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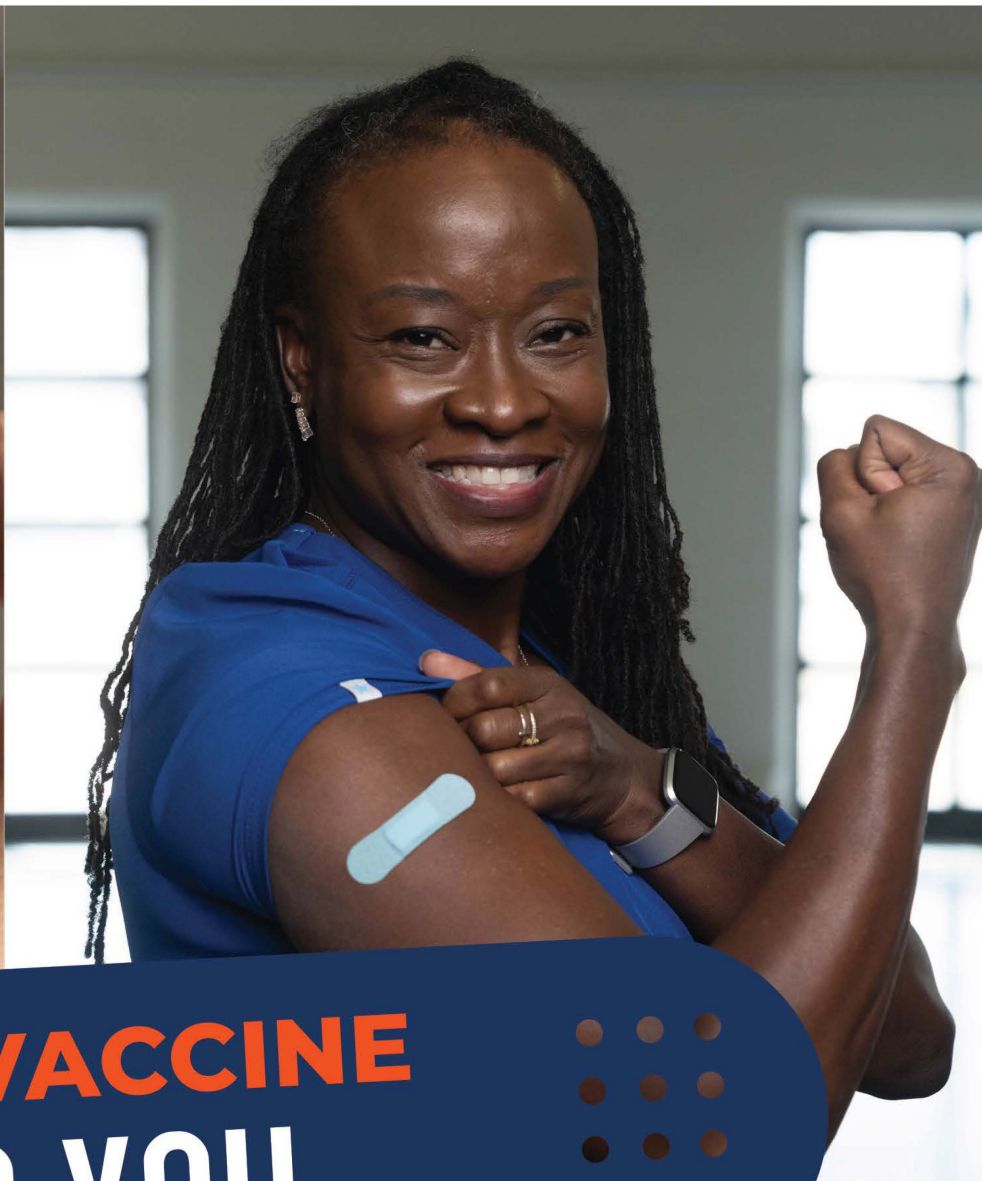
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Commentary/Commentario

The Seeds of Hate Are Growing Once Again Among Anti-Immigrants

Maribel Hastings and David Torres

Upon observing the second anniversary of the massacre in El Paso, Texas, a hate crime considered the worst attack on the Latino community in modern history, anti-immigrant rhetoric from Republican Party officials continues unabashedly.

The most recent example is the attack perpetrated by the Governor of Texas, Greg Abbott, upon launching an executive order that limits the transportation of immigrants, giving authority to agents of the state's Department of Public Safety to detain vehicles that they suspect contain people who have crossed the border without documents.

What, pray tell, is the criteria in this order that illuminates this specific profile of immigrants? Basically, color and origin. In other words:



Photo/Foto: America's Voice



Photo/Foto: America's Voice

racism, pure and simple.

Not content to stop there, Abbott blatantly blames immigrants for "increasing" the propagation of COVID-19 cases, knowing that many are already vaccinated and it is actually the United States that has broken all world records of illness and deaths under the pandemic. This hypocrisy is all the more evident since Texas is one of the states that is the most reluc-

tant to follow medical protocols to prevent the spread of the illness, starting with the use of masks.

Added to this type of incendiary rhetoric are the public policy initiatives through which the Republican Party is trying, among other things, to suppress the minority vote.

One of the main reasons is that the seeds of hate, prejudice, and discrimination sown by former President Donald Trump have ger-

minated, and continue to bear nefarious fruits. Those who thought losing the presidency to the Democrat, Joe Biden, would mean the end of the most anti-immigrant and xenophobic president in recent U.S. history were mistaken.

Because the way that Trump has gone about reorganizing, ever more scandalously, leads one to believe that his bruised ego will continue producing poisonous rhetoric among the Republicans who still see, in him, the possibility of continuing to breathe politically, even if they have to show their most racist and hypocritical side.

Moreover, it was reported this weekend that in the first six months of this year, political committees associated with Trump accumulated \$82 million and the former president has some \$100 million already in his coffers, funds gathered by promoting the lie that the general elections in 2020 were "stolen."

“

The El Paso massacre is a reminder of the effect that hate speech can have on sick minds. The January 6 assault on the Capitol was another reminder of this fact.

In addition, the Republican Party has decided to promote the farce of "electoral fraud" to win the support of Trump's base and curry favor with the former president. Trump's support is sought by Republican figures who even try to rewrite history to which we all were witnesses, this past January 6 at the federal Capitol Building, when a raging, pro-Trump mob violently broke into the building to try to prevent certification of Biden's victory.

That which the entire world saw and has considered a clear

See Hastings/Torres on page 17

La Semilla del Odio Vuelve a Germinar Entre los Antiinmigrantes

Maribel Hastings and David Torres

Al cumplirse el segundo aniversario de la matanza en El Paso, Texas, un crimen de odio considerado el peor ataque contra la comunidad latina en la historia moderna, la retórica antiinmigrante de parte de figuras del Partido Republicano no da tregua.

El ejemplo más reciente es el ataque perpetrado por el gobernador de Texas, Greg Abbott, al

girar una orden ejecutiva la semana pasada que limita el transporte de inmigrantes, al dar autoridad a agentes del Departamento de Seguridad Pública del estado para detener vehículos de los cuales se sospecha que llevan personas que han cruzado la frontera sin documentos.

¿Cuál, sin embargo, es el criterio en esta orden que a todas luces se enfoca en un perfil específico de migrantes? Básicamente el color y el origen. En otras palabras, racismo puro y duro.

No contento con ello, Abbott culpa sin sutilezas a los inmigrantes de "aumentar" la propagación de los casos de COVID-19, a sabiendas de que muchos de ellos ya vienen vacunados y de que es precisamente Estados Unidos el país que ha roto todos los récords de contagios y de muertes en el mundo debido a la pandemia. Esa hipocresía es todavía más evidente cuando es Texas uno de los estados más reacios a seguir los protocolos médicos para quedar protegidos de eventuales contagios, empezando por el uso de mascarillas.

A ese tipo de ejemplos de retórica incendiaria se suman las iniciativas de política pública con las que el Partido Republicano busca, en-

tre otras cosas, suprimir el voto de las minorías.

Una de las principales razones es que la semilla del odio, el prejuicio y la discriminación sembrada por el expresidente Donald Trump germinó y sigue dando nefastos frutos. Se equivocan quienes piensan que haber perdido la presidencia ante el demócrata Joe Biden supondría el fin del expresidente más antiinmigrante y xenófobo de la historia reciente de Estados Unidos.

Porque la forma como Trump se ha ido reorganizando, cada vez más escandalosamente, hace suponer que su ego herido seguirá produciendo veneno retórico entre los republicanos que todavía ven en él una posibilidad de seguir

“

La masacre de El Paso es recordatorio del efecto que la retórica de odio puede tener en mentes enfermas. El asalto al Capitolio el 6 de enero fue otro recordatorio de lo mismo.

respirando políticamente, incluso si tienen que mostrar su lado más racista e hipócrita.

En efecto, este fin de semana se reportó que en los primeros seis meses de este año los comités políticos asociados a Trump recaudaron 82 millones de dólares y que el expresidente tiene disponibles unos 100 millones de dólares en sus arcas, fondos recaudados promoviendo la mentira de que le "robaron" las elecciones generales en 2020.

A lo anterior se suma que el Partido Republicano ha decidido fomentar la farsa del "fraude electoral" para granjearse el apoyo de la base de Trump y los favores del exmandatario. El apoyo de Trump es buscado por estas figuras republicanas que incluso pretenden reescribir la historia de la que todos fuimos testigos el pasado 6 de enero en el Capitolio federal, cuando una enardecida turba pro Trump irrumpió violentamente en

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The Jobs Bill Must Protect DACA Holders

Sonali Kolhatkar

Republican officials in Texas are celebrating after successfully suing the federal government over the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

DACA has been a GOP target since 2012, when President Obama created it to protect undocumented young people who've spent their whole lives here. It's faced numerous GOP legal challenges and a suspension of the program under Trump.

In spite of a 2020 Supreme Court ruling that upheld DACA, a new Texas federal court ruling by anti-immigrant judge Andrew Hanen deemed the program "il-legal," leaving hundreds of thousands of young immigrants in limbo once more.

One is Fatima Flores, political director of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles, who had just renewed her DACA status. Flores sees the ruling as "an attack on our immigrant communities," putting thousands in jeopardy of losing their employment, benefits, and housing — or even at risk of deportation.



Photo: OtherWords

The ruling is even more disappointing considering the role DACA holders have played as health care workers during the pandemic. After the Supreme Court ruled against Trump's suspension of the program, an estimated 30,000 health care workers with DACA status were allowed to continue their critical work.

Their contributions were widely recognized in the medical field. The American Medical Association's general counsel cited the central tenet of health care — "do no harm" — and argued: "If we strip this population of caregivers out of the system, that's pretty significant harm."

Now, Hanen's ruling threatens to do just such harm as the United States experiences another surge of COVID-19 infections.

The Biden administration will appeal Hanen's ruling, but Flores worries a legal challenge will take too long. Worse, a newly enlarged conservative majority on the Supreme Court could end the program altogether.

A more direct pathway to cementing DACA is through legislation. Reform could potentially pass through the Senate budget reconciliation process — requiring only a simple majority instead of a filibuster-proof supermajority.

Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) has released a \$6 trillion budget blueprint that puts \$150 billion toward pathways for legal status for immigrants, including DACA holders. Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA), who chairs the Senate Judiciary Committee's immigration panel, is also leading on the issue.

Perhaps more importantly, conservative Democrat Joe Manchin (D-WV) — a crucial swing vote — has signaled that he supports passing immigration reform in this manner.

There's a clear economic case to be made for legalizing undocumented immigrants in the federal jobs and infrastructure bill.

The Center for American Progress recently found that if all undocumented immigrants were offered citizenship, it "would boost U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) by a cumulative total of \$1.7 trillion over 10 years and create 438,800 new jobs."

If only DACA recipients were legalized, it "would increase U.S. GDP by a cumulative total of \$799 billion over 10 years and create 285,400 new jobs."

In either case, the authors find that *all* American workers would see their annual wages increase. In other words, legalizing immigrants will benefit everyone. But keeping exploited undocumented workers in the shadows drives wages down for everyone.

Flores pointed out that the clock is ticking. "We can't leave 2021 without some legalization efforts," she warned, because the 2022 midterms are around the corner.

People like Flores have had their lives turned upside down for



There's a clear economic case to be made for legalizing undocumented immigrants in the federal jobs and infrastructure bill.

decades awaiting a political solution. "I came to this country when I was six," she told me, "and I am 30 now. And I am one of millions of people who have been waiting for something to happen."

"We're done waiting," she said. "We're done having to take a back seat. We're done playing nice."

Sonali Kolhatkar is the host of "Rising Up With Sonali," a television and radio show on Free Speech TV and Pacifica stations. This commentary was produced by the Economy for All project at the Independent Media Institute and adapted by OtherWords.org.

