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SUNDAY
24th MAY
13th Edition

Editor:

Tanya Stone
Rotary Club of Pinelands



Fellow Rotarians

South Africa holds its breath ahead of Ramaphosa's speech tonight on Sunday at 19h00 on lockdown. Will certain provinces remain on Level 4 and will the remainder ease down to Level 3 expected at the end of May? Will the ban of alcohol and tobacco be lifted? Will other non-essential shops be allowed to operate? Will we have more exercise time during the day?....and it goes on.

Wow, so many questions to be answered.

We are all affected by this period in different ways; whether it's our routine, our mental health or our physical health that's affected, these are strange, uncertain times, and we're all in this boat together.

News, articles, business, sport and much more are included in the edition.

To our Muslim community I wish a Blessed Eid to you and your family.

Take care and stay safe

Tanya



**Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak situation
SUNDAY 24th MAY 2020**

Statistics from Worldometer on COVID-19

PLEASE NOTE: Figures are time of publish and fluctuate constantly

5,438,515

Confirmed cases

Updated: 24th May

344,585

Confirmed deaths

Updated: 24th May

2,274,227

Recovered

Updated: 24th May

215

**Countries, areas or
territories with cases**

Updated: 24th May

UPDATE



SOUTH AFRICA SUNDAY 24th May 2020

South Africa now has **21,343** confirmed cases.
South African statistics from Worldometer and Department of Health SA
on COVID-19

21,343

Positive Cases Identified

Updated: 24th May

407

Deaths

Updated: 24th May

10,104

Recovered

Updated: 24th May

UPDATE AFRICA



Sunday 24th May 2020

Africa now has **108,463** confirmed cases.

Source: African Arguments; WHO; Johns Hopkins; nCoV.

108,463

Positive Cases Identified

Updated: 24th May

3,261

Deaths

Updated: 24th May

44,043

Recovered

Updated: 24th May



Health department boss calls for investigation into Prof Glenda Gray

By Liezl Human and Nathan Geffen
By **News24**

The acting director-general of the health department, Dr Anban Pillay, has requested an investigation into the conduct of Dr Glenda Gray, the president of the Medical Research Council (MRC), claiming she has "made a number of false allegations against the government".

These concerns were described in a letter, dated 21 May, that was written by Pillay. It was addressed to MRC chairperson Professor Johnny Mahlangu.

The letter states allegations Gray recently made in the media "are damaging to the government's response to Covid-19".

This after an interview with News24 in which she criticised the government's lockdown approach as "unscientific". Gray was quoted as saying it seemed as if the government was "sucking regulations out of their thumb and implementing rubbish".

"These media statements cause confusion ... and are likely to erode public support for behaviour change," the letter read.

Pillay said he had received calls about Gray's conduct as president of the MRC on matters other than her statements to the media.

"I therefore recommend that the board investigate the conduct [of Gray] on this matter given the harm it has caused to South Africa's Covid-19 response," he wrote.

Department spokesperson Lwazi Manzi did not respond to queries or answer calls by the time of publication. Neither Mahlangu nor Gray wished to comment.



"I did not criticise the lockdown, but the regulations"
Glenda Gray after Mkhize slams criticism. |

Lockdown: Draft regulations propose tobacco ban extension, but lifting ban on liquor – report

By **News24**

A leaked draft of the proposed regulations for Level 3 of the Covid-19 lockdown has revealed that the ban on liquor sales will be lifted under strict conditions, while the prohibition on the sale of tobacco products will be extended.

News24 has seen a copy of the draft regulations, by Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, which may have changed or could still change before President Cyril Ramaphosa addresses the nation on Sunday.

The provisional regulations reveal that the sale, dispensing or transportation of liquor will be allowed under Level 3 of the lockdown.

However, the draft comprises strict regulations which include that off-consumption premises selling liquor may only operate from Monday to Thursday, according to current liquor licence operating hours, and that no special or events liquor licences may be approved for the duration of the national state of disaster.

Home Affairs approves essential travel for South Africans to other countries

By Azarrah Karrim
News24

Home Affairs Minister Aaron Motsoaledi has allowed essential travel for South Africans who want to return to the countries where they are based.

In a statement on Saturday, the Department of Home Affairs said it would allow South Africans to leave the country for work, study, family reunions, to take up permanent residency or to receive medical attention.

The decision was made after consultation with the Department of International Relations and Cooperation as well as the National Coronavirus Command Council (NCCC), the department added. "South Africa, like many countries in the world, has implemented travel restrictions as part of the measures put in place to fight the spread of Covid-19. Travel between countries is allowed in special circumstances."

Members of the public can call 0800 60 11 90 for enquiries.

OR

send an email to Covid19travel@dha.gov.za

HOW STUDENTS WILL BE AFFECTED UNDER LEVEL 3 LOCKDOWN

President Cyril Ramaphosa earlier this month announced that most parts of the country would move to level 3 of the lockdown from 1 June.

By Ayanda Nyathi
Eye Witness News



Higher Education Minister Dr Blade Nzimande.

Higher Education, Science and Innovation Minister Dr Blade Nzimande on Saturday announced that about a third of university students would be allowed to return to campuses under level 3 of the lockdown period.

The minister was speaking at a media briefing on the department's response to the government's risk-adjusted strategy aimed at curbing the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Under level 3, a maximum of 33% of the student population will be allowed to return to campuses, delivery sites and residences on condition that they can be safely accommodated and supported in line with the health and safety protocols as directed by the department," Nzimande said.

This would include the following cohorts:

- All groups that had already returned during level 4 lockdown.
- Students in the final year of their programmes who were on a path to graduating in 2020.
 - Final year students who required access to laboratories, technical equipment, data, connectivity and access to residence and private accommodation.
 - Students in all years of study that required clinical training in their programmes (provided that the clinical training platforms have sufficient space and can accommodate them while adhering to the safety protocols).
 - Postgraduate students who required laboratory equipment and other technical equipment to undertake their studies.

Nzimande said a further 33% of students would be allowed to return to campuses under level 2 of the lockdown, while 100% would be permitted under level 1.

He also conceded that internet connectivity and access to data continued to be a major challenge for students who needed to continue learning from home.

"In addition to zero-rating, we have successfully negotiated, with all mobile network operators, very favourable rates for NSFAS [National Student Financial Aid Scheme] students including Funza Lushaka students who will receive 10 gigabytes daytime and night time, for three months starting from the start of June until end of August," he said.

'THERE'S A CRY FOR THE CHURCH'- KZN LEADERS WANT CHURCH DECLARED ESSENTIAL

By Nkosikhona Duma
Eye Witness News

Religious people associated with the KZN Christian Council braved the cold weather on Sunday morning to stage a walk through KZN's capital City of Umsunduzi.



Christian leaders in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) appealed to President Cyril Ramaphosa to declare church gatherings as an essential service.

The KZN Christian Council said church gatherings should be allowed because they offer spiritual health to many people including essential service workers.

The religious coalition also said the continued restrictions on church gatherings is impoverishing their institutions and leaders.

Religious people associated with the KZN Christian Council braved the cold weather on Sunday morning to stage a walk at KZN's capital City of Umsunduzi.

Bishop Khulekani Khomo said it is time they are allowed to worship together again.

"There is a need for the church, there is a cry for the church – not only from the church fraternity, but the entire community needs the church."

Pastor Patrick Lettman said the continued lockdown is crippling churches financially.

"Because there has been no church, we have no income therefore we are challenged financially; both to take care of the businesses that we rent and to take care of our personal needs."

