



Tidying up Monday at Fedora Tattoo and Piercing, in Greeley, Colo. States are beginning to reopen a patchwork of businesses. RACHEL WOOLF FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Oxford Group’s Earlier Efforts Provide Edge in Vaccine Race

By DAVID D. KIRKPATRICK

In the worldwide race for a vaccine to stop the coronavirus, the laboratory sprinting fastest is at Oxford University.

Most other teams have had to start with small clinical trials of a few hundred participants to demonstrate safety. But scientists at the university’s Jenner Institute had a head start on a vaccine, having proved in previous trials that similar inoculations — including one last year against an earlier coronavirus — were harmless to humans.

That has enabled them to leap ahead and schedule tests of their new coronavirus vaccine involving over 6,000 people by the end of next month, hoping to show not only that it is safe, but that it works.

The Oxford scientists say that with an emergency approval from regulators, the first few million doses of their vaccine could be available by September — at least several months ahead of any of the other announced efforts — if it proves to be effective.

Promising Results May Lead to Drug by Fall

Now, they have received promising news suggesting that it might.

Scientists at the National Institutes of Health’s Rocky Mountain Laboratory in Montana last month inoculated six rhesus macaque monkeys with single doses of the Oxford vaccine. The animals were then exposed to heavy quantities of the virus that is causing the pandemic — exposure that had consistently sickened other monkeys in the lab. But more than 28 days later all six were healthy, said Vincent Munster, the researcher who conducted the test.

Immunity in monkeys is no guarantee that a vaccine will provide the same degree of protection for humans. A Chinese company that recently started a clinical trial with 144 participants, Sino-Vac, has also said that its vaccine

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Stigma of Health Work Incites Bloodshed in Some Countries

By KIRK SEMPLE

MEXICO CITY — The nurse went on national television to make a plea on behalf of her fellow health care workers: Please stop assaulting us.

Nurses working under her auspices had been viciously attacked around Mexico at least 21 times, accused of spreading the coronavirus. Many were no longer wearing their uniforms as they traveled to or from work for fear of being hurt, said the official, Fabiana Zepeda Arias, chief of nursing programs for Mexico’s Social Security Institute.

“We can save your lives,” she said, addressing the assailants. “Please help us take care of you, and for that we need you to take care of us.”

In many cities, doctors, nurses and other health care workers have been celebrated with choruses of applause and cheers from windows and rooftops for providing the front-line defense against the pandemic.

But in some places health care workers, stigmatized as vectors of contagion because of their work, have been assaulted, abused and

Assaults Rooted in Fear and Misinformation

ostracized.

In the Philippines, attackers doused a nurse with bleach, blinding him. In India, a group of medical workers was chased by a stone-throwing mob. In Pakistan, a nurse and her children were evicted from their apartment building.

Dozens of attacks on health care workers have been reported in Mexico, where intense outbreaks among hospital staff of Covid-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus, have unnerved residents and members of the medical community alike. Scores of doctors and nurses have fallen ill in several hospitals around the country, and widespread demonstrations have erupted among health care workers complaining about inadequate protective equipment.

Nurses in the state of Jalisco reported being blocked from public transportation because of their work

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Banks With Clients Desperate For Loans Find Chaos at S.B.A.

By STACY COWLEY

Minutes after a \$310 billion aid program for small companies opened for business on Monday, the online portal for submitting applications crashed. And it kept crashing all day, much to the frustration of bankers around the country who were trying — and failing — to apply on behalf of desperate clients.

Some bankers were so irritated that they vented on social media at the Small Business Administration, which is running the program. Rob Nichols, the chief executive of the American Bankers Association, wrote on Twitter that the trade group’s members were “deeply frustrated” at their inability to access the system. Until the problems were fixed, he said, “#AmericasBanks will not be able to help more struggling small businesses.”

Pent-up demand for the funds has been intense, after the program’s initial \$342 billion funding ran out in under two weeks, stranding hundreds of thousands of applicants whose loans did not

Online Portal Crashes as Applications Surge

get processed. Last week, Congress approved the additional \$310 billion for small businesses hit by the coronavirus pandemic. Bankers were expecting the money to once again run out quickly, and so on Monday at 10:30 a.m., when round two opened, they were ready to go.

But for the second time in a month, the relief effort, called the Paycheck Protection Program, turned into chaos, sowing confusion among lenders and borrowers. A centerpiece of the government’s \$2 trillion economic stimulus package, the program offers small companies — typically those with up to 500 workers — forgivable loans of up to \$10 million. The S.B.A. is backing the loans, but customers must apply through financial institutions.

When the aid program first

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STATES SET COURSE TO UNLOCK DOORS OF U.S. COMMERCE

An Early Reset Risks Deeper Inequality

By JIM TANKERSLEY

WASHINGTON — Efforts to quickly restart economic activity risk further dividing Americans into two major groups along socioeconomic lines: one that has the power to control its exposure to the coronavirus outbreak and another that is forced to choose between potential sickness or financial devastation.

It is a pick-your-poison fact of the crisis: The pandemic recession has knocked millions of the most economically vulnerable Americans out of work. Rushing to reopen their employers could offer them a financial lifeline, but at a potentially steep cost to their health.

State and federal officials have nowhere near the testing capacity that experts say is needed to track and limit the spread of the virus, and there is no vaccine yet. But states are already reopening, urged on by President Trump, who is eager to restart the United States economy.

That push is likely to exacerbate longstanding inequalities, with workers who are college educated, relatively affluent and primarily white able to continue working from home and minimizing outdoor excursions to reduce the risk of contracting the virus.

