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Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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## California population experiences first yearly loss in history

LOS ANGELES, May 8 (Xinhua) -- California's population dipped by 182,083 residents last year, bringing the Golden State's total to 39,466,855 people as of Jan. 1, 2021, according to new population estimates and housing data released Friday by the state's Department of Finance.

The authority said the state's negative growth rate of -0.46 percent represented the first 12-month decline since state population estimates were recorded in 1850.

Three principal factors were listed as the main causes of this year-over-year population decrease, including continuing declines in natural increase, continuing declines in foreign immigration and deaths in 2020 separately associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The COVID-19 pandemic increased California deaths in 2020 by 51,000 -- 19 percent above the average death rate for the three preceding years," the California Department of Finance said in a press release.

However, it predicted as pandemic-related deaths declined and the federal government's immigration policy was changed this year, the state's population would return to a slightly positive annual growth this year.

According to the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC), with almost 40 million people, California is still the United States' most populous state and its population is much larger than that of second-place Texas (29 million) and third-place Florida (22 million).

Between 1900 and 2000, California's population skyrocketed from fewer than 2 million people to 34 million, a growth rate that was much higher than that of the rest of the country.

Over the past 20 years, California had experienced its slowest rates of growth ever recorded and growth had been especially stagnant this decade, PPIC said, adding this decades-long trend was the consequence of fewer births, more deaths, a slowing of international migration, and a large migration out of California to other states.

But PPIC still estimated California's population was projected to reach 45 million people by 2050.

Friday's data came after the U.S. Census Bureau's figure on its decade-long population counts released last week, which showed though California's population grew between 2010 and 2020, it did so at a slower rate than the rest of the country.

Based on slower growth reflected in the 2020 census, the state would lose a congressional seat for the first time.



## WHO's emergency listing of Chinese vaccine to bolster global inoculation

DHAKA, May 8 (Xinhua) -- The decision by the World Health Organization (WHO) to list China's Sinopharm vaccine for emergency use will bolster the inoculation drive against the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic worldwide, a Bangladeshi health expert said on Saturday.

Bangladesh is very pleased to learn about the WHO decision to include the Chinese-made vaccine in the Emergency Use Listing (EUL), which surely comes as a big blessing for the whole world in the fight against the deadly disease, said Mushtaq Hossain, an adviser to the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research under Bangladesh's Health Ministry, in an interview with Xinhua.

Bangladesh's drug regulator has already approved the Sinopharm vaccine, one of two main Chinese vaccines that have already been applied to hundreds of millions of people in China and worldwide, for emergency

use in the country, he said.

"Our government has already signed an agreement with Chinese counterparts to import this vaccine," the Bangladeshi health expert said.

This decision of the WHO will further facilitate the vaccination of more Bangladeshis, he added.

Speaking of the conference with South Asian foreign ministers that China hosted recently, he said that this was a good initiative of the Chinese government.

"International cooperation is a must for fighting a global pandemic, like COVID-19," he said, noting that a WHO emergency use listing will help China extend more support to the countries in need.

The EUL is reportedly a signal to national regulators on a product's

safety and efficacy, and would allow the shot to be included in COVAX, a global coalition that works to ensure fair and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines around the world.

The WHO has previously given emergency approval to COVID-19 vaccines developed by Pfizer-BioNTech, AstraZeneca, Johnson & Johnson, and Moderna.

Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the country's COVID-19 vaccination drive on Jan. 28 to rein in the pandemic that has so far spread across Bangladesh.

Amid uncertainty over the timely arrival of the next COVID-19 vaccine shipment from India, the Bangladeshi government later halted administering first doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine across the country.



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LOCAL NEWS

U.S. Los Angeles on track to further reopen businesses next week

LOS ANGELES, April 29 (Xinhua) -- Los Angeles County is ready to further reopen businesses next week, said the county's public health department in a news release Thursday.