The religious leaders said they are willing to work with government and ensure safety at all church gatherings.

Eskom takes it up a notch, with Stage 4 loadshedding

By Renè Lötter
Cape Talk



Power utility Eskom implemented Stage 4 load shedding this afternoon.

In a statement, Eskom said the Koeberg Unit 1 has tripped and they have disconnected the unit from the grid due to a fault on the turbine side.

Also, a victory for Eskom today against the energy regulator. Eskom's won the right to recover costs they've incurred during the 2019 financial year.

Bruce Whitfield asked the power utility's spokesperson what that means for our electricity bill into the future - and about the continued and unpredictable loadshedding.

Sikonathi Mantshantsha, national spokesperson from Eskom:

"Within the next two months, Eskom can go and present its case to Nersa and then Nersa can make a decision."

"Very early on this year we told the people of South Africa that we will have to go back and conduct that critical maintenance. We do not have the luxury of parking aside these machines and work on them because we do not have other available capacity to work with. We have made a commitment that we will keep the people of SA informed all the way, whether the changes are good or bad."

"Unfortunately that is going to be the situation for the next two years give or take - until we get extra capacity - as you know the government is busy with the process to bring in other providers."

Eastern Cape mayor's wife loses battle against Covid-19

By Bongani Fuzile and Vuyolwethu Sangotsha
DispatchLIVE



Amathole District Municipality mayor Khanyile Maneli.

Matilda Maneli, wife of Amathole district municipality mayor and ANC regional chairperson Khanyile 'KC' Maneli, died of Covid-19 complications this morning.

The ANC in the Amathole region has sent their condolences to the mayor. ANC regional secretary Thembaletu Ntutu told DispatchLIVE that Matilda, a health department employee, lost the battle against Covid-19 at Stutterheim hospital.

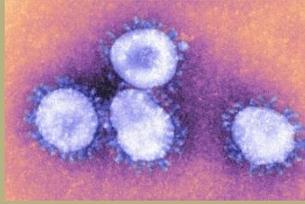
"Mrs Maneli was among the front-line troops in the war against the invisible enemy, Covid-19, as one of the health workers confronting the deadly enemy head on, stationed at Victoria Hospital in Alice. She received the results that she had contracted the virus on Monday, May 18, 2020 and was hospitalized on Wednesday in Stutterheim hospital where she passed on in the early hours of today," said Ntutu.

He said her positive results prompted the regional chairperson to re-test and the results came back negative. *"We wish to convey our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the family of comrade Maneli and colleagues at Victoria Hospital, who are certainly left with anxiety and fear, we wish them strength and comfort during this period of bereavement and beyond."*

He said the ANC thanked the health workers in Stutterheim Hospital who were taking care of her for their patriotism and dedication. *"We encourage them to be strong as the fight continues. The ANC in Amathole region wishes to encourage everyone to continue observing health and hygiene protocols, and to obey regulations intended at preventing the spread of the virus."*

Discovery is paying R340,737 per patient on ventilation for Covid-19 in schemes it runs

By Business Insider SA



- Of the total known cases of SARS-CoV-2 detected in South Africa to date, just under 10% have been among members of medical schemes administered by Discovery.
- The average cost of hospitalisation for the 39 such members who were put on ventilators was R340,737, Discovery said this week.
- But thanks to the majority of patients needing only care in normal wards, its average cost of hospital treatment came in at R84,708 per person.
- That's far lower than costs reported by Medscheme in mid May.

Hertz files for bankruptcy in the US as the coronavirus crushes the car-rental industry

By Tyler Sonnemaker
Business Insider

Hertz filed for bankruptcy Friday night after failing to reach an agreement with lenders, The Wall Street Journal first reported Friday.

Hertz has around \$19 billion in debt, including \$4.3 billion in corporate bonds and loans as well as \$14.4 billion of debt backed by their vehicles, according to The Journal.

The car-rental business has been decimated as the pandemic has ground travel to a halt, forcing Hertz's CEO to resign as the company missed lease payments and laid off 10,000 workers last month.

Hertz in **South Africa** is an international franchisee of the global Hertz Corporation, and it is not yet clear how it will be affected. Hertz has more than 30 outlets in South Africa, and its subsidiary Thrifty has around 16 in the country.

FREE LIVE WEBINAR SPONSORED BY BRAND SOUTH AFRICA

Junked: Consequences of the Downgrade

Business Maverick Editor **Tim Cohen**, **Nazmeera Moola**, Head of South African investments at Ninety One and **Peter Worthington**, Senior Economist at Absa, discuss the **effects of the recent downgrade** amidst the Covid-19 pandemic and what **South Africa should be doing to support growth and economic recovery**.

When: 27 May 2020 @ 12:00 - 13:00

Registration: [CLICK HERE](#)

SA's R350 Covid-19 grants are imminent – here's what they can buy

By Phillip de Wet
Business Insider SA



- The special R350 grants to be paid to South Africa's unemployed every month over the next six months are due to start landing any second.
- Retailer Game has put together special bundles aimed at its recipients, based on recent shopping behaviour it has seen.
- Shop the specials hard enough, and you can find the same basket a little cheaper elsewhere.
- Here's what you can get with a R350 Covid-19 grant, after transport and cooking costs.

The first batch of South Africa's special Covid-19 grants for unemployed people receiving no other state support are due to start landing very soon – and retailers are standing ready.

Each eligible person is due to receive R350 per month for up to six months, in payments that could total well over a billion rand per month judging by initial application numbers.

The state hopes that money will be spent on essentials, and the SA Social Security Agency (Sassa) has been working on plans to pay out in restricted vouchers rather than cash to ensure just that, though it is not yet ready to do so.

This week retailer Game published its list of bundled specials targeted directly at the R350 grant recipients, in packs worth R250, R500, and R750 each for different-sized family groups.

Its bundles were put together in part by drawing from data on what has been selling of late, Game said.

At **R250** the entry-level Game bundle, its "essentials starter pack", offers a fairly realistic idea of what a single grant payment could buy after making provision for fresh vegetables, transport, the cost of cooking, and other basic needs.

If you shop the aggressive single-items specials of other retailers hard enough (without spending extra money on transport between stores to do so) you can save another R40.

The rand is back at pre-lockdown, pre-junk levels - here's where it may be heading

By Edward-John Bottomley,
Business Insider SA

The rand has rallied against the dollar to levels last seen before the Covid-19 crisis.

Some experts think the rand might strengthen to under R16/dollar. There's increased confidence in global markets that the worst of the coronavirus crisis is over, encouraging investors to return to riskier currencies.

[READ MORE](#)

CSA not backing Graeme Smith's support of Ganguly

CSA President Chris Nenzani has responded to Graeme Smith's call in support for Sourav Ganguly for ICC hotseat.

By AFP



The divisions in South African cricket were exposed again when Cricket South Africa (CSA) president Chris Nenzani said Graeme Smith's call for Sourav Ganguly to become International Cricket Council chairman did not have official approval.

"We must respect both the ICC protocol and our own protocol in deciding which candidate to back," Nenzani, a controversial figure who has stayed in office despite several calls for his resignation, said on Thursday night.

"There have been no candidates nominated as yet and once such nominations have been made the Board of CSA will take its decision in terms of its own protocol."

FORMER INDIA SKIPPER RECEIVES THUMBS UP FROM SA COUNTERPART

Smith, CSA's director of cricket, said at a press conference on Thursday that he believed India's Ganguly, a fellow former Test captain, was the best man to succeed another Indian Shashank Manohar, whose term as ICC chairman is about to expire.

