



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 including 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

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

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



Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

Sunday, April 24 2022|

Russia renews attack on Mariupol and missiles hit Odesa, Ukraine says

KYIV, April 23 (Reuters) - Russia resumed its assault on the last Ukrainian defenders holed up in a giant steel works in Mariupol on Saturday, days after Moscow declared victory in the southern city and said its forces did not need to take the plant.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said the country's army was not ready to try break through the siege of the port city by force. But he told an evening news conference that Kyiv had every right to do so.

Zelenskiy also announced that the top American diplomat, Secretary of State Antony Blinken, and U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin would visit Kyiv on Sunday and that he planned to discuss the types of weapons Ukraine needs to battle the Russian invasion and he expected concrete results.

U.S. President Joe Biden's administration has not yet confirmed any travel plans for Blinken and Austin. The U.S. State Department declined to comment on the matter. The Pentagon also declined comment.

The attack on Mariupol, the biggest battle of the conflict, has raged for weeks as Russia seeks to capture a city seen as vital to its attempts to link the eastern Donbas region with Crimea, the Black Sea peninsula Moscow seized in 2014.

Moscow-backed separatists have held territory in the Donbas region for years.

In the Black Sea port city of Odesa, at least eight people were killed, Zelenskiy said. Two missiles struck a military facility and two residential buildings and two more were destroyed on Saturday, the Ukrainian armed forces said. [read more](#)

The death toll could not be independently verified. The last big strike on or near Odesa was in early April.

"The only aim of Russian missile strikes on Odesa is terror," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba wrote on Twitter. Russia has denied targeting civilians in its "special military operation" that began on Feb. 24.

The Russian defence ministry said it used high-precision missiles on Saturday to destroy a logistics terminal in Odesa where a large number of weapons supplied by the United States and European nations were being stored. [read more](#)

It also said Russian forces had killed up to 200 Ukrainian troops and destroyed more than 30 vehicles on Saturday.



Russian General Rustam Minnekayev on Friday said Moscow wanted control of the whole of southern Ukraine, comments Ukraine said indicated Russia had wider goals than its declared aim of demilitarising and "denazifying" the country. Kyiv and the West call the invasion an unjustified war of aggression. [read more](#)

Russian forces have besieged and bombarded Mariupol since the early days of the war, leaving in ruins a city usually home to more than 400,000 people. A new attempt to evacuate civilians failed on Saturday, an aide to Mariupol's mayor said. [read more](#)

Russia's defence ministry on Friday said Mariupol's last fighters had been "securely blockaded" at the steel plant. On Thursday, President Vladimir Putin had declared the city "liberated", declaring that troops would not storm Azovstal.

Ammunition boxes are seen inside a Ukrainian military vehicle left behind at the front line during a fight, amid Russia's invasion in Ukraine, between Lyman and Zarichne
Cars destroyed amid Russia's attack on Ukraine are pictured after being collected, in Hostomel
Russia's invasion of Ukraine

Cars destroyed amid Russia's attack on Ukraine are pictured after they were collected from different places, in Hostomel, Kyiv region, Ukraine April 23, 2022. REUTERS/Zohra Bensemra

Oleksiy Arestovych, a political adviser to Zelenskiy, said Ukrainian troops in the steel complex were holding out and attempting counterattacks. More than 1,000 civilians are also in the plant, according to Ukrainian authorities. [read more](#)

The Azov battalion, a nationalist militia prominent in the defence of Mariupol, released a video it said showed women and children sheltering in the complex. Reuters could not independently verify where or when the video was shot. [read more](#)

One woman holding a young child said food was running out, while an unnamed boy in the video said he was desperate to get out after two months in the bunker.

"I want to see the sun because in here it's dim, not like outside. When our houses are rebuilt we can live in peace. Let Ukraine win because Ukraine is our native home," he said.

Ukraine estimates tens of thousands of civilians have been killed in Mariupol and says 100,000 civilians are still there. The

United Nations and Red Cross say the civilian toll is at least in the thousands.

Russia's current offensive is focused on the Donbas, which includes the Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

Serhiy Gaidai, the governor of Luhansk, on Saturday said Ukrainian forces were pulling back from some settlements to new defensive lines to preserve their units in the face of an intensifying barrage on all cities in the region.