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We Must Combat Domestic Extremism, Disinformation

Social media has allowed hate, extremism, racism, and disinformation to spread faster and further than ever before, often resulting in real-world harms for real people. As we mark two years since the El Paso, Texas shooting, we come together to mourn and reflect on the events of that day; united not just in solidarity, but also by a common understanding of the lethal devastation that can follow the proliferation of online hate. In light of this moment, we are committed to doing everything we can to address domestic extremism, online hate and disinformation.

On August 3, 2019, a white supremacist's deadly shooting spree at a Walmart in El Paso, Texas, took the lives of 23 people and injured 23 more—making it one of the deadliest domestic terror attacks and deadliest hate crimes in U.S. history, and the most horrific attack against the Latino community in recent U.S. history.

There is no doubt the shooter had hateful motives. In fact, he told law enforcement he intended to kill as many Mexicans as possible. He called his attack a response to "the Hispanic invasion of Texas" and said that he was defending America from "cultural and ethnic replacement brought on by an invasion." The shooter's manifesto, which was posted on 8chan the day of the shooting, espoused deeply bigoted and anti-immigrant views, including concerns about rising non-white immigration, fear of race mixing, and changing demographics.

This hateful act did not happen in a vacuum. Online disinformation and hate, like the 2,000+ fear



The reality is that two years after the El Paso attack, the threat of domestic extremism has only become more intense. The intelligence community has recognized white supremacist extremism as a top U.S. security threat.

See [Hate](#) on page 14



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Commentary / Comentario

Our Leaders Can Save Lives With the Stroke of a Pen

Melvin J. Medina

The single action of a governor or president can reset people's lives and send them on a journey of liberation and healing. This should be done more often in every state.

"This is a very strange feeling, tomorrow's the first day of the rest of my life. The depression can be gone. You're free to do what you want to do. You don't have this hanging over you anymore," said Michael McCloud, granted clemency by Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly in July after serving 27 years in prison.

In most states, governors have the unilateral power to liberate people from incarceration or the sentence of supervision with a stroke of their pen. A governor can save people from a sentence of death, free people from a sentence of incarceration, and even liberate people from the burden of parole or probation. The power of commutations — reducing or eliminating sentences — can correct for racial bias, prosecutor misconduct, and wrongful convictions in the criminal legal sys-

tem. More importantly, governors can do what state legislatures have failed to do — retroactively apply relief to people serving sentences that legislatures have deemed harsh, unnecessary, or discriminatory.

“
We need every governor — and President Biden — to embrace their power to set people free.

In recent weeks, multiple governors have led by example in using this transformative power, exercising their executive clemency powers to commute the sentences of incarcerated people. In Oregon, Gov. Kate Brown commuted the sentences of 41 incarcerated people who, while serving their sentences, bravely fought wildfires that torched over 4,000 residences and more than 1 million acres across the state. In Kansas, Gov. Laura Kelly commuted the sentences of five incarcerated

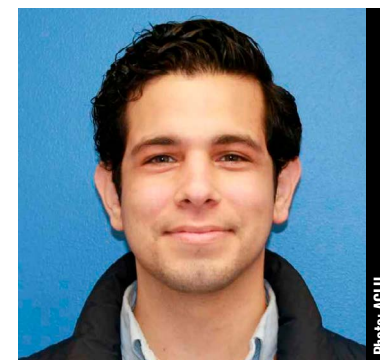
people, the single most commutations in an executive action by a Kansas governor in 15 years.

Republican and Democratic governors commuted the sentences of a total of 164 incarcerated people in 2021. That number pales in comparison to the 2,437 commutations sparked in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Just three out of 50 governors account for nearly 80 percent of all 2,601 commutations since 2020. Kentucky's Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear has commuted 832 sentences, Oklahoma's Republican Gov. Kevin Stitt has commuted 764 sentences, and Washington's Democratic Gov. Jay Inslee has commuted 471 sentences. Yet these numbers are misleading: the large majority of Gov. Beshear's and Gov. Inslee's commutations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic were for people already on track to complete their sentences within a few months of each respective governor issuing their orders.

Despite the overwhelming failure on the part of governors to meet the moment and save the lives of incarcerated people

from COVID-19 through large scale releases, we did see some governors break tradition and begin viewing their use of executive clemency authority as a normal and reasonable solution to underlying problems in their prisons and jails. A stroke of a governor's pen brought harsh and unjust sentences to life, and the same stroke of a governor's pen can end those sentences for thousands of people. We need every governor — and President Biden — to embrace their power to set people free.

Across the country, voters recognize the need for criminal justice reform, and a vast majority of voters across partisan lines support governors in using their clemency powers to liberate people and confront racial injustice. Eighty-six percent of Democrats, 81 percent of Independents, and 73 percent of Republicans support governors shortening the sentences of incarcerated people through clemency, according to a poll commissioned by the ACLU. The public support for the use of executive clemency should motivate the federal government



as the Biden administration debates whether or not to send 4,000 people in federal custody on home confinement back to prison. Governors and the executive branch of the federal government have unique power when it comes to ending mass incarceration. We applauded the recent efforts of Gov. Kelly and Gov. Brown, but they could and should issue more commutations, more often. State governors and the president should heed the will of the people, and take action.

Melvin J. Medina is a National Campaign Strategist with the American Civil Liberties Union.

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Biden Administration Should End Use of Title 42

Nayomi Valdez and Katie Hoepfner

Too often, our nation has learned who we don't want to be from the mistakes of our past. Indeed, asylum laws were born of a shameful history — our government's failure to shelter thousands of Jewish people fleeing state-sponsored persecution by the Nazi regime. In his four years in office, Trump decimated those asylum protections more than any other president before him. President Biden promised to restore a humane approach to asylum and uphold our nation's promise to allow people fleeing violence and persecution the opportunity to seek safe sanctuary in our country. But one of Trump's most extreme and restrictive policies remains and it's illegally shutting the United States off from vulnerable migrants fleeing desperate conditions.

Last March, Trump exploited the COVID-19 pandemic to further his anti-immigrant agenda, using Title 42, a public health order, to justify the immediate expulsion of any migrant who approaches the U.S. border. Weaponizing the order

in this way runs afoul of both U.S. and international laws that protect refugees and has no basis in science. It has sparked condemnation from immigrant rights organizations, public health and medical experts, and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi. Yet, nearly seven months into the Biden presidency, the order remains.

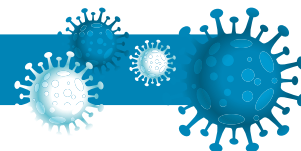
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The Title 42 order is anything but the humane approach Biden promised.

Though the Biden administration has made exceptions for unaccompanied minors and a limited number of vulnerable families, in part due to American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) litigation, single adults and many families continue to be turned away at the border. Many are expelled to México, where they are at risk of further violence and don't have access to proper food, shelter or medical treatment.

The Title 42 order is anything but the humane approach Biden promised. Though the administration claims the order is aimed at protecting people from the threat of COVID-19, there is no legitimate public health rationale for denying asylum seekers the opportunity to plead their cases, as countless public health officials have pointed out.

The order cites “congregate settings” that migrants are typically held in once inside the United States as a justification for suspending their entry, stating that the facilities are not set up for social distancing or to deliver adequate medical care. We agree. These facilities are not designed to care for people in normal times, let alone in times of emergency. That's why the Biden administration should focus on community-based alternatives to detention, and allow people seeking protection to stay with friends, family, and community members as their immigration cases proceed. Recent research shows that 99% of asylum seekers who were not detained or

See Valdez/Hoepfner on page 24



Delta's Future Course: 'It's Going to Get Worse'

By Liz Szabo

Upon first inspection, the mutations in the highly contagious delta covid variant don't look that worrisome.

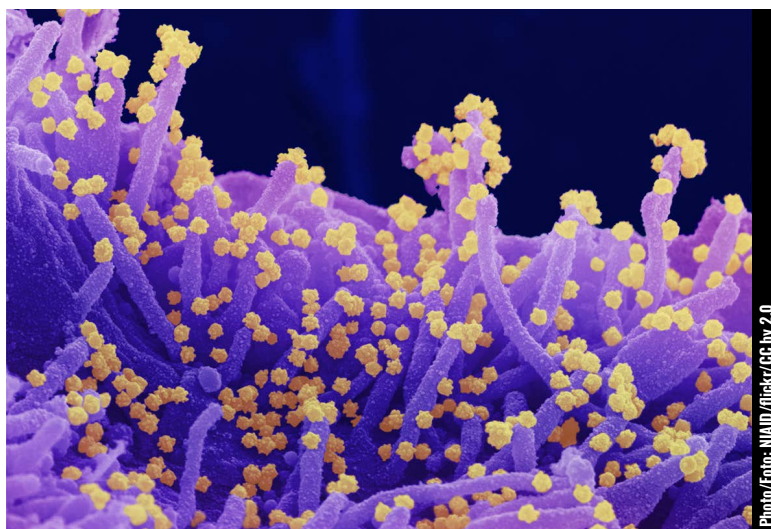
For starters, delta has fewer genetic changes than earlier versions of the coronavirus.

"When people saw that the epidemic in India was driven by delta, they did not suspect it would be so bad or overtake other variants," said Trevor Bedford, an evolutionary biologist at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center.

But those expectations were wrong.

Delta has kept some of the most successful mutations found in earlier variants, but also contains new genetic changes that enable it to spread twice as fast.

Delta is more dangerous in many ways. It has an incubation period of four days, rather than six, making people contagious sooner. When the pandemic began, people spread the original coronavirus to an average of two or three people. Today, people infected with delta infect six people, on average.



An image of the novel coronavirus captured and colorized at Rocky Mountain Laboratories in Hamilton, Montana. / Imagen del nuevo coronavirus capturada, ampliada y coloreada en el Rocky Mountain laboratories, en Hamilton, Montana.

As of last week, the delta variant had caused at least 92% of the new infections in the United States, according to covariants.org, a research firm in Bern, Switzerland.

Although delta isn't necessarily any more lethal than other variants, it can kill huge numbers of people simply because it infects so many more, said Dr. Eric Topol, founder and director of the Scripps Research Translational Institute.

Scientists have sequenced delta's mutations but are still trying to understand their significance, said Angela Rasmussen, a virologist at the University of Saskatchewan's Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization. "When we see the same mutations appearing repeatedly and independently, that suggests they're important," Rasmussen said.

Scientists have the best understanding of mutations on the

so-called spike protein — which sticks out from the surface of the virus like a club — and which have been studied the most intensely because of its serious ramifications, Rasmussen said. The coronavirus uses the spike protein to enter human cells, and changes in the spike can help the virus evade antibodies.

Scientists believe one of the most important areas of the spike is the receptor-binding domain, the specific part of the protein that allows the virus to latch onto a receptor on the surface of our cells, said Vaughn Cooper, a professor of microbiology and molecular genetics at the University of Pittsburgh. Receptors are like sockets or docking stations that allow proteins to interact with the cell. Once the virus gains entry to the cell, it can cause havoc, hijacking the cell's genetic machinery and turning it into a virus-making factory.

Delta's Worrisome Mix

Delta's rapid spread is particularly surprising given it lacks two mutations that made earlier variants so scary.



Vaccines protect people from covid by providing them with antibodies that attach themselves to the spike protein, preventing the virus from entering cells.

Delta doesn't have the N501Y spike mutation found in the alpha, beta and gamma variants, which enabled them to invade cells more successfully than the original virus. That mutation changed one amino acid — a building block of proteins — in the receptor-binding domain.

Delta also lacks the E484K mutation, which has made the gamma variant so worrisome. This genetic change, sometimes called "Eek," allows the virus to spread even among vaccinated people.

(Scientists use the Greek alphabet to name variants of concern.)

"The 'D' in delta stands for 'different' and a 'detour' to a different

See [Delta](#) on page 20

La Preocupante Mezcla de Delta: 'Va a Empeorar'

Por Liz Szabo

A primera vista, las mutaciones de la variante delta de covid, altamente contagiosa, no parecen tan preocupantes.

Para empezar, delta tiene menos cambios genéticos que las versiones anteriores del coronavirus.

"Cuando se supo que la epidemia en la India estaba impulsada por delta, nadie imaginó que sería tan mala o que superaría a otras variantes", dijo Trevor Bedford, biólogo del Centro Fred Hutchinson para la Investigación del Cáncer.

Se equivocaron.

Delta ha mantenido algunas de las mutaciones más exitosas encontradas en variantes anteriores, pero también contiene nuevos cambios genéticos que le permiten propagarse dos veces más rápido.

Delta es más peligrosa en muchos aspectos. Tiene un período de incubación de cuatro días, en lugar de seis, lo que hace que la gente se contagie antes. Cuando comenzó la pandemia, las personas contagiaban el coronavirus original a un promedio de dos o tres personas. Hoy, los infectados por delta contagian, en promedio, a seis.