"We have the highest regard for the opinions of our director of cricket, Graeme Smith, who is a well-respected figure in world cricket and has already made an immense contribution in fulfilling his mandate to make our cricket teams world leaders again," said Nenzani.

"At the moment we don't want to anticipate any candidates who may be nominated for this important position to lead the game we all love."

The administration of cricket in South Africa has been in turmoil since the constitution of CSA was changed at the annual meeting last September to allow Nenzani an extra year in office after he had already served the maximum two three-year terms.

The extension was ostensibly to guide the organisation through a new system headed by then-chief executive Thabang Moroe.

But Moroe proved a divisive figure and was suspended in December on charges of misconduct. Before his suspension he had alienated the country's players' association and created a storm when he withdrew the accreditation of five journalists who had been critical of him.

A major sponsor ended its relationship with CSA and another sponsor called for the resignation of the board, headed by Nenzani. This call was echoed by the players' association. Two of CSA's five independent directors and one non-independent director resigned.

[READ MORE](#)

Pollard relishing squaring off against British and Irish Lions

Handre Pollard says squaring off against the British and Irish Lions in 2021 would be a dream come true.

by Siviwe Breakfast
The South African



Springbok flyhalf Handre Pollard is looking forward to the British and Irish Lions 2021 tour of South Africa.

As was the case the last two occasions the Lions toured these shores, the men in green and gold are again world champions, and will want to assert their dominance on the global game by claiming the scalp of the northern hemisphere's elite.

Pollard, who topped the points-scoring charts in Japan, says the Boks have long shifted their focus to clinching another slice of history.

"It was probably the first thing we spoke amongst each other after we won the Rugby World Cup," Pollard told the official SA Rugby website.

"We said to each other, 'listen the Lions are coming next year and it's going to be awesome!' It's a childhood dream of mine to play for the Springboks in a Lions series.

"I was 15 when Morné Steyn kicked over that penalty at Loftus to clinch the 2009 series. At that time, I was just a young boy wanting to play the game and dreaming of playing for the Springboks one day – it is the kind of stuff that just stuck in your head and it has never gone away."

Pollard began a new chapter soon after the 2019 Rugby World Cup, as he joined Montpellier in the French Top 14.

His first season in Europe was, however, brought to a standstill due to the current global pandemic which has halted most sports competitions.

The former Bulls pivot says he is itching to get back on the field and realise what would be "a dream come true".

"Hopefully, things will return to normal soon, and then I think the build up to the much-anticipated Lions series will be epic."

The Lions were victorious on their first post-isolation visit to South Africa in 1997, winning the three-match Test series 2-1. In 2009, it was the Springboks' turn to emerge victorious, as they won the first two matches before defeat in the dead-rubber match at Ellis Park.

The Lions tour is expected to kick off between July and August 2021.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE WORLD



Trump drug hydroxychloroquine raises death risk in Covid patients, study says

By **BBC**



The drug US President Donald Trump said he was taking to ward off Covid-19 actually increases the risk of patients with the disease dying from it, a study in the Lancet has found.

The study said there were no benefits to treating patients with the anti-malarial drug hydroxychloroquine.

Mr Trump said he was taking the drug despite public health officials warning that it could cause heart problems. The president has repeatedly promoted the drug, against medical advice.

Hydroxychloroquine is safe for malaria, and conditions like lupus or arthritis, but no clinical trials have recommended the use of hydroxychloroquine for coronavirus.

The Lancet study involved 96,000 coronavirus patients, nearly 15,000 of whom were given hydroxychloroquine - or a related form chloroquine - either alone or with an antibiotic.

The study found that the patients were more likely to die in hospital and develop heart rhythm complications than other Covid patients in a comparison group.

The death rates of the treated groups were: hydroxychloroquine 18%; chloroquine 16.4%; control group 9%. Those treated with hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine in combination with antibiotics had an even higher death rate.

The researchers warned that hydroxychloroquine should not be used outside of clinical trials.

Mr Trump says he has not tested positive for Covid-19 and is taking the drug because he thinks it has "positive benefits".



Trump: "If it's not good, I'll tell you right, I'm not going to get hurt by it"

A trial is under way to see whether the anti-malarial drug could prevent Covid-19. More than 40,000 healthcare workers from Europe, Africa, Asia and South America who are in contact with patients with the disease will be given the drug as part of the trial.

When asked about the Lancet study, White House coronavirus taskforce co-ordinator Dr Deborah Birx said the US Food and Drug Administration had been "very clear" about concerns in using the drug as either a coronavirus prevention or as a treatment course.

Dr Marcos Espinal, director of the Pan American Health Organization - part of the World Health Organization - has stressed that no clinical trials have recommended the use of hydroxychloroquine for coronavirus.

Eid: End of Ramadan celebrations go virtual amid coronavirus

Muslims globally find online alternatives to celebrate Eid amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

By Elizabeth Melimopoulos & Usaid Siddiqui

ALJAZEERA



As the Muslim holy month of Ramadan comes to a close, most countries around the world are set to celebrate Eid al-Fitr on Sunday.

However, this Eid is very unlikely to resemble that of previous years as the coronavirus pandemic continues to paralyse human movement around the world.

Many Muslim-majority countries such as Turkey, Qatar and Indonesia have suspended most Eid-related activities, including morning prayers.

In Saudi Arabia, mosques will be broadcasting the call to Eid prayers, but no worshippers will be allowed to attend, with people told to perform the prayers at home, similar to measures throughout Ramadan this year.

Minority Muslim populations, such as those in North and Latin America, will also be celebrating under lockdowns and related restrictions.

"This year the celebration of Eid will be sad," Fuad Musa, of the Islamic Centre of Chile in Santiago, told Al Jazeera.

"On one hand, there is the joy that comes after the month of fasting ends, but it will be strange because we remember how the festivities were in previous years ... where we all gather, dress up in the mornings, carry out our prayers," he added.

Instead, Muslim organisations and individuals are finding technological and virtual alternatives to keep Eid traditions alive, such as virtual sermons, social media celebrations and online concerts.

Donald Trump orders governors to allow places of worship to reopen

President declares churches, mosques and synagogues 'essential services' but has no authority to order a reopening

By David Smith in Washington

The Guardian

Donald Trump has declared churches, mosques and synagogues "essential services" and threatened to override governors who refuse to reopen them this weekend – a power he does not possess.

"Some governors have deemed liquor stores and abortion clinics as essential, but have left out churches and other houses of worship," the president told reporters at the White House on Friday. "It's not right. So I'm correcting this injustice and calling houses of worship essential."

Trump added: "The governors need to do the right thing and allow these very important essential places of faith to open right now. For this weekend. If they don't do it, I will override the governors. In America we need more prayer, not less."

After his two-minute statement, the president left the briefing room podium without taking questions.

His remarks sowed confusion because the federal government does not have the constitutional right to unilaterally order individual states to reopen businesses, churches or schools. But they did seem likely to play well with his support base: Trump won four in five Christian evangelical voters in the 2016 presidential election.

Earlier this week the Centers for Disease Control published a [60-page plan](#) for restaurants, schools, childcare programs, mass transport and other businesses about reopening. But it omitted details about houses of worship and faith-based organisations.

There has been friction between Trump and state governors during the coronavirus pandemic. Last month the president claimed he had "total" authority over reopening plans but then appeared to backpedal from that position.

