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Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

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Tuesday, May 17 2022

After New York supermarket massacre, investigators look for missed warning signs

BUFFALO, N.Y., May 16 (Reuters) - An investigation into the shooting of more than a dozen people in Buffalo, New York, turned on Monday to whether early warning signs of the attack were missed, as public figures decried the suspect's racist ideology and the spread of white supremacy.

Authorities said Payton Gendron, 18, carried out an act of "racially motivated violent extremism" when he opened fire with a semi-automatic rifle on Saturday at the Tops Friendly Market in Buffalo, where 11 of the 13 struck were Black.

"The evidence that we have uncovered so far makes no mistake this is an absolute racist hate crime that will be prosecuted as a hate crime," Buffalo Police Commissioner Joseph Gramaglia told reporters on Sunday.

Besides seeking a clearer understanding of the motives for Gendron's attack, investigators will focus on what could have been done to prevent the massacre, as details of the teenager's troubling behavior in high school and his online presence emerge.

Buffalo police said authorities were examining a 180-page manifesto that Gendron appeared to have written and posted online that outlined the "Great Replacement Theory," a racist conspiracy theory that white people were being replaced by minorities in the United States and elsewhere.

The teenager appeared on the radar of local law enforcement last June, when police detained him after he made a threat at his high school, Gramaglia told reporters. He was given a mental health evaluation and released after 1-1/2 days.

At a news conference on Monday, attorney Ben Crump called on officials to define Saturday's attack as an "act of domestic terrorism."

"We can't sugarcoat it, we can't try to explain it away talking about mental illness. No, this was an act of domestic terrorism perpetrated by a young white supremacist," Crump said, surrounded by the weeping family of Ruth Whitfield, an 86-year-old woman who was slain.

U.S. Representative Liz Cheney said on Twitter that Republican leadership in the U.S. House of Representatives has enabled white nationalism, white supremacy and anti-Semitism.

"History has taught us that what begins with words ends in far worse," the Republican congresswoman said.

The Buffalo attack follows racially motivated mass murders in recent years, including the Atlanta spa shootings of March 2021, in which a white man



killed eight people, targeting Asians, and a Pittsburgh synagogue attack in October 2018 that killed 11. [read more](#)

The Justice Department is investigating the massacre as a hate crime and an act of racially motivated violent extremism, U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland said.

President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden will visit Buffalo on Tuesday, the White House said in a statement.

A PLANNED ATTACK
 Gendron drove to Buffalo from his home several hours away on Friday, a day before the assault, to do a "reconnaissance" of the area, authorities said.

On Saturday afternoon, dressed in tactical gear, he opened fire with a semi-automatic rifle he had bought legally, but then modified illegally. Law enforcement

found an additional rifle and a shotgun in his car.

He surrendered to police after the shooting and was charged with first-degree



murder, which carries a maximum term in New York of life in prison without parole. He has pleaded not guilty.

Authorities found evidence that Gendron was planning to continue his attack, possibly at another large store nearby, if he hadn't been stopped, Gramaglia told ABC News on Monday.

"He had plans to continue driving down Jefferson Ave. to shoot more Black peo-

ple," Gramaglia said. Gendron broadcast his assault at the grocery store on social media platform Twitch, a live video service owned by Amazon.com Inc (AMZN.O).

Social media and streaming platforms such as Twitch, which said it removed the livestream within two minutes, have grappled for years with the task of controlling violent and extremist content.

"The user has been indefinitely suspended from our service, and we are taking all appropriate action, including monitoring for any accounts rebroadcasting this content," a Twitch spokesperson said.



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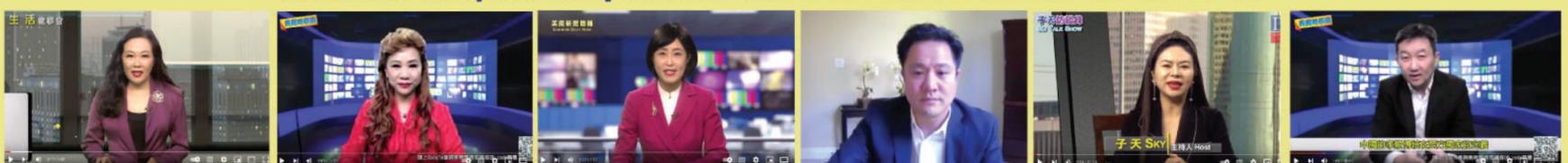
每周一至五每晚7點專題節目