Three people were killed and seven were wounded by Russian shelling in the eastern region of Kharkiv on Saturday, the region's governor said.

The governor of a Russian border region said on Saturday that Ukraine had shelled a crossing point on Russia's territory, causing a fire but no casualties. It was not immediately possible to confirm details of the incident or determine who was responsible.



國際貿易中心

INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER

WE BUILD BRIDGES TO INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

國際化商貿 從這裡出發



Southern News Group
Corporate Office-Houston, Texas USA

11110 Bellaire Blvd., Suite 200, Houston, Texas 77072
Tel: (832) 448-0190 Fax: (281) 498-2728

WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

04/23/2022



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

Interest Rate Rises Again

The mortgage rate has continued to rise again, having now reached the highest level in more than a decade.

At the end of April 21st, the 30-year fixed rate reached 5.11% , up 5% from a week ago. Last year at this time the rate was 2.97%. The last time rates reached this high was in April 2010.

With the cost of financing a house being about 40% higher than a year ago, demand for housing is visibly cooling as many first-time buyers are unable to qualify for the loans.

The Federal Reserve Bank is actually not the entity that sets the interest rate, but its



actions strongly influence it indirectly.

The Fed is expected to raise the rate again sometime next month.

The Wall Street stock market fell again this weekend. The Chinese government announced that it would help some enterprises in Shanghai resume their

production lines.

The Shanghai's situation has really affected the global economy and the global supply chain.

We don't want to see the world's economy face big challenges unless the big powers are willing to come to agreement and cooperation.



Southern DAILY Make Today Different

Editor's Choice



A U.S. border patrol officer grabs the shirt of a migrant trying to return to the United States, after having crossed the Rio Grande from the U.S. into Mexico to buy food, as seen from Ciudad Acuna, in Ciudad Acuna, Mexico S. REUTERS/Daniel Becerril



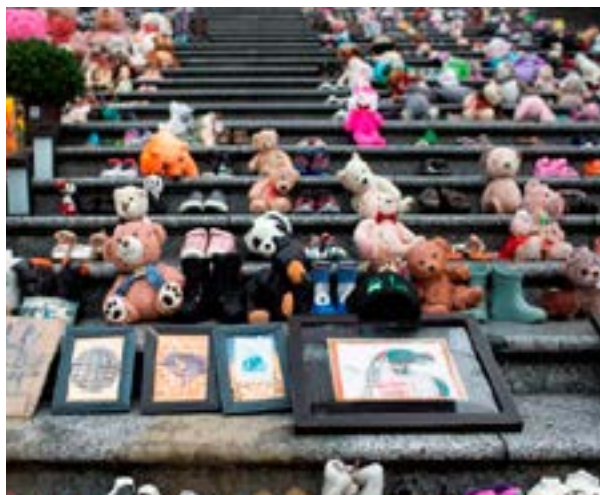
Nanook Gordon, from Inuvik, dances while wearing grass dance regalia during Canada's first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in Toronto, Ontario, Canada



People march from Parliament Hill during Canada's first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in Ottawa, Ontario, REUTERS/Blair Gable



A member of the Coastal Wolf Pack dancers performs for the crowd on Canada's first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation at the former Vancouver Art Gallery North Plaza near Pacific Centre shopping mall in Vancouver, British Columbia, . REUTERS/Amy Romer



Teddy bears, shoes, artwork and flowers left in memory of the Kamloops residential school victims remain on the steps of the former Vancouver Art Gallery North Plaza in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada September 30, 2021. REUTERS/Amy Romer



Children run holding flags during a candlelight vigil on Canada's first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation at Chiefswood Park in Ohsweken, Ontario, Canada REUTERS/Carlos Osorio

We'll Be Dealing With Covid-Related Fallout As
Long As There Is The Possibility Of New Variants

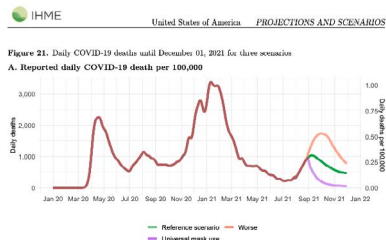
The 'New World' After The
Pandemic – What's In Store?



Covid-19 Testing Site On The Streets Of New York City, January 2022.