At Friday's briefing, the White House press secretary, Kayleigh McEnany, deflected questions about Trump's threat to override governors and clashed with reporters.

"Boy, it's interesting to be in a room that desperately wants to see these churches and houses of worship stay closed," she said sardonically.

Jeff Mason of Reuters replied: "Kayleigh, I object to that. I go to church. I'm dying to go back to church. The question that we're asking you, and would like to have asked the president and Dr Birx, is it safe?"

**WATCH VIDEO
(President Trump)**

<https://youtu.be/-valW1bbyyE>

New witnesses cast doubt on Dominic Cummings's lockdown claims

By Matthew Weaver
The Observer

Eyewitness says top No 10 aide left isolation to go 30 miles to popular tourist town



Devastating new claims have emerged that Dominic Cummings further breached the lockdown rules, as Downing Street came under sustained pressure to fire the prime minister's most senior adviser.

The new testimony suggests Cummings left the home where he was staying in Durham to visit a town 30 miles away on 12 April. The Observer view: this breach of the lockdown guidelines is a disgrace

He was allegedly spotted back in Durham on 19 April, days after he was photographed in London having recovered from the virus, suggesting that following his first trip across the country at the end of March he had made a second journey from the capital to north-east England. At the time, with the UK at the peak of the pandemic, the government was insisting that people should be staying at home.

As Cummings faced calls to resign from across the political spectrum, the government was forced to defend his actions. Ministers insisted he had stayed put once arriving at a property in Durham, where he had travelled after contracting the symptoms of coronavirus to seek the support from his extended family. But the new claims would appear to demolish this defence and intensify questions over his claim that going there was permitted because he needed childcare while he was sick.

The new accounts raise fresh questions about his insistence that the initial 264-mile trip to Durham was justified, and led to a new round of calls for the spin doctor to quit.

In private, Tories were dismayed. In public, they rallied to save Dominic Cummings

The two new witnesses were revealed in a joint investigation by the Guardian/Observer and the Sunday Mirror. One saw him in Durham on 19 April, days after Cummings was photographed in London having recovered from the virus.

A week earlier Cummings was seen by another witness in Barnard Castle on Easter Day, 30 miles away from Durham, the investigation found. The town, which takes its name from the English Heritage site at its centre, is a popular destination for days out.

Robin Lees, 70, a retired chemistry teacher from the town, says he saw Cummings and his family walking by the Tees before getting into a car around lunchtime on 12 April.

Lees said: "I was a bit gobsmacked to see him, because I know what he looks like. And the rest of the family seemed to match – a wife and child.

[READ MORE](#)

No masks allowed: stores turn customers away in US culture war

By Poppy Noor
The Guardian

Shops around the US make headlines for denying entry to those wearing masks as protesters argue against preventative measures in the name of freedom



In the last few weeks a spate of American stores have made headlines after putting up signs telling customers who wear masks they will be denied entry. On Thursday, Vice reported on a Kentucky convenience store that put up a sign reading: "NO Face Masks allowed in store. Lower your mask or go somewhere else. Stop listening to [Kentucky governor Andy] Beshear, he's a dumbass."

Another sign was posted by a Californian construction store earlier this month encouraging hugs but not masks. In Illinois, a gas station employee who put up a similar sign has since defended herself, arguing that mask-wearing made it hard to differentiate between adults and children when selling booze and cigarettes.

Meanwhile, Donald Trump finally caved and wore a face mask yesterday – something he didn't want to "give the press the pleasure of seeing". But while it is gratifying to see the emperor finally forced to wear clothes, you've got to wonder to what extent the virus will spread thanks to the actions of citizens insisting on protecting their "freedom" over the right of others not to get sick.

Anti-lockdown protesters have argued that it is anti-American for the government to curtail people's freedoms in order to reduce deaths as a result of Covid-19. Meanwhile, store owners tell customers what they can and cannot wear before entering, and customers cough in the faces of workers in the name of freedom.

"I work for Costco and I am asking this customer to put on a mask because that is company policy," says a Costco employee in one video. "And I'm not doing it because I woke up in a free country," replies the man filming him.

"A warped freedom obsession is killing us," said the writer Anand Giridharadas, in reference to those coughing in the faces of others in the name of freedom. It is, of course, a minority of people willfully misinterpreting what freedom means – freedom to choose, until the choice is one that they do not like; meanwhile, most Americans don't want to return to business as usual during this pandemic.

In Franklin D Roosevelt's famous 1941 Four Freedoms speech, he detailed that, yes, Americans are owed a right to freedom of speech and expression and to worship whom they please – but he also mentioned the freedom from fear. This was in the context of the US joining forces with Britain in the second world war; Roosevelt was telling Americans that this was a fight for freedom. As America finds itself at war with a deadly pandemic, that's a message worth considering.

Hong Kong protests: police fire teargas as thousands hold unauthorised rally

By Verna Yu and Helen Davidson
The Guardian

Armoured vehicles and water cannon deployed earlier to tackle protests amid China plans to force through security laws



Anti-government protesters run away from teargas during a march against Beijing's plans to impose national security legislation in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong police have fired teargas at crowds after thousands of people took to the streets in protest against Beijing's extraordinary declaration it would impose national security laws on the semi-autonomous region.

The rally and march in the central business and shopping districts are unauthorised, and a brutal police response was widely feared. Riot police, armoured vehicles and water cannon were deployed across the city including at Beijing's Liaison Office ahead of the event, and police had warned people not to march, promising to take "resolute law enforcement action as appropriate". Social media listed numerous police roadblocks, and showed cars being searched.

The situation quickly escalated on Sunday afternoon after people descended on Causeway Bay in one of the biggest gatherings since the pandemic began, in defiance of social distancing laws. Police, many in full riot kit, soon raised their blue flag warning people to disperse from the unlawful gathering or they would use force.



Sea of people reappeared in Hong Kong to protest the upcoming National Security Law which endanger the freedom and safety of Hong Kong people.

Large crowds had begun peacefully marching up Hennessy Road, when police fired multiple rounds of teargas – within 30 minutes of the protest's official start time.

Shops and buildings quickly shut their doors, and people ran into side streets and pedestrian overpasses before soon moving back onto the main road.

The police force said in a statement it was "maintaining law and order at the scene and using the minimum necessary force, including teargas, to disperse the rioters".

"Some rioters assaulted police officers and threw hard objects at them," it said.

Footage showed some protesters hurling plastic bottles, umbrellas, and small branches ripped from nearby trees at officers.

[READ MORE](#)

Sweden 'wrong' not to shut down, says former state epidemiologist

By Richard Orange
The Observer

Scientist who oversaw the response to Sars says country has failed the vulnerable



While other countries were in lockdown, Sweden relied on a 'common sense' approach. Here, people sit in the sun at the western harbour in Malmo on 5 April.

The predecessor of Sweden's state epidemiologist has broken her silence on the country's controversial coronavirus strategy, saying she now believes the authorities should have put in place tougher restrictions in the early stages of the pandemic to bring the virus under control.

Annika Linde, who oversaw Sweden's response to swine flu and Sars as state epidemiologist from 2005 to 2013, had until now expressed support for her country's approach under her successor, Anders Tegnell.

But she has now become the first member of the public health establishment to break ranks, saying she has changed her mind as a result of Sweden's relatively high death toll compared with that of its neighbours, Denmark, Norway, and Finland.

"I think that we needed more time for preparedness. If we had shut down very early ... we would have been able, during that time, to make sure that we had what was necessary to protect the vulnerable," Linde told the Observer.

