On Monday, South Korea became the latest country to report COVID-19 infections with the variation that could be more easily passed between people, according to the Korean Herald. Most cases have been linked to travel from Great Britain, where the variant was first detected, the newspaper reported. The United Kingdom initiated a lockdown, and several countries banned travelers from Great Britain last week, but researchers are concerned that the variation could have been circulating undetected in other countries for weeks. "Unfortunately, this is another twist in the plot," Alessandro Vespignani, director of the Network Science Institute at Northeastern University in Boston, told the New York Times. Canadian officials have detected at least two cases in Ontario, according to The Washington Post. A couple from a town north of Toronto contracted the variant but had no travel history, which means it like-

ly came from community spread.

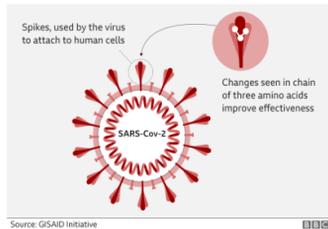


The mutation has been found in seven people in Japan who had either traveled to Great Britain or been in contact with someone who did. Japan will close its borders to non-residents on Monday, a ban that will last through the end of January, according to the BBC. In Spain, the variant has been found in Madrid, where four cases have been confirmed and three are probable, according to The Guardian. All these cases are linked to recent travel to Great Britain. The first case in France was found in Tours, about 150 miles southwest of Paris, according to Reuters. The French citizen was living in Great Britain and traveled from London to central France on Dec. 19, a day before the British government

started the lockdown. The man doesn't have symptoms and is isolating at home. Sweden also detected its first case this weekend, Reuters reported. The traveler visited the country from Great Britain for Christmas and is isolating in Sormland, a city south of Stockholm.

Viruses mutate often. Several coronavirus mutations have been detected this year, but they were minor, The New York Times reported.

One coronavirus mutation has become dominant



The latest version of the virus found in Great Britain has 23 mutations, which may change how it is transmitted. A new study published by British researchers last week found that the variant may be 56% more contagious, but they didn't find any evidence that it causes more severe COVID-19. Vaccine specialists say that current COVID-19 vaccines should be able to block the new variant.

"The preliminary findings are pretty convincing that more rapid vaccination is going to be a really important thing for any country that has to deal with this or similar variants," Nicholas Davies, the lead author and an epidemiologist at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, told the newspaper. Additional variants have been identified in South Africa, Nigeria, and other countries as well, according to CBS News. The U.S. hasn't yet reported any cases of the mutation. However, the U.S. will require airline passengers from the United Kingdom to test negative within 72 hours of their departure, the CDC announced. The new rule will begin on Monday. (Courtesy <https://www.webmd.com>)

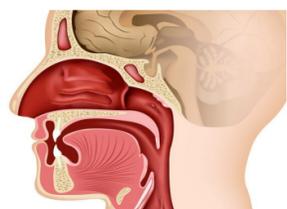
Related

How COVID-19 Affects Your Body

Doctors continue to learn about the short-term and long-term effects of COVID-19 on your body. For some people, it starts with basic flu symptoms. But it could eventually affect your lungs, liver, kidneys, and even your brain.



How It Spreads Usually the virus makes contact with you when a nearby infected person sends droplets into the air by coughing, sneezing, or talking. It spreads easily between people within about 6 feet of each other. An infected person can spread these droplets, even if they don't feel sick. The virus may infect you after you touch an object, like a doorknob, that has the virus on it. But that's not as common.



Upper Respiratory Infection Once the virus enters the body, it usually settles in the cells that line your nose, sinus cavity, and throat. For most people, this is where it stays. Symptoms often follow, but you may not feel anything for up to 2 weeks, as the virus starts to invade healthy cells and reproduce. You can transmit it to others even if you don't show any symptoms.



Other Common Symptoms The first

symptoms that typically appear include a fever, headache, sore throat, and dry cough. But what you'll feel can vary widely in this early stage. You may also have:

- Shortness of breath
- Chills, fever, body aches
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Unusual tiredness
- Stuffy or runny nose
- Nausea or diarrhea



Lower Respiratory Infection If your immune system can't subdue COVID-19 in the first week or so, the virus may move down into your lungs. There, it attacks cells that line them. Fluid and mucus build up and make it harder to get oxygen to your blood. It gets tough to breathe. This is pneumonia. Most people recover in a week or two, but it can take longer. (Courtesy [webmd.com](https://www.webmd.com))



SC 華人故事 Daily News

实现“甜蜜计划” 这对中哈跨国夫妻好甜

对37岁的元朝辉来说，事业的成就是伴随爱情的甜蜜一起来到的。在“一带一路”的创业大潮中，他不但收获了和哈萨克斯坦姑娘阿妮塔的甜蜜爱情，还由此开启了他的中哈跨境电商事业……

与元朝辉夫妇见面的时间约在周日下午。一个小时前，夫妇俩带着3岁的儿子刚从西安落地北京，为参加第二天在北京举行的“丝路友好使者”颁奖做准备，行程一环紧扣一环。当见到员工口中的“元总”已是当日傍晚，眼前这个“80后”显得很接地气，温和的语气加之亲近的笑容，让人很难联想起他已是获得十多次荣誉称号的“名人”。

元朝辉、阿妮塔是谁？在21日晚的颁奖典礼上，对二人的介绍中这样写道：他们的情，缘起丝路，他们的家，安在丝路。

在遇到阿妮塔之前，元朝辉从没想过未来的妻子会是一个哈萨克斯坦姑娘，他更不会想到，两人的爱情竟连接起了中哈两国的贸易和友谊。然而一切的开始，皆自多年前的一场聚会而起……