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

As a virus-weary world limps through the third year of the outbreak, experts are sending out a warning signal: Don't expect omicron to be the last variant we have to contend with — and don't let your guard down yet. In the midst of a vast wave of milder infections, countries around the world are dialing back restrictions and softening their messaging. Many people are starting to assume they've had their run-in with Covid-19 and that the pandemic is tailing off. But that's not necessarily the case. The crisis isn't over until it's over everywhere. The effects will continue to reverberate through wealthier nations — disrupting supply chains, travel plans and health care — as the coronavirus largely hits under-vaccinated developing countries over the coming months.



Before any of that, the world has to get past the current wave. Omicron may appear to cause less severe disease than

previous strains, but it is wildly infectious, pushing new case counts to once unimaginable records. Meanwhile, evidence is emerging that the variant may not be as innocuous as early data suggest. There's also no guarantee that the next mutation — and there will be more — won't be an offshoot of a more dangerous variant such as delta. And your risk of catching Covid more than once is real. "The virus keeps raising that bar for us every few months," said Akiko Iwasaki, a professor of epidemiology at Yale School of Medicine. "When we were celebrating the amazing effectiveness of booster shots against the delta variant, the bar was already being raised by omicron." "It seems like we are constantly trying to catch up with the virus," she said. It's sobering for a world that's been trying to move on from the virus with a new intensity in recent months. But the outlook isn't all gloom. Anti-viral medicines are hitting the market, vaccines are more readily available and tests that can be self-administered in minutes are now easy and cheap to obtain in many places. Nevertheless, scientists agree it's too soon to assume the situation is under control.

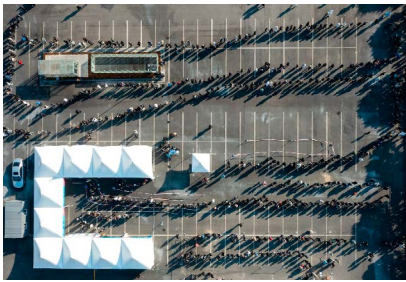


A medical worker waits for antigen test results at the Erez Crossing on the Israel-Gaza border in December. (Photo/ Kobi Wolf/Bloomberg)

In six months' time, many richer countries will have made the transition from pandemic to endemic. But that doesn't mean masks will be a thing of the past. We'll need to grapple with our approach to booster shots, as well as the pandemic's economic and political scars. There's also the shadow of long Covid. Is Covid-19 Here to Stay?

"There is a lot of happy talk that goes along the lines that omicron is a mild virus and it's effectively functioning as an attenuated live vaccine that's going to create massive herd immunity across the globe," said Peter Hotez, dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. "That's flawed for a number of reasons." Experts now believe that the virus will never go away entirely, and instead will continue to evolve to create new waves of infection. Mutations are possible every time the pathogen replicates, so surging caseloads put everyone in danger. The sheer size of the current outbreak means more hospitalizations, deaths and virus mutations are all but inevitable. Many people who are infected aren't making it into the official statistics, either because a home test result isn't formally recorded or because the infected person never gets tested at all. Trevor Bedford, an epidemiologist at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle known for detecting early Covid cases and tracking the outbreak globally, estimates that only about 20% to 25% of omicron infections in the U.S. get reported. With daily cases peaking at an average

of more than 800,000 in mid-January, the number of underlying infections may have exceeded 3 million a day — or nearly 1% of the U.S. population, Bedford estimates. Since it takes five to 10 days to recover, as much as 10% of people in the country may have been infected at any one time.



Long lines Queues at a testing station in Seoul on Feb. 6. (Photo/SeongJoon Cho/Bloomberg)

He's not alone in projecting astronomical numbers. At the current infection rate, computer modelling indicates more than half of Europe will have contracted omicron by mid-March, according to Hans Kluge, a regional director for the World Health Organization. Meanwhile, a sub-variant known as BA.2 is spreading rapidly in South Africa. It appears to be even more transmissible than the original strain and may cause a second surge in the current wave, one of the country's top scientists said. And just because you've already had the virus doesn't mean you won't get re-infected since Covid doesn't confer lasting immunity. New evidence suggests that delta infections didn't help avert omicron, even in

vaccinated people. That would explain why places like the U.K. and South Africa experienced such significant outbreaks even after being decimated by delta. Reinfection is also substantially more common with omicron than previous variants. "With omicron, because it has more of an upper respiratory component, it's even less likely to result in durable immunity" than previous variants, Hotez said. "On that basis, it's incorrect thinking to believe that this is somehow going to be the end of the pandemic." Preparing for New Variants Preparing for the next Covid strains is critical. "As long as there are areas of the world where the virus could be evolving, and new mutants arriving, we all will be susceptible to these new variants," said Glenda Gray, chief executive officer of the South African Medical Research Council.



