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Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

Wednesday, March 31, 2021

## ‘Begging for his life’: Teen who took viral Floyd video cries at ex-officer’s trial

MINNEAPOLIS (Reuters) -The Minneapolis teenager whose cellphone video of Derek Chauvin’s deadly arrest of George Floyd sparked worldwide protests began weeping as she was shown an image from the video at the former policeman’s murder trial on Tuesday.

Prosecutors have begun their case by calling witnesses to the arrest on May 25, 2020: a Minneapolis 911 dispatcher; a young woman who worked at the gas station across the street; a mixed martial arts fighter who was passing by.

Over the first two days of witness testimony, prosecutors have shown the jury video taken from multiple angles, including the teenager’s video of Chauvin, who is white, pressing his knee into the neck of a dying Floyd, a 46-year-old Black man in handcuffs, for about nine minutes.

The footage, which prosecutors say shows excessive force, horrified people around the world and led to one of the largest protest movements seen in the United States in decades, with daily marches against disproportionate rates of police violence against Black people.

Lawyers for Chauvin, 45, say he followed his police training and is not guilty of the charges brought by the Minnesota attorney general’s office of second-degree murder, third-degree murder or second-degree manslaughter. Here is some of the main testimony heard by the jury on Tuesday:

**DARNELLA FRAZIER, EYEWITNESS**  
Darnella Frazier, 18, was walking her 9-year-old cousin to buy some snacks at Cup Foods, where a worker had moments before accused Floyd of using a fake \$20 bill, when she saw police arresting Floyd on the road outside.

She told the jury she saw “a man terrified, scared, begging for his life,” and so ensured her cousin was safely inside the store, out of sight, before pulling out her cellphone. ‘It wasn’t right’: Teen who filmed George Floyd’s death confronts ex-policeman at trial  
Frazier’s voice quavered when prose-

cutors brought up a still from her video, showing the moment when Chauvin, his knee on Floyd’s neck, appears to look directly into Frazier’s camera lens. She said Chauvin had “this cold look, heartless.”

Chauvin’s lawyers have said that Chauvin was distracted from “the care” of Floyd by the angry bystanders that joined Frazier on the sidewalk. Prosecutors asked her whether she heard any bystanders threaten the police, and she said no.

“Would you describe yourselves as an unruly mob?” Jerry Blackwell, a prosecutor, asked her.

“No,” Frazier said, adding the only person she saw being violent was Chauvin, who she said appeared unflustered by the onlookers and the traffic passing behind him. She was asked by both sides how producing the most famous record of Floyd’s death had changed her life, and she again spoke through tears that she did not wipe away.

“When I look at George Floyd, I

look at my dad, I look at my brothers, I look at my cousins, my uncles, because they are all Black,” she said. “It could have been one of them.”

She said she would sometimes stay up late at night thinking of Floyd, apologizing to him for “not saving his life.”

“It’s not what I should have done. It’s what he should have done,” she said, referring to Chauvin. His lawyers objected to her answer. Minutes later, Frazier’s young cousin, her hair in braids, took her place in the witness stand, saying in a small voice she recognized Chauvin as the man she saw kneeling on Floyd.

“I was sad and kind of mad,” the girl said. **DONALD WILLIAMS, EYEWITNESS**  
Donald Williams, a professional mixed martial arts fighter, can be heard on the videos of the arrest of Floyd screaming insults at Chauvin and demanding police check for Floyd’s pulse. He told jurors he believed that Chauvin was using his knee in a “blood choke” on Floyd, a wrestling move to knock an opponent unconscious, and a “shimmy” move to tighten pressure on Floyd’s neck. “You can see that he’s trying to gasp for air,” Williams, 33, said of Floyd.

A 911 call Williams made after the arrest was played. Williams dabbed his eyes with

a white tissue as his distressed voice filled the courtroom.

“I believe I witnessed a murder,” Williams told the jury. “So I felt I needed to call the police on the police.”

