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Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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## Abbott says shipped millions of cans of infant formula from Ireland

May 13 (Reuters) - Abbott Laboratories (ABT.N) said on Friday it has air shipped millions of cans of infant formula powder into the United States from its facility in Ireland to address shortages here as it tries to reopen its Michigan manufacturing plant.

The company said in a blog it was shipping infant formula produced at its Cootehill, Ireland facility to be used by consumers eligible for the U.S. government's Women, Infants and Children (WIC) nutrition assistance program for low-income families.

Abbott in February recalled some baby formulas, including certain Similac products, made at the Sturgis plant after complaints about bacterial infections in infants who had consumed the products. It is working with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to reopen the plant.

The company said it has also been working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and WIC agencies. In states where Abbott has the WIC contract, it will pay rebates on competing products if Similac is not available through August.

In a May 13 letter to Abbott Chairman Robert Ford, USDA Secretary Thomas Vilsack asked for the policy to be put in place through August instead of month-by-month.

The company also said it has prioritized infant formula production at its facility at Columbus, Ohio, converting other liquid manufacturing lines into making Similac liquid ready-to-feed.

Lack of supply from Abbott has exacerbated a broad shortage of baby formula, which was been hit by supply chain snags and historic inflation rates.

U.S. President Joe Biden met on Thursday with executives from infant formula manufacturers and retailers, pressing them to do everything possible to get families access. read more

Separately, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) closed its investigation on Abbott's infant formula, with no additional cases of infections, according to a notice on the FDA website.



## Ukraine begins first war crimes trial of Russian soldier

KYIV, May 13 (Reuters) - A Ukrainian court held a preliminary hearing on Friday in the first war crimes trial arising from Russia's Feb. 24 invasion, after charging a captured Russian soldier with the murder of a 62-year-old civilian.

The case is of huge symbolic importance for Ukraine. The Kyiv government has accused Russia of atrocities and brutality against civilians during the invasion and said it has identified more than 10,000 possible war crimes.

Russia has denied targeting civilians or involvement in war crimes and accused Kyiv of staging them to smear its forces. The Kremlin told reporters on Friday that it had no information about a war crimes trial.

The defendant told the court he was Vadim Shishimarin, born in Russia's Irkutsk region, and confirmed that he was a Russian serviceman in a short, preliminary hearing. The court will reconvene on May 18, the judge said.

He will tell the court at a later date whether or not he denies the charge, his lawyer Viktor Ovsyannikov said.

Shaven headed and looking scared, Shishimarin wore a casual blue and grey hoodie and was led into the courtroom by police to a glass booth for defendants.

If convicted he faces up to life imprisonment over the killing in the northeast Ukrainian village of Chupakhivka, east of the capital Kyiv, on Feb. 28.

The Ukrainian prosecutor general's office said the defendant was a 21-year-old tank commander in the Kantemirovskaya tank division from the Moscow region. The prosecutor general had published a photograph of him ahead of the hearing.

"(The) wheels of justice (have) started turning and this process will yield results," Prosecutor General Iryna Venediktova wrote

on Twitter on Friday.

**UKRAINIAN ACCOUNT**  
In a statement ahead of the hearing, the prosecutor general's office said the soldier and four other Russian servicemen fired at and stole a privately-owned car to escape after their column was targeted by Ukrainian forces.

Russia's attack of Ukraine continues in Kharkiv  
A view shows a Ukrainian flag near a destroyed building in Mariupol  
Russia's attack of Ukraine continues in Kharkiv  
A view shows a torn flag of Ukraine hung on a wire in front an apartment building destroyed during Ukraine-Russia conflict in the southern port city of Mariupol, Ukraine April 14, 2022.  
REUTERS/Alexander Ermochenko/File Photo

The statement said the Russian soldiers drove into the village of Chupakhivka where they saw an unarmed resident riding a bicycle and talking on his phone.



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# WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

05/14/2022



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## We Mourn One Million American Deaths From Covid-19

President Biden mourned one million American deaths from Covid-19 and urged Congress to pass additional funding to control the pandemic.

In his statement, President Biden said, "This pandemic isn't over. Today we mark a tragic milestone here in the United States -- one million Covid deaths. One million empty chairs around the family dinner table. Each irreplaceable.

Irreplaceable losses, each leaving behind a family and a community forever changed because of this pandemic. Our hearts go out to all those who are struggling."