A child receives a vaccine shot in San Francisco on Jan. 10. (Photo/ David Paul Morris/Bloomberg)

Lockdowns and travel curbs aren't going away, even if they are becoming less restrictive on the whole. "The things that will matter there are whether we are able to respond when there is a local surge," said Mark McClellan, former director of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and director of the Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy. "Maybe going back to putting on more masks or being a little bit more cautious about distancing." Inoculation is still the world's primary line of defense against Covid. More than 62% of people around the globe have gotten at least one dose, with overall rates in wealthy countries vastly higher than in developing ones. At the current pace, it will take another five months until 75% of the world's population has received their first shot.

(Article Continues Below)

(Article Continues From Above)
The 'New World' After The
Pandemic – What's In Store?

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

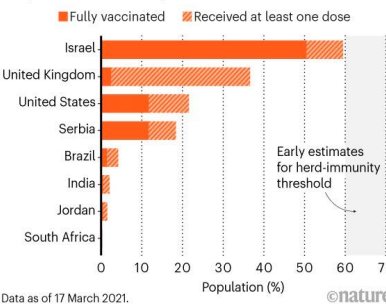


Results of trials on a daily pill to treat COVID-19 could be available within months.(Image/Unsplash/Halacious)

Uneven Access to Vaccines

DISPARITIES IN DISTRIBUTION

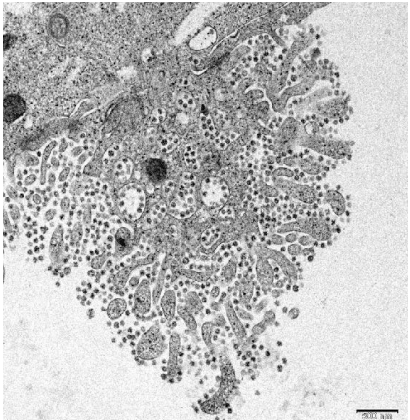
The worldwide roll-out of COVID-19 vaccinations is uneven, as shown by this selection of countries. Even as some nations approach a theoretical threshold for herd immunity, quashing the spread of the virus will prove difficult.



But studies show one or two injections don't ward off the pathogen. The best bet at this point is a booster shot, which triggers the production of neutralizing antibodies and a deeper immune response. People inoculated with more traditional inactivated vaccines, such as the widely used shots from China's Sinovac Biotech Ltd., will need at least two boosters — preferably with different vaccines — to control the virus, Yale's Iwasaki said. In the next six months, more countries will contend with whether to roll out a fourth shot. Israel has started and the U.S. backs them for vulnerable people, but India is pushing back and refusing to "blindly follow" other countries.

How We'll Know When the Covid-19 Crisis Is Over

While the virus won't be overwhelming hospitals and triggering restrictions forever, it's still unclear when — or how — it will become safe to leave on the back burner. Experts Bloomberg News spoke to agree that in developed countries including the U.S. and much of Europe, the virus could be well in hand by mid-2022. There will be better access to pills such as Pfizer Inc.'s Paxlovid, rapid antigen tests will be more readily available and people will have become accustomed to the idea that Covid is here to stay.



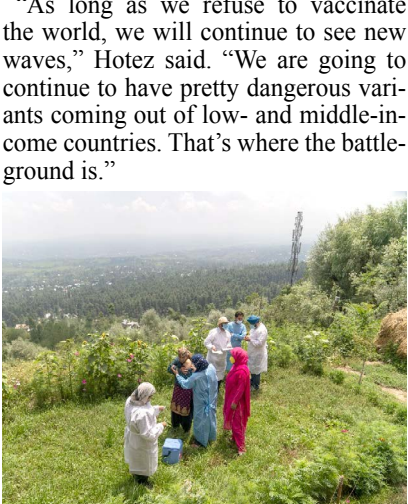
Transmission electron micrograph of a green monkey kidney cells 24 hours

after infection by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. (Source/The University of Hong Kong)

Robert Wachter, chair of medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, puts the odds at 10-to-one that by the end of February, most parts of the U.S. and the developed world will no longer be struggling with severe outbreaks. Vaccinations and new treatments, widespread testing and immunity as a result of previous infections are helping. Countries like Denmark are getting rid of all pandemic restrictions despite ongoing outbreaks. "That is a world that feels fundamentally different from the world of the last two years," he said. "We get to come back to something resembling normal." "I don't think it's irrational for politicians to embrace that, for policies to reflect that."