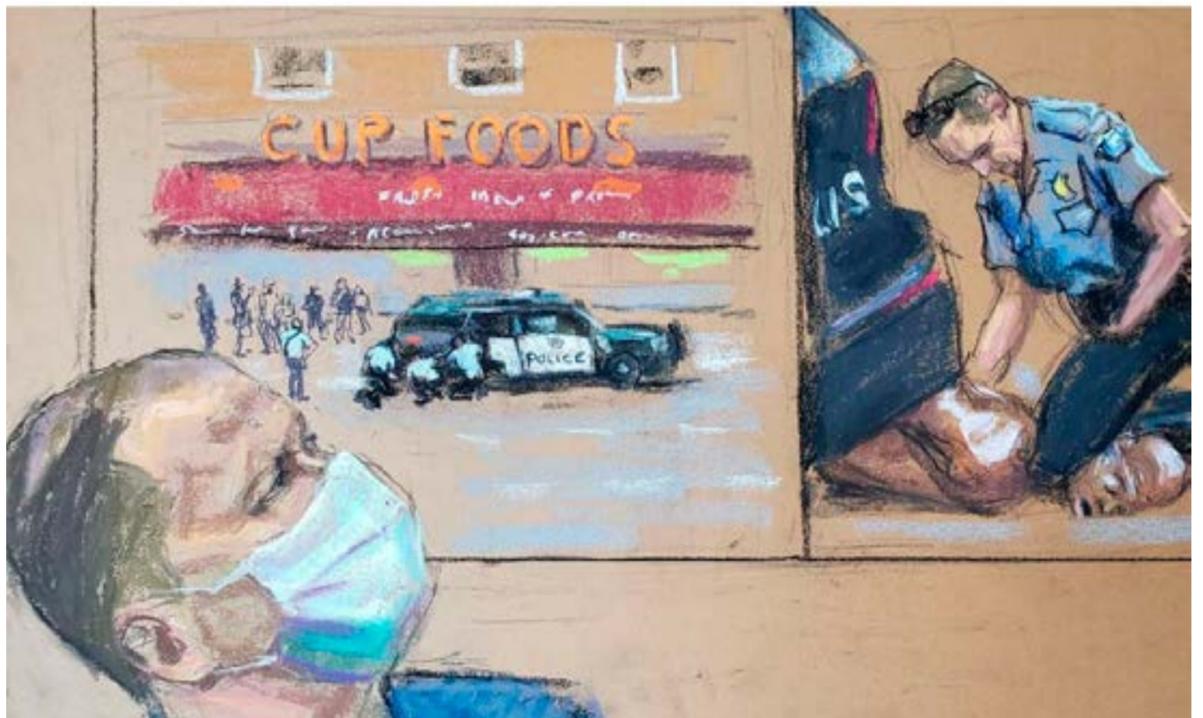
Chauvin’s lawyers have sought to convince the jury that Chauvin may have felt threatened by bystanders. In a sometimes tense cross-examination, Eric Nelson, Chauvin’s lead lawyer, read aloud the insults, some of them obscene, that Williams hurls at Chauvin in the video.

“You call him a ‘tough guy?’” Nelson asked, demanding only a ‘yes’ or ‘no’ answer. “You call him a ‘real man?’”

Williams looked away with a slight smile as each insult was read out.

“You call him a ‘bum’ at least 13 times?” Nelson continued.

“If that’s what you count in the video,” Williams replied, smiling again, “then that’s what you got: 13.”



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# WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

## CORONAVIRUS DIARY

03/30/2021



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# This Is Not A Political Issue



President Biden announced on Monday that all 90% of adults will be eligible to get the vaccine within the next three weeks as well as people will have a vaccination site within five miles of where they live. For the vast majority of adults we don't have to wait until May 1.

Biden said, "We will

increase the federal pharmacy vaccination program from 17,000 to 40,000 and we will make another 33 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines available to vaccination sites this week."

He also called on the mayors and governors to reinstate the mask mandates. He said,

"This is not politics."

Until today more than 549,600 Americans have died from COVID-19 and more than 124,800,000 vaccine doses have been administered. After 30 million cases of COVID-19, it comes to more than ten percent of the population.

Former U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Dr. Robert Redfield told reporters

that his personal opinion was that the virus was released from a lab. But most of the researchers have been saying that the virus was not engineered in a lab but passed naturally from the animal.

We are not going to argue more about where the virus came from. The most important thing is to find the way to help more people around the world.