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每天一至五下午6:30播出《美南新聞聯播》

- 每周一晚7點：主持人：黃梅子，《生活》節目（《生活故事會》、《丁師傅私房菜》和《修車師姐》三個單元輪流播出）
- 每周二晚7點：主持人：陳鐵梅，《美南時事通》
- 每周三晚7點，主持人：王潔，《美南時事通》、《美南名人堂》
- 每周四晚7點，主持人：Sky，《子天訪談錄》或馬健《J&J論壇》
- 每周五晚7點，主持人：蓋軍，《美南時事通》

美南網Scdaily.com和youtube 頻道Stv15.3 Houston同步收看直播



主持人: 黃梅子

主持人: 陳鐵梅

主持人: 王潔

主持人: 馬健

主持人: Sky

主持人: 蓋軍

WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

05/16/2022



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Hate Crime Mass Shooting Again



Last Friday, May 14th, a mass shooting occurred at a neighborhood supermarket in Buffalo, New York, targeting primarily African Americans. Thirteen people were killed. The shooting was live-streamed by the attacker on the social media service Twitch.

Erie County Sheriff Garcia said that this was "pure evil." He called the shooting, "a straight-up racially motivated hate crime from somebody outside of our community."

Rayton Gendron of Conklin, New York, was charged with first-degree murder. He lives about a three and one-half hours drive from Buffalo.

The police said in a statement that the suspect arrived at the store about 2:30 pm on Friday. He was heavy armed, wearing tactical gear, a helmet and had a camera that was live-streaming his actions. He used an assault weapon and shot four people outside of the grocery

store, three fatally. When he entered the store, he shot eight more people inside the store.

Once again, this horrible tragedy, with great sadness, has exposed our very serious social problem: the hate crime.

Especially over the last several years, and because of the

pandemic, many politicians point their fingers at the people of color, including Asian Americans, for stirring up the flames on issues relating to the virus, immigration and the economy.

Today all of us need to pay attention to the racial issues. Again, these murders indicate that there still are many angry people in our

society. Our society is really sick now. All of the politicians need to wake up and do something to prevent more hate crimes. We need to start with our education system to teach our kids the right ideas and ways to deal with people in our community. Hate attitudes will never solve the problem.



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Southern DAILY Make Today Different

Editor's Choice



Mourners react while attending a vigil for victims of the shooting at a TOPS supermarket in Buffalo, New York. REUTERS/Brendan McDermid



Buddhist monks turn on the LED lights to form an image of the Lord Buddha, as people observe Vesak Day, an annual celebration of Buddha's birth, enlightenment and death, at Dhammakaya Temple, Pathum Thani, near Bangkok, Thailand. REUTERS/Soe Zeya Tun



A bird sits on a cross amid newly-made graves at a cemetery in the settlement of Staryi Krym outside Mariupol, Ukraine. REUTERS/Alexander Ermochenko



People watch a full moon, known as the "Flower Moon", rising behind the Temple of Poseidon, before a lunar eclipse in Cape Sounion, near Athens, Greece. REUTERS/Alkis Konstantinidis



Actress Amber Heard listens during ex-husband Johnny Depp's defamation trial against her, at the Fairfax County Circuit Courthouse in Fairfax, Virginia. Brendan Smialowski/Pool via REUTERS



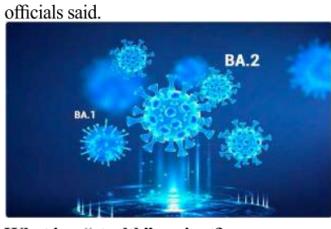
Kalush Orchestra from Ukraine pose after winning the 2022 Eurovision Song Contest in Turin, Italy. REUTERS/Yara Nardi

