

# Fauci: More Pain, Suffering Still Ahead in U.S.



*A nurse wears protective gear at a drive-thru coronavirus testing site in Seattle on March 17, 2020.*

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – **Anthony Fauci, the United States’ top infectious disease expert, is warning of “some pain and suffering in the future” in the country as coronavirus cases continue to rise.**

Fauci, speaking on ABC’s “This Week” on Sunday, warned that the situation surrounding the coronavirus pandemic will continue to get worse because so many Americans are still unvaccinated.

While this week the country saw a surge in Americans getting the shot, as coronavirus cases rise driven largely by the more infectious delta variant, still only about 60% of Americans are fully vaccinated.

“We have 100 million people in this country who are eligible to be vaccinated who are not getting vaccinated,” Fauci, who is also director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said in the interview.

Fauci argued that the unvaccinated

are affecting others because they’re “allowing the propagation and the spread of the outbreak,” and pushed back against critics who say whether to get the shot is an individual decision.

However, he said he does not expect the United States will return to the policy of lockdowns, despite a growing threat of COVID-19 infections posed by the highly transmissible Delta variant.

“I don’t think we’re going to see lockdowns,” he stated.

In the past 10 days, the average number of new cases has nearly doubled and the number of hospitalized patients in many states is surging, according to a Reuters analysis.

The U.S. has plunged into confusion over wearing face masks as the Delta variant wreaks havoc across the country.

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) was forced to reverse its mask guidance after a new

study showed the Delta COVID-19 variant produced similar amounts of virus in both vaccinated and unvaccinated people who were infected by it, alike.

The CDC Director said on Friday there will be no nationwide mandate for Americans to get a COVID-19 vaccine.

Meanwhile, scientists have warned that Britain faces the prospect of thousands of annual COVID deaths for years to come.

They say waves of cases are likely to sweep the country every winter as COVID-19 joins other seasonal viruses, including influenza, in taking its toll of elderly and infirm people. Every year, as cold weather forces people indoors, virus transmission will increase, case numbers will rise, and some of these will result in deaths, The Guardian reported.

The warning comes as COVID case numbers look likely to stabilize through the summer, but with researchers saying incidence could rise again in autumn as vaccination rates falter and schools return. This could lead to a fourth wave this winter – one that could become an annual occurrence for years to come.

“We are going to see problems with COVID for a long time,” Prof. Adam Finn of Bristol University said.

“The virus has shown itself to be genetically more nimble than we expected, though not as much as the influenza virus. So I would envisage COVID being a continuing problem for some time, with annual death tolls reaching thousands and possibly tens of thousands,” he added.

This view was backed by Prof. James Naismith, director of the Rosalind Franklin Institute in Oxford.

## New Zealand PM Apologizes for 1970s Raids on Pacific Community



*New Zealand’s Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, centre right, takes part in a ceremony in Auckland to formally apologize for the Dawn Raids*

AUCKLAND (Dispatches) – **New Zealand’s Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern issued a somber state apology on Sunday to the Pacific community for racially targeted immigration raids in the 1970s that resulted in deportations and prosecutions.**

The “Dawn Raids”, which often occurred early in the morning, took place from 1974 to 1976 when New Zealand’s economy was in a downturn and the government clamped down on immigrant workers from the Pacific who overstayed their work visas.

At the time of the raids, many

people from the Pacific islands – including Samoa, Tonga and Fiji – had come to New Zealand on temporary visas to help fill a need for workers in the country’s factories and fields.

But the government appeared to turn on the community during a downturn in the 1970s, amid claims they were taking jobs from New Zealanders. People who did not look like white New Zealanders were told they should carry identification to prove they were not overstayers and were often randomly stopped in the street, or even at schools or churches.

Addressing hundreds of people in attendance for the formal apology, Ardern said members of the Pacific communities continue to “suffer and carry the scars” of the raids in which they were specifically targeted and racially profiled.

“Today, I stand on behalf of the New Zealand government to offer a formal and unreserved apology to Pacific communities for the discriminatory implementation of the immigration laws of the 1970s that led to the events of the Dawn Raids,” Ardern said.

“The government expresses its sorrow, remorse, and regret that the Dawn Raids and random police checks occurred and that these actions were ever considered appropriate.”

Pacific people comprised a third of overstayers but represented 86 percent of prosecutions, while Britons and Americans in New Zealand – who also comprised a third of overstayers – saw just 5 percent of prosecutions in the same period.

“It remains vividly etched in the memory of those who were directly impacted. It lives on in the disruption of trust and faith in authorities. And it lives on in the unresolved grievances of Pacific communities that these events happened and that to this day they have gone unaddressed,” Ardern said.

## Scuffles in Berlin as Skeptics Defy Protest Virus Ban

BERLIN (AFP) – **Hundreds of anti-lockdown demonstrators defied a court-ordered protest ban on Sunday and gathered illegally in the streets of Berlin, resulting in scuffles with police.**

Police said some protesters had “harassed and attacked” officers in the capital’s Western Charlottenburg district and ignored roadblocks, AFP reported.