## Southern DAILY Make Today Different

## Editor's Choice



A man waves an Egyptian flag as ship Ever Given, one of the world's largest container ships, is seen after it was fully floated in Suez Canal, Egypt. Suez Canal Authority/via REUTERS



Former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin sits in front of a picture of George Floyd displayed during Chauvin's trial for second-degree murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter in the death of Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in this courtroom sketch from a video feed of the proceedings. REUTERS/Jane Rosenberg



A submarine is seen amidst ice during Russian naval exercise in the Arctic near Alexandra Island. ©2021 Maxar Technologies/via REUTERS



Jake Lawler, 29, receives his coronavirus vaccine as vaccine eligibility expands to anyone over the age of 16 at the Bradfield Community Center through Health Partners of Western Ohio in



Mississippi Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith speaks to a reporter from One America News Network (OANN) from a bus window after a tour around a section of the U.S.-Mex-



A Nihang, or a Sikh warrior, performs "Gatka", a traditional form of martial arts during celebrations of Holi Mohalla, a festival of Nihangs, during Holi celebrations, at the site of a protest against farm laws, at Singhu border near

**Variant Could Be Dominant Strain By Spring**

**U.K. COVID-19 Variant Cases Doubling Every 10 Days In U.S.**



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

**LA JOLLA, Calif.** — The highly contagious variant of COVID-19, first detected in the United Kingdom, is now tearing across the United States. That is the conclusion of a new report led by members of the Scripps Research Institute. Their study finds this rapidly spreading version of coronavirus may become the dominant strain of the illness by the spring. Dubbed B.1.1.7, researchers say the variant may already be moving through at least 30 states as of January 2021. Although previous studies have determined B.1.1.7 is no more deadly than other strains of COVID-19, its ability to spread exponentially is the major concern. According to the findings of this pre-print study — meaning they have not been peer-reviewed yet — cases of the U.K. strain are doubling roughly every 10 days. “We found that while the fraction of B.1.1.7 among SGTF samples varied by state, detection of the variant increased at a logistic rate similar to those observed elsewhere, with a doubling rate of a little over a week and an increased transmission rate of 35-45%,” researchers write in their report in MedRxiv.

**U.K. COVID variant already reported**

**in 33 states**

The origins of B.1.1.7 are still a mystery, but the first cases appeared in the U.K. before the new year. By November, the majority of all new cases of COVID-19 in that country were from the B.1.1.7 strain.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention add that the new variant contains several mutations, including one in the receptor binding domain of its spike protein. This spike has become infamous during the pandemic for attaching to human cells and then cutting into them to reproduce.



According to the CDC’s latest figures,

there are at least 690 confirmed cases of the B.1.1.7 strain in America. Those infections come from 33 different states, including over 200 in Florida.

“U.S. on similar trajectory as other countries where B.1.1.7 became dominant variant”

A report in December, by researchers from Public Health England (PHE), discovered that the new strain does not appear to cause more serious infections than earlier ones. In comparison to the more common varieties of COVID, the death rate from B.1.1.7 remained virtually unchanged in a study of over 2,700 British patients.

Despite those earlier findings, the threat from the virus’s higher transmission rates is worrying scientists. The report warns that the U.S. may soon look like Europe in terms of this COVID variant’s widespread impact.

“Our study shows that the U.S. is on a similar trajectory as other countries where B.1.1.7 rapidly became the dominant SARS-CoV-2 variant, requiring immediate and decisive action to minimize COVID-19 morbidity and mortality,” the researchers conclude.

**Related**

**New Coronavirus Variant Doesn’t Cause Worse Infections Or Lead To More Deaths, Study Says**

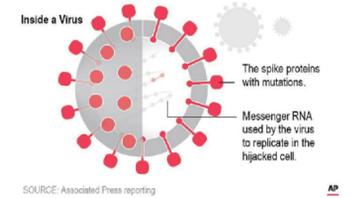
**LONDON** — As millions prepare to receive their coronavirus vaccine, fears are growing of a new variant strain of SARS-CoV-2 detected in the United States and England. This new variant, dubbed B.1.1.7, could be more contagious than previous strains of the coronavirus, but a new report is at least bringing some positivity into 2021. Researchers from Public Health England (PHE) find the variant is not likely to put more patients in the hospital or cause more deaths than other COVID strains. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, B.1.1.7 is responsible for 60 percent of the new infections in London since November. The origin of this variant remains a mystery, but the CDC says B.1.1.7 has several mutations, includ-

ing one in the receptor binding domain of its spike protein. This is the part of the virus which attaches to cells and cuts its way into them to reproduce.