When Will the Pandemic End?

Elsewhere in the world, the pandemic will be far from over. The threat of new variants is highest in less wealthy countries, particularly those where immune conditions are more common. The delta mutation was first identified in India while omicron emerged in southern Africa, apparently during a chronic Covid infection in an immunocompromised HIV patient. "As long as we refuse to vaccinate the world, we will continue to see new waves," Hotez said. "We are going to continue to have pretty dangerous variants coming out of low- and middle-income countries. That's where the battleground is."



A "door-to-door" vaccination team inoculates residents at a village in the Budgam district of Jammu and Kashmir, India, in August 2021. (Photo/Sumit Daya/Bloomberg)

Amesh Adalja, senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins University Center for Health Security in Baltimore, sees the pandemic continuing into 2023 for parts of the developing world. "For me, the transition from pandemic

to endemic is when you're not worried about hospitals getting crushed," he said. "That will happen in most Western countries in 2022, and it will take a little bit longer for the rest of the world." In parts of Asia, public health officials aren't even willing to consider calling the end of the pandemic. While most of the world now seeks to live alongside Covid, China and Hong Kong are still trying to eliminate it. After spending much of 2021 virtually virus-free, both places are currently dealing with outbreaks. "We do not possess the prerequisites for living with the virus because the vaccination rate is not good, especially amongst the elderly," said Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam. "I could not stand seeing a lot of old people dying in my hospitals." Harsh virus restrictions including border closures and quarantines may well be in place until the end of 2022, though the higher contagiousness of the new variants is making that harder to maintain, as Hong Kong's current challenges show. Walling out the virus completely, like a swathe of countries did early in the pandemic, may no longer be possible. With so much of the world still mired in the pandemic, virus-related dislocations will continue everywhere.



Covid-19 testing outside a building placed under lockdown at the City Garden housing estate in Hong Kong, in Jan. 2022. (Photo/Louise Delmotte/Bloomberg)

The immense strain on global supply chains is only worsened by workers sickened or forced to quarantine as a result of omicron. The problem is especially acute in Asia, where much of the world's manufacturing takes place, and means global concerns about soaring consumer prices are unlikely to disappear any time soon. China's increasingly vehement moves to keep quashing Covid are also becoming disruptive. With many countries only partially open to visitors, international travel is still very far from what we considered normal in 2019. Hospitals and health care

systems around the world face a long, slow recovery after two years of monumental pressure. And for some individuals, the virus may be a life sentence. Long Covid sufferers have now been experiencing severe fatigue, muscle aches and even brain, heart and organ damage for months. How long will we be dealing with the long-term ramifications of the virus? "That's the million-dollar question," South Africa's Gray said. "Hopefully we can control this in the next two years, but the issues of long Covid will persist. We will see a huge burden of people suffering from it."



A temporary Covid treatment facility at the Commonwealth Games Village Sports Complex in New Delhi on Jan. 5. (Photo/T. Narayan/Bloomberg)

Life After the Pandemic

Over the coming months, a sense of what living permanently with Covid really looks like should take shape. Some places may forget about the virus almost entirely, until a flareup means classes are cancelled for a day or companies struggle with workers calling in sick. Other countries may rely on masking up indoors each winter, and an annual Covid vaccine is likely to be offered in conjunction with the flu shot. To persist, the virus will need to evolve to evade the immunity that's hitting high levels in many parts of the world. "There could be many scenarios," Yale's Iwasaki said. "One is that the next variant is going to be quite transmissible, but less virulent. It's getting closer and closer to the common cold kind of virus." If that evolution takes a more toxic path, we will end up with a more severe disease. "I just hope we don't have to keep making new boosters every so often," she added. "We can't just vaccinate everyone around the world four times a year." "It's really hard to predict." (Courtesy Bloomberg.com)