Share Your News Now

If you would like to share news or information with our readers, please send the unique stories, business news organization events, and school news to us includinig your name and phone number in case more information is needed.

For news and information consideration, please send to News@scdaily.com
or contact
John Robbins 281-965-6390
Jun Gai 281-498-4310

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

Publisher: Wea H. Lee
President: Catherine Lee
Editor: John Robbins

Address: 11122 Bellaire Blvd., Houston, TX 77072
E-mail: News@scdaily.com

Pandemic Cancels Texas African Business Summit

Inside C2

Wednesday, April 14 2021

U.S. pauses use of J&J vaccine over rare blood clots, rollout delayed in Europe

FILE PHOTO: A woman receives a dose of the Johnson & Johnson coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccine during a visit of U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris to a vaccination center in Chinatown, in Chicago, Illinois, U.S., April 6, 2021. REUTERS/Carlos Barria

(Reuters) - U.S. federal health agencies on Tuesday recommended pausing use of Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine for at least a few days after six women under age 50 developed rare blood clots after receiving the shot, dealing a fresh setback to efforts to tackle the pandemic.
Johnson & Johnson said it would delay rollout of the vaccine to Europe, a week after regulators there said they were reviewing rare blood clots in four recipients of the shot in the United States. South Africa also suspended use of J&J's vaccine.

Acting U.S. Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Janet Woodcock said the agency expected the pause to be a matter of days, and was aimed at providing information to healthcare providers on how to diagnose and treat the clots.

The moves come after European regulators said earlier this month they had found a possible link between AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine and a similar rare blood clotting problem that led to a small number of deaths.

FDA official Peter Marks said it was "plainly obvious" the J&J cases were "very similar" to the AstraZeneca ones. He said there had been no similar blood clot cases reported among recipients of the Moderna or Pfizer/BioNTech vaccines, which use a different technology and accounted for the vast majority of U.S. vaccinations so far.

But J&J's single-dose shot and AstraZeneca's low-cost vaccine are seen as vital weapons in the fight against a pandemic that has claimed more than three million lives.

Immunology experts echoed U.S. officials in underscoring that the risk posed by the J&J vaccine appeared extremely low.

"Even if causally linked to the vaccine: 6 cases with about 7 million doses ... is not something to panic about," Dr. Amesh Adalja, an infectious disease expert at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security in Baltimore, said in an email, noting that the risk appears lower than that of clots from oral contraceptives.

He expressed concern that the pause could increase hesitancy to get vaccinated.

Explainer: How worried should we be about blood clots linked to AstraZeneca and J&J vaccines?
White House adviser says J&J pause to have little impact on U.S. vaccination plan
The FDA said there had been one reported death from the rare blood clotting condition among recipients of the J&J vaccine, while another person was in a critical condition.

The White House said appointments to receive the J&J shot were being rescheduled across the country to the other vaccine options.

"We have more than enough supply of Pfizer and Moderna vaccines to continue the current pace of about 3 million shots per day, and that puts us well on pace to meet the President's goal of 200 million shots by his first 100 days in office," White House COVID-19 coordinator Jeff Zients told a briefing.
BALANCE OF RISKS
J&J's vaccine rollout has been limited by production issues. As of April 13, 7.2 million doses of the J&J vaccine had been administered in the United States compared with 185 million of the other two.

An advisory committee to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will meet on Wednesday to review the clotting cases and vote on recommendations for future use of the shot. The FDA will then review the analysis.
All six cases involved women between the ages of 18 and 48, with symptoms occurring six to 13 days after vaccination. The FDA said patients should watch for up to three weeks for symptoms including severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain or shortness of breath.

In the cases, a type of blood clot called cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST) was seen in combination with low levels of blood platelets, or thrombocytopenia.

J&J, whose shares were down 1.6%, said it was working closely with regulators and noted no clear causal relationship had been established between the clots and its vaccine.

"To put this into perspective, it's similar to the chance of being struck by lightning in any given year in the UK. On the other hand, the risks from COVID-19 are substantial," said Ian Douglas from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.

The J&J and AstraZeneca vaccines both use an adenovirus - a harmless cold virus - as a vector to deliver instructions for human cells to produce a protein found on the surface of the coronavirus, spurring the immune system to recognize and attack the actual virus.