“They tried to break through the police chain and pull out our colleagues. This led to the use of irritants, batons and physical violence,” Berlin police tweeted.

Several people were arrested, they added.

The protest was called by the “Querdenker” (Lateral Thinkers) movement, which has emerged as the loudest voice against Germany’s coronavirus restrictions.

Judges had banned several of its planned demos this weekend, including one for Sunday that was meant to draw some 22,500.

The court said it could not allow the rallies to go ahead over fears participants would flout rules on mask wearing

and social distancing, at a time when Germany’s infection numbers are on the rise again.

Berlin police deployed more than 2,000 officers in riot gear across the city, in anticipation of protesters gathering despite the ban.

Some of the demonstrators held up signs saying “Freedom” and “No to the corona dictatorship”, with very few masks seen among the crowds.

Germany’s Querdenker movement has drawn in a mix of people, including anti-vaxxers and conspiracy theorists as well as members of the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD).

AfD denker protests have drawn thousands, at times tens of thousands, but are often broken up early for violating virus rules. Several of the demos have descended into violence.

Germany’s domestic security service announced in April that it was placing some Querdenker members under observation over concerns they pose a threat to democracy and have ties to right-wing extremism.

## Myanmar Army Ruler Takes PM Role, Again Pledges Elections



*Protesters take part in a demonstration against the military coup, in Yangon, Myanmar, on July 3, 2021.*

BANGKOK (Reuters) – **Myanmar’s military ruler Min Aung Hlaing has taken on the role of prime minister in a newly formed caretaker government, state media reported on Sunday, six months after the army seized power from a civilian government.**

In a speech on Sunday, Min Aung Hlaing repeated a pledge to hold elections by 2023 and said his administration was ready to work with a future regional envoy on Myanmar.

The announcement and speech came exactly six months after the army seized power on Feb. 1 from a civilian government following elections that were won by Aung San Suu Kyi’s ruling party but that the military said had been fraudulent.

Min Aung Hlaing has chaired the State Administration Council (SAC) that was formed just after the coup and that has run Myanmar since then, and the caretaker government will replace it.

“In order to perform the country’s duties fast, easily and effectively, the state administration council has been re-formed as caretaker government of Myanmar,” a newsreader on state Myawaddy television said.

In his speech, Min Aung Hlaing

said, “We will accomplish the provisions of the state of emergency by August 2023”.

He added: “I guarantee the establishment of a union based on democracy and federalism.”

Shortly after the coup, junta leaders promised new elections within two years. The reference on Sunday to August 2023 was interpreted by some local media as extending that time frame by six months.

Min Aung Hlaing also said his administration would work with any special envoy named by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

ASEAN foreign ministers are to meet on Monday, when diplomats say they aim to finalize a special envoy tasked with ending violence and promoting dialogue between the junta and its opponents.

After the coup, Suu Kyi, 75, was charged with several crimes. Her trial on charges of illegally possessing walkie-talkie radios and breaking coronavirus protocols is scheduled to resume on Monday.

The military authorities have faced months of protests, strikes that have paralyzed public and private sectors, and a resurgence of armed conflicts in the borderlands.

The authorities have branded their opponents as terrorists.

## Kim’s Sister: South Korea-U.S. Drills to Rekindle Tensions

SEOUL (AP) – **The powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un warned Sunday that next month’s annual military drills between South Korea and U.S. troops will undermine prospects for better ties between the Koreans, just days after the neighbors reopened their long-dormant communication channels.**

Kim Yo Jong’s statement was carried by state media.

“For some days I have been hearing an unpleasant story that joint military exercises between the South Korean army and the U.S. forces could go ahead as scheduled,” Kim Yo Jong said.

“I view this as an undesirable prelude which seriously undermines the will of the top leaders of the North and the South wishing to see a step taken toward restoring mutual trust and which further beclouds the way ahead of the North-South relations,” she said.

She added: “Our government and army will closely follow whether the South Korean side stages hostile war exercises in August or makes other bold decision.”

Regular drills between Seoul and Washington have been a long-running source of animosities on the Korean Peninsula, with North Korea calling them an invasion rehearsal and responding with missile tests.

In the past few years, South Korea and the U.S. have canceled

or downsized some of their exercises in the face of warnings from Pyongyang.

Asked about prospects for next month’s summertime drills, Bo Seung-Chan, a spokesman at South Korea’s Defense Ministry, told a briefing Thursday that Seoul and Washington were reviewing factors like the pandemic’s current status, efforts to achieve denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula and their combined military readiness.

The U.S.-led diplomacy aimed at persuading North Korea to abandon its nuclear program in return for economic and political rewards hasn’t made progress since a second summit between Kim Jong Un and then-President Donald Trump broke down because of disputes over U.S.-led sanctions in early 2019.