The county is on track to move into the least restrictive yellow COVID-19 tier of California's four-tier, color-coded system amid dropping cases and vaccine eligibility expansion.

Moving into the yellow tier allows for increases in capacity in many sectors, such as amusement parks, fairs, gyms, museums, zoos, and aquariums, according to the department.

Public health officials said that a modified Health Officer Order will go into effect on next Thursday.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health reported 416 new cases of COVID-19 and 42 new deaths on Thursday, bringing its cumulative cases up to 1,232,727 with 23,872 related deaths.

Officials noted that COVID-19 case rate currently remains relatively low and stable in the county, which was once an epicenter of the pandemic in the United States.

"A month ago, on March 21, the county was seeing 433 cases a day. A month later, on April 21, the number of new cases dropped 34 percent to 337 cases a day. Over the same time period, daily average confirmed hospitalizations dropped 38 percent," said the county's public health officials, adding that daily deaths dropped more than 80 percent over the same time period.

Officials confirmed that over 7.2 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered to people across the county to date and about 32 percent of residents aged 16 and older are fully vaccinated.

"With all the fear we've been living with over the past year, many of us may have forgotten what an incredibly fun place Los Angeles can be. We are so close to being able to reclaim that fun, and the ticket to doing that is getting ourselves, our friends, our families and our co-workers vaccinated," said the county's Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer in the release.



China's Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine 67% effective in preventing symptomatic infection

Sinovac's COVID-19 vaccine CoronaVac was 67% effective in preventing symptomatic infection in the first real-world study of the Chinese shot, the Chilean government said on Friday.

The vaccine was 85% effective in preventing hospitalizations and 80% effective in preventing deaths, the government said in a report prepared by the Chilean health ministry.

The release of the data makes Chile one of a handful of countries, including the United Kingdom and Israel, that have used inoculation

campaigns to gather insights into how effective vaccines are outside controlled clinical trials and when faced with unpredictable variables in societies.

Israel's real-world study of the effectiveness of Pfizer's (PFE.N) vaccine looked at the results among 1.2 million people, a mix of those who received the shot and those who did not. Chile's study examined CoronaVac's effectiveness among 10.5 million people, again looking both at people who had been vaccinated and those who had not. Vaccines were administered in Chile approximately 28 days apart.

Editor's Choice



Khalil Ferebee tends to his baby son Karter while standing with his brother Jha'rod Ferebee on stage behind the coffin of their father Andrew Brown Jr., at his funeral in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, May 3, 2021. Brown, a 42-year-old Black man, was shot to death on April 21 by sheriff's deputies - the latest in a national spate of killings to trigger demands for racial justice. REUTERS/



A police armored vehicle is pictured during a protest in Bogotá, Colombia, May 5, 2021. Days of protests were originally called in opposition to a now-canceled tax reform plan, but demonstrators have since broadened their demands to include government action to tackle poverty, police violence and inequality in the health and education systems. REUTERS/Nathalia Angarita



A street vendor sits next to an abandoned ambulance outside a hospital as the second coronavirus wave surges in Kathmandu, Nepal, May 4, 2021. The country is being overwhelmed by a COVID-19 surge as India's outbreak spreads across South Asia. REUTERS/Navesh Chitrakar



People enjoy their time at a nightclub in Liverpool, Britain April 30, 2021. Around 3,000 young people partied at a nightclub, in close contact with each other and without wearing masks, part of a government-backed trial to restart mass audience events as the pandemic recedes further in England. Attendees at the evening event had to test negative for COVID-19 within 24 hours of the event. REUTERS/Carl Recine



A policeman takes position during an operation against drug dealers in Jacarezinho slum in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, May 6, 2021. At least 25 people, including a police officer, were killed in the shootout, police said. It was the deadliest single police operation in the state of Rio de Janeiro, which has suffered for decades from drug violence in its poor neighborhoods known as favelas. REUTERS/Ricardo Moraes