Chinese and Russian COVID-19 vaccine developers CanSino Biological and Gamaleya Institute also rely on this approach.
The Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna vaccines use messenger RNA (mRNA) technology.

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) recommends AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine, saying the benefits outweigh the risks. Several EU countries, however, have limited its use to certain age groups.

WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

CORONAVIRUS DIARY

04/13/2021

Wea H. Lee

Wealee@scdaily.com

Chairman of International District Houston Texas

Publisher Southern Daily Wea H. Lee

Southern News Group Chairman / CEO

Chairman of International Trade & Culture Center

Republic of Guiana Honorary consul at Houston Texas

Nine Bellaire High Seniors Will Be Valedictorians

With perfect 5.0 GPAs, nine Bellaire High School seniors will share the title of Valedictorians–Class of 2021.

We are also very proud that seven of them are Asian–Americans. They are Daniel Chen, Evie Kao, Angela Ling, Wenson Tang, Christopher Zhou, Annie Zhu and Shirley Zhu.

This outstanding achievement is even more remarkable during this pandemic period.

I want to also point out that most of these students are from first generation immigrants and their parents always put education as the first priority.

The City of Bellaire has become so famous because a lot of families wanted to move there and make this small city's real estate very valuable.

Today we urge people to pay more attention to how this new generation could be a very powerful talented human resource that could help our nation grow.

They are the new leaders for our country in the future. We want to express our sincere congratulations to all of them again.

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

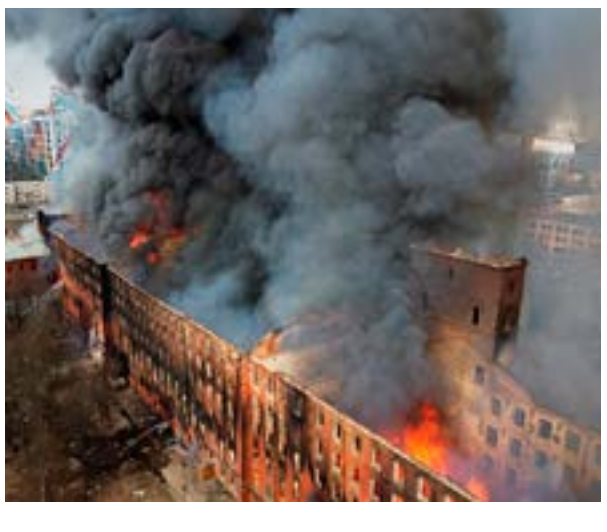
Editor's Choice

A Naga Sadhu, or Hindu holy man wears a mask before the procession for taking a dip in the Ganges river during Shahi Snan at "Kumbh Mela", or the Pitcher Festival in Haridwar, India. REUTERS/Danish Siddiqui

An Israeli soldier walks in a field of buttercup flowers near Kibbutz Nir Yitzhak in southern Israel, just outside the Gaza Strip. REUTERS/Amir Cohen

A demonstrator confronts a police officer during a protest of restaurant and small business owners who call for their businesses to be allowed to re-open, despite no authorization for the demonstration by the government in Rome, Italy. REUTERS/Guglielmo Mangiapane

Synchronised swimmers from Aquabatix train in the pool as swimming pools reopen following easing of the coronavirus restrictions, at Clissold Leisure Centre, in London, Britain. REUTERS/John Sibley



Flames and smoke rise during a fire at the Nevskaya Manufaktura factory in central Saint Petersburg, Russia. REUTERS/Anton Vaganov

Protestors jump over the turnstiles at the Gallery Place metro station during a protest following the fatal police shooting of 20-year-old Black man Daunte Wright in Minnesota, in Washington. REUTERS/Evelyn Hockstein

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

BUSINESS

COVID-19 Today, April 14, 2021

The Warning Signs Of A Longer Pandemic

Illustration: Sarah Grillo/Axios

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

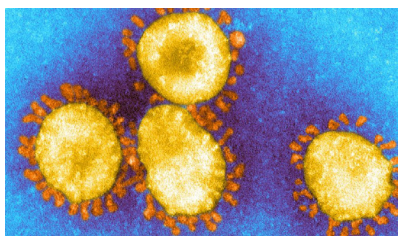
All the things that could prolong the COVID-19 pandemic — that could make this virus a part of our lives longer than anyone wants — are playing out right in front of our eyes.