A recent study by the Centre for Mathematical Modelling of Infectious Diseases also finds that the new coronavirus variant, which researchers call VOC 20212/01, is 56 percent more contagious than other COVID strains. Despite this, the team from PHE concludes it is not anymore dangerous to patients during the pandemic.

**The new coronavirus variant**

The new variant of the virus that causes COVID-19 has several mutations on its spike proteins. These spikes are used by the virus to attach to and infect cells. They also are what vaccines and antibody drugs target.



SOURCE: Associated Press reporting

“Preliminary results from the cohort study found no statistically significant difference in hospitalization and 28-day case fatality between cases with the variant (VOC 20212/01) and wild-type comparator cases,” study authors write in the report, Investigation of novel SARS-CoV-2 variant. **No serious differences in the new coronavirus variant**

The British study examined 1,769 patients with “wild-type” or common strains of SARS-CoV-2 and 1,769 people with the B.1.1.7 variant. The results reveal no major differences in the age of patients, their ethnicities, and living situations.

Researchers discovered 16 COVID patients (0.9%) with the B.1.1.7 strain had to go to the hospital due to their illness. In comparison, 26 patients (1.5%) with a wild-type strain were hospitalized during the study. Although scientists did not have complete records on patient deaths, the report finds 12 of 1,340 patients with the new variant died — just under one percent. Only 10 patients out of 1,360 died of a wild-type of COVID-19 (0.73%).

Study authors also report that the new coronavirus strain does not seem to raise the risk of contracting the illness a second

time. “There was also no significant difference in the likelihood of reinfection between variant cases and the comparator group,” the report notes.

Only two people who had the B.1.1.7 strain ended up getting sick again within 90 days of their illness. The odds are just as rare among common forms of coronavirus, with only three people getting sick a second time. (Courtesy studyfinds.org)



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**The Return Of Measles**



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

Measles — declared eradicated in the U.S. in 2000 — has roared back at a record pace this year.

**Why it matters:** Most Americans have no firsthand experience with measles and that lack of familiarity, along with the online success of the anti-vaccine movement, is giving a deadly but easily preventable virus an opening to spread.

**UPDATE:**

- **695 confirmed cases** of measles in 22 states.
- **More than 70 new confirmed cases** reported in just the past week.
- **5 states** reporting ongoing outbreaks as of Monday (at least 3 cases in one place counts as an outbreak).
- **We may be a victim** of our own success in squelching what used to be a ubiquitous virus that is extremely contagious.
- According to the CDC, prior to 1963, between 3 to 4 million were infected each year and nearly all children got measles by the time they were 15 years old.
- A CDC spokesperson tells Axios that among reported cases, an estimated 400 to 500 people died annually prior to widespread vaccination, 48,000 were hospitalized and 1,000 suffered encephalitis (swelling of the brain) from measles.
- **Now, due in large part to vaccination efforts** that began in 1963, most Americans

have no experience with the virus.



- **Parents may be fooled** into thinking that measles is a relatively mild disease, similar to the flu, and think vaccination is unnecessary or not a priority.
- **This is not only wrong**, but it could have deadly consequences.
- **Parents may think that many vaccine-preventable diseases are mild, but there’s no way to tell how serious a disease may be for a child.** CDC spokesman Jason McDonald tells Axios via email. **But measles can be particularly hazardous for babies and young children, he says.**
- From 2001-2013, 28% of children younger than 5 years old who had measles had to be treated in the hospital, McDonald said, referring to relatively small outbreaks related to measles patients who traveled to the U.S. from areas where the disease is still active.

• Some children develop pneumonia (a serious lung infection) or lifelong brain damage.”

**Different vaccine-hesitant communities** added together are causing vaccination rates to fall below effective immunity levels, Anthony Fauci, who leads the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, tells Axios.