In the proclamation issued on Thursday, the president ordered flags to be flown at half-staff to mark the tragic milestone.

Unfortunately, the fighting still continues



in the Ukraine war. And because of the Ukraine war, billions of people around the world are now facing very serious food shortages, including here in America where we are seeing more and more people lining up to ask for food assistance.

Over the last three years many businesses have been struggling and fighting just for survival with the high cost of raw materials.

Today, President Biden also met with a group of leaders from Asian

countries to try and help these countries meet their basic needs.

We all hope that today's challenges can be met soon and that the situation will get better for all of us.



**Southern DAILY** Make Today Different

## Editor's Choice



British soldiers participate in an exercise as NATO allied troops carry out Swift Response 22 exercises at Krivolak army base, North Macedonia, May 12, 2022. REUTERS/Ognen Teofilovski



A service member of the Ukrainian armed forces walks at combat positions near the line of separation from Russian-backed rebels near Horlivka in the Donetsk region, Ukraine. REUTERS/Anna Kudriavtseva



Italian paratroopers parachute after jumping from C-130 aircraft as NATO allied troops carry out Swift Response 22 exercises at Krivolak army base, North Macedonia, May 12. REUTERS/Ognen Teofilovski



A migrant mother seeking asylum in the U.S. from Ukraine holds her twin daughters near the border fence while waiting to be processed by the U.S. border patrol after crossing the border from Mexico at Yuma, Arizona. REUTERS/Go Nakamura



Smoke rises during training at a German army base on a NATO media day, in which up to 7,500 soldiers from 9 nations take part, in Munster, Germany, May 10. REUTERS/Fabian Bimmer



Soldiers participate in 'Flaming Sword' training carried out by NATO allied troops in Klaipeda, Lithuania, May 11. REUTERS/Remo Casilli



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## Is America ‘OUT Of The Pandemic Phase’?

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



**Dr. Anthony Fauci, the Biden administration’s top medical advisor, and one of the most vocal proponents of Covid measures such as mask and vaccine mandates throughout the pandemic, said during a PBS broadcast last week that the country is out of the ‘pandemic phase.’**

**\*Fauci confirms Covid-19 infections are ‘at a low level’ but people should still get ‘intermittently’ vaccinated**  
**\*The Biden administration’s top medical advisor made the incredible claim in a PBS interview yesterday**  
**\*He told PBS: ‘We are certainly, in this country, out of the pandemic phase’ - a monumental declaration**  
**\*He insisted however that vaccinations would have to continue long-term, perhaps on a yearly basis**  
**\*But despite telling PBS the ‘pandemic is over in the US’, the chief medical advisor has still not yet given an official announcement to the American people**

Dr Anthony Fauci has declared the United States is now ‘out of the pandemic phase’ of Covid-19 as cases and hospitalizations plummet. President Biden’s top medical advisor, who continually lobbied for strict mask and vaccine measures for the last two years, said ‘we are at a low level right now’.

But he warned the virus cannot be stamped out completely and long-term vaccination programs may need to continue on a yearly basis. Fauci, whose comments were buried at the end of an interview with PBS’s NewsHour on Tuesday, caused some confusion by saying that ‘the ‘pandemic phase’ was over at home, but it’s still ongoing globally.’

Health experts questioned his claim, pointing out he appeared to have bungled his choice of words and should only have said ‘US is in a phase of lower hospitalization rate’.

It comes as mask mandates have been lifted in most areas across the country as the US averages 54,840 infections per day - just six per cent of the virus’s peak of 800,000 daily cases in mid-January.

Meanwhile the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Tuesday nearly 60 per cent of Americans have been infected with Covid. But officials

cautioned this data does not mean those Americans have immunity against the virus because of their prior infections.



**The Biden administration’s top medical advisor Dr. Anthony Fauci has declared the United States is now ‘out of the pandemic phase’ of Covid-19, as cases and hospitalizations associated with the disease remain low**

Fauci said last week: ‘We are certainly right now in this country out of the pandemic phase. Namely, we don’t have 900,000 new infections a day and tens and tens and tens of thousands of hospitalizations and thousands of deaths. We are at a low level right now. So, if you’re saying, are we out of the pandemic phase in this country, we are. What we hope to do, I don’t believe — and I have spoken about this widely — we’re not going to eradicate this virus. If we can keep that level very low, and intermittently vaccinate people — and I don’t know how often that would have to be.