BA.2 Omicron Variant: What We Know About The 'Stealth' COVID Variant

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



A medical syringe and a model of coronavirus are seen with 'omicron' sign and World Health Organization logo displayed in the background in this illustration photo taken in Krakow, Poland on November 29, 2021. (Photo by Jakub Porzycki/NurPhoto via Getty Images). NurPhoto via Getty Images



officials said. What is a "stealth" variant? BA.2 has been dubbed a "stealth" variant due to its makeup that could make it harder to detect through certain kinds of COVID tests. The World Health Organization has not classified it as a "variant of concern," but is continuing to monitor its spread. Is BA.2 more transmissible? Early research indicates BA.2 may be more transmissible than BA.1, the original omicron strain. Is BA.2 more severe? It doesn't appear that BA.2 causes more severe illness than BA.1. In general, omicron does not cause the same severe level of illness as other COVID-19 strains. Do vaccinations protect against BA.2? Research seems to indicate existing vaccines offer about the same level of protection from BA.2 as they do against BA.1. According to CNBC, a booster dose was 70% effective at preventing symptomatic illness from BA.2 two weeks after receiving the shot, compared with 63% effectiveness of the original omicron strain. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky confirmed this during a recent White House briefing.

BA.2, the subvariant of the omicron variant of COVID-19, continues to spread around the world. Preliminary research shows that while it may be more transmissible than omicron, it does not cause more severe illness. Research on the variant – now reported in more than half of the U.S. states – continues. Here's what we know so far

What is BA.2? Viruses mutate into new variants as a "protection," allowing them to remain in circulation. The viruses break off into variants and sub-variants that have similar characteristics but with slight biological changes. The omicron variant is an umbrella term that encompasses four sub-variants: BA.1, BA.2, BA.3 and B.1.1.529. BA.2 is thought to have an additional 20 mutations on its spike protein compared to the original omicron variant.

Where is BA.2 spreading? BA.1 is the dominant omicron sub-variant in circulation around the world but BA.2 is spreading quickly in some places. The BA.2 subvariant has been detected in at least 55 countries and more than 25 U.S. states, according to Outbreak.info, a Scripps Research data project. European countries, especially Denmark, are the countries most impacted by the sub-variant. In Denmark, one of the first places to identify BA.2's spread, more than 50,000 new infections were reported in one day last week in a country of 5.8 million people. It has also been increasing in India, Qatar, Nepal and the Philippines. BA.2 is currently circulating at low levels in the U.S.,

have we seen studies that suggest that it will evade our vaccines any more so than omicron has already -- and, in fact, that our vaccines will work just like it has with omicron," Walensky said.

Related XE COVID Variant: This new highly transmissible variant is a combination of BA.1 and BA.2 strains and may also be more contagious than the BA.2 subvariant, WHO says.

Even as the omicron subvariant BA.2 becomes the dominant COVID strain in the U.S., health officials are warning of the next variant that could possibly be even more contagious. The variant, XE, is comprised of genetic material from two other strains – BA.1, the original omicron strain, and BA.2, or "stealth" omicron, a name given for its ability to evade certain types of tests, NBC Chicago reported. It's referred to as a "recombinant strain," meaning it is made up of two previously distinct variant. Preliminary reports from the World Health Organization indicate XE is 10% more transmissible than BA.2, though those findings are still being investigated.

The variant was first detected in the United Kingdom in mid-January. Since then, some 600 cases of XE have been reported.



The WHO said it is monitoring the variant and will offer updates as more data becomes available. BA.2 is now being blamed for more than half of all COVID infections in the U.S. The hardest-hit area is the Northeast where it is blamed for more than 70% of all cases. The more contagious omicron subvariant BA.2 has become the dominant COVID-19 strain in the U.S., but international health experts are putting an increased focus on a new hybrid variant that may even be more infectious.

The XE variant is a recombinant, meaning it is comprised of genetic material from two other strains, which in this case are BA.1, the original strain of omicron, and BA.2, known as "stealth omicron."

According to an epidemiological update published March 29 by the World Health Organization, estimates show XE is 10% more transmissible than BA.2, however the findings require further confirmation.

A doctor loads a dose of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine into a syringe, Thursday, Dec. 2, 2021, at a mobile vaccination clinic in Worcester, Mass. AP

"In terms of early studies, we have not seen any studies that suggest it's more severe, nor

have we seen studies that suggest that it will evade our vaccines any more so than omicron has already -- and, in fact, that our vaccines will work just like it has with omicron," Walensky said.