Homeland Security Investigations personnel escort a man wearing handcuffs to a transport bus from a residence in southwest Houston, Texas, April 30, 2021. Police responding to reports of a kidnapping said they had found more than 90 people crammed into the two-story suburban home and suspected it was being used in a human smuggling operation. REUTERS/Adrees Latif Takino recalls. "Now, I think about half of people are okay with us and half still can't accept us." REUTERS/Kim Kyung-Hoon

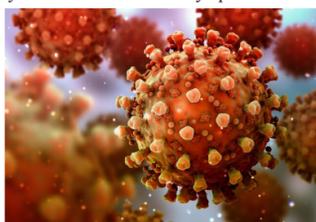
## Several Countries Detect New COVID-19 Mutation



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-

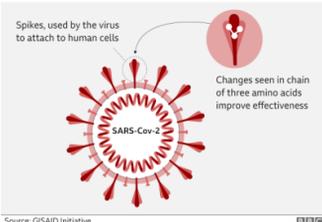
ly came from community spread.



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>)

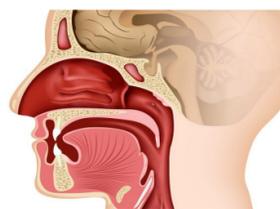
Related

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](http://webmd.com))



## In 1957 A Flu Pandemic Hit The U.S., But Maurice Hilleman Was Ready With A Vaccine He Mass Produced In Only Months The Virologist Who Saved Millions Of Children—And Stopped A Pandemic



Virologist Maurice Hilleman with his research team at the Walter Reed Army Medical Research Institute in 1957. That year Hilleman and his team would identify and develop 40 million vaccine doses to combat a flu virus from Hong Kong. (PHOTO/ ED CLARK, LIFE PICTURE COLLECTION/GETTY)

By Guest Writer Sydney Combs

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

In April 1957, a mysterious illness was making its way through Hong Kong. Medical workers encountered throngs of children with “glassy-eyed stares,” and more than 10 percent of the city's population was infected with influenza. The scientific community stayed quiet, but American virologist Maurice Hilleman recognized the threat: A pandemic was brewing. Hilleman thought the disease was a new strain of influenza capable of spreading around the world. By the time the virus arrived in the U.S. in fall 1957, he was ready with a vaccine. His work prevented millions from contracting the deadly virus—and that's a small fraction of the people Hilleman would save over the course of his career.



Students sick with the 1957 “Asian flu” lie in

temporary cots set up in the student union building at the University of Massachusetts. More than 100,000 people in the U.S. died from the virus. (PHOTO/ BETTMANN, GETTY)

Born in August 1919, at the height of the Spanish flu, Hilleman was raised on a farm near Miles City, Montana. During the Depression, he managed to get a job as an assistant manager at a J.C. Penney store and planned to spend the rest of his professional career with the company—until his older brother convinced him to apply to college. He went to Montana State University on a full scholarship, graduated first in his class in 1941—and was accepted to every graduate school he applied to. As a doctoral student in microbiology at the University of Chicago, Hilleman proved that chlamydia was actually a bacteria instead of a virus, a discovery that helped doctors treat the disease. Against his professor's wishes, Hilleman went into the pharmaceutical industry instead of academia because he believed

he'd be better positioned there to bring the benefits of his research to patients.

By the end of his career, he would develop more than 40 vaccines that prevented disease and death throughout the world.



The Father Of Modern Vaccines, Maurice Hilleman.

Heading off a pandemic

After four years with the E.R. Squibb pharmaceutical company in New Jersey, Hilleman transferred to the Walter Reed Army Medical Research Institute in Washington, D.C., to study respiratory illnesses and influenza outbreaks. There he proved that influenza viruses undergo mutations that allow them to bypass antibodies previously developed to the strain. This explained why one influenza vaccine didn't protect a person for life, as a smallpox or polio vaccine could.