The big picture: Right now, the U.S. is still making fantastic progress on vaccinations. But as variants of the virus cause new outbreaks and infect more children, the U.S. is also getting a preview of what the future could hold if our vaccination push loses steam — as experts fear it soon might.

Driving the news: The British variant is driving another surge in cases in Michigan, and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has resisted reimposing any of the lockdown measures she embraced earlier in the pandemic.

• Variants are beginning to infect more kids, even as schools are on the fast track back to reopening, making the pandemic "a brand new ball game," as University of Minnesota epidemiologist Michael Osterholm recently put it.

• New research confirms that our existing vaccines don't work as well against the South African variant.



Between the lines: This is a preview of the longer, darker coronavirus future the U.S. may face without sufficient vaccinations — one that many experts see as pretty likely.

• Although the pace of vaccinations is still strong, there's a growing fear that it's about to slow down. In some parts of the country, particularly the South, demand for shots has already slowed down enough to create a surplus of available doses.

How it works: The more widely a virus can spread, the more opportunities it has to mutate. If the U.S. and ultimately the world don't vaccinate a sufficient percentage of the population, we'll be setting ourselves up to let the virus keep spreading, and keep mutating, continuing to give us new variants that will continue to pose new threats.

The concern isn't necessarily that the facts on the ground today could end up being disastrous. The vaccines work against the British variant; the South African variant is not, at this point, a dominant strain within the U.S.; and we will eventually be able to vaccinate at least some children, helping the U.S.'s progress toward herd immunity.

• But if we don't control the virus well enough, then even years into the future, we could be living through more new variants — some of which might be more deadly, some of which might be more resistant to vaccines, some of which might be more dangerous for certain specific populations.

• That would translate into an ongoing risk of illness or potentially death for unvaccinated people and new races to reformulate vaccines as new variants keep emerging.

• And it would lead to a world in which today's vaccine-eager population would have to stay on top of those emerging risks, get booster shots when they're available, and perhaps revive some of the pandemic's social-distancing measures, in order to stay safe.

The bottom line: This darker future is preventable, and our abundant supply of highly effective vaccines is the way to prevent it. The more people get vaccinated now, the smaller the role COVID-19 is likely to play in the rest of our lives.

Related

Former FDA Chief Offers Reality Check On Vaccine Passports

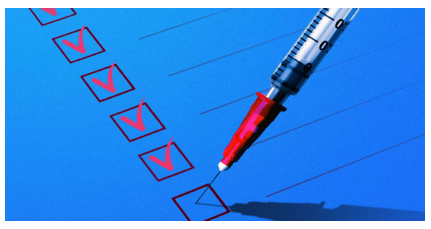


Illustration: Sarah Grillo/Axios

There's a clear use case for some sort of trusted, digital proof of vaccination, but it probably wouldn't be an all-encompassing "passport," necessary for any number of everyday activities, former FDA commissioner Scott Gottlieb argues in a WSJ op-ed.

What they're saying: "Some have panned this as a way of denying Americans access to restaurants or other businesses," he writes. "It's more likely to allow Americans to visit places they otherwise can't, such as nursing homes or hospitals that aren't allowing family members."

Why it matters: Vaccination data isn't easily accessible — some of it belongs to insurers, some to state databases, and those systems don't always communicate well with each other.

Making matters worse, the inevitable forgeries of paper vaccine cards are now a widespread reality. Scores of fraudulent vaccine cards are available for sale on Etsy, eBay, Facebook and Twitter, the New York Times reports:

Former FDA commissioner Scott Gottlieb.

• One Etsy seller, who declined to be identified, said she had sold dozens of fake vaccine cards for $20 each recently. She justified her actions by saying she was helping people evade a 'tyrannical government.' She added that she did not plan to get inoculated."

Related

Fauci: Federal government won't require COVID vaccine passports

The federal government will not mandate the use of vaccine passports for travelers or businesses post-pandemic, President Biden's chief medical adviser, Dr. Anthony Fauci, told the Politico Dispatch podcast Monday

Why it matters: Passports showing proof of vaccination could speed up international travel re-openings, but the idea of requiring immunization credentials has become a point of contention, particularly among Republican officials.

• Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) banned the use of vaccine passports in his state on Friday.

What they're saying: "I doubt that the federal government will be the main mover of a vaccine passport concept," said Fauci.

Anthony Fauci. Photo: Susan Walsh/ AP/Bloomberg via Getty Images

• "They may be involved in making sure things are done fairly and equitably, but I doubt if the federal government is going to be the leading element of that."