“It is kind of like all of the stars are in the right place for the disaster we’re seeing now because we’re having multiple factors combining together to give us these outbreaks,” Fauci says.

The situation is worrying enough in New York State alone that the CDC issued a stark warning Wednesday: “The longer these outbreaks continue, the greater the chance measles will again get a sustained foothold in the United States.”



**The bottom line:** One relatively morbid source of hope, however, are the widely-reported health impacts from the ongoing outbreaks, with children in intensive care units and an El Al Airlines flight attendant in a coma.

“I think unfortunately the best motivation... is that we’re having these outbreaks and people are really getting seriously ill,” Fauci says. “Those are the things that are going to jolt people into reconsidering this.” (Courtesy axios.com)

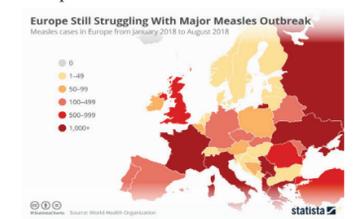
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**U.S. Measles Cases Are “Accelerating” Amid A “Global Crisis”**

Measles cases in the U.S. jumped last week, with 90 new confirmed cases, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced Monday. The global statistics are also grim, with a 300% increase in preliminary data for the first 3 months of this year compared with last year.

**Why it matters:** The extremely contagious virus, for which there is a safe and effective vaccine, shows no signs of slowing despite efforts by public health authorities to

combat the spread of misinformation with strong measures. International health officials are becoming increasingly concerned about simultaneous, growing outbreaks in multiple countries.



**By the numbers:** CDC spokesperson Jason McDonald tells Axios: “It appears the outbreak is accelerating. 61 of the 90 cases reported this week had rash onset in April.”

• This week, CDC reports 555 confirmed cases of measles in 20 states so far in 2019. The previous week showed 465 cases in 19 states.

• This is the second-greatest number of cases reported in the U.S. since measles was considered eliminated in 2000, and it’s only mid-April.

**Between the lines:** The national average vaccination coverage in kindergarten children is at a level (94.3% for 2 doses of the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine for the 2017–2018 school year) consistent with the “herd immunity” necessary to prevent a nationwide outbreak. However, pockets of community resistance to the vaccine are allowing the virus to make inroads, experts have told Axios.

• Globally, the World Health Organization and UNICEF announced Monday that provisional data also shows that in 170 countries there have been more than 112,000 cases so far this year, compared with the numbers from all of last year, which was 28,124 cases from 163 countries.

**What they’re saying:** Peter Hotez, professor and dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine, tells Axios:

“The year 2019 may be remembered for the return of measles to America, almost 20 years after it was eliminated in the U.S. We’re reaching record levels in terms of numbers of cases and outbreaks, with all of them largely engineered by the anti-vaccine lobby. We now have children in intensive

care units.”

“If our nation is serious about stopping future measles epidemics, in the coming years it will be essential for us to begin dismantling the anti-vaccine media empire now dominating the internet and social media and e-commerce sites, together with shutting down the non-medical vaccine exemptions currently allowed across most of the U.S.”



The heads of the WHO and UNICEF write in an opinion piece for CNN that there’s a “global crisis.” They implore governments, medical professionals and others to help provide vaccines to lower-income countries and to take a stronger stand against misinformation globally. Per their op-ed:

“Ultimately, there is no ‘debate’ to be had about the profound benefits of vaccines. We know they are safe, and we know they work. More than 20 million lives have been saved through measles vaccination since the year 2000 alone.”

“But children are paying the price for complacency. It will take long-term efforts, political commitment and continuous investment — in vaccine access, in service quality and in trust — to ensure we are, and remain, protected together.”

Meanwhile, Madagascar health officials say there have been 1,200 deaths amid more than 117,000 cases in the small, impoverished nation since their measles outbreak began in September, per AP. The country’s vaccination rate is only 58%, but it’s primarily due to lack of resources instead of vaccination distrust, the report adds.

Plus, the Wall Street Journal reports there’s growing evidence that besides the worry of possible serious immediate complications, the virus may also cause a longer-term risk of dampening people’s immune systems from responding to other diseases for 2–5 years after measles. (Courtesy axios.com)