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Nathan Jacobs, of Boston gets his Covid booster shot from Sassy Yogurtian at City Hall on December 9, 2021 in Boston, MA. (Photo/ Stuart Cahill | MediaNews Group | Getty Images)

Dr. Peter Marks with the Food and Drug Administration said people might need another booster shot in the fall. Marks also said the U.S. might need to switch to a different vaccine that targets specific variants of Covid. The FDA on Tuesday approved a fourth dose for people age 50 and older and fifth dose for certain younger individuals with compromised immune systems. People in the U.S. might need another Covid booster shot this fall as public health experts expect immunity from the vaccines to wane and transmission of the virus to increase during colder months, the Food and Drug Administration's top vaccine official said Tuesday. Dr. Peter Marks, head of the FDA office responsible for vaccine safety, indicated the U.S. might need to offer fourth shots for people under 50-years-old in the fall. People who are now eligible for fourth shots would likely get a fifth shot if there's evidence that would be beneficial, Marks told reporters on a conference call. Marks also said the U.S. could switch to a different vaccine that targets a specific Covid variant or a mix of several. The current vaccines were developed against the original virus that emerged in Wuhan, China in late 2019, and their effectiveness has declined over time as the virus mutates.

U.K. health authorities explained in late March there was "insufficient evidence to draw conclusions about growth advantage or other properties of this variant," but addressed initial reports about its infectiousness. "This particular recombinant, XE, has shown a variable growth rate and we cannot yet confirm whether it has a true growth advantage," said Susan Hopkins, chief medical advisor for UKHSA. Recombinant variants themselves, however, are not out of the ordinary, according to health officials. "Recombinant variants are not an unusual occurrence, particularly when there are several variants in circulation, and several have been identified over the course of the pandemic to date," Hopkins stated. "As with other kinds of variant, most will die off relatively quickly."

WHO said it "will continue to closely monitor and assess the public health risk associated with recombinant variants" and will "provide updates as further evidence becomes available." (Courtesy <https://www.nbcchicago.com/> and <https://www.al.com/news>)

Related Top FDA Official Says Fully Vaccinated Americans May Need More Covid Shots In Fall

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COMMUNITY

COVID Immunity Levels Can Be Measured In 15 minutes

Houston Startup Develops Ground Breaking COVID Immunity Test

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



A team of researchers at Brevitest has developed a quick, finger-stick blood test to determine immunity to COVID-19, using a small, desktop device they invented that conducts the test using robotic technology with proprietary testing cards used to analyze the blood samples. Photographed at their offices, Monday, Nov. 29, 2021, in Houston. (Photo/Mark Mulligan, Houston Chronicle / Staff photographer)

Leo Linbeck III, the CEO and co-founder of Brevitest, said his company's technology builds on recent research that has determined how many antibodies per unit of blood people need to fight off or minimize a coronavirus infection. The new test lets people know where they stand, whether from a vaccination or natural immunity to determine if they need a booster or difference vaccine Brevitest can adapt the test to detect antibodies for any variant, including omicron. Once approved, the company could begin deploying the device across the country within a few months to carry out millions of tests a week. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — worried about vaccines wearing off — recently authorized COVID-19 booster shots six months after vaccination, prioritizing those over 65 years old. But individual needs vary widely and some people lose antibodies quicker than others.

"Everyone's biology is different, and the data seems to indicate that it could be anywhere from three months to 12 months when you see the antibody level begin to wane," Linbeck told me. "That's particularly problematic for older people who tend to have less of an immune response or those who are immunosuppressed or immunocompromised."

Fast tests to detect SARS-CoV-2 antibodies have been on the market since early in the pandemic, but they only offer positive or negative results and don't measure antibodies. Doctors who have patients with weak immune systems have relied on a precise blood test called an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay, or ELISA, that are currently done at central laboratories. But those results can take several days to return.

"We're trying to build a point-of-care ELISA because the way we look at it, either you can have accuracy that will take time or you can have speed, and then you lose accuracy," ex-

plained Dr. Dev Chatterjee, a co-founder and co-inventor. "The question we asked ourselves is, is there a way we can marry the two?" The Brevitest device allows a technician to place a small blood sample on a custom-designed cartridge, which is inserted into a shoebox-sized device that produces digital diagnostic data, the same as the precision test. The device sends the data to the cloud, where it is processed using proprietary software Linbeck wrote. Patients receive an alert and can access the results with their phones, which also allows them to compare their result with the latest COVID immunity data. The new company can make a profit at the same \$43 reimbursement rate insurance companies pay for a central lab test, Linbeck said. Brevitest is offering tests at its lab in Houston.