A partir de la semana pasada, la variante delta había causado al menos el 92% de las nuevas infecciones en los Estados Unidos, según covariants.org, una empresa de investigación en Berna, Suiza.

Aunque la variante delta no es necesariamente más letal que otras, puede matar a un gran número de personas simplemente porque infecta a muchas más, señaló el doctor Eric Topol, fundador y director del Scripps Research Translational Institute.

Los científicos han secuenciado las mutaciones de delta, pero todavía están tratando de entender su relevancia, afirmó Angela Rasmussen, viróloga de la Organización de Vacunas y Enfermedades Infecciosas de la Universidad de Saskatchewan. "Cuando vemos que las mismas mutaciones aparecen de forma repetida e independiente, eso sugiere que son importantes", dijo Rasmussen.

Los científicos son los que mejor conocen las mutaciones de la llamada proteína pico (o espiga), que sobresale de la superficie del virus como un garrote, y que se han estudiado con mayor intensidad por sus graves ramificaciones, explicó Rasmussen. El coronavirus utiliza la proteína pico para entrar en las células humanas, y sus cambios pueden ayudar al virus a evadir los anticuerpos.

Los científicos creen que una de las zonas más importantes de este pico es la región de unión al receptor (RBD), la parte específica de la proteína que permite al virus engancharse a un receptor en la superficie de nuestras células, dijo Vaughn Cooper, profesor de microbiología y genética molecular de la Universidad de Pittsburgh.

Los receptores son como enchufes o estaciones de acoplamiento que permiten a las proteínas interactuar con la célula. Una vez que el virus consigue entrar en la célula puede causar estragos, secuestrando la maquinaria genética y convirtiéndola en una fábrica de virus.

La preocupante mezcla de delta

La rápida propagación de delta resulta sorprendente, ya que carece de las dos mutaciones que



Las vacunas protegen a las personas de covid, proporcionándoles anticuerpos que se adhieren a la proteína pico, impidiendo que el virus entre en las células.

volvieron tan temibles a las variantes anteriores.

Delta no tiene la mutación N501Y que se encuentra en las variantes alfa, beta y gamma, que les permitía invadir las células con más éxito que el virus original. Esa mutación cambió un aminoácido —un bloque de construcción de proteínas— en el RBD, el receptor del virus que lo ayuda a penetrar la célula.

Vea [Delta/Esp](#), página 22

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Exceptional Endurance: 'My Future is on the Line'

By Sunnie R. Clahchischiligi

Snuggled between tumbleweeds and utility poles, with a view of Ute Mountain through the windshield, high school sophomore Evan Allen placed his school-issued laptop on the center armrest of his grandmother's truck and switched on his mobile Wi-Fi hotspot. Another school day was about to begin.

Every weekday, not long after the sun rested on the foothills of the Carrizo Mountains in north-eastern Arizona, Evan would rise

from his foldout bed in his grandmother's home in T'is Názba, Arizona, on the Navajo Nation. At about 7:10 a.m., he'd grab his laptop, his school supplies and, if time allowed, some snacks, and make the 5.5-mile drive to the top of the hill above the local trading post, where a decent internet connection could be found.

School started at 8, but he made a point to get to the hill early and prepare for his seven classes from the driver's seat of his *másani's* Chevy. He'd stay in the truck for up to 10 hours, surrounded by dirt

roads, parched juniper and desert terrain that stretched beyond the horizon.

Evan, now 16, attended virtual classes from the top of that same hill for more than a year, starting last March, when his school Northwest Middle and High School, in the Navajo (Diné) community of Shiprock, New México, went remote because of the pandemic. His grandmother's house was in an internet and cellular dead zone, so the hotspot in the truck was his only option.

"It's exhausting, physically and mentally," he confessed this spring. "I have to constantly do all this stuff that's back-to-back, and I don't have time to rest."

Evan wasn't alone. Thousands of schoolchildren on the Navajo Nation live without internet access, computers, cellular service or basics like electricity. When the pandemic hit, more than 23,398 Native American students in New México lacked the high-speed internet and devices they needed for remote learning, the state's Public Education Department concluded. The true figure is significantly higher, since the agency's calculation didn't include the thousands of Indigenous students in Bureau of Indian Education schools, Albuquerque Public Schools and others.

Students had to drive or be driven miles from home in search of a Wi-Fi connection. They sat in vehicles, for hours on end, on land fought for by their ancestors, drawing on their resilience.

A day in the life

A typical morning for Evan began with music class, and he sometimes moved his laptop to the tailgate of the truck and played his percussion instruments: concert snare, marching snare, mallets, bass drum.

After band he did work for his "career exploration" course. Then it was on to Navajo language and, finally, biology, with a five-minute break between classes.

He got just 45 minutes for lunch, so he usually stayed on the hill and ate the food he packed or bought something at the Teec Nos Pos Trading Post, a small general store in the Four Corners area, near the intersection of New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona and Utah.

"I usually wait up there because coming back down here and going back up, I don't have much time."

After lunch came English, and then the class Evan looked forward to least — Integrated Math 2,



High school student Evan Allen attends online classes in his grandmother's truck, parked on a remote hill on the Navajo Nation. / El estudiante de secundaria Evan Allen asiste a clases online en la camioneta de su abuela, aparcada en una remota colina de la Nación Navajo.

followed by history. The final class let out at 3:30 p.m. But because he didn't have internet access at home, he sometimes remained parked on the hill until 6 or 6:30, doing homework.

In the winter, he sat in the truck wrapped in a heavy wool blanket, hoping the cold weather didn't cause an internet outage. The Chevy got stuck in the snow and mud once, prompting him to find a backup spot for bad weather.



"I commend him for it because it takes hard work and he's very committed to his education."

Letitia Moone

During the monsoon seasons, in July and August, internet access was even spottier. Evan often had such a poor connection that he couldn't log on. Even when he described the situation, some teachers insisted on counting him absent, he said.

"They just say, 'Yeah, the weather's bad but it's your responsibility to be here, and that's up to you.' It's frustrating because they don't understand that some students actually *want* to be there, but it's what they have that's not working — the hotspot's not connecting, or the internet is slow," he said. "They just blame you."

Initially, Evan's school offered him a hotspot for internet access. But the device didn't work in the house, so his mother, Letitia Moone, asked the school for help. She received little or none.

"They were just like, 'Keep trying, do what you're doing.' They'd tell Evan he's doing a good job, and that was it." The school did give Evan a different hotspot, saying

the new one would work better. "It didn't," Moone said.

Evan's school performance began to suffer. One teacher emailed Moone saying he was logging in late and struggling to get homework turned in. Moone, though she couldn't afford it, started shopping for their own hotspot. She called every internet provider on and near the reservation: They all told her she lived in a dead zone. She eventually did buy a device, but it only worked on the top of the hill.

Problems with internet access on the Navajo Nation were not new — government agencies had documented them for more than 15 years — but the situation was vastly exacerbated when the COVID-19 pandemic struck and all schools switched to remote learning.

Disconnection times nine

Shiprock residents Tammie and Clifton Mariano have 10 children at home, nine of whom attend three different schools in the Four Corners area of the Navajo Nation.

"At first, we were going to McDonald's and KFC," to find a good connection, Tammie said. But the Navajo Nation soon launched one of the strictest lockdowns in the country, with curfews and rigid travel restrictions.

Getting online became nearly impossible. "We used our phone hotspot and we tried to turn in assignments, but they wouldn't go through," she said.

Atsá Biyáázh offered a hotspot, but it didn't work. The couple eventually decided to invest in internet installation, which took weeks and cost about \$500; even then, the service was poor.

Packets and empty pockets

School staff and teachers, for their part, described difficult work

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Resistencia Excepcional: 'Mi Futuro Está en Juego'

Por Sunnie R. Clahchischiligi

Acurrucado entre plantas rodadoras y postes, con una vista de la montaña Ute a través del parabrisas, el estudiante de segundo año de secundaria Evan Allen colocó su ordenador portátil de la escuela en el reposabrazos central de la camioneta de su abuela y encendió su punto de acceso Wi-Fi móvil. Estaba a punto de comenzar otra jornada escolar.

Todos los días de la semana, poco después de que el sol descansara en las estribaciones de las Montañas Carrizo en Arizona, Evan se levantaba de su cama plegable en la casa de su abuela en T'iis Názbą, Arizona, en la Nación Navajo. A eso de las 7:10 de la mañana, cogía su ordenador portátil, su material escolar y, si el tiempo lo permitía, algún tentempié, y hacia el trayecto de 8 kilómetros hasta la cima de la colina que hay sobre el puesto comercial local, donde se podía encontrar una conexión a Internet decente.

Las clases empezaban a las 8, pero él se empeñaba en llegar temprano a la colina y preparar sus siete clases desde el asiento del conductor del Chevy de su *másani*. Se quedaba en el camión hasta 10 horas, rodeado de caminos de tierra, enebro seco y terreno desértico que se extendía más allá del horizonte.

Evan, que ahora tiene 16 años, asistió a clases virtuales desde la cima de esa misma colina durante más de un año, a partir del pasado mes de marzo, cuando su escuela Northwest Middle and High School, en la comunidad navajo (diné) de Shiprock, Nuevo México, quedó aislada a causa de la pandemia. La casa de su abuela estaba en una zona muerta de internet y telefonía móvil, así que el hotspot del camión era su única opción.

"Es agotador, física y mentalmente", confesó esta primavera. "Tengo que hacer constantemente todas estas cosas que se suceden, y no tengo tiempo para descansar".

Evan no estaba solo. Miles de escolares de la Nación Navajo viven sin acceso a Internet, ordenadores, servicio de telefonía móvil o elementos básicos como la electricidad. Cuando se produjo la pandemia, más de 23.398 estudiantes nativos americanos de Nuevo México carecían de Internet de alta velocidad y de los dispositivos necesarios para el aprendizaje a distancia, según concluyó el Departamento de Educación Pública del estado. La cifra real es significativamente mayor, ya que el cálculo de la agencia no incluyó a los miles de estudiantes indígenas en las escuelas de la Oficina de Educación Indígena, las escuelas públicas de Albuquerque y otras.

Los estudiantes tenían que conducir o ser conducidos a kilómetro

ros de su casa en busca de una conexión Wi-Fi. Se sentaron en vehículos, durante horas y horas, en tierras por las que lucharon sus antepasados, recurriendo a su resistencia.

Un día en la vida

Una mañana típica para Evan empezaba con la clase de música, y a veces trasladaba su portátil al portón trasero del camión y tocaba sus instrumentos de percusión: caja de concierto, caja de marcha, mazos, bombo.

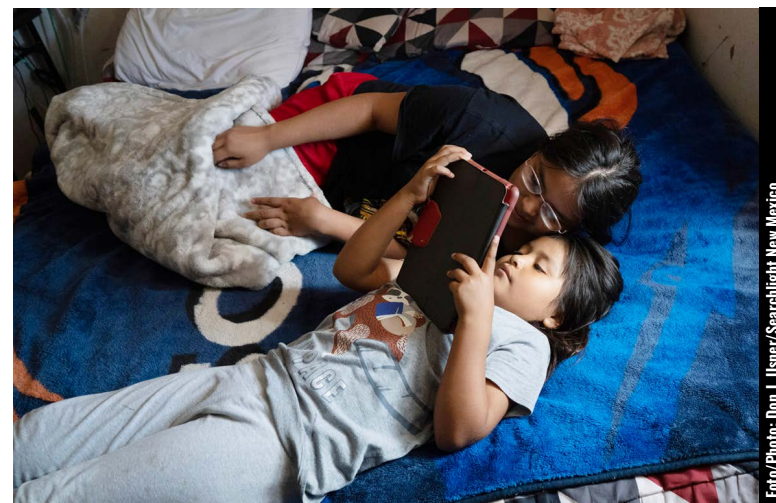
Después de la banda, hizo trabajos para su curso de "exploración de carreras". Luego pasó al idioma navajo y, por último, a la biología, con un descanso de cinco minutos entre las clases.



"Le felicito por ello, porque hay que trabajar duro y él está muy comprometido con su educación".

Letitia, Moone

Sólo tenía 45 minutos para almorzar, así que normalmente se quedaba en la colina y se comía la comida que había empaquetado o compraba algo en el Teec Nos Pos Trading Post, una pequeña tienda general en la zona de Four Cor-



Los hijos de Tammie y Clifton Mariano juegan con un iPad en la casa familiar de Shiprock, New México. / Tammie and Clifton Mariano's children play video games on an iPad at the family home in Shiprock, New México.

ners, cerca de la intersección de Nuevo México, Colorado, Arizona y Utah.