**FLU VIRUS 101** The influenza virus is a recurring nightmare, killing thousands of people each year. Learn how the virus attacks its host, why it's nearly impossible to eradicate, and what scientists are doing to combat it. Through this research, Hilleman became convinced that the virus in Hong Kong could be substantially different from existing strains, and thus could be deadly if it came to the United States or other nations. When he picked up a copy of The New York Times on April 17, 1957 and read about the situation in Hong Kong, he exclaimed, “My God. This is the pandemic. It's here!” The next day he asked the military to collect virus samples there. A month later, he received gargled saltwater from an ill Navy serviceman who had been to Hong Kong. Hilleman began incubating the virus and testing it against antibodies from hundreds of soldiers and civilians. He couldn't find a single person with antibodies to this strain of influenza. Hilleman sent samples of the new virus to other research organizations, which confirmed that only a few elderly citizens who had survived the 1889-1890 influenza pandemic had any antibody resistance. That meant nearly everyone was at risk of catching

the new strain.

“In 1957 we all missed it. The military missed it and the World Health Organization missed it,” Hilleman later said in an interview.



Boxes of Hilleman's vaccines for the 1957 flu are rushed by helicopter throughout the (PHOTO/WALTER SANDERS/LIFE PICTURE COLLECTION/GETTY)

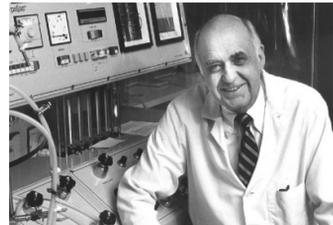
Realizing how little time the country had to prepare, Hilleman contacted pharmaceutical manufacturers directly and asked them to make a vaccine from his samples. He also demanded that roosters that would otherwise have been killed be kept alive to fertilize enough eggs to prepare the vaccine. Even though his work had not yet been reviewed by the main U.S. vaccine regulatory agency, the Division of Biological Standards, the pharmaceutical companies agreed. Because regulations now are far tighter this type of workaround would be impossible today. Because of Hilleman's perseverance, 40 million doses of the vaccine had been created by the time the flu hit American shores in fall 1957. Ultimately, the virus killed 1.1 million people worldwide and an estimated 116,000 people in the United States. But the U.S. surgeon general at the time, Leonard Burney, said the virus would have infected millions more Americans had there been no vaccine. The U.S. military awarded Hilleman a Distinguished Service Medal for his work. “That's the only time we ever averted a pandemic with a vaccine,” Hilleman recalled.

Out of the spotlight

Hilleman's success was in part due to his po-

sition at Merck, the pharmaceutical company he worked at for 47 years. He was given direct control over his research there, and with Merck's ample financial resources at their disposal, Hilleman and his team developed more than 40 vaccines for humans and animals. “There was money to spend to do what you needed to do [at Merck]. Money wasn't an object. You could do your research,” Hilleman's second wife Lorraine Witmer once told Hilleman's biographer. By working in the private sector—the “dirty industry” as Hilleman joked—he was able to guide his research from the lab to the marketplace with his signature brashness.

The pharmaceutical industry had its drawbacks, though, and at times prevented Hilleman from gaining public recognition for his work. “I thought that if my name appeared on the paper, or if I was the one put in front of the television cameras or radio microphones, people would think that I was selling something,” Hilleman explained after his name was not included on the paper proving his hepatitis B vaccine was effective.



Virologist Maurice Hilleman.

In the end, Hilleman didn't name a single discovery after himself. Hilleman and his team developed eight of the 14 vaccines currently recommended for children: measles, mumps, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, chickenpox, meningitis, pneumonia, and Haemophilus influenzae (Hib vaccine). The WHO estimates that the measles vaccine alone prevented 20.3 million deaths worldwide between 2000 and 2015. At the time of Hilleman's death, scientists in the field credited him with likely saving more people than any other scientist in the 20th century. “The scientific quality and quantity of what he did was amazing,” Dr. Anthony Fauci told The New York Times in 2005. “Just one of his accomplishments would be enough to have made for a great scientific career.” (Courtesy <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/>)