2007年夏天的一个晚上，24岁的元朝辉刚从一场聚会回到住处，便立刻打开电脑，开始在网上搜索关于哈萨克斯坦城市卡拉干达的信息。这是因为他喜欢上了刚在聚会上认识的哈萨克斯坦姑娘阿妮塔。

元朝辉是内蒙古人，那时的他已大学毕业，并选择留在西安从事软件方面的工作。元朝辉说很喜欢西安，把它当作自己的第二故乡。而19岁的阿妮塔正在西安交通大学攻读对外汉语专业，她和元朝辉一样，对西安的印象非常好。

相近的距离似乎为元朝辉走近阿妮塔创造了天然优势，但对于追求姑娘，元朝辉并没有什么浪漫技巧，“我很真诚，只是方式有点儿笨。”讲起这一段，元朝辉有点不好意思。终于，经过大半年的“考验”，阿妮

塔接受了元朝辉。那时的阿妮塔汉语虽然不是很熟练，但基本日常交流没有问题，与元朝辉在一起后，两人成了对方的语言老师，经常帮助对方练习口语。

就这样，两人恋爱6年后，阿妮塔于2013年迎来研究生毕业。对于家乡远在哈萨克的阿妮塔而言，回国工作也许就意味着分手。但让元朝辉没有想到的是，阿妮塔决定留在西安。为了让阿妮塔的家人安心，元朝辉陪同阿妮塔回到卡拉干达，接受家人的“面试”。

在与阿妮塔家人的接触中，元朝辉深刻感受到阿妮塔父母对女儿的爱，他暗下决心，一定要好好珍惜阿妮塔，还要让一家人经常团聚。

2014年9月9日，元朝辉和阿妮塔在哈萨克斯坦举行了一场热闹又隆重的婚礼，欢笑一直持续到凌晨……从一个店到一个城，他们的构想成真了。

阿妮塔的故乡卡拉干达，地处哈萨克斯坦中部，轻工业不算发达。在中国生活的阿妮塔平时会兼职帮她的亲友代购一些中国的商品。从文具到玩具，从衣帽服装到奶粉和婴儿车，需求种类繁多。时间长了，找他们代购中国商品的哈萨克人越来越多，学软件出身的元朝辉干脆在卡拉干达和阿拉木图注册建立了两个小型的中国商品展示店。

在元朝辉的手机上，还保存着展示店当时的样子：不大的店面里，几张沙发和几台电脑就是店铺的全部家当。与传统商店不同的是，展示店里并不展示实际产品。元朝辉介绍说，

顾客在自己制作的简易浏览网站查看商品信息，然后根据自己的需要下单、付款，我们再从中国国内发货。元朝辉说，“之所以采用网店与实体店结合的购物模式，更符合当地人的消费习惯，也更容易让人信任。”

很快，元朝辉的小店就在当地就有了名气，不仅普通居民，一些小商店的店主也直接从元朝辉的店里进货。开设两个月后，每个小店的月成交单量都已经过万元，夫妻俩首次尝到了跨境电商的甜头。

时间转眼来到2015年，这一年对元朝辉夫妇来说有着特殊的意义。在“一带一路”倡议的背景下，元朝辉有了更多设想——将一个店扩大到一个城。在元朝辉的计划里，陕西作为丝绸之路的源头城市，重要性也更加突出，他想在西安也建立一个哈萨克商品展示城，将两个跨国商品展示城连接在一起，助力中国企业“走出去”，也将哈萨克的产品“引进来”。其实，在元朝辉的计划里，还藏着一个“小私心”，他说这样阿妮塔就能经常见到自己的亲人了。

有了这个构想后，元朝辉和妻子阿妮塔经常在西安和卡拉干达、阿拉木图这几个城市之间来回奔走。他们不仅接待了多个赴哈考察的中国商务团体，也直接促成了陕西地方企业与哈企合作事宜。随着西安和卡拉干达发展为“友好城市”，两个城市的政府和企业之间的交流也愈加频繁，也是在那一年，元朝辉的西安丝绸之路电子商务有限公司成立了。

元朝辉常说自己很幸运，搭上了“一带一路”的顺风车，享受了很多惠民政策，也解决了让他头疼了老大难问题——物流。

据元朝辉介绍，从西安到阿拉木图的邮递一般至少一个月，元朝辉想到了中欧货运班列“长安号”——2017年3月，元朝辉开始通过“长安号”运载货物，成为了西安国际港务区首家使用“长安号”搭载跨境电商货物的企业。“过去顾客夏天买的裙子，等拿到手里都已经过季了。现在通过‘长安号’，货物运送时间可缩短至15天以内。”元朝辉骄傲地说。2017年底，哈萨克斯坦的阿拉木

图、卡拉干达和俄罗斯的莫斯科、叶卡捷琳堡、新西伯利亚5个城市的电商海外仓投入使用，元朝辉的业务范围也已遍及中亚各国和俄罗斯，与俄罗斯邮政的订单投递合作也已展开……

元朝辉常说自己从来没想过，当年为了让妻子和千里之外的家人常联系而创建的小店，在国家政策的扶持下，如今竟发展成现在的规模。2020年，当全球遭遇新冠肺炎疫情，元朝辉也想着为祖国尽一份力量。据元朝辉介绍，在中国疫情暴发之初，通过他与中亚及俄罗斯地区的业务单位多方寻求，2000件防护服及10万个口罩，历经三国接力，于2月5日运抵西安。

如今，元朝辉的事业越做越好，随着“一带一路”倡议的稳步推进及中国企业的不断入驻，多种多样的商品不断丰富着哈萨克斯坦人民的生活，还给当地青年自主创业提供了更多机会。但元朝辉只是说，“我没有那么伟大，我只想能为中哈做点事情，让自己与阿妮塔跨国婚姻更有意义。”