"Suelo esperar allí porque al volver a bajar y subir no tengo mucho tiempo".

Después del almuerzo llegó Inglés, y luego la clase que Evan menos esperaba: Matemáticas Integradas 2, seguida de Historia. La última clase salía a las 15:30. Pero como no tenía acceso a Internet en casa, a veces se quedaba aparcado en la colina hasta las 6 o 6:30, haciendo los deberes.

En invierno, se sentaba en el camión envuelto en una pesada manta de lana, esperando que el frío no provocara un corte de Internet. El Chevy se quedó atascado en la nieve y el barro una vez, lo que le llevó a buscar un lugar de reserva para el mal tiempo.

Durante la época de los monzones, en julio y agosto, el acceso a Internet era aún más irregular. Evan a menudo tenía una conexión tan pobre que no podía conectarse. Incluso cuando describió la situación, algunos profesores insistieron en contarle como ausente, dijo.

"Se limitan a decir: 'Sí, el tiempo es malo, pero es tu responsabilidad estar aquí, y eso depende de ti'. Es frustrante porque no entienden que algunos estudiantes realmente quieren estar allí, pero es lo que tienen lo que no funciona: el hotspot no se conecta, o el internet es lento", dijo. "Simplemente te echan la culpa".

Al principio, la escuela de Evan le ofreció un hotspot para acceder a Internet. Pero el dispositivo no

Vea Navajo/Esp, página 23

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The Free for Kids program at the Denver Art Museum is made possible by Scott Reiman with support from Bellco Credit Union.



State News / Noticias del Estado

All Denver Teachers, School Staff Must Get Vaccinated

COLORADO

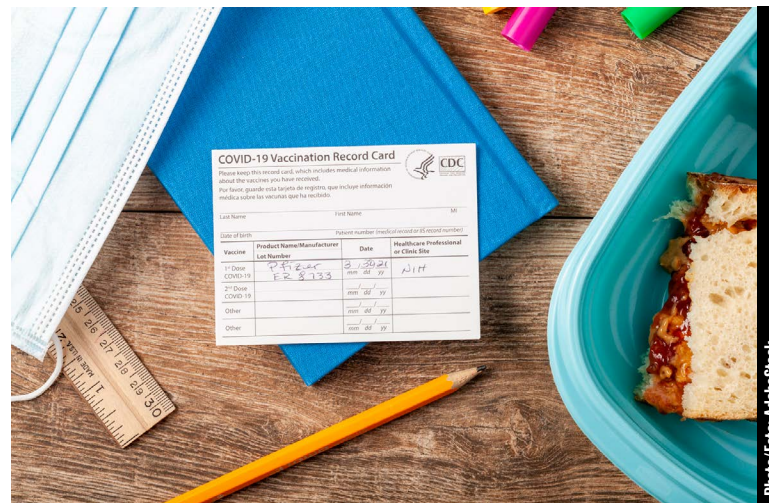
By Melanie Asmar

School and child care personnel in Denver, Colorado will be required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by Sept. 30, Denver Mayor Michael Hancock announced Monday.

Hancock's order applies to staff at all schools within the city of Denver, including public schools, private schools, colleges, and universities, said City Attorney Kristin Bronson.

In addition to school personnel, the order covers all city employees, people who work in high-risk occupations such as hospitals and long-term care facilities, and people who work in high-risk settings. School and child care personnel fall under the last category.

The order applies to all employees of Denver Public Schools, which is the state's largest school district and serves more than 90,000 students. Denver Public Schools had nearly 15,000 em-



School and child care personnel in Denver will be required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by Sept. 30. / El personal de las escuelas y las guarderías de Denver deberá estar completamente vacunado contra el COVID-19 antes del 30 de septiembre.

ployees last year, but that count did not include contract employees or employees at independent public charter schools who are also subject to the mayor's order.

To be fully vaccinated by Sept. 30, employees will need to receive their final doses of the vaccine by Sept. 15. Employees who don't comply "will not be permitted to work onsite or in the field," ac-

cording to a press release from the mayor's office.

"There are consequences for not following the order," Hancock said at a press conference Monday. "This would not be an order if you didn't have the consequences and be willing to follow through with them. There might be some folks who may lose their jobs behind this."

“There are consequences for not following the order. This would not be an order if you didn't have the consequences and be willing to follow through with them. There might be some folks who may lose their jobs behind this.”
Denver Mayor Michael Hancock

Rob Gould, president of the Denver Classroom Teachers Association, said the teachers union has encouraged members to get vaccinated, but union leaders were unaware of the plan to impose a requirement.

"With respect to Mayor Hancock's decision to mandate vaccinations for city and county

See Denver on page 23

Todos los Profesores y Personal Escolar de Denver Deben Vacunarse

COLORADO

Por Melanie Asmar

El alcalde de Denver, Michael Hancock, anunció el lunes que el personal de las escuelas y las guarderías de Denver deberá estar completamente vacunado contra el COVID-19 antes del 30 de septiembre.

La orden de Hancock se aplica al personal de todas las escuelas de la ciudad de Denver, incluidas las escuelas públicas, las privadas, los colegios y las universidades, dijo la fiscal de la ciudad Kristin Bronson.

Además del personal de las escuelas, la orden abarca a todos los empleados de la ciudad, a las personas que trabajan en ocupaciones de alto riesgo, como hospitales y centros de atención a largo plazo, y a las personas que trabajan en entornos de alto riesgo. El personal de las escuelas y de las guarderías entra en esta última categoría.

La orden se aplica a todos los empleados de las Escuelas Públicas de Denver, que es el mayor distrito escolar del estado y atiende a más de 90.000 estudiantes. Las Escuelas Públicas de Denver tenían casi 15.000

empleados el año pasado, pero ese recuento no incluía a los empleados contratados ni a los empleados de las escuelas públicas autónomas, que también están sujetos a la orden del alcalde.

Para estar completamente vacunados antes del 30 de septiembre, los empleados tendrán que recibir sus últimas dosis de la vacuna antes del 15 de septiembre. Los empleados que no cumplan con la orden "no podrán trabajar en el lugar o en el campo", según un comunicado de prensa de la oficina del alcalde.

"Hay consecuencias por no seguir la orden", dijo Hancock en una conferencia de prensa el lunes. "Esto no sería una orden si no se tuvieran las consecuencias y se estuviera dispuesto a cumplirlas. Puede que haya gente que pierda su trabajo por esto".

Rob Gould, presidente de la Asociación de Profesores de Aulas de Denver, dijo que el sindicato de profesores ha animado a sus miembros a vacunarse, pero los líderes del sindicato no estaban al tanto del plan para imponer un requisito.

"Con respecto a la decisión del alcalde Hancock de imponer la vacunación a los empleados de la ciudad y del condado y a los educadores de Denver, esto nos ha

"Hay consecuencias por no seguir la orden. Esto no sería una orden si no se tuvieran las consecuencias y se estuviera dispuesto a cumplirlas. Puede que haya gente que pierda su trabajo por esto".
Alcalde de Denver, Michael Hancock

sorprendido absolutamente", dijo en una declaración por correo electrónico. "Así como tenemos la expectativa de que el distrito colabore con los educadores en el proceso de toma de decisiones, tenemos la expectativa mutua de que los funcionarios gubernamentales colaboren con los distritos escolares antes de imponer mandatos a sus empleados y miembros de la comunidad."

La mayoría de los colegios de cuatro años de Colorado, incluyendo la Universidad de Colorado, la Universidad de Denver y la Universidad Estatal Metropolitana

Vea Denver/Esp, página 24

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State News / Noticias del Estado

Denver-Area Officials
Microtarget Vaccine Hesitancy

John Letson gets his first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine at a Denver Public Health mobile vaccine clinic behind a bus stop in Aurora, Colorado, on June 23.

COLORADO

By Markian Hawryluk

John Letson had seen too many apocalyptic movies to feel comfortable getting a covid-19 vaccine initially.

"I was completely against it," the 40-year-old movie buff said, referencing "I Am Legend" and "Children of Men," in which humanity is in jeopardy, as examples of what could go wrong. "I think an untested thing during a pandemic has later effects that we don't know yet."



"We have to be more agile and flexible for people who are maybe more hesitant to go downtown, or because they have to take three buses to get there."

Judy Shlay, Denver Health

After discussing with a doctor the various myths that have arisen about the vaccines, his opposition softened. On the way to get pizza in late June, he happened upon a mobile vaccination clinic behind a bus stop on Colfax Avenue in this Denver suburb and got his first dose.

"I was here. They were here," he explained, as a nurse gave him a shot of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.

The mobile clinic in the East Colfax neighborhood is part of a new push by Denver-area public health officials to find the neighborhoods where vaccinations lag

behind state or county averages. Using detailed maps that show vaccines given by ZIP code or census tract, the health departments highlight underperforming areas being masked by a county's overall vaccination rate. They then partner with community organizations with intimate knowledge of those neighborhoods to determine strategies to address the specific barriers keeping residents from being inoculated.

As the Biden administration seeks to boost the nation's vaccine rate by going "neighborhood by neighborhood," in the president's words, the approach taken on Colfax Avenue could become a model for the rest of the country. According to the National Association of County and City Health Officials, such efforts depend on the accuracy of the data and the willingness of jurisdictions to work together, which can be difficult for some regions to accomplish. The Denver-area effort has managed to use granular data across seven counties to help raise the vaccination rate by an estimated 4 percentage points in one troubled Colfax area in about a month.

"We have to do the dirty work to be with the community and listen to what their actual concerns are," Nicole Steffens, a program manager with the nonprofit Colorado Health Institute, said in a presentation on the mapping tool. "We can take all the data that we want based on large, mass groups of people on surveys with vaccine hesitancy or why people aren't getting vaccinations, but that might not actually apply to that very specific location."

The public health agencies cooperating in the Denver region represent 3 million Coloradans, about

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State News / Noticias del Estado

Denver Public Schools Will Face Masks for All Students and Staff

COLORADO

By Melanie Asmar

Face masks will be required inside school buildings for all Denver students, staff, and visitors, whether they're vaccinated or not.

Denver Public Schools announced the policy first in an email to staff obtained by Chalkbeat and then in an email to parents later Tuesday afternoon.

In the email to district staff, Denver Superintendent Alex Marrero cited a rise in COVID rates in the community and noted that even vaccinated people can contract and spread the virus, though their infections are much less likely to be severe. He said district leaders consulted with local public health officials on the decision to require masks.

"Given the current conditions and vaccination rates, and the advice of our partners at Denver Health, this masking requirement is the right thing to do for the health and safety of our students and staff," he wrote. Marrero added that he is hopeful COVID conditions will improve "and that we will be able to relax health restrictions soon."

Masks will not be required outdoors, the email says, nor will they be required for vaccinated staff members who are working alone in their offices or workspaces.

Denver Public Schools is the largest school district in the state with more than 90,000 students.



The Denver Public School District will require face masks for all students, staff and visitors beginning this school year.

The district's mask rules are stricter than [state guidance released last Friday](#), which recommends — but does not require — that everyone in a school setting wear a mask.

However, Denver's policy is in line with guidance from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which [said last week](#) that all students and staff should wear masks regardless of vaccination status. [A new order](#) from Denver Mayor Michael Hancock also requires that teachers and other school personnel be fully vaccinated by Sept. 30.

The mask rules go into effect Monday. The first day of school for most Denver students is Aug. 23.

Denver Public Schools' rules are stricter than several other Colorado school districts. The state's second-largest district, Jeffco Public Schools, [is mandating masks](#) for students ages 11 and under who

are too young to be vaccinated, as well as for unvaccinated staff. But masks will be optional for vaccinated staff in Jeffco, as well as for students aged 12 and older.

The state's third-largest district, Douglas County, won't require masks for anyone.

Marrero, who started his job in July, said last week that he'd heard pleas from parents on both sides of the mask debate.

"I have folks who have said, 'You'd better listen to the guidance. You're a doctor but you're not that type of doctor,'" Marrero said. "In a matter of hours, if not immediately, when I check my emails or when I get to interact with someone in the community saying, 'I'm not sending my child in if you force them to put on their mask. My child is vaccinated.'"

"I'm engaging with both," he said. "So, no one can say that I only heard one side."

“Given the current conditions and vaccination rates, and the advice of our partners at Denver Health, this masking requirement is the right thing to do for the health and safety of our students and staff.”

Alex Marrero, Denver Superintendent

More than 75% of Denver residents ages 12 and older have received at least one dose of a COVID vaccine and about 70% are fully vaccinated, according to data released July 30th by the Denver Department of Public Health and Environment.

But the seven-day average of new daily cases and the percentage of people testing positive for coronavirus ticked up over last week, as did the number of confirmed cases of the more contagious delta variant, health officials said.

Melanie Asmar is a Senior Reporter with Chalkbeat Colorado. Ann Schimke Senior Reporter contributed reporting. Originally published by Chalkbeat Colorado.