Fauci noted that he believes that businesses or schools could require vaccine passports to enter their buildings.

• "I'm not saying that they should or that they would, but I'm saying you could foresee how an independent entity might say, 'well, we can't be dealing with you unless we know you're vaccinated,' but it's not going to be mandated from the federal government."

The big picture: The E.U. unveiled its proposal for vaccine passports in March, which would allow citizens who can certify that they have been vaccinated or recently tested negative for COVID-19 to cross borders without quarantine requirements. (Courtesy axios.com)

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

COMMUNITY

Yang's New Campaign Slogan: "Hope Is on the Way"

Could Andrew Yang Really Be New York City's Next Mayor?

Photographs by Adam Pape for The New York Times

By Guest Writer, Michelle Goldberg, Opinion Columnist, New York Times

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

Andrew Yang rolled up for opening day at Yankee Stadium on April 1 with the crackling force field of celebrity surrounding him. A bank of photographers and videographers walked backward before him. A small entourage of aides trailed behind. Fans, lined up for New York's first professional baseball game with live spectators since Covid shut down the city, called out, "There's the next mayor of New York!" and "Good luck!" People milled around to have their photos taken with him. Yang bumped elbows and gave high fives; it was the most casual human contact I'd seen in a year.

When I asked Yang supporters why they want him to be mayor, I heard, over and over, variations on the words "change" and "energy." "He's young, he's energetic, he's a new face," said Laivi Freundlich, a businessman and synagogue cantor from Brooklyn. "I'm tired of the old guard." Some associated Yang, in an undefined way, with technological dynamism. "It's a feeling," said Thomas Dixon, a 61-year-old from the Bronx, about how Yang would "bring about necessary changes. Because like the country, New York City needs to move into the 21st century."

With about 10 weeks until New York's mayoral primaries, both public and private polling show Yang ahead in a crowded field, though up to half of voters remain undecided. In a survey released by Fontas Advisors and Core Decision Analytics in March, Yang was the top choice of 16 percent of respondents, followed by 10 percent for Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams. (Everyone else was in the single digits.) The Yang campaign's private polling shows him with 25 percent of the vote and Adams with 15 percent.

The essence of Yang's campaign is this: He wants to make New York fun again. He has a hip-hop theme track by MC Jin and a platform plank calling for to-go cocktails — a pandemic accommodation for struggling bars and restaurants — to become a regular fixture of city life. He's constantly out and about, cheerleading each facet of New York's post-Covid rebirth. He was there the first day movie theaters reopened, taking his wife, Evelyn, to see Eddie Huang's coming-of-age basketball drama, "Boogie." But for a kidney stone that landed him in the hospital, he and Evelyn would have gone to an off-Broadway concert on April 2, the day indoor shows restarted. The day after that hospitalization, Yang was doing the finger-snapping dance from "West Side Story" down Brooklyn's Vanderbilt Avenue. Several blocks were closed to traffic to make room for open-air bars and cafes, another pandemic-era policy that Yang wants to make permanent. The gentrified brunch crowd responded to the candidate much like the baseball fans at Yankee Stadium: People shouted, "There's Andrew Yang!" and "Yang Gang!" and posed for grinning photos.

His campaign will soon unveil a new slogan, "Hope Is on the Way." It is planning a series of events to make up for milestones people lost during Covid, like a prom for high school graduates and maybe even a group wedding at city hall, where Andrew and Evelyn got married, for those who had to postpone their nuptials.

On one level, the idea of Yang as the mayor of New York City — surely one of the most complicated administrative jobs in the country — seems absurd. He has no government experience and has been so detached from city politics that he never before voted in a New York mayoral election. Before he ran in the 2020 Democratic presidential primary, he founded a midsize nonprofit, Venture for America, that set out to create 100,000 jobs.

Photographs by Adam Pape for The New York Times

As of 2019, it had created fewer than 4,000. Nothing in his background indicates a special aptitude for running a gargantuan urban bureaucracy at a moment of harrowing crisis.

Yet in a traumatized city, people are responding to his ebullience. Yang, said Chris Coffey, his campaign's co-manager, is "giving people hope after a year of death and sadness and Zooms and unhappiness." You don't have to agree with Yang's politics to see how powerful this is.