‘That might be every year, that might be longer, in order to keep that level low. But, right now, we are not in the pandemic phase in this country. Pandemic means a widespread, throughout the world, infection that spreads rapidly among people. So, if you look at the global situation, there’s no doubt this pandemic is still ongoing.

But health experts pointed out he was adding to confusion over the term pandemic, adding he should have said the ‘US is in a phase of lower hospitalization rate’.

Dr Louise Ivers, a professor of global health and social medicines at Harvard University, wrote on Twitter: ‘There is a pandemic.

‘US is in a phase of lower hospitalization rate with substantial undercounted mild-mod infections. Not out of the pandemic.’

Covid restrictions have been lifted almost everywhere in America. One of the few existing mandates left is in New York City, where residents are still required to wear masks on the subway, public buses and at the airport. Masks are also required on public transit in Los Angeles. Philadelphia brought back its mask order for four days last week before almost immediately lifting them again.

**Children And Teenagers Fight Covid With Antibodies**

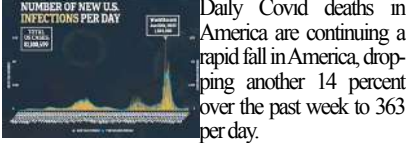
Children under five years of age in the New York City public school system are still subject to ‘close-contact restrictions’ including mask wearing, a bizarre break from the rest of the city where there is no indoor mask mandate even as medical experts and virologists widely agree that the risk of children becoming seri-

ously ill or dying from Covid is extremely low. While children are less likely than adults to be hospitalized or to die from Covid, the CDC reported on Tuesday that in the United States, 475 children under the age of five have died from the disease. There is still no vaccine for this age group meaning the pandemic won’t be over until it becomes available, which could be several more months.

‘Young children who are unable to mask and cannot yet be vaccinated have been at higher risk throughout the pandemic, and they remain at higher risk now,’ CNN Medical Analyst Dr. Leana Wen told the network. ‘Try to limit their time in these settings and look for ways to improve ventilation.’

The federal government’s nationwide mask order for public transit, commercial flights and transportation centers was dismissed by a federal judge earlier this month. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also revised its face-covering guidance in February, recommending that indoor masking only remain for communities thought to be at high risk for Covid, and mask mandates at large public gatherings such as sporting events are no longer in force.

There has been a sharp reduction in Covid-related fatalities in the US since January, partially due to rising population immunity, but also because newer variants of the virus are intrinsically less severe than those that preceded them.



Fauci meanwhile has doubled down on his personal policy of mask wearing and general isolation in spite of his comments to PBS last week, declining an invitation to the prestigious White House Correspondents Association (WHCA) Dinner this Saturday ‘because of my individual assessment of my personal risk’.

The medical adviser, 81, had been invited to attend as a guest of ABC News and had planned on going, sources familiar with the matter told CNN, but he decided to abandon the plans for fears the dinner could become a ‘super-spreader event’.

Yet, President Joe Biden, 79, and his wife, Dr. Jill Biden are both planning to attend the dinner on Saturday.

This year’s dinner has a vaccine requirement and every guest must show proof of a negative Covid test taken the day of the event to attend. Washington, D.C., lifted its mask mandate for many indoor public venues in February. The WHCA dinners are a time-honored tradition and are seen as a chance for politicians, celebrities and media types alike to let their hair down in a notoriously serious town.

Past performers have included Bob Hope, Frank Sinatra and Barbra Streisand, and since the 1980s, comedians have provided entertainment, making gentle and not-so-gentle fun, or ‘roasting,’ the centerpiece of the dinner.



Earlier this week, Vice President Kamala Harris, 57,

tested positive for Covid. The vice president, who is fully-vaccinated and double boosted, is taking antiviral Covid medication despite earlier claiming she has ‘no symptoms.’ She has not been in recent contact with the president or first lady due to recent travel schedules, her press secretary Kirsten Allen said Tuesday.

Roughly seven hours after the initial update, however, Allen followed up to say Harris had begun a regimen of Pfizer’s Paxlovid.

‘It’s a pill designed to keep high-risk Covid patients out of the hospital, reducing their risk of serious illness by as much as 90 percent.

Developing a more severe case of Covid is more likely in people 50 and over. Harris is 57.