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Hastings/Torres-Esp

el recinto para tratar de evitar que se certificara el triunfo de Biden.

Eso que todo el mundo vio y que ha sido considerado un evidente intento de golpe de estado fue la primera muestra del manejo que Trump aún tiene de ese recalcitrante segmento social que se traiciona a sí mismo al rechazar la realidad demográfica y cultural de una nación de inmigrantes que se transforma todo el tiempo por su propia sobrevivencia.

Así, pese a los muertos y a los heridos, el liderazgo republicano se ha negado a investigar los hechos y a aceptar que fue el propio Trump quien agitó a sus seguidores, que incluso querían literalmente "colgar" al exvicepresidente Mike Pence.

Es decir, el prejuicio, el racismo y la división que definieron la presidencia de Trump solamente

se han intensificado en el bando republicano, no solo a nivel federal en el Congreso, sino a través del país con gobernadores y Legislaturas estatales republicanas, que allanan el terreno para suprimir el voto e incluso alterar los resultados electorales si son en su contra.

El año entrante, 2022, es la primera prueba de fuego para ver hasta dónde se extienden los tentáculos de Trump cuando las elecciones intermedias determinarán si los demócratas mantienen o pierden la estrecha mayoría en el Congreso. Y en 2024 no se descarta que Trump vuelva a la carga y busque la nominación presidencial. Después de todo, tiene los fondos y el apoyo de su base y de un liderazgo republicano sin com-pás moral.

Y para atizar a esa base, los inmigrantes y las minorías siguen

siendo los chivos expiatorios favoritos de los republicanos.

La masacre de El Paso es recordatorio del efecto que la retórica de odio puede tener en mentes enfermas. El asalto al Capitolio el 6 de enero fue otro recordatorio de lo mismo. Lamentablemente no hemos visto el último capítulo del daño que esa retórica, el racismo y el prejuicio son capaces de infligir.

Ante esa amenaza de resurgimiento del "trumpismo", no se puede retrasar más un histórico golpe de timón en el ámbito mi-

gratorio para, de una vez por todas, cambiar para bien la vida de millones de personas que han vivido, trabajado y se han sacrificado por este país aun sin documentos. Su regularización es urgente, es vital, es necesaria y es una tarea moral que ya no admite excusas.

Maribel Hastings es Asesora Ejecutiva de América's Voice. David Torres es Asesor en Español de América's Voice.

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Desde la década de 1970, las compañías tabacaleras han estado comercializando agresivamente productos con sabor a los latinos, ofreciendo descuentos en cigarros con sabor, cigarrillos y productos mentolados en los barrios predominantemente latinos para enganchar a nuevos clientes.

Por desgracia, sus esfuerzos han sido exitosos.

Hoy en día, el 50% de los fumadores latinos usan cigarrillos mentolados, en comparación con el 29% de los fumadores blancos. Casi 1 de cada 4 estudiantes latinos de secundaria usan productos de tabaco, con preferencia por los cigarrillos electrónicos con sabor. No podemos quedarnos de brazos cruzados mientras las compañías tabacaleras continúan beneficiándose de la salud de los jóvenes latinos de Denver.

Es por eso por lo que estas organizaciones locales estatales apoyan la acción para poner fin a la venta de productos de tabaco con sabor en Denver:

Tepeyac Community Health Center
Colorado Latino Leadership, Advocacy & Research Organization (CLLARO)
Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (COLOR)
Denver Latino Commission
Latina Initiative
National Association of Hispanic Nurses
Servicios de La Raza
La Raza Youth Leadership Institute

Es hora de priorizar la salud y la vida de los latinos sobre las ganancias de las grandes tabacaleras.

Para obtener más información, visite FlavorsHookKidsDenver.org

PAGADO POR AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION



State News / Noticias del Estado

Assistance for Renters, Landlords Available Until August 30

NEW MEXICO

By Roz Brown

Millions of Americans soon could find eviction notices on their front doors, but New Mexico renters will not be among them - as long as they file the appropriate paperwork to receive financial assistance. New Mexico has local and state eviction moratoriums in place, even as the federal eviction moratorium expired August 1. Brie Sillery - communications strategist with the New México



New Mexico has about \$150 million available in federal aid for rent and utility assistance to households experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19. / Nuevo México tiene alrededor de 150 millones de dólares disponibles en ayuda federal para el alquiler y la asistencia de servicios públicos a los hogares que experimentan dificultades financieras debido a COVID-19.

co Coalition to End Homelessness - said it's a good thing there's no immediate change in the state, because most homeless shelters are at capacity. "We are operating with a homeless response system already inundated," said Sillery, "and, because of the financial implications of the pandemic, we have seen an increase in people that are living on the street." The pandemic caused many to lose their jobs and fall behind on rent and utility payments. Sillery estimates 60,000 to 80,000 New Mexico households would be facing eviction without the



Renters or landlords facing financial difficulties can find help through renthelpnm.org—but must apply by August 30.

state and local moratoriums. Renters or landlords facing financial difficulties can find help through renthelpnm.org—but must apply by August 30. Sillery said New Mexico has about \$150 million available in federal

See [Renters](#) on page 17

Asistencia para Inquilinos y Propietarios Disponible Hasta el 30 de Agosto

NEW MEXICO

Por Roz Brown

Millones de estadounidenses pronto podrían encontrar avisos de desalojo en sus puertas delanteras, pero los inquilinos de Nuevo México no estarán entre ellos - siempre y cuando

presenten la documentación adecuada para recibir asistencia financiera.

Nuevo México tiene moratorias de desalojo locales y estatales en vigor, incluso cuando la moratoria federal de desalojo expiró el 1 de agosto.

Brie Sillery—estratega de comunicaciones de la Coalición de Nuevo México para Terminar con

la Falta de Vivienda- dijo que es bueno que no haya un cambio inmediato en el estado, porque la mayoría de los albergues para personas sin hogar están al tope de su capacidad.

"Estamos operando con un sistema de respuesta a los sin techo ya inundado", dijo Sillery, "y, debido a las implicaciones financieras de la pandemia, he-

mos visto un aumento de personas que están viviendo en la calle".

La pandemia hizo que muchos perdieran sus empleos y se retrasaran en el pago del alquiler y los servicios públicos. Sillery calcula que entre 60.000 y 80.000 hogares de Nuevo México se

Vea [Inquilinos](#), página 17



Los inquilinos o propietarios que se enfrentan a dificultades financieras pueden encontrar ayuda a través de renthelpnm.org, pero deben solicitarla antes del 30 de agosto.

State Begins Second Round of \$100 Incentives for COVID-19

NEW MEXICO

The New México Department of Health announced this week that for the duration of August, all New Mexicans will again be eligible for a

\$100 incentive for getting a dose of COVID-19 vaccine. Any dose will qualify, a first or second dose of Moderna or Pfizer, or a dose of the single-shot J&J vaccine. No more than one \$100 incentive will be distributed per person.

The announcement follows last week's White House press conference, at which President Biden praised New México for launching a \$100 incentive program in June—a program that led to a 333% increase in single-shot vaccines

and a 26% overall boost in completed vaccinations. New México is resuming its \$100 incentive program at President Biden's request.

To be eligible for the incentive, New Mexicans will have to register with an email, phone number, or



All New Mexicans will again be eligible for a \$100 incentive for getting a dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

Summer Food Programs

Free meal programs for children and youth are resuming at more than 700 locations statewide this summer!

Find a meal site near you at:

SummerFoodNM.org



home address at vaccineNM.org. New Mexicans can also call 1-855-600-3453 for assistance with registering.

If you need help filling out the form, press 1; if you need help scheduling a vaccine appointment, please press 3. A DOH agent will call you back, so please expect the call; and if you are a provider, please press 3.

New Mexicans are not required to schedule their vaccine appointments through the vaccineNM.org system. They may receive COVID-19 vaccine from any provider in the state.

Vaccine providers are required to submit information about vaccinations to the New México State Immunization Information System. When the state receives

See [Incentives](#) on page 17

ABQ Offering Hiring Bonuses Starting at \$750

NEW MEXICO

The City of Albuquerque is looking to hire employees for roles across the spectrum of city services and departments. This week, Mayor Tim Keller was joined by directors from City departments to discuss current openings and announce special hiring bonuses starting at \$750 and going up to \$15,000.

The City bonuses for certain high-need positions are available until December 31, 2021, making now an excellent time for job seekers to begin their applications with the City of Albuquerque.

"Now is a great time to come work for the city you love, with new hiring bonuses and openings for many interests and skill sets," said Mayor Tim Keller. "During the pan-

demic, City employees stepped up and provided the safety net to keep Albuquerque healthy and running. As part of our ongoing commitment to public safety, we're offering lots of good reasons for folks to come on board and help with our robust recovery."

"Becoming a Police Service Aide (PSA) is a fantastic career opportunity. As a PSA I get experience in the basics and fundamentals of law enforcement, which will make it an easier transition when I do eventually become an officer when I turn 21," said Thomas Novicki, a City of Albuquerque Police Service Aide. "I've always wanted to go into law enforcement, my father has served proudly since 2002 and seeing him come home every day happy that he made a difference in the community and glad to get to work with

likeminded people inspired me to do the same."

Throughout the pandemic, the City remained a dependable employer, supporting employees and their families through comprehensive benefits and extensive support programs. Through its Choose One initiative, the City encourages people to join the collective effort to make Albuquerque a stronger, healthier place.

With a boom in activity since the lifting of pandemic restrictions, City employees are needed to ensure that Albuquerque can continue on its trajectory for full recovery.

As unemployment remains high statewide, the City is actively looking to hire for immediate openings.

Departments presenting at this week's hiring announcement included: Albuquerque Community



Mayor Tim Keller was joined by directors from City departments to discuss current openings and announce special hiring bonuses starting at \$750 and going up to \$15,000.

Safety, Albuquerque Fire Rescue, Albuquerque Police Department, Animal Welfare, Emergency Communications, Municipal Development, Parks and Recreation, Planning, Solid Waste, and Transit.

More information on available positions and how to apply can be found at cabq.gov/bonus.

A healthily staffed city government is necessary to meet public safety and emergency response needs, offer recreation and event activities, provide transportation, and keep services running smoothly and timely for all residents.

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Luján, Border State Lawmakers Introduce Border Health Security Act

NEW MEXICO

Amid rising COVID-19 cases, U.S. Senator Ben Ray Luján (D-N.M.) led border state lawmakers in introducing the Border Health Security Act to strengthen multi-country cooperation to screen for infectious diseases and support vital public health initiatives in border communities. While millions of residents who live in border regions are citizens of different countries with independent public health infrastructures, these regions are highly interdependent with shared economic interests.

The legislation is cosponsored by U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.). U.S. Representatives Veronica Escobar (D-TX) and Tony Gonzales (R-TX) introduced companion legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The Border Health Security Act takes steps to ensure that the United States is prepared to address emerging public health crises and keep all Americans safe



U.S. Senator Ben Ray Luján (D-N.M.)

from threats to our biosecurity by fostering continued coordination of resources, effective communication, and information sharing between the United States, Mexico, and Canada. The United States-Mexico Border Health Commission has worked for two decades to address major binational health issues that strain the public health systems along the border, including infectious diseases. This bill provides important resources for the Commission and the Canada-United States Pan Border Public Health Pre-

paredness Council to work with organizations along our borders to strengthen public health infrastructure.

"While COVID-19 cases around the globe continue to increase, the United States must work with Mexico and Canada to address emerging public health threats to keep our border communities safe and protected. Strengthening our coordination with México and Canada will help address the unique challenges that border communities experience," said Senator Luján. "This bicameral bill will boost our preparedness for future public health threats and help save lives across the United States."

"We need to be prepared to mitigate infectious diseases at our nation's borders, especially as we continue to urge New Mexicans to also get their COVID-19 vaccine," said Senator Heinrich. "I am proud to introduce this legislation to reinforce cooperation and coordination with our neighboring nations and ensure our public health infrastructure can adequately re-

spond to unique challenges in our border communities."

Congresswoman Escobar commented: "The COVID-19 pandemic has deeply impacted the economic vibrancy of the U.S.-México border region and has exposed the unique public health challenges binational communities face. International collaboration has never been more important to fight this deadly virus and mitigate future infectious diseases. I am proud to introduce the *Border Health Security Act* to promote critical collaboration with our Mexican and Canadian neighbors and build on my efforts to protect and improve the health of El Pasoans."