For two days last week Sweden had the highest per capita death rate in the world on a seven-day rolling average, and the overall death toll is expected to pass 4,000 this weekend.

Per capita death rates in Denmark, Finland and Norway, which all put in place far-reaching lockdowns, are now, respectively, four, seven and nine times lower than that of Sweden.

[READ MORE](#)

Wuhan lab had bat coronaviruses – but not Covid-19

The Chinese virology institute in Wuhan, the city in China at the heart of the coronavirus pandemic, [has three live strains of bat coronavirus on-site, but none match the Covid-19 strain](#), its director has said. The director of the Wuhan Institute of Virology told state broadcaster CGTN that claims by US president Donald Trump that the virus could have leaked from the facility were “pure fabrication”. In an interview filmed on 13 May but broadcast Saturday night, Wang Yani said the centre had “isolated and obtained some coronaviruses from bats. Now we have three strains of live viruses ... But their highest similarity to SARS-CoV-2 only reaches 79.8%.”

US opens up for summer

There are fears the US will suffer a second wave of coronavirus infections as it opens up for summer, just days away from the grim milestone of 100,000 Covid-19 deaths. Every state has relaxed restrictions to some extent, with many flocking to beaches and outdoor areas. The New York Times [filled the entire front page](#) of Sunday’s paper with the death notices of victims from across the country as the country recorded more than 97,000 deaths.

ARGENTINA

Argentina has extended the mandatory lockdown in Buenos Aires until 7 June and tightened some movement restrictions, after a steady increase in the city’s confirmed coronavirus cases in recent days. Officials will tighten traffic controls between the capital and Buenos Aires province, the area with the second highest concentration of cases. The country recorded 704 new infections on Saturday, one of the highest single-day increases since the pandemic began.

BRAZIL

Brazil registered 965 new coronavirus deaths on Saturday, taking the total number of fatalities to 22,013, the Health Ministry said. The country now has 347,398 confirmed cases, according to the ministry, up 16,508 from Friday, when it surpassed Russia to become the world’s virus hot spot behind the US. The actual number of cases and deaths is believed to be higher than the official figures disclosed by the government, as the testing capacity of Latin America’s largest country still lags.

NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand’s health ministry has announced there were zero new coronavirus cases confirmed in the last 24 hours. According to NewsHub, there are now only 27 active cases left in New Zealand, with one more patient recovered, bringing the country’s total to 1,154, with 21 deaths.

ITALY

Today, Italians can celebrate mass in church with the community for the first time since 8 March. In this picture, chairs are sanitised before mass is celebrated by the parish priest Don Carlo Chiomento, of Candiolo near Turin.



Indonesia, which has reported 21 new coronavirus deaths and 526 new infections in the most recent 24-hour count. That means the country has recorded 1,372 deaths and 22,271 infections.

MALAYSIA

More daily Covid-19 figures are coming through from south-east Asia. Malaysia has reported 60 new coronavirus cases, bringing its total number of known infections to 7,245. The country’s health ministry said the number of fatalities remained unchanged at 115.

AFGHANISTAN

The number of confirmed coronavirus case in **Afghanistan** has topped 10,000 amid continued surges of transmission in the capital, Kabul, and Herat – while the country woke up to a rare period of calm after recent violence.

Around half of the tests done in a 24-hour period came back positive across the country. The health ministry tested 1,206 suspected patients, of whom 584 came out positive. Two patients also died overnight, taking the total number of confirmed infections to 10,582 and the death toll to 218. There have been 1,075 recoveries.

ITALY

Leaders of Italian towns and cities are struggling to get citizens to comply with social distancing rules after the reopening of bars led to group gatherings on streets and squares.

Italians had some of their civil liberties restored last Monday alongside the reopening of bars, restaurants and all other retailers, and many have taken advantage of the fine weather to socialise outside or go to parks and beaches. But with the pandemic far from over, leaders of some towns and cities have had to reimpose restrictions following scenes of people mixing closely together and without face masks.

In Brescia, one of the areas in Lombardy hardest hit by coronavirus, bars will now have to close by 9.30pm, while in Verona, in Veneto, bar customers must be seated at a table. Bars will also have to close by 9pm in Perugia, Umbria.

FRANCE

By **France24**

The number of patients in France in intensive care as a result of the coronavirus pandemic continued to fall on Saturday, with 1,665 patients. This was a drop of 36 in 24 hours, according to a statement issued by the French health authorities.

French churches to hold first masses since lockdown started
French churches were preparing to hold their first Sunday masses in more than two months after the government bowed to a ruling that they should be reopened. Nearly two weeks into the relaxation of its shutdown, the government finally allowed churches, mosques and synagogues to reopen. Worshipers will have to wear masks, there will have to be disinfectant gel on hand and the seating will need to be organised to ensure people keep a safe distance from each other.

SPAIN

By **France 24**

Spain, which imposed one of Europe’s toughest lockdowns on March 14, has started to ease restrictions, but Madrid and Barcelona have remained in lockdown for longer because of more severe coronavirus outbreaks.

Thousands of cars and motor-bikes honking horns and waving Spanish flags drove in procession through Madrid on Saturday as part of a nationwide protest called by the far-right Vox party against the country’s coronavirus lockdown.

The protesters called for Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez and Deputy Prime Minister Pablo Iglesias, of the centre-left Socialists and left-wing Podemos coalition, to resign over their handling of the coronavirus crisis, and, in particular, the lockdowns and the damage done to the economy and jobs.

OTHER NEWS

Michigan: thousands evacuated after 'catastrophic' dam failures

By Chris McGreal at Buckeye Lake, Ohio
The Guardian



The crumbling dam wall at Lake Buckeye.

Governor says town of Midland could soon be under 9ft of water while one of the dams had been under federal scrutiny since 1999

Accident waiting to happen: the Ohio village built on a crumbling dam

Rapidly rising water overtook dams and forced the evacuation of about 10,000 people in central Michigan, where flooding struck communities along rain-swollen waterways and the governor said downtown Midland could be "under approximately 9ft of water" by Wednesday.

One of the dams, which the National Weather Service said saw "catastrophic" failures, had been under scrutiny by federal regulators since 1999.

[MORE](#)

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

Pakistan plane crash kills 97, with two survivors, black box found

By CGTN



The flight data recorder from the ill-fated Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) plane that crashed in the southern Pakistani port city of Karachi Friday has been found, local media reported citing an official on Saturday, as the death toll rose to 97.

There were two survivors from onboard the aircraft, while no fatalities were reported in the densely populated area of the city where the aircraft crash-landed on Friday.

Earlier, Karachi City Mayor Waseem Akhtar said there were no expected survivors among the people onboard.

The state carrier said flight PK 8303 crashed with 99 passengers and eight crew members on board, though civil aviation officials said the total for both may be 99.

The Chinese embassy in Pakistan said no Chinese nationals were on board.

Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan sent condolences to the families of the deceased on Friday and ordered an immediate inquiry into the incident.

[READ MORE](#)

Cyclone Amphan: Survivors return to face destruction left by storm

By BBC



Millions of people across Bangladesh and eastern India are taking stock of the devastation left by Cyclone Amphan.

A massive clean-up operation has begun after the storm left at least 96 dead and flattened homes, uprooted trees and left cities without power.

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi has arrived in West Bengal state to conduct an aerial survey.

Authorities in both countries had evacuated millions of people before the storm struck.

Covid-19 and social-distancing measures made mass evacuations more difficult, with shelters unable to be used to full capacity.