‘Today, after consultation with her physicians, the Vice President was prescribed and has taken Paxlovid,’ the press secretary stated close to 8 p.m. on Tuesday.

If she completes the full therapy Harris will have to take a regimen of three pills twice a day for five days. Harris tweeted Tuesday afternoon that she was ‘grateful to be both vaccinated and boosted.’

Earlier this month, an investigation conducted by Vanity Fair revealed that Fauci silenced any discussion about Covid being caused by a lab leak - and not through animal-to-human transmission - after helping a controversial scientist get millions in federal funding to study bats.



Analyzing more than 100,000 leaked documents, the magazine claimed that Fauci’s approval of Peter Daszak helped his nonprofit, EcoHealth Alliance, an organization dedicated to shielding society from emerging infectious diseases, to develop the Covid-19 virus in a laboratory in Wuhan, China.

They also claim researchers associated with the Wuhan Institute of Virology, including Daszak, tried to hide evidence about the pandemic’s early spread as lab leak hypotheses began to emerge.

While the report is not conclusive in how the pandemic was started, the magazine provides evidence that Daszak was aware the gain-of-function research his organization conducted was ‘risky’ and that he neglected to provide transparency about his projects to the U.S. government, as promised.

The magazine - which reviewed more than 100,000 internal EcoHealth documents predating the pandemic, interviewed five former staff members and spoke to 33 other sources - said the organization’s paper trail doesn’t specifically state where Covid came from.

However, it did show how the nonprofit operated under ‘murky grant agreements, flimsy oversight, and the pursuit of government funds for scientific advancement, in part by pitching research of steeply escalating risk.’

Some allege that Fauci, whose agency in 2014 issued a \$3.7million grant to EcoHealth Alliance, directly

contributed to the pandemic spread by providing funds that were used to support gain-of-function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV). EcoHealth issued WIV nearly \$600,000 in sub-awards before the National Institutes of Health (NIH) suspended the grant in July 2020 - months following the outbreak of Covid, due its controversial work.



Raging about opponents like ‘communist Democrats’ and ‘establishment RINOS,’ Bennett made the usual claims during a campaign stop, arguing that the 2020 election was stolen, and declared a war with ‘bureaucrats who have forced vaccine mandates on us, mask mandates on us.’

**More than three in four American children and teenagers have caught COVID-19 since the pandemic began**

More than three in four American children and teenagers have caught COVID-19 since the pandemic began — the most out of any age group, a report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention revealed today. In the major study, the agency looked at the prevalence of Covid-fighting antibodies in more than 200,000 people across the U.S. over the last two years — but despite the heavy disease burden among minors deaths remain low.

Official figures show 1,001 Americans under 18 years old have had the virus mentioned on their death certificate, accounting for just 0.01 per cent of the almost a million deaths reported since the pandemic began.

Dr Monica Ghandi, a top infectious disease expert from the University of California, San Francisco, said the data was yet more evidence booster shots are ‘not needed’ for youngsters. They are currently being offered to everyone aged 12 years and older.



Among people above 65 years old — who are most at risk from the virus — barely a third had been infected with the virus over the last two years. In the study, scientists randomly swabbed 70,000 people a month for Covid-fighting antibodies between September 2021 and February 2022. They were tested for N-antibodies — which are triggered by a Covid infection. The study did not look at levels of antibodies sparked by vaccines, which generate different virus-fighting proteins because they are based on the original Wuhan virus. Participants were drawn from across all 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

The seroprevalence report estimated three in five Americans had now caught Covid overall.

Every age group saw a marked uptick in antibody levels over the period studied amid the arrival of the Omicron variant, which sent cases to record highs.

(Article Continues Below)

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(Article Continues From Above)

## Is America ‘OUT Of The Pandemic Phase’?

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



**Dr. Anthony Fauci, the Biden administration’s top medical advisor.**

**Three-in-four US children aged 17 or younger have been infected with Covid over the past two years - more than any other age group - though youths make up only 0.01% of deaths**

Among 0 to 17 year olds, the levels rose from about 44 to 75 percent. For those aged 18 to 49, levels surged from 36 to 63 percent. And in people aged from 50 to 64-year-olds they went from 28 to 50 percent. Adults aged 65 and older were least likely to have immunity from a Covid infection by February, the study showed.



Some 33 percent are estimated to now have Covid-fighting antibodies, compared to 19 percent five months.