"The National Rural Health Association applauds Representatives Escobar and Gonzales and Senators Luján and Heinrich for their commitment to improving health outcomes on the United States-México border. Enacting a comprehensive health care strategy is critical to ensure the diverse, rural population on the border is able to combat emerging disease

threats such as COVID-19, the West Nile virus, and other non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and obesity. The *Border Health Security Act of 2021* will help address these emerging threats by requiring members of the United States Mexico Border Health Commission to cooperate with the Canada-United States Pan-Border Health Preparedness Council to implement proven solutions and by allowing border health grants to be used to address longstanding epidemics plaguing this population. NRHA is committed to working with Congress to ensure this diverse, rural population has the tools needed to create positive health outcomes," said Alan Morgan, Chief Executive Officer of the National Rural Health Association.

A summary of the legislation is available [here](#). Full text of the legislation can be found [here](#).

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National News/Noticias Nacionales

Progressive Lawmakers, Activists Hailed for New CDC Eviction Moratorium

By Brett Wilkins

Pressure from progressive lawmakers and grassroots activists to extend the expired federal eviction moratorium paid off Tuesday when the Biden administration took action to shield most—but not all—U.S. renters at risk of losing their homes.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said the new moratorium “is intended to target specific areas of the country where cases are rapidly increasing, which likely would be exacerbated by mass evictions.”

Washington Post reporter Jeff Stein tweeted Tuesday afternoon that Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) confirmed that the new CDC moratorium “will cover 90% of the country” and “last for 60 days.”

“Schumer says, ‘I particularly applaud Cori Bush,’ who he says

gave ‘voice to the millions’ at risk of eviction,” Stein added.

Reacting to news of the new CDC moratorium, Bush (D-Mo.) tweeted, “Today, our movement moved mountains.”

Alexandra Rojas, executive director of Justice Democrats, said in a statement that Bush “demonstrated exactly the kind of leadership on behalf of working people that we need to see more of in the Democratic Party.”

“We saw what it’s like when one of the lowest-income Americans ever elected to national office challenged a Congress that is half made up of millionaires,” said Rojas. “With a little conflict and disruption of business as usual, she created a way out of ‘no-way.’ This isn’t the end of the battle for housing rights, but a new beginning. People deserve so much more than just basic protections from evictions during a pandemic.”

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) said in a statement that “today’s extension of the eviction moratorium is life-changing news for millions of people.”

“I want to thank the Biden administration for finding a way to keep people in their homes while states distribute the \$47 billion in assistance that Democrats in Congress provided in the American Rescue Plan,” Sanders continued. “I’m also very proud of Reps. Cori Bush, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez [D-N.Y.] and the [Congressional] Progressive Caucus for leading the effort to push the federal government to respond directly to the needs of the working class.”

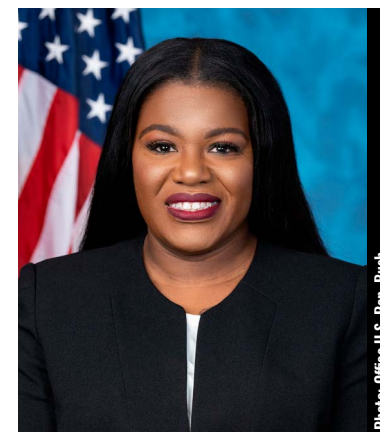
Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-Wash.) tweeted that “this couldn’t have happened without the monthslong advocacy of the Congressional Progressive Caucus.” The Caucus chair hailed the “committed, clear-eyed activists like

Bush leading the way, galvanizing attention, and calling on D.C. to govern with moral clarity,” adding that “it gets results.”

After House Democrats on Friday gave up on an eleventh-hour effort to pass a bill from Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) to extend the moratorium just before the lower chamber adjourned for August recess, the eviction ban lapsed on Saturday, putting millions of U.S. renters at risk of losing their homes amid the worsening Covid-19 pandemic.

Rather than leave Washington, D.C. like many of her congressional colleagues, Bush, along with Reps. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.) and Ayanna Pressley (D-Mass.), slept outside the U.S. Capitol building Friday night to demand that the House immediately reconvene to extend the moratorium.

The “Squad” members were joined over the weekend by other lawmakers and activists, who



U.S. Representative Cory Bush (D-Mo.).

demanding that President Joe Biden, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), Schumer, and other leaders “stop playing the blame game” and “do whatever it takes” to “end this eviction emergency.”

Brett Wilkins is a Staff Writer with *Common Dreams*.

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Lawsuit Initiated Against 'Illegal' Deportations Resumes

By Julia Conley

A week after the Biden administration signaled its willingness to go to great lengths to expel refugees from the U.S. with its adoption of an “expedited removal” procedure at the southern border, several human rights groups announced Monday that they are taking the White House to court over its denial of due process to migrants.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), RAICES, and Oxfam are among the groups who said they are returning to court with a lawsuit first initiated against the Trump administration for its use of a provision known as Title 42 in order to carry out expedited deportations during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Trump administration claimed it had authority under Title 42 to invoke the Public Health Ser-

vice Act of 1944 in order to keep asylum-seekers and other immigrants out of the U.S. in the name of public health.

Rights groups have called on President Joe Biden to end the use of Title 42, but last week advocates were outraged when the Department of Homeland Service (DHS) announced that instead of revoking the policy, it would begin using expedited removal to quickly deport families who Mexican officials have refused to accept.

The organizations filed a joint motion (pdf) in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, saying they «seek to resume litigation» as discussions over the policy between the groups and the government “have reached an impasse.”

The ACLU said the Trump administration implemented Title 42 “in violation of longstanding immi-

gration statutes requiring that asylum seekers receive a full and fair proceeding to determine their right to protection in the United States,” and denounced the Biden administration for doing the same in the first six months of Biden’s presidency.

“We gave the Biden administration more than enough time to fix any problems left behind by the Trump administration, but it has left us no choice but to return to court,” said Lee Gelernt, the lead attorney on the case. “Families’ lives are at stake.”

According to Human Rights Watch (HRW), Customs and Border Protection carried out more than 642,700 expulsions under Title 42 between March 2020 and April 2021, “typically without conducting the required screenings.”

“The consequences of returning asylum seekers to danger can

be catastrophic—resulting in sexual assault, torture, and death,” the group said.

According to HRW, “Congress specifically kept any reference to immigrants or immigration out of the law’s text because of concerns that public health authority could be used to discriminate against immigrants.»

“It’s beyond cruel to use an obscure public health rule to turn away families seeking safety without due process and functionally shut down our asylum system—it’s illegal,” said Karla Marisol Vargas, a senior attorney at the Texas Civil Rights Project, which is joining the ACLU as a plaintiff in the lawsuit.

Oxfam America added that the continued use of Title 42 “won’t stop the spread of COVID or prevent people who are literally fleeing for their lives from seeking safety in the U.S.”

“

“We gave the Biden administration more than enough time to fix any problems left behind by the Trump administration, but it has left us no choice but to return to court. Families’ lives are at stake.”

Lee Gelernt, ACLU

“The administration is choosing to treat refugees like political pawns, and so we are eager to return to court so we can end Title 42 for families once and for all,” said Noah Gottschalk, global policy lead for the organization.

Julia Conley is Staff Writer with *Common Dreams*.

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Hate

mongering ads spread by the Trump Administration on Facebook about the "invasion" at the U.S. Southern border, are part of a media ecosystem that normalizes and mainstreams anti-immigrant sentiment. These messages influence hatemongers to act. Tragically, the massacre in El Paso is not the only shooting where white supremacists espoused hateful, racist, and anti-immigrant sentiment on social media, followed by the carrying out of heinous murders. Sadly, white supremacists' online and propaganda vitriol towards U.S. Latino immigrants has not abated since the El Paso attack.

But how and why does anti-immigrant hate spread online? Leaders in positions of influence have demonized immigrants, asylum seekers and Latinos on social media and even placed false Facebook ads for their own political gain, warning about a fictional "invasion" from the southern border. This denigration of others due to race, ethnicity, national origin, immigration status, religious identity or culture are normalized and amplified on social media. And these messages are targeted to people who are vulnerable to believing them, based on demographic and behavioral data that the platforms collect about all their users on a daily basis. Ultimately, it is this normalization and unchecked hate that can lead to extremist tragedies and mass hate crimes.

The reality is that two years after the El Paso attack, the threat of domestic extremism has only become more intense. The intelligence community has recognized white supremacist extremism as a top U.S. security threat. Importantly,

civil society and government entities are working hard to ameliorate this threat. Recently, the Biden Administration announced a first-ever comprehensive inter-agency strategy focused specifically on countering domestic violent extremism.

Still, we must be relentless in combating hate and disinformation in our media system, because it is a major contributing factor to the rise and influence of domestic extremism. Last July, the Stop Hate for Profit coalition launched a campaign to push social media companies, and specifically Facebook, to prioritize people over profit. The coalition said "enough is enough" after seeing advertisement after advertisement next to hateful and extremist posts. Stop Hate for Profit's goal was for social media platforms to take common-sense steps to address the rampant racism, disinformation and hate on its platforms. While Facebook and other platforms have made some minor improvements, one year later there is a long way to go to stop the complicity of social media platforms in facilitating extremism.

We know that online platforms are not only spreading hate and lies about Latinos, but also targeting our community with false information. There is less oversight of disinformation in Spanish and other non-English languages. Latino communities have been relentlessly targeted by online disinformation campaigns which include political fake news, human smuggling ads, COVID-19 conspiracies and lies about COVID vaccines. Platforms must do more to moderate this deeply harmful content. To address this extremely important issue, a group of organizations

came together to form the Ya Basta Facebook! Campaign.

As we mark the two years since the tragic mass shooting in El Paso, we recommit to the necessary work of preventing and countering domestic extremism and hate – but this cannot be done in silos. We need the government, the tech industry and the rest of civil society to commit to fighting racism, extremism, and disinformation on digital platforms to ensure the horrors lived in El Paso, TX are not replicated. We must ensure approaches to mitigating hate and extremism always include its intersection with the media ecosystem.

ADL (the Anti-Defamation League), Dangerous Speech Project, EquisLabs, Free Press, Fundamedios, Global Project Against Hate and Extremism, Hispanics in Philanthropy, LatinoJustice PRLDEF, League of United Latin American Citizens, National Hispanic Media Coalition, UltraViolet, UnidosUS, United Church of Christ, OC Inc., Asian, Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC, Casa de Esperanza/National, Latin@ Network, GreenLatinos, LatinasRepresent, MANA, A National Latina Organization, National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators, National Hispanic Medical Association, National LGBTQ Task Force, SER-Jobs for Progress National Inc, Texas Border Coalition, United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

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Hastings/Torres

attempted *coup d'état* was the first example of the control Trump still has over that recalcitrant segment of society that betrays itself by rejecting the demographic and cultural reality of a nation of immigrants, constantly transforming to ensure its own survival.

Therefore, despite the dead and the wounded, Republican leadership has refused to investigate the facts and accept that it was Trump himself who agitated his followers, who even literally wanted to "hang" former Vice President Mike Pence.

The prejudice, racism, and division that defined the Trump presidency has only intensified on the Republican side, not only at the federal level in Congress, but across the country with Republican governors and state legislatures, who are paving the way to voter suppression—and even changing the results of elections that are not in their favor.

The coming year, 2022, is the first test to see how far Trump's tentacles extend, in the midterm elections which will determine if the Democrats keep or lose their slim majority in Congress. And in 2024, it's possible that Trump could turn up and seek the presidential nomination again. After all, he has the money and support from his base and the Republican leadership, that has no moral compass.

To rile up this base, immigrants and minorities continue to be Republicans' favorite scapegoats.

The El Paso massacre is a reminder of the effect that hate speech can have on sick minds. The January 6 assault on the Capitol was another reminder of this fact. Unfortunately, we have not seen the final chapter of the

damage that this rhetoric, racism, and prejudice are capable of inflicting.

In the face of this threat of the resurgence of "Trumpism," we can no longer delay a historic turn of the helm on the issue of migration so that, once and for all, the lives of millions of people who have lived, worked, and sacrificed for this country, even without documents, can change for the better. Their regularization is urgent, vital, necessary, and a moral duty that has no room for excuses.

Maribel Hastings is a Senior Advisor to *América's Voice*. David Torres is a Spanish-language Advisor at *América's Voice*.

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Incentives

this information, it will process the incentive payments. Payments will be distributed most quickly through email and text message; users who provide only home addresses will receive their incentives less quickly.

The funds for this incentive come from the federal American Rescue Plan.

New Mexicans under the age of 18 will not receive the incentive directly. Instead, their parents/guardians will be required to provide permission, and the incentive will be disbursed to the parent/guardian.

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Renters

aid for rent and utility assistance to households experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19. "What we want to do now is ensure that, as New Mexicans are seeing the federal moratorium come to an end, that both tenants and landlords know that they are still protected," said Sillery. The Biden administration said last week it lacks the authority to require the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to extend the moratorium past last week-end, and called on Congress to pass legislation to do so.

Roz Brown is a Producer with Public News Service.