South Korea’s government led by President Moon Jae-in, which wants greater reconciliations between the Koreans, had earlier shuttled between Pyongyang and Washington to arrange the first summit between Trump and Kim.

After the two Koreas reopened their communication channels on Tuesday, talk of bigger reconciliation steps like another summit between Kim Jong Un and Moon quickly spread in South Korea.

But Kim Yo Jong described such sentiment as “a premature hasty judgment.” She said that “hasty speculation and groundless interpretation will only bring despair.”

## News in Brief

**ABOARD SEA-WATCH 3, Mediterranean (Reuters)** – Two humanitarian rescue ships pulled 394 migrants from a dangerously overcrowded wooden boat in the Mediterranean overnight on Sunday in an operation lasting about six hours, a Reuters witness said. The German and French NGO ships Sea-Watch 3 and Ocean Viking rescued the migrants in Tunisian waters 68km (42 miles) from the North African coast, near oil facilities and other ships. Sea-Watch 3, which assumed command of the operation, took 141 of the survivors while Ocean Viking took the rest. The yacht Nadir, from the German NGO ResQ Ship, later gave support. It was not clear if there were any deaths or injuries among the migrants who were in the wooden boat, which was crammed with migrants on deck and inside the hull. The craft was taking in water and its engine was not working, the Reuters witness said. Migrant boat departures from Libya and Tunisia to Italy and other parts of Europe have increased in recent months as weather conditions have improved. According to the U.N.-affiliated International Organization for Migration, more than 1,100 people fleeing conflict and poverty in Africa and the Middle East have perished this year in the Mediterranean.

\*\*\*

**CALIFORNIA (Reuters)** – Fire crews have been struggling to stop the spread of Dixie Fire, the largest active wildfire in California. The U.S. Forest Service performed a prescribed burn using incendiary balls dropped from a helicopter in Meadow Valley, as a way to control the progress of the Dixie Fire, now at nearly a quarter million acres. Now in its third week, the Dixie Fire has burned 244,388 acres in an area north of Sacramento, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. It was only 30 percent contained as of Saturday night, they reported.

\*\*\*

**ALGIERS (Dispatches)** – **Algeria has waived the license of Saudi-owned al-Arabiya news channel after denouncing it for engaging in “disinformation” targeting the country. The Algerian ministry of communication announced the move in a statement that was carried by the Algerian Press Service (APS). “A decision was reached to withdraw the accreditation of al-Arabiya news channel,” the ministry said. It blasted the channel “for not respecting the rules of professional ethics and practicing media misinformation and manipulation,” the statement added. The ministry did not provide any further details about the decision. Also in June, Algerian authorities similarly invalidated the license of France 24 for “clear and repeated hostility towards our country and its institutions.” Algiers says it does not object to media activities as long as they respect objectivity and professional ethics.**

\*\*\*

**MOSCOW (TASS)** – Director of Russia’s Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) Sergei Naryshkin has warned about provocations being plotted from outside in the country’s upcoming parliamentary elections in September 2021 and presidential elections in 2024. “Our opponents are preparing to the fullest,” Russia’s foreign intelligence chief said in a live broadcast of the Soloyov Live YouTube channel shown on the Rossiya-1 TV channel. “This will be both in 2021 and 2024, of course,” Naryshkin said in response to a question about when such provocations might be staged. Russia possesses information on “what points they will act upon and what points they will hit at,” the SVR chief said. “Our corresponding agencies are aware of that, in particular, thanks to our activity,” Naryshkin said.

\*\*\*

**TOKYO (Dispatches)** – **While the Olympic Games are being held with multiple restrictions due to the pandemic, some Japanese residents are still protesting against the event, citing cost overruns and a COVID-19 surge. A group of people have been protesting across the street from the tennis venue in the Japanese capital. The group is chanting in English with megaphones saying “No more Olympics”, “Stop playing games. Cancel the Olympics” and “Stop playing the Games. People are suffering and dying! Save lives, not the Olympics!” Police were intervening and moving the group away from the venue. While Olympic athletes have been breaking sporting records at the arenas in Tokyo, the Japanese capital has set a grim milestone of its own. Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga stated that the recent spike in cases in Tokyo and across the country was largely caused by the more infectious Delta variant of the virus.**

\*\*\*

**BANGUI (Al Jazeera)** – The United Nations peacekeeping mission in the Central African Republic (CAR) says six civilians were killed in a militant attack in the country’s northeast. “This morning at dawn elements from the 3R (Return, Reclamation, Rehabilitation) launched a large-scale attack against Central African army positions in the village of Mann,” the spokesperson for the UN’s 12,000-strong MINUSCA mission was quoted as saying by AFP news agency. Several civilians were also wounded in the attack, the spokesperson said. The situation in Mann, some 550 kilometers (340 miles) from the capital, Bangui, is now “under control and patrols are under way”, Lieutenant Colonel Abdoulaziz Fall later said. The 3R is one of several armed groups to have emerged in the CAR, which has been mired in violence since a brutal civil conflict erupted in 2013.