The report did not speculate on why so many children had tested positive for infection-triggered Covid immunity.

Dr Kristie Clarke, co-lead of the CDC team that tracks infections, said although she had expected a rise she did ‘not expect it to increase quite this much.’ But Dr Monica Ghandi, an infectious diseases expert at the University of California, San Francisco, said it was more proof children did not need top-up jabs.

‘The fact that 75 percent of our children and adolescents in the U.S. have now been exposed to Covid and have evidence of [antibodies] is further evidence that booster shots are not needed for this population,’ She told DailyMail.com.

‘Two shots are sufficient to produce a strong (long-lasting) [immune] response and natural infection generates a long-lasting response.’

She said the CDC data along with that from previous studies suggesting strong immunity from natural in-

fection ‘argues against the need for a booster shot for our younger populations’.



Ghandi has previously said she did not plan to get her 12 and 14-year-old sons boosters because the potential risks ‘outweigh’ the benefits.

CDC data shows about 74 percent of people aged 12 years and over are now double-jabbed against Covid across the U.S. But among those who are now eligible for a booster this falls to 50 percent who have got the top-up dose.

**Kamala Harris is being treated with Pfizer’s Paxlovid after testing positive for COVID - even though her office insists she doesn’t have any symptoms**

Vice President Kamala Harris is now taking antiviral Covid-19 medication, her office announced on Tuesday night, despite earlier claiming she has ‘no symptoms.’

Her press secretary Kirsten Allen said in a statement that Harris - who is fully-vaccinated and double boosted - received positive rapid and PCR test results after returning from a week in California.

Roughly seven hours after the initial update, however, Allen followed up to say Harris had begun a regimen of Pfizer’s Paxlovid. It’s a pill designed to keep high-risk Covid patients out of the hospital, reducing their risk of serious illness by as much as 90 percent.

Developing a more severe case of Covid is more likely in people 50 and over. Harris is 57.

‘Today, after consultation with her physicians, the Vice President was prescribed and has taken Paxlovid,’ the press secretary stated close to 8 p.m. on Tuesday.



**Harris and Biden have not been pictured together since April 11 at an event in the Rose Garden**

The vice president’s press secretary said she was ‘not been a recent contact’ to President Joe Biden or First Lady Jill Biden ‘due to recent travel schedules.’ If she completes the full therapy Harris will have to take a regimen of three pills twice a day for five

# COMMUNITY

days

Her diagnosis comes the same day as the Biden administration moved to expand access to Paxlovid for millions of Americans. The White House said it was rolling out the pill for distribution from 40,000 locations across the U.S. in the coming weeks, doubling the currently-existing 20,000 sites.

Biden officials are also increasing the amount of Test-to-Treat sites where Americans can both receive their Covid diagnosis and be prescribed proper medication, such as Pfizer’s pills.

Harris tweeted Tuesday afternoon that she was ‘grateful to be both vaccinated and boosted.’ The White House said that Biden called Harris to ‘check in and make sure she has everything she needs as she quarantines at home.’

The vice president initially took two rounds of the Moderna vaccine and took her second booster shot on April 1. Harris, 57, is not currently experiencing symptoms.

Her husband Doug Emhoff contracted the virus in mid-March.



Today, after consultation with her physicians, the Vice President was prescribed and has taken Paxlovid.

7:48 PM - Apr 26, 2022 - Twitter for iPhone

**Harris’ press secretary announced late on Tuesday that the vice president had begun a regimen of antiviral Covid pills designed to keep high-risk patients out of the hospital**

Harris returned from a week-long trip to her home state Monday night. The last time she was at a public event with Biden was at the White House Easter Egg Roll on April 18.

It is unlikely the Senate will be able to pass anything this week without Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., and Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., who both also tested positive on Tuesday, and without Harris as the tie-breaking vote.

The Senate had been scheduled for a vote that was likely to fall along party lines to confirm Lisa Cook to the Federal Reserve’s Board of Governors. The Senate could potentially still vote on and confirm Jerome Powell to serve another term as chair, Lael Brainard as vice chair and Phillip Jefferson as Fed governor as all three have attracted some bipartisan support and won’t have to surpass a filibuster.

The positive results could also scramble plans to confirm Alvaro Bedoya as chair of the Federal Trade Commission this week - his nomination advanced out of committee on a party line vote.