About those politics: They're pretty conservative, at least by the standard of a New York Democratic primary. Yang is pro-charter schools and has criticized the 190,000-member United Federation of Teachers for the slow pace of school reopenings. He's slammed Mayor Bill de Blasio for not instituting a hiring freeze and is hesitant to raise taxes on the rich. Yang wants to offer tax breaks to companies that bring their employees back to the office, which those who like the flexibility of remote work might resent.

A number of his plans depend on corporate partnerships. "There's a lot of potential and pent-up energy among companies and leaders in New York who want a mayor they can work with, who want a mayor who's not going to beat up businesses big and small because they're businesses," he told me. It's hard to tell whether Yang is leading because of his pro-business centrism, or in spite of it. Many backers I spoke to view him as progressive, particularly those who associate him with the call for a universal basic income, which animated his presidential campaign. Some supporters don't think of him in ideological terms at all. Others expressed not so much a desire for a right turn in citywide politics as doubt that the left has all the answers.

Photographs by Adam Pape for The New York Times

"I think he's progressive, but I also think he's kind of pragmatic, so I think that's probably what draws me to him," said Maya Deshmukh, a dentist who's also an actress and a comedian, after she posed for a photo with Yang outside an upscale Vanderbilt Avenue ice cream shop. "He's Asian-American; I'm Indian, so I like someone who's going to be in our corner." Some left-wing Asian activists hate Yang's plan to combat a spike in anti-Asian hate crimes by increasing funding for the New York Police Department's Asian Hate Crime Task Force, but there's no sign that most ordinary Asian-Americans voters do. His campaign's polling shows him winning 49 percent of the Asian vote, with the other candidates in the single digits.

Yang makes a point of ignoring progressive social media, where he's frequently derided as either a neoliberal menace or a clueless tourist. "One of the big numbers that informs me is that approximately 11 percent of New York City Democratic voters get their news from Twitter," he said, referring to a figure from his campaign's internal polling. "If you pay attention to social media you're going to get a particular look at New Yorkers that is going to be representative of frankly a relatively small percentage of New York voters."

Still, other candidates hope that once they're able to contrast Yang's positions and experience to their own, his support will erode. "What we're seeing is more about what names are recognizable, but the vast majority of folks are still saying, 'I'm trying to make up my mind, I'm trying to get on top of this,'" said the mayoral candidate Maya Wiley, a former counsel to de Blasio. "What folks are looking for is not someone who shoots from the hip, but someone who actually has deep plans and policies."

Wiley's spokeswoman, Julia Savel, has been harsher. "Our city deserves a serious leader, not a mini-Trump who thinks our city is a fun plaything in between podcasts," she said recently.

Yang throws out screwball ideas — like putting a casino on park-filled Governors Island, which would be illegal — to see what sticks. He makes gaffes, but they haven't dragged him down. He has a self-perpetuating way of sucking up all the media oxygen: to write about the Yang phenomenon, as I am here, is to contribute to it. Ten weeks before the 2013 mayoral primary, it looked like the top candidates were Anthony Weiner and Christine Quinn, then the City Council speaker. This year will be New York City's first time using ranked choice voting in such a primary, and no one knows quite what that's going to mean. It could help Yang because he's so well known, leading supporters of other candidates to pick him as their second or third choice. Or it could hurt him by consolidating the votes of constituencies Yang has alienated.

And he believes that celebrity and excitement don't win Democratic primary elections in New York City. What does? "Having an organic relationship to the constituencies that follow city politics and depend on city politics," he said, particularly "the various unions that represent people who are directly or indirectly dependent on government money, contracts, support for nonprofit organizations and so on." In Mollenkopf's analysis, the city's politics, unlike the country's, are still mediated by a thick web of institutional relationships. Yang agrees that this has been true in the past. He just thinks that this time will be different.

Luke Hawkins, a 36-year-old actor and dancer, described discovering Yang on the Joe Rogan podcast. "I wish he were the president," he said. "I can't stand pandering politicians. Just the fact that there's no BS, he's just completely genuine." Hawkins said he leans left but doesn't like what he calls the "woke stuff" and viewed Yang as a "problem-solver."

So, I asked, would he definitely vote in the primary? "I frickin' hate politics," he said. "But I will vote for him." Then he asked, "When is the primary?" It's June 22. The future of New York City may hinge on how many voters like him remember. (Courtesy https://dnyuz.com/) This article first appeared in the New York Times)