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Inquilinos

enfrentarían al desahucio sin las moratorias estatales y locales.

Los inquilinos o propietarios que se enfrentan a dificultades financieras pueden encontrar ayuda a través de renthelpnm.org, pero deben solicitarla antes del 30 de agosto.

Sillery dijo que Nuevo México tiene alrededor de 150 millones de dólares disponibles en ayuda federal para el alquiler y la asistencia de servicios públicos a los hogares que experimentan dificultades financieras debido a COVID-19.

"Lo que queremos hacer ahora es asegurarnos de que, ya que los nuevos mexicanos están viendo que la moratoria federal llega a su fin, que tanto los inquilinos como los propietarios sepan que

todavía están protegidos", dijo Sillery.

El gobierno de Biden dijo la semana pasada que carece de autoridad para exigir a los Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades que prorroguen la moratoria más allá del pasado fin de semana, y pidió al Congreso que apruebe una ley para hacerlo.

Roz Brown es productor de Public News Service.

Traducido por Juan Carlos Uribe-The Weekly Issue/El Semanario.

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A mobile vaccine clinic run by Denver Public Health provides covid vaccines behind a bus stop in Aurora, Colorado, on June 23.

60% of the state's population. They overlay data from the state vaccine database with the covid caseload, poverty rates and racial demographics to highlight areas of concern.

"We weren't very surprised to see the areas that lit up," said Meghan Prentiss, with the Tri-County Health Department, which serves Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas counties east and south of Denver. "They all kind of followed those common trends of other health indicators."

East Colfax topped the department's priority list. The neighborhood, which spans the border between Denver and Aurora, is one

of the more impoverished in the metro area, with large numbers of immigrants and minorities, many of whom speak neither English nor Spanish.

Two-thirds of the city of Denver's eligible residents were fully vaccinated by the end of June, compared with just above 30% in the East Colfax neighborhood. In the 80010 and 80011 ZIP codes, which include the Colfax corridor, fewer than half of those ages 30 to 39 were vaccinated, compared with more than 75% in more affluent Washington Park or City Park.

Part of the problem, people in the community told health officials, was transportation.

Initially, the state had set up mass vaccination clinics in the center of Denver. But many East Colfax residents have no car, relying primarily on public transit. It's about a 50-minute ride one way on the Route 15 bus to the Ball Arena vaccine site. For many, that was too far to venture.

"It looks great on TV to have these mass clinics where people drive through," said Judy Shlay, an associate director who runs the immunization program for Denver Public Health, which operates the mobile vaccine clinic. "But we have to be more agile and flexible for people who are maybe more hesitant to go downtown, or because they have to take three buses to get there."

Moreover, people in the East Colfax area often work hourly jobs as independent contractors or gig workers and get no time off to get vaccinated. And if they fall ill after getting vaccinated, they might miss another day's pay.

So public health officials worked with transit authorities to identify where high-ridership bus lines intersected in the corridor, settling on a location by a Walmart, a Sprouts grocery store and the Little Caesars restaurant where Letson had gone to buy pizza.

On two days in late June, the

mobile clinic vaccinated a total of 150 people, most receiving their first shots. Among them was Marley Sosa, 18, whose sister is a nurse who worked at the clinic.

"She made me feel safe about it," he said. "People are just hesitant because it's a new vaccine."

Ira Milhouse, 40, who is homeless, said he got vaccinated so he could receive a \$50 grocery gift card provided as an incentive. Stephanie Aguilar, 18, came after clinic staffers walked through the shopping plaza where the van was parked, informing everyone they could get vaccinated that day.

Others inquired about the incentives but walked away unvaccinated.

Janice Robinson, 53, had come to the bus stop, part of her daily routine of "taking a ride" with no particular destination. "I don't want the vaccine," she said. "I don't think I need it. I don't really go anywhere."

Desiree Mister, 45, had just finished a shift at Sprouts. She was tired of wearing a mask and wanted to get vaccinated. But she wasn't sure if she could sell her plasma if she got vaccinated. She decided she'd come back the following week after a plasma draw. (The Food and Drug Administration says people who have received covid vaccines can continue to donate blood or sell plasma without a waiting period, although rules at plasma collection sites can vary.)

Early data, Shlay said, showed that vaccine access was highly correlated with income, and those able to connect digitally had an easier time tracking down shots. It proved much more difficult for East Colfax residents with language barriers.

That meant the vaccine had to come to East Colfax, which has few police or fire stations, libraries or rec centers that could host vaccine clinics. "We couldn't anchor something in there," Shlay said. "So we had to use small organizations that maybe aren't reaching everybody."

One of those was the Village Exchange Center, a nonprofit just a block off Colfax Avenue. The center offers benefits to immigrants, including a food bank that serves

4,000 people a day. Workers there inserted flyers about the vaccines into the bags of food they distributed and held information sessions.

"We have several pastors that have just said, 'This is evil, and we're not going to do it,'" said Amanda Blaurock, the center's executive director. "And we respect that. We don't go around decisions that community members have made. We just say, 'We're hosting it, and if you want it, we're trying to make it as accessible as possible.'"

One census tract in the area has a recorded population of 4,389, and as of mid-June, slightly more than 1,300, or about 30%, were fully vaccinated. Health officials would need to get roughly 1,700 more vaccinated to reach their 70% goal. A month later, the rate had climbed to 34%, and health officials expect more dramatic gains in the coming weeks after people receive their second doses.

The initial success has buoyed interest in more transit-based vaccine clinics. Shontel Lewis, who represents the East Colfax area on the Regional Transportation District mass transit agency's board of directors and spearheaded its involvement, said future clinics might be held at park-and-ride locations and other bus stops in underserved areas.

"The approach is often cookie-cutter. We tend to go with the same strategies, and then, when no one comes, we just throw our hands up," Lewis said.

If the goal is to get everybody vaccinated, she said, the interventions need to be tailored to specific communities. "Our approach might be different," she said, "but our goal is the same."

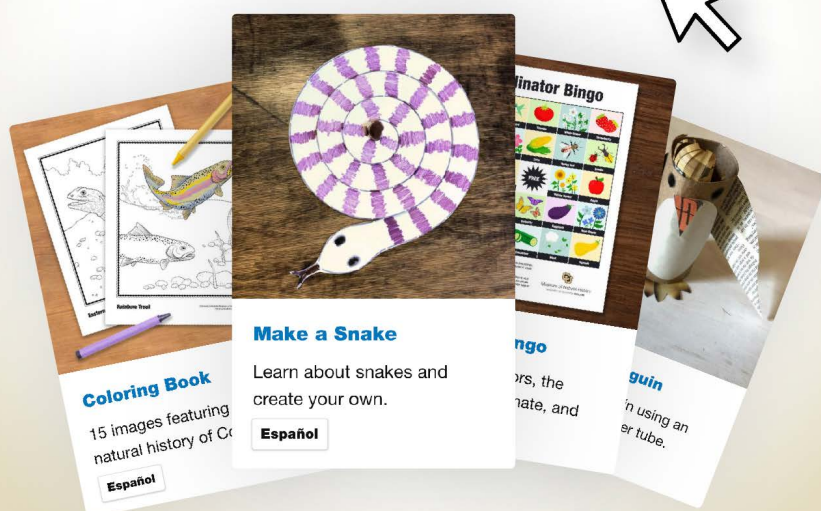
Markian Hawryluk is a senior Colorado correspondent for Kaiser Health News HN, based in Denver, Colorado. Kaiser Health News, a nonprofit news service covering health issues. It is an editorially independent program of the Kaiser Family Foundation, which is not affiliated with Kaiser Permanente.

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The extended Mariano family (Tammie on right) poses for a photo in their home in Shiprock, New Mexico. / La extensa familia Mariano (Tammie a la derecha) posa para una foto en su casa de Shiprock, New México.

environments that made it impossible to help students. Some had to make their own homework packets and pay for copies out of their own pockets. (Searchlight New Mexico contacted nearly a dozen staffers and teachers, but none wanted to go on the record, fearing retaliation and loss of employment.)

Like students, many teachers had no broadband at home and had to drive for miles to get internet access. Some used personal laptops and bought cameras with their own money, just to be able to teach their classes from a parking lot in Shiprock.

Gary Montoya, school board president for the Central Consolidated School District, saw still other crises. He traveled the dirt and washboard roads in the Four Corners region, off and on the Navajo Nation, to deliver homework packets to students, accompanied by his wife, Karla Aspaas-Montoya, a teacher in the district.

"There were weeks and days where we were driving 60 miles round trip to deliver to these kids and check on them," Montoya said.

The sprawling district — spanning nearly 3,000 square miles — serves more than 5,700 students. At the start of the pandemic, it couldn't possibly provide laptops for all of them, due to a national shortage and lack of funding.

Montoya said at one point he realized that the best he and his wife could do to help was to deliver packets and try to stay in touch with families that needed it.

"It would be nice if in a perfect world every child had a MacBook, a Chromebook, had Wi-Fi and running water," he said.

Driven to succeed

Still, in pickup trucks on hill-sides, students have also shown enormous resiliency.

Evan's mother said she saw it in her son every day. He and countless children like him chose to keep trying, keep driving up the hill, keep

parking at trading posts, keep sitting outside their local chapter houses, keep logging on.

"I commend him for it because it takes hard work and he's very committed to his education," Moone said recently, fighting back tears. Evan had finished the spring term and officially become a high school junior. He is determined to forge a better life for himself, his mother said.

The fall semester starts in August. Evan doesn't know yet whether he'll be in a classroom or in a truck on the hill. But he'll be there.

Because for Evan, the risk in giving up is far greater for a reservation student learning out of his grandmother's truck in the middle of the desert.

"My future is on the line," he said. "If I don't do this, then there's nothing for me at all."

Sunnie R. Clahchischiligi is a contributing writer at Searchlight and a member of the Navajo Nation. This story was produced with support from the Doris O'Donnell Innovations in Investigative Journalism Fellowship, awarded by the Center for Media Innovation at Point Park University in Pittsburgh, Pa. Searchlight New Mexico is a non-partisan, nonprofit news organization dedicated to investigative reporting in New Mexico.

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genomic mutation path," Topol said. "But it doesn't mean 'doom,'" he said, noting that existing covid vaccines remain mostly effective against the delta variant.

Vaccines protect people from covid by providing them with antibodies that attach themselves to the spike protein, preventing the virus from entering cells. By dramatically reducing the number of viruses that enter cells, vaccines can prevent people from developing severe disease and make them less infectious to others.

Delta does share mutations with other successful variants. Like all the identified variants in circulation, delta contains a spike mutation called D614G, sometimes known as "Doug," which became ubiquitous last year.

Scientists think Doug increases the density of spike protein on the surface of viral particles and makes it easier for the virus to enter cells.

Delta also has a spike mutation called P681R, which closely resembles a mutation in the alpha variant that appears to produce higher viral loads in patients, Cooper said.

People infected with delta have 1,000 times more virus in their respiratory tract, making them more likely to spread the virus when they sneeze, cough or talk.

The P681R mutation, also found in the kappa variant, is located at the beginning of a part of the genome called the furin cleavage site, Cooper said.

Furin is a naturally occurring human enzyme that gets hijacked by the coronavirus, which uses it to slice the spike protein into the optimal shape for entering the cell, Rasmussen said. The new mutation makes that sculpting more efficient, Rasmussen said.

Another delta mutation — also found in kappa and epsilon — is called L452R. Experiments suggest this mutation, which also affects the receptor-binding domain, acts to prevent antibodies from neutralizing the virus, Cooper said.

These mutations appear to be more formidable as a team than alone.

The genetic changes "are certainly doing something, but why that combination makes the delta variant more fit is not entirely ob-

vious," Bedford said. "Putting them together seems to matter."

Delta also has developed genetic changes not seen in other variants.

One such spike mutation is called D950N. "This might be unique," Cooper said. "We don't see that anywhere else."

The D950N mutation is different than other mutations because it's located outside the receptor-binding domain in an area of the coronavirus genome that helps the virus fuse with human cells, Cooper said. Fusing with human cells allows the coronavirus to dump its genetic material into those cells.

This mutation could affect which types of cells the virus infects, potentially allowing it to harm different organs and tissues. Mutations in this region are also associated with higher viral loads, Cooper said.

Delta also contains mutations in a part of the spike protein called the N-terminal domain, which provides a "supersite" for antibodies to latch onto the virus and prevent it from entering cells, said Dr. Hana Akselrod, an infectious diseases specialist at the George Washington Uni-

versity School of Medicine & Health Sciences.

Mutations in this region make monoclonal antibodies less effective in treating covid and increases the delta variant's ability to escape vaccine-generated antibodies, Akselrod said. That may explain why vaccinated people are slightly more likely to become infected with delta, causing mostly mild illness but allowing them to transmit the virus.