Asked if, following Harris’ diagnosis today, it’s just a matter of time before POTUS tests positive, White House Covid-19 coordinator Dr. Ashish Jha says, ‘I wouldn’t say it’s just a matter of time, but of course, it is possible that the President, like any other American, could get Covid.’

Earlier this month Harris was deemed a close contact of Covid-19 from her communications director Jamal Simmons, but was seen maskless celebrating the confirmation of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court.



White House press secretary Jen Psaki explained that it had been an ‘emotional day’ for Harris, the nation’s first black vice

president, to see the first black woman confined to the high court.

‘It was an emotional day. It was a historic day. And there were moments when she was not wearing a mask inside, including in a photo but she was wearing it 99.9% of the time,’ Psaki said at a briefing.

‘It was a decision made in the moment. But it doesn’t mean that we don’t all try to be model citizens here and abide by what the CDC protocols are on requirements,’ Psaki noted.

After two years and nearly a million deaths, Covid-19 is now killing over 300 people per day.

Harris was seen departing her residence at Naval Observatory by motorcade to listen in on the President’s Daily Brief, but apparently tested positive before she got to the meeting.

When the vice president’s husband had Covid, he told McClatchy that he isolated for 10 days in a room at the Naval Observatory and had food brought up to him, as he was ‘so worried’ he might give the virus to his wife.

‘Because, imagine not wanting to give — not only my wife, but the vice president of the United States — COVID,’ he said last week. ‘She fortunately did not get it.’ (Courtesy <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/>)

**Related**  
**Administration expands availability of COVID antiviral pill**



**President Joe Biden announces the release of 1 million barrels of oil per day for the next six months from the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve, as part of administration efforts to lower gasoline prices, during late March remarks at the White House. Photo by Kevin Lamarque/Reuters**

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden’s administration is taking steps to expand availability of the life-saving COVID-19 antiviral treatment Paxlovid, seeking to reassure doctors that there is ample supply for people at high risk of severe illness or death from the virus.

Paxlovid, produced by Pfizer, was first approved in December. Supply of the regimen was initially very limited, but COVID-19 cases across the country have fallen and manufacturing has increased. The White House is now moving to raise awareness of the pill and taking steps to make it easier to access.

The White House said Tuesday it is stepping up outreach to doctors, letting them know they shouldn’t think twice about prescribing the pill to

eligible patients. Also, the drug will now be distributed directly to pharmacies, in addition to existing distribution channels run by states. That is expected to boost the number of sites from 20,000 to more than 30,000 next week and eventually to 40,000 locations.

The administration used the pharmacy channel to boost availability of COVID-19 vaccines more than a year ago.



‘Paxlovid will be widely available everywhere in America,’ said Dr. Ashish Jha, the White House COVID-19 response coordinator. The drug and antivirals like it ‘are the key essential tools that we’re going to need to get through the rest of this pandemic,’ he said.

Paxlovid, when administered within five days of symptoms appearing, has been proven to bring about a 90% reduction in hospitalizations and deaths among patients most likely to get severe disease. About 300 Americans are now dying each day from the coronavirus, down from more than 2,600 during the height of the omicron wave earlier this year.

The U.S. has ordered enough supply of the pills for 20 million people, which is estimated to last for several more months. The administration has warned that subsequent deliveries are dependent on Congress approving additional COVID-19 response funding.

‘What we need to do is to help American physicians and nurse practitioners and others who can prescribe understand that we now have plenty available and anybody who is eligible, anybody who has high risk, should be getting Paxlovid,’ Jha said.

He also encouraged people who test positive to contact their doctors to determine their eligibility for the drug that might prevent severe outcomes.



The Food and Drug Administration authorized Pfizer’s drug for adults and children age 12 or older with a positive COVID-19 test and early symptoms who face the highest risk of severe outcomes. That includes older people and those with conditions like obesity and heart disease, though the drug is not recommended for patients with severe kidney or liver problems.

The administration is also working to expand the number of test-to-treat sites that provide a one-stop shop for those with COVID-19 to get tested for the virus, consult with a medical professional if they’re positive and fill a prescription for Paxlovid on site. Currently there are 2,200 locations nationwide, and the administration hopes support from the Department of Health and Human Services, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and pharmacy companies will enable more sites to come online in the coming weeks. (Courtesy <https://www.pbs.org/>)