Until recently, researchers were unsure how many antibodies someone needed to fend off the virus. But that changed in September when the journal Nature Medicine published a new study that used the World Health Organization standard to measure antibody levels and showed a correlation between antibody levels and infection rates. Healthy people can use the test to determine if they need a booster or should wait a few months to take full advantage of their vaccine or illness-induced antibodies.

"There's some evidence that if you wait longer and you let your antibody count drop, when you get that vaccine (booster), you get a bigger bump. You get more antibody production than you would if you had taken it while you still have active antibody response," he added.

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Linbeck, Chatterjee and co-inventor Dr. Atul Varadhachary founded Brevitest in 2013 to create an office-based blood testing system that would generate precision blood test results quicker. The National Institutes of Health provided a grant during the test's early development, and the Centers for Disease Control asked Brevitest to develop an Ebola test during the 2014 outbreak.

Aquinas Companies CEO Leo Linbeck works on code for a BreviTest analyzer, BreviTest is one of the startup companies helped by Fannin Innovation Studio which helps researchers and scientists with life science product develop-

ment July 7, 2016, in Houston. (Photo/James Nielsen / Houston Chronicle)

Chatterjee and Varadhachary said the scientific challenge was far more formidable than expected. Designing a new cartridge that prepared the blood for scanning in a new way took years. Linbeck, an engineer, worked on reliability and durability to meet exacting medical standards. "Once you actually get down to developing for the real world versus creating something for the lab, there is a whole ocean of problems that you have to solve," Chatterjee explained. When the COVID-19 pandemic began, the company refocused on measuring SARS-CoV-2 antibodies. Brevitest is one of four life science start-ups spun out of Fannin Innovation Studio, Linbeck's biotechnology development company. He is best known as the executive chairman of the Linbeck Group, a construction company founded by his grandfather that built many of the structures at the Texas Medical Center. Linbeck and Varadhachary started Fannin to commercialize discoveries made at TMC. But Brevitest was Fannin's homegrown effort to address the lengthy delay in returning accurate blood test results, a goal of many companies.

of blood and the big machines are more efficient, Linbeck said. But the team foresees doctors and clinics using Brevitest to routinely monitor patients with compromised immune systems or to track specific biomarkers for cancer and other infectious diseases. Most breakthrough research in health care and medical devices never makes it out of the lab because investors lack the patience required to bring a product to market.

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The variant was first detected in the United Kingdom in mid-January, and since then, 600 cases have been reported in the country. The United Kingdom's Health Security Agency has said it is monitoring XE along with two other recombinants, XD and XF, which are made up of the Delta and BA.1 strains.

U.K. health authorities explained in late March there was "insufficient evidence to draw conclusions about growth advantage or other properties of this variant," but addressed initial reports about its infectiousness. "This particular recombinant, XE, has shown a variable growth rate and we cannot yet confirm whether it has a true growth advantage," said Susan Hopkins, chief medical advisor for UKHSA. Recombinant variants themselves, however, are not out of the ordinary, according to health officials. "Recombinant variants are not an unusual occurrence, particularly when there are several variants in circulation, and several have been identified over the course of the pandemic to date," Hopkins stated. "As with other kinds of variant, most will die off relatively quickly."

WHO said it "will continue to closely monitor and assess the public health risk associated with recombinant variants" and will "provide updates as further evidence becomes available." (Courtesy <https://www.nbcchicago.com/> and <https://www.al.com/news>)

Related Top FDA Official Says Fully Vaccinated Americans May Need More Covid Shots In Fall

Dr. Peter Marks with the Food and Drug Administration said people might need another booster shot in the fall. Marks also said the U.S. might need to switch to a different vaccine that targets specific variants of Covid. The FDA on Tuesday approved a fourth dose for people age 50 and older and fifth dose for certain younger individuals with compromised immune systems. People in the U.S. might need another Covid booster shot this fall as public health experts expect immunity from the vaccines to wane and transmission of the virus to increase during colder months, the Food and Drug Administration's top vaccine official said Tuesday. Dr. Peter Marks, head of the FDA office responsible for vaccine safety, indicated the U.S. might need to offer fourth shots for people under 50-years-old in the fall. People who are now eligible for fourth shots would likely get a fifth shot if there's evidence that would be beneficial, Marks told reporters on a conference call. Marks also said the U.S. could switch to a different vaccine that targets a specific Covid variant or a mix of several. The current vaccines were developed against the original virus that emerged in Wuhan, China in late 2019, and their effectiveness has declined over time as the virus mutates.

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