Officials also said people were afraid and reluctant to move to shelters for fear of contracting the virus.

The cyclone arrived with winds gusting up to 185km/h (115mph) and waves as high as 15ft.

[READ MORE](#)

COVID-A9 INFORMATION ARTICLES

Recovery's a rocky road, say virus survivors

The worst affected could be sick for up to a month, with no clear consensus as to what full recovery means

By Tanya Farber
Journalist
Times Select



THORNY JOURNEY The road to recovery for Covid-19 patients is far from a bed

When Capetonian Andrew McPherson, 45, bites into a steak, he says it's like "eating rubber".

He recovered from Covid-19 in March, but there have been changes to his physiology. "I haven't got my sense of smell back — not a hundred percent — and I can taste food, but not that well. It is very irritating."

Some have recovered from the virus with no after-effects. Others, say virologists, will have long-term damage to vital organs.

This is yet another confounding factor about the pandemic: just as some people are asymptomatic and others die, some make a full recovery and others will need treatment for the rest of their lives.

Prof Peter Piot, the scientist who helped discover the Ebola virus and who leads the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, told The Guardian last week he had been severely ill with Covid-19 and was still recovering.



STILL RECOVERING Prof Peter Piot.

"There will be hundreds of thousands of people worldwide, possibly more, who will need treatments, such as renal dialysis, for the rest of their lives," he said.

Prof Keertan Dheda, who heads the University of Cape Town Lung Institute, said recovery time depended on the severity of the illness.

In mild cases, it occurred about seven days after symptoms began, while the worst-affected patients could be sick for three to four weeks.

"There's no clear consensus about what full recovery actually means," he said, because even after symptoms vanished a person could remain infectious.

"Studies have found that the virus is still shed in the stool for a week or two after clinical recovery. It is therefore recommended that after clinical recovery and negative testing, a person still remains in isolation for a further 14 days, wearing a mask, having their own room, if possible, and reducing contact with friends and family."

After recovery, people should avoid smoking, follow a balanced diet and keep well hydrated, said Dheda. "Exercise is fine, but do as much as you can comfortably manage."

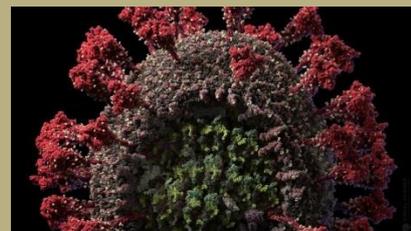
In those with severe disease, "symptoms of cough, shortness of breath and general fatigue are likely to linger the longest", he said, while in cases of severe pneumonia, "there may be long-term lung damage with scarring of the lungs".

The lungs were the organs most likely to sustain long-term damage, but "other organs that may be damaged on a long-term basis include the heart, kidneys and, in some cases, the brain".

This is what the coronavirus looks like at an atomic level - according to a 3D model

News24

Scientists who previously created 3D models of the Ebola, HIV, and flu viruses, have created a model of the new coronavirus virus at atomic resolution. See what it looks like.



[WATCH VIDEO AND READ MORE](#)

Have I already had coronavirus? How would I know and what should I do?



By Danielle Renwick
The Guardian

Covid-19 symptoms, when they occur, vary widely and undertesting means many people have probably been unwittingly infected

Covid-19 symptoms vary widely, and undertesting in many countries means that many people may have already had the coronavirus without having received a positive diagnosis. Is it possible to find out, and how should you behave if you think you may have been infected?

Experts

Dr David Buchholtz

Senior founding medical director, primary care, assistant professor of pediatrics, Columbia University Irving medical center

Dr William Hillmann, associate inpatient physician director at Massachusetts general hospital

Is there any way to know whether someone has had Covid-19 in the past?

Dr William Hillmann: Antibody tests are being developed but are not in widespread clinical use yet. The antibody testing would allow us to check blood samples for antibodies against coronavirus to tell whether somebody has had it. I, and I think many others, are anxiously awaiting for those to become available.

Could I have had it and been asymptomatic?

Hillmann: Coronavirus is actually quite a significant spectrum of symptoms, from people who are entirely asymptomatic and would have no idea that they have it to people with very mild, cold-like symptoms – runny nose, congestion, sore throat – to people with more flu-like symptoms – high fevers, muscle aches, shortness of breath and cough. Loss of smell and taste are also symptoms. All the way up to people with severe illness, who we're seeing in the hospital with respiratory failure, requiring ICU care.

It's impossible right now to say what the true prevalence of the disease in the US is since we are still prioritizing testing for people who are sick or in the hospital or who are healthcare workers. We're not doing widespread testing that South Korea and some European countries have done to get a sense of how many people are asymptomatic or have such minimal symptoms that they attribute it to allergies or something else.

Could I have had it and been asymptomatic?

Hillmann: Coronavirus is actually quite a significant spectrum of symptoms, from people who are entirely asymptomatic and would have no idea that they have it to people with very mild, cold-like symptoms – runny nose, congestion, sore throat – to people with more flu-like symptoms – high fevers, muscle aches, shortness of breath and cough. Loss of smell and taste are also symptoms. All the way up to people with severe illness, who we're seeing in the hospital with respiratory failure, requiring ICU care.

Are people who are asymptomatic also contagious?

Hillmann: A significant proportion of people who are totally asymptomatic are contagious for some portion of time. We just don't know [for how long] at this point, because we don't have the kind of testing available to screen for asymptomatic infections.

When people are symptomatic, they're contagious. A day or two before they become symptomatic, they're likely contagious as well. A virus builds up and starts to shed, and then after symptoms resolve, people can still be contagious for a couple of days. We have some evidence of viral shed even a couple of weeks after symptoms are resolved. It's hard to know if that's actual live virus, which is still able to infect somebody, or if that's just dead virus that the body is shedding.

Should someone behave differently if they think, but don't know for certain, that they have already had it?

Dr David Buchholz: We all have to be role models. If we're all in it together, we all should be doing social distancing.

Hillmann: Since there's no real way to know at this point who might have had it, unless you're symptomatic, you get a swab and are definitively diagnosed with it, I would just act as if you hadn't had it. Keep doing all of those things that we all should be doing at this point: social distancing and hand hygiene. I think universal mask-wearing in public is a reasonable recommendation based on what we know about the wide spectrum of symptoms, and the fact that people can be asymptomatic and still be shedding the virus.

If I think I may have had it, do I have an ethical obligation to tell people I came in contact with? Even if it may in fact just have been a cold?

Buchholz: I would, absolutely. I'm in New York, and it was definitely in the community before we knew it. So, yeah, any family members and close friends, maybe somebody you work next to, I think I would just alert them, especially if it was in the last 14 days. If it's been more than 14 days, they would have gotten sick by now if they had significant exposure.

Hillmann: It's up to every individual about what they feel is right. That being said, with the surge in infections that we're seeing in places like New York, if you were symptomatic at one point but were not tested, and you were in close contact with somebody, I think you should tell them.

If I've had it, can I get it again?

Buchholz: There's not been any evidence that anyone's gotten it more than once. Someone with a normal immune system that can react to the virus and get better should have immunity for quite some time, at least a year, if not lifelong.

There have been reports out of China suggesting people are testing positive for Covid-19 a second time. Most scientists think it is an issue around the inaccuracy of the testing and not that people are having two separate cases of the disease.