Delta's Future Course

Scientists say it's impossible to predict exactly how delta will behave in the future, although Topol said, "It's going to get worse."

Topol noted that delta outbreaks tend to last 10 to 12 weeks, as the virus "burns through" susceptible populations.

If the United States continues to follow a pattern seen in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, infections could rise from the current seven-day moving average of 42,000 cases to 250,000 a day. Yet Topol said the United States is unlikely to suffer the high death rates seen in India, Tunisia and Indonesia

because nearly half the population here is fully vaccinated.

While some studies have concluded that the Johnson & Johnson vaccine stimulates strong and persistent antibodies against delta, a new report found that antibodies elicited by one shot may not be enough to neutralize delta. Authors of that study, from the New York University Grossman School of Medicine, suggested a second dose may be needed.

Two doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine protect 94% of people from any symptomatic infection by the alpha variant, compared with 88% against the delta variant, according to a new study in the New England Journal of Medicine. Two doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine protect 75% of people from alpha and 67% from delta.

Cooper said covid vaccines offer remarkably good protection. "I will always celebrate these vaccines as the scientific achievements of my lifetime," he said.

The best way to slow down the evolution of variants is to share vaccines with the world, vaccinating as many people as possible, Bedford said. Because viruses undergo genetic changes only when they spread from one host to another, stopping transmission denies them a chance to mutate.

Whether the coronavirus evolves more deadly variants "is totally in our hands," Cooper said. "If the number of infections remains high, it's going to continue to evolve."

By failing to contain the virus through vaccination, wearing masks and avoiding crowds, people are allowing the coronavirus to morph into increasingly dangerous forms, said Dr. William Haseltine, a former Harvard Medical School professor who helped design treatments for HIV/AIDS.

"It's getting better, and we're making it better," he said. "Having half the population vaccinated and half unvaccinated and unprotected — that is the exact experiment I would design if I were a devil and trying to design a vaccine-busting virus."

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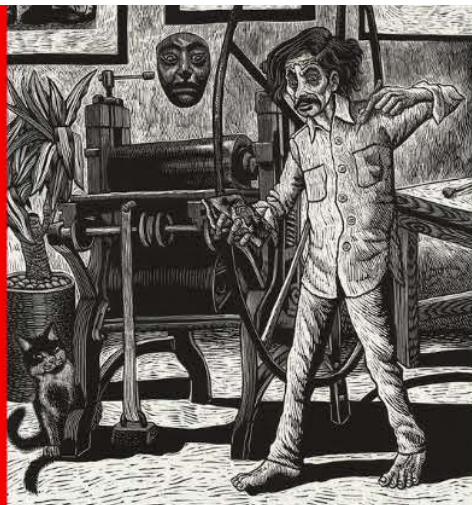
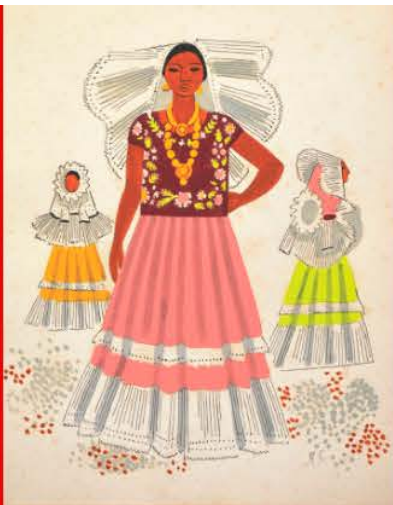
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Liz Szabo is a senior correspondent and enterprise reporter with Kaiser Health News, a nonprofit news service covering health issues. It is an editorially independent program of the Kaiser Family Foundation, which is not affiliated with Kaiser Permanente.

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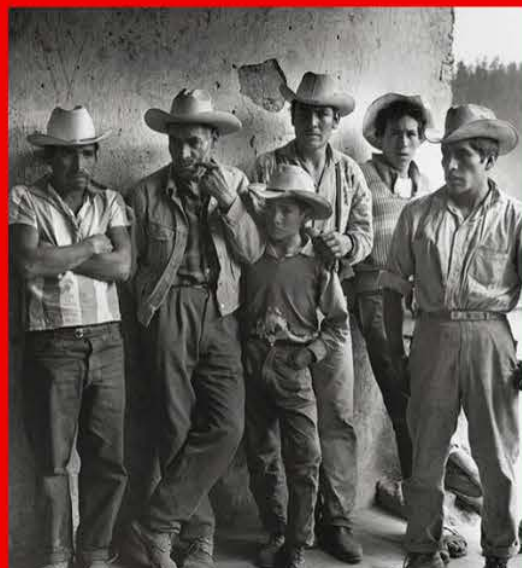
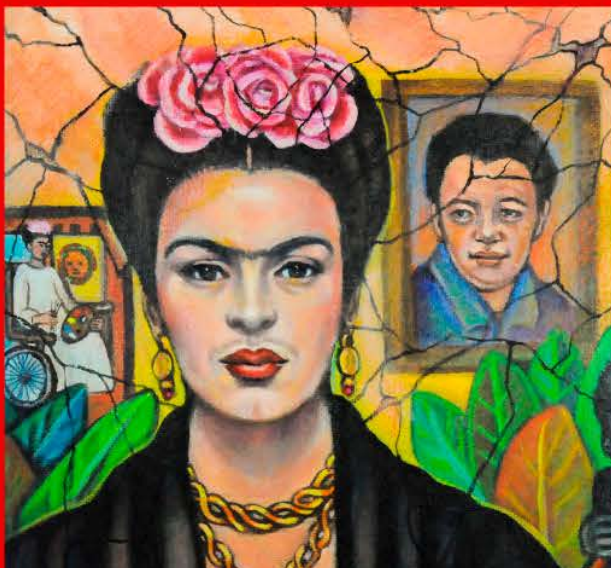
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Delta también carece de la mutación E484K, que ha hecho que la variante gamma sea tan preocupante. Este cambio genético, a veces llamado "Eek", permite que el virus se propague incluso entre personas vacunadas.

(Los científicos utilizan el alfabeto griego para nombrar las variantes que más preocupan).

"La 'D' de delta significa 'diferente' y un 'desvío' hacia una ruta de mutación genómica distinta", indicó Topol. "Pero no significa 'destrucción'", agregó, señalando que las vacunas existentes contra covid siguen siendo eficaces contra la variante delta.

Las vacunas protegen a las personas de covid, proporcionándoles anticuerpos que se adhieren a la proteína pico, impidiendo que el virus entre en las células. Al reducir drásticamente el número de virus que entran en las células, las vacunas pueden evitar que las personas desarrollen una enfermedad grave, y también hace que sean menos infecciosas para los demás.

Delta comparte mutaciones con otras variantes exitosas. Al igual que todas las cepas identificadas, delta contiene una mutación pico llamada D614G, a veces conocida como "Doug", que se volvió omnipresente el año pasado.

Los científicos creen que Doug aumenta la densidad de la proteína pico en la superficie de las partículas víricas y facilita la entrada del virus en las células.

Delta también tiene una mutación espiga llamada P681R, que se parece mucho a una mutación de la variante alfa que produciría cargas virales más altas en los pacientes, según Cooper. Las personas infectadas con delta tienen 1,000 veces más virus en sus vías respiratorias, lo que las hace más propensas a propagar el virus cuando estornudan, tosen o hablan.

La mutación P681R, que también se encuentra en la variante kappa, está situada al inicio de una parte del genoma llamada sitio de escisión de la furina, explicó Cooper.

La furina es una enzima humana natural a la que el coronavirus secuestra: la usa para cortar la proteína pico en una forma óptima para entrar en la célula, dijo Rasmussen, apuntando que la nueva mutación hace que esa obra sea más eficiente.

Otra mutación delta, que también se encuentra en kappa y epsilon, se llama L452R. Los experimentos sugieren que esta mutación, que también afecta al RBD, actúa impidiendo que los anticuerpos neutralicen el virus, explicó Cooper.

Estas mutaciones parecen ser más formidables en equipo que por separado.

Los cambios genéticos "ciertamente hacen algo, pero no es del todo evidente por qué esa combinación hace que la variante delta sea más apta", dijo Bedford. "Que se junten parece ser la clave".

Delta también ha desarrollado cambios genéticos que no se ven en otras variantes.

Una de esas mutaciones pico es D950N. "Esto puede ser diferente", apuntó Cooper. "No lo vemos en ningún otro sitio".

Cooper explicó que la mutación D950N es diferente porque está situada fuera de la región de unión al receptor (RBD), en una zona del genoma del coronavirus que lo ayuda a fusionarse con las células humanas. Esta fusión permite al coronavirus verter su material genético en esas células.

Esta mutación podría afectar a los tipos de células que infecta el virus, lo que le permitiría dañar diferentes órganos y tejidos. Las mutaciones en esta región también se asocian a una mayor carga viral, dijo Cooper.

Delta también contiene mutaciones en una parte de la proteína espiga denominada dominio N-terminal, que proporciona un "supersitio" para que los anticuer-

pos se adhieran al virus e impidan su entrada en las células, apuntó la doctora Hana Akselrod, especialista en enfermedades infecciosas de la Escuela de Medicina y Ciencias de la Salud de la Universidad George Washington.

Las mutaciones en esta región hacen que los anticuerpos monoclonales sean menos eficaces en el tratamiento de covid, y aumentan la capacidad de la variante delta para escapar de los anticuerpos generados por la vacuna, señaló Akselrod. Esto podría explicar por qué las personas vacunadas son ligeramente más propensas a infectarse con delta, lo que les causa una enfermedad leve, pero les permite contagiar el virus.

El comportamiento futuro de delta

Los científicos dicen que es imposible predecir exactamente cómo se comportará delta en el futuro, aunque Topol aseguró: "Va a empeorar".

Topol señaló que los brotes de delta suelen durar entre 10 y 12 semanas, ya que el virus "arrasa" entre las poblaciones susceptibles.

Si Estados Unidos sigue el patrón observado en el Reino Unido y los Países Bajos, los contagios podrían pasar del actual promedio móvil de siete días de 42,000 casos a 250,000 al día. Sin embargo, Topol indicó que es poco probable que Estados Unidos sufra las elevadas tasas de mortalidad observadas en India, Túnez e Indonesia porque casi la mitad de la población está totalmente vacunada.

Mientras algunos estudios han concluido que la vacuna de Johnson & Johnson estimula anticuerpos fuertes y persistentes contra delta, un nuevo informe encontró que los anticuerpos provocados por una sola inyección pueden no ser suficientes para neutralizarla. Los autores de ese estudio, de la Escuela de Medicina Grossman de la Universidad de Nueva York, sugirieron que podría ser necesaria una segunda dosis.

Dos dosis de la vacuna de Pfizer-BioNTech protegen al 94% de las personas de cualquier infección

sintomática por la variante alfa, en comparación con el 88% contra la variante delta, según un nuevo estudio publicado en el New England Journal of Medicine. Dos dosis de la vacuna de AstraZeneca protegen al 75% de las personas de la variante alfa y al 67% de delta.

Cooper dijo que las vacunas contra covid ofrecen una protección notable. "Siempre celebraré estas vacunas como uno de los logros científicos de mi tiempo", remarcó.

La mejor manera de frenar la evolución de las variantes es compartir las vacunas con el mundo, vacunando al mayor número de personas posible, enfatizó Bedford. Como los virus sólo sufren cambios genéticos cuando se propagan de un huésped a otro, detener la transmisión les niega la oportunidad de mutar.

Que el coronavirus desarrolle variantes más mortíferas "está totalmente en nuestras manos", afirmó Cooper. "Si el número de infecciones sigue siendo alto, va a seguir evolucionando".

Al no contener el virus mediante la vacunación, el uso de mascarillas y evitando las multitudes, se está permitiendo que el coronavirus se transforme en formas cada vez más peligrosas, advirtió el doctor William Haseltine, ex profesor de la Escuela de Medicina de Harvard que ayudó a diseñar tratamientos para el VIH/SIDA.

"Está mejorando, y lo estamos haciendo mejor", dijo. "Tener a la mitad de la población vacunada y a la otra mitad sin vacunar y desprotegida: ése es el experimento que yo haría si fuera un demonio y tratara de diseñar un virus destructor de vacunas".

Liz Szabo es corresponsal de Kaiser Health News. Esta historia fue producida por Kaiser Health News, un programa editorialmente independiente de la Kaiser Family Foundation que no está relacionado con Kaiser Permanente.

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funcionaba en la casa, así que su madre, Letitia Moone, pidió ayuda a la escuela. No recibió ninguna o muy poca.

"Sólo decían: 'Sigue intentándolo, haz lo que estás haciendo'. Le decían a Evan que estaba haciendo un buen trabajo, y eso era todo". La escuela le dio a Evