

Employers Get Little Direction Over Staff Tests

Patchwork of Plans for Reopening Safely

This article is by **Steve Eder, Ellen Gabler, Sarah Kliff and Heather Murphy.**

As the country reopens, employers are looking into how to safely bring back their workers. One recurring question: Should they be tested for the new coronavirus?

Some businesses are moving ahead. In Indianapolis, the family-owned Shapiro's Delicatessen tested about 25 employees in its parking lot this month.

Amazon plans to spend as much as \$1 billion this year to regularly test its work force, while laying the groundwork to build its own lab near the Cincinnati airport.

Las Vegas casinos are testing thousands of employees as they prepare to return to work, collecting nasal samples in convention halls.

And Major League Baseball, eager to begin its season, is proposing a detailed regimen that involves testing players and critical staff members multiple times a week.

While public health experts and government officials have emphasized that widespread testing will be critical to reopening, there is little clear guidance from state and federal agencies on the role employers should play in detecting and tracking the coronavirus. As a result, businesses are largely on their own in sorting out whether to test — and how to do it — to reassure employees and customers. For now, many companies are just waiting.

"It is a really hard conversation because people want absolutes: 'If I do this, will it guarantee I'll have a safe workplace?'" None of the testing is going to provide that right now," said John Constantine, the chief executive of ARCPoint Franchise Group, a nationwide lab network offering virus testing to employers. He added that if done smartly, testing could reduce health risks. "Even if it's not perfect, some testing is better than no testing."

Despite rapid advancements in testing, there are still limitations. Diagnostic tests, for example, only detect infections during a certain period. And while blood tests administered after an infection can find antibodies that might offer some immunity, they should not be used alone to make decisions about when people can return to work, the Association of Public Health Laboratories and

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Firing Salvo in Culture Wars, Trump Wants Churches Open

By **PETER BAKER**

WASHINGTON — President Trump may not consider church essential to his personal life, but it may be to his political future. And so he waded into the culture wars on Friday by demanding that states allow places of worship to reopen "right away" and threatening to overrule any that defy him.

Marching into the White House briefing room for a hastily called announcement, Mr. Trump declared places of worship "essential" operations that should hold services in person this weekend regardless of state quarantine orders stemming from the coronavirus pandemic that has killed nearly 96,000 people in the United States.

"The governors need to do the right thing and allow these very important, essential places of faith to open right now for this weekend," Mr. Trump said, reading from a prepared text before



CHANG W. LEE/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Long Beach, which is just east of New York City, called its decision to limit beach access to its own residents a "lifesaving" measure.

Frantic Quest To ID Ailment Afflicting Kids

By **JOSEPH GOLDSTEIN and JESSE MCKINLEY**

Blood will be collected from dozens of children in New York to determine whether they share any genetic variations that might make them susceptible to a mysterious syndrome linked to the coronavirus.

Tissue samples from at least one of the three patients to have died from it — ages 5, 7 and 18 — have been sent to a public health laboratory for intensive testing.

A team of more than 30 disease detectives — epidemiologists, clinicians and statisticians — is poring over thousands of pages of medical records.

Even as doctors and scientists around the world race to develop treatments and vaccines for Covid-19, New York State has become the center of a parallel effort to investigate an unnerving aspect of the outbreak: an illness that is sickening a small but growing number of children.

The ailment has now been re-

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Shore Towns' Message to New Yorkers: Keep Out

By **COREY KILGANNON**

In the Hamptons, the locals have put up barricades to limit parking and deployed enforcement officers to ticket outsiders. Jersey Shore towns have banned short-term leases and Airbnb rentals. The Suffolk County executive's office taunted Mayor Bill de Blasio: "Do your job. Figure out a plan to safely reopen your beaches."

Since the coronavirus pandemic began, tensions have repeatedly flared over whether too many New York City residents have decamped to outlying vaca-

Delay of Beach Season by de Blasio Creates Regional Sore Spot

tion areas, potentially taking the virus with them. But now the region appears on the brink of a full-fledged (and nasty) battle over beaches, touched off by the city's decision to keep its shoreline closed.

In normal times, the Memorial Day weekend start of beach season sparks a mass migration from

the city to Long Island, the Jersey Shore and, to a lesser extent, Connecticut. But Mr. de Blasio's delay in opening the city's beaches for swimming — on Friday, his office suggested they could reopen in June — has led to a backlash from local officials in those areas.

The officials say they fear that their shorelines will be overwhelmed by an exodus of sun-starved New Yorkers blocked

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MEMORIAL DAY This year's holiday weekend comes with alarm and adjustments. PAGE A8



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A Mask to See a Masterpiece

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, is reopening with safety protocols in place. Page C1.

Roadblock to a Biden-Warren Ticket: Decades of Policy Disputes

By **ADAM NAGOURNEY and JONATHAN MARTIN**

Joseph R. Biden Jr. speaks with Elizabeth Warren about once a week. They review the latest developments on the Covid-19 crisis and the collapsing economy. They trade ideas about how a Democratic president, like Mr. Biden, might rescue the country. They exchange tales about their lives sheltered in place, he in Wilmington, Del., and she in Cambridge,

Mass.

Mr. Biden and Ms. Warren are members of the same generation, Democrats shaped by modest up-brings who became United States senators and candidates for their party's presidential nomination. But with Mr. Biden now actively considering Ms. Warren to be his running mate, it's their ideological differences — and whether they can build a complementary, productive relationship — that will ultimately determine whether she emerges as No.

Liberal Senator in Talks as Running Mate

2 on the ticket.

Their recent conversations have become a critical quest to find common ground and measure whether they have moved beyond their policy disputes of the past 20 years. Mr. Biden, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee,

is a political moderate, a former vice president and a deal-maker who believes in the bipartisan promise of Washington. Ms. Warren is a liberal from Massachusetts, a former Harvard Law School professor as likely to throw a bomb as to shake a hand in Congress, who has clashed with Mr.

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BIDEN APOLOGY He says he regrets saying voters "ain't black" if they consider Trump. PAGE A21

BUSINESS B1-6

'Lots and Lots And Lots'

During the lockdown, a British flour mill started 125 years ago has experienced unprecedented demand from home bakers. PAGE B1



Amazon Back Up to Speed

After losing some of its share of the online shopping market to rivals like Target and Walmart, the retail giant is turning back to faster shipping times and big sales. PAGE B1

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Forgiveness in Khashoggi Case

The pardon effectively ends the prospect of executions for the convicted killers, but some rights activists are skeptical. PAGE A14

Ferrying Dad, Lifting Nation

A 15-year-old girl pedaled across India to take her injured father to their home village, inspiring a nation. PAGE A14

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Trump Goes After Watchdogs

Inspectors general, a Watergate reform to oversee government, are under pressure by the president. PAGE A19

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Turning 1080 Before He's 12

The Brazilian skateboarder Gui Khury, 11, stuck a 1080 — three full airborne spins before landing back on the half-pipe. PAGE B7



Hurdles in the Hallway

With restrictions imposed in their countries to slow the pandemic, athletes like the canoeist Mallory Franklin and the runner Valeria Nazarova have found ways to train at home. PAGE B8

ARTS C1-7

The Pandemic Ad Salutes You

In a feat of marketing, coronavirus-themed commercials reframe consumption as a public service performed by heroes, for heroes. Often missing are the products themselves. PAGE C1

A Lost Score, Reconstructed

The composer Philip Glass's 1970 work "Music in Eight Parts," which resurfaced in 2017, has been realized anew for his current ensemble and released on a recording. PAGE C1

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Timothy Egan

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THIS WEEKEND