Coronavirus tests: how they work and what they show

Watch video below

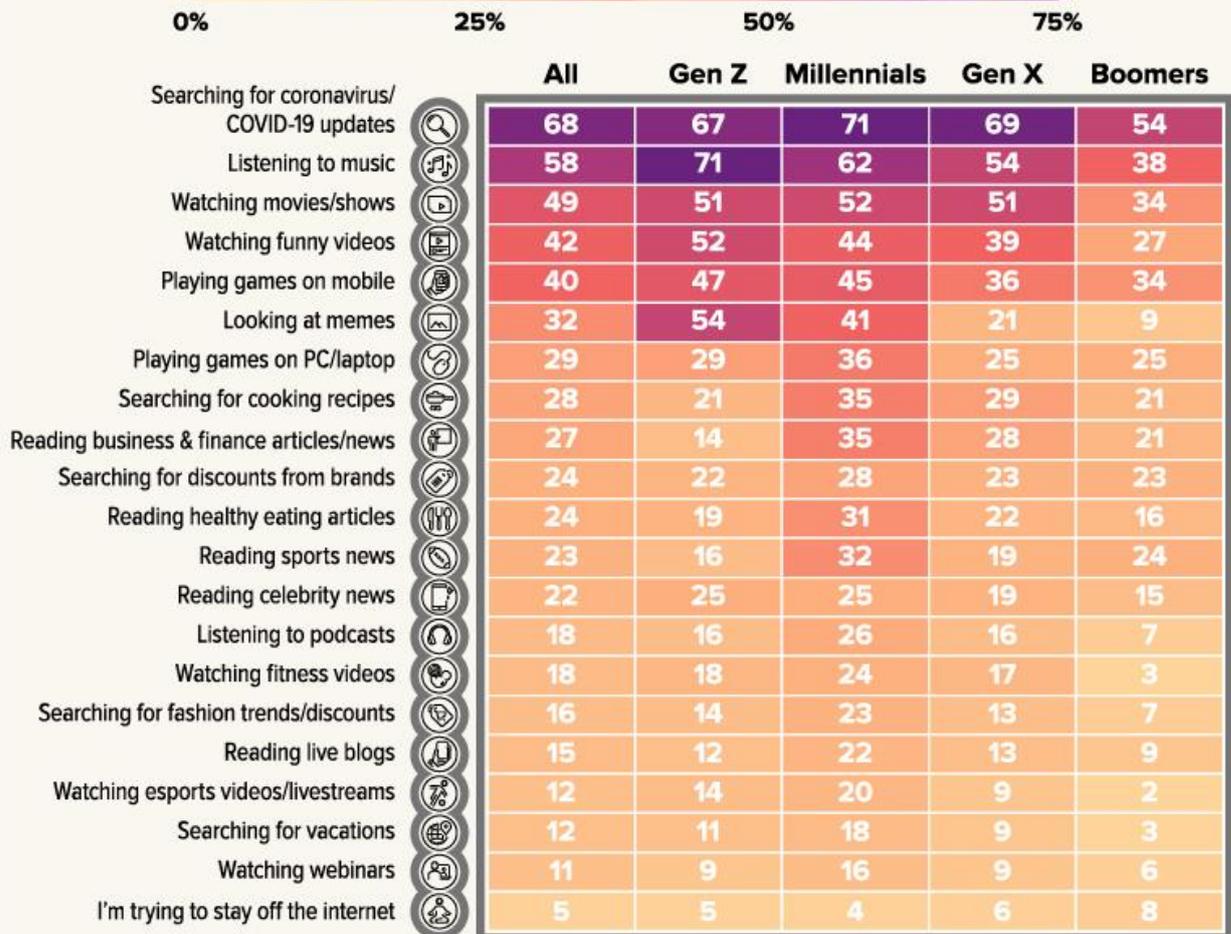
<https://youtu.be/akiXERfWW-V0>

How COVID-19 Has Impacted Media Consumption by Generation

By Katie Jones
Visual Capitalist

Quarantine Internet Activities, %

Increase



VISUALCAPITALIST.COM

Source: Global Web Index, Coronavirus Research Report, April 2020

MEDIA CONSUMPTION IN THE AGE OF COVID-19

MEDIA CONSUMPTION IN THE AGE OF COVID-19

Due to the frenzy of pandemic-induced quarantines, media consumption has seen a massive increase. But what exactly are people doing, and how are they staying informed?

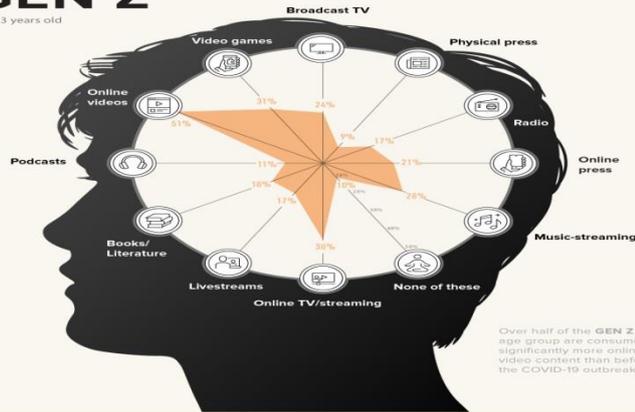
GLOBAL WEB INDEX

surveyed almost 4,000 internet users between the ages of 16-64 across the U.S. and the UK to find out how the COVID-19 outbreak has changed their media consumption.