Those who are lower paid, less educated and employed in jobs where teleworking is not an option will face a bleak choice if states lift restrictive orders and employers order them back to work: expose themselves to the pandemic or lose their jobs.

That disempowered group is heavily black and Latino, though it includes lower-income white workers as well.

“It’s sad and scary,” said Tina Watson of Holly Hill, S.C., who has seen her hours cut in half at the Wendy’s where she works. Though her income has dropped from that cutback, she is worried about having to interact with customers when the state relaxes limits that in recent weeks have forced the restaurant to operate as drive-through only. “I’m feeling like my life is at risk if they open up our dining,” Ms. Watson said.

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Texas Thinks Big — Ohio Is Cautious

This article is by Jack Healy, Manny Fernandez and Peter Baker.

DENVER — Governors across the country forged ahead Monday with plans to reopen their economies, even as the nation hit a grim milestone of 50,000 deaths from the coronavirus and public health experts warned against lifting stay-at-home orders too quickly.

Numerous states, including some of the largest, began the process of lifting shelter orders in what could be a pivotal stage in the U.S. response to the pandemic.

Texas, with its population of nearly 30 million, made one of the most expansive moves toward reopening when Gov. Greg Abbott announced that retail stores, restaurants, movie theaters and malls would be allowed to reopen with limited capacity on Friday. In Ohio, Gov. Mike DeWine unveiled a more incremental reopening plan that would allow manufacturing work to resume and offices to reopen next week. And in Colorado, businesses tried to navigate new rules allowing some of them to open their doors on Monday.

The moves came as President Trump promised to help the states ramp up testing and called on them to consider reconvening schools before the end of the academic year rather than waiting until the fall, as many districts have decided or are expected to do.

In a conference call with the governors devoted mainly to ventilators and testing, Mr. Trump raised the idea of bringing students back to classrooms in the next few weeks. “Some of you might start to think about school openings,” he said, according to an audio recording. Addressing Vice President Mike Pence, who was also on the call, he added, “I think it’s something, Mike, they can seriously consider and maybe get going on it.”

A White House document makes clear that the states are

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TESTING The president unveiled a plan to help identify more cases, but it may not be enough. PAGE A13

Frazzled Parents Are Learning a Difficult Lesson: Teaching Is Hard

By ELIZABETH A. HARRIS

Daniel Levin’s son, Linus, 7, was supposed to be doing math. Instead, he pretended to take a shower in the living room, rubbing a dry eraser under his arms like a bar of soap, which upset his 5-year-old sister, distracting her from her coloring.

As much as he tried, Mr. Levin, who lives in Brooklyn, could not get Linus to finish the math. His hopes for the reading assignment were not high, either.

“He’s supposed to map out a whole character trait sheet today,” Mr. Levin said one day last week. “Honestly, if he writes the name and the age of the character, I’ll consider that a victory.”

Ciarra Kohn’s third-grade son uses five apps for school. Her 4-year-old’s teacher sends lesson plans, but Ms. Kohn has no time to do them.

Her oldest, a sixth grader, has eight subjects and eight teachers and each has their own method. Sometimes when Ms. Kohn does a lesson with him, she’ll ask if he understood it — because she didn’t.

“I’m assuming you don’t, but maybe you do,” said Ms. Kohn, of Bloomington, Ill., referring to her son. “Then we’ll get into an argument, like, ‘No, Mom! She doesn’t mean that, she means this!’”

Parental engagement has long been seen as critical to student achievement, as much as class size, curriculum and teacher quality. That has never been more true than now, and all across the country, moms and dads pressed into emergency service are finding it one of the most exasperating parts of the pandemic.

With teachers relegated to computer screens, parents have to play teacher’s aide, hall monitor, counselor and cafeteria worker —



Casey Schaeffer and Daniel Levin are struggling with educating their children, Ramona and Linus. DANIEL LEVIN



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Indonesia’s Tower of Trash

Scavengers working on a landfill face additional misery as their recycling-focused customers close. PAGE A14

Old Language in a New Form

Renata Flores leads a generation of musicians combining trap and reggae with an Indigenous language. PAGE A15

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Trial Proceeds by Video Chat

Accommodating the need for urgency, a Florida court will remotely determine whether fines should curtail the voting rights of released felons. PAGE A19

Literacy and the Constitution

A federal court has ruled that American public school students have a right to an adequate education. PAGE A17

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Force in Reviving Theater

Bernard Gersten, who helped turn nonprofits into powerhouse producers of plays and musicals, was 97. PAGE A20



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Showstopper

The movie palaces of Los Angeles have withstood upheaval. Now they await the fallout from this latest crisis. PAGE B6

A Peek at Europe’s Privacy Law

Stalling tactics by tech companies have helped blunt the impact of rules in effect on the continent since 2018. PAGE B1

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Joining Giants on a Good Note

Andrew Thomas, a left tackle who had to choose between football and band, is expected to help Saquon Barkley and Daniel Jones greatly. PAGE B9

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The Big Bang’s Escape Artists

How did matter gain the edge over antimatter in the early universe? Maybe, just maybe, due to neutrinos, the flimsiest and most elusive elements of nature, Dennis Overbye writes. PAGE D1

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Paul Krugman PAGE A22



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Covid in the Comics

Some newspaper cartoonists are tackling the coronavirus. Above, anxiety no longer makes a character in Tony Carrillo’s “F Minus” feel special. PAGE C1