MEDIA CONSUMPTION GEN Z

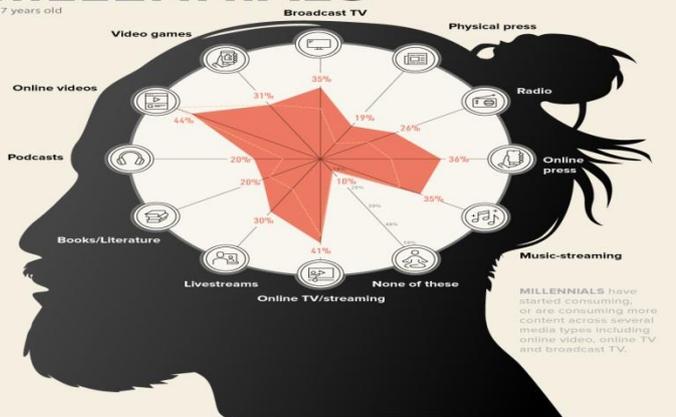
16-23 years old

% WHO SAY THEY HAVE STARTED CONSUMING OR ARE CONSUMING MORE OF THE FOLLOWING SINCE THE OUTBREAK



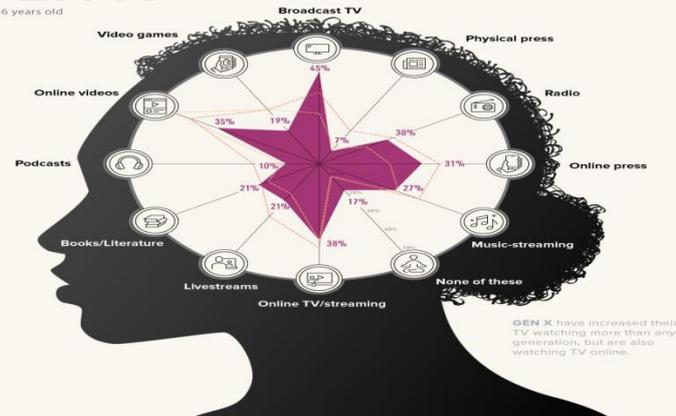
MEDIA CONSUMPTION MILLENNIALS

24-37 years old



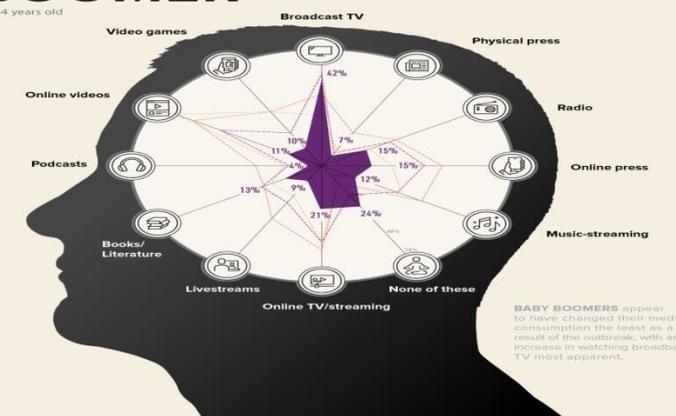
MEDIA CONSUMPTION GEN X

38-56 years old



MEDIA CONSUMPTION BOOMER

57-64 years old



ENVIRONMENT TOPICS AROUND THE GLOBE



Amazon under threat: fires, loggers and now virus

By Camilla Costa
Visual Journalism Americas
BBC News



The Amazon rainforest - which plays a vital role in balancing the world's climate and helping fight global warming - is also suffering as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

Deforestation jumped 55% in the first four months of 2020 compared with the same period last year, as people have taken advantage of the crisis to carry out illegal clearances.

Deforestation, illegal mining, land clearances and wildfires were already at an 11-year high and scientists say we're fast approaching a point of no return - after which the Amazon will no longer function as it should.

Here, we look at the pressures pushing the Amazon to the brink and ask what the nine countries that share this unique natural resource are doing to protect it.

The largest and most diverse tropical rainforest in the world is home to 33 million people and thousands of species of plants and animals.

Since coronavirus spread to Brazil, in March, Amazonas has been the state to register Brazil's highest infection rates - it also has one of the most underfunded health systems in the country.

As elsewhere, social distancing and travel restrictions have been imposed to limit the spread of the virus.

But many of the field agents working to protect reserves have pulled out, Jonathan Mazower, of Survival International, says, allowing loggers and miners to target these areas.

In April, as the number of cases rose and states started adopting isolation measures, deforestation actually increased 64% compared with the same month in 2019, according to preliminary satellite data from space research agency INPE.

Last year, an unprecedented number of fires devastated huge swathes of forest in the Amazon. Peak fire season is from July which some experts worry could coincide with the peak of the coronavirus crisis.

The Brazilian authorities are deploying troops in the Amazon region to help protect the rainforest, tackle illegal deforestation and forest fires. But critics say that the government's rhetoric and policies could actually be encouraging loggers and illegal miners.

Even before this year's spike in deforestation, the rate across the nine Amazon countries had continued to rise.

Brazil and Bolivia were among the top five countries for loss of primary forest in 2018 and both saw a dramatic increase in wildfires last year.

But that is not the only problem.

"To only speak of deforestation when we refer to the loss of the Amazon is what I call "the great green lie", says climate scientist Antonio Donato Nobre.

"The destruction of the Amazon rainforest up till now is much bigger than the almost 20% that they talk of in the media."

To get a more complete sense of the scale of the destruction, Mr Nobre says it is necessary to take into account the figures for degradation.

This happens when a combination of pressures on a stretch of forest - such as fires, logging or unlicensed hunting - make it hard for the ecosystem to function properly.

Even if an area does not lose all its trees and vegetation, degradation strips the rainforest of properties that are vital to the planet.

Scientists say that if we don't reverse current levels of deforestation and degradation, the consequences of climate change could accelerate.

[READ MORE](#)

Tiny seahorse species discovered in Sodwana Bay

By Madeleine Chaput
DispatchLIVE



SMALL WONDER: The newly discovered seahorse species, Hippocampus nalu, found in Sodwana Bay.

A species of tiny seahorse, roughly the size of a human finger nail, has been discovered in the waters of Sodwana Bay in KwaZulu-Natal.

The find is detailed in a study published in the scientific journal ZooKeys. It is the first record of a pygmy seahorse in African waters.

First seen by South African diver, Savannah Olivier in 2017, it took almost four years, multiple permits and the expertise of several marine scientists, including Rhodes University PhD graduate Dr Louw Claassens, to study and name the new sea creature, given the official name Hippocampus nalu.

Claassens, who heads up the Knysna Basin Project which researches and conserves coastal ecosystems, said the discovery was made while searching for an entirely different species.

“It was totally by fluke.

“We were looking for a pygmy pipehorse in 2018, but because of the weather and other factors we just couldn’t find this little animal and then a diver [Olivier] showed us a picture of this teeny tiny seahorse and that’s what started it all,” said Claassens.

She said pygmy seahorses were usually associated with gorgonian or soft coral and were typically found in the Pacific Ocean near Indonesia, making the Hippocampus nalu — living more than 8,000km away — a very interesting discovery.

“It’s a pretty cool and exciting find.

“There’s no other record of pygmy seahorses in the Indian Ocean or in Africa.

“They have a completely different taxonomy to larger seahorses and function differently as well.”



Only growing to a maximum size of 2cm, Hippocampus nalu, like most seahorses, is a difficult creature to track down but Claassens believes the minute animal had possibly been in SA waters all along.

“I do believe it’s always been here, but just never been noticed or found.

“They can be less than 1cm big so it’s incredibly difficult to spot.

“In general, seahorses are hard to study because they’re very cryptic animals and difficult to find,” said Claassens, who has spent much of her studies and career researching the Knysna seahorse and its habitat.

“I think that’s why there aren’t many people in the field and why they aren’t very well studied.

“We even have a part of our population that still think seahorses are a myth.”

She said there were only five other known species of seahorse found along the SA coastline, with the Knysna Seahorse being the most well known.

The discovery of the Hippocampus nalu was significant for SA, both from a scientific and tourism perspective.

SOMETHING TO SMILE ABOUT

Written by Stephan Pöltner

French people just don't cook, they plan ahead and anticipation is quite an essential part of enjoying good food. They are real gourmets and can teach (I admit it) the world a thing or two when it comes to the pleasures of the flesh.

In fact, the following soup is not French at all but purely Austrian.

Now, how come I call this Austrian soup a French one?

Very simple: we Austrians have a very good relationship with the French (despite the fact that they beheaded our Archduchess Marie Antoinette) and in order to please them, I knighted this soup with a French name, calling it:

Bouillon avec crêpe épaisse allemande'

A pancake is a pancake.

Right?

Wrong!

A pancake is a piece of art.

Full Stop!

A pancake is a mouth watering piece of art, meaning that the person who cooks proper pancakes truly can call her/himself an artist.

The pancake must be thin, must be equally round, must be evenly cooked, must have the right colour on both sides, must not be too soft and also not too hard, must be able to flatter the taste buds, must please the eye and so on and so on.

Making more pancakes than are required does not mean you are gourmand.

No, you are a gourmet because you keep some in the fridge for the next day and once you have sliced them into very thin strips, you add them to beef bouillon and you have a dish fit for the Gods:

Bouillon avec crêpe épaisse allemande'

Pancakes:

¼ litre full cream milk

125 g flour

3 eggs

salt

1 litre beef bouillon

Make pancakes, roll and keep them for 24 hours in the fridge, then cut them across into thin strips, place them in the soup plate and pour hot bouillon over and enjoy the 'Austrian Soup with a French name'.

Stay safe, healthy and take care.

Till next time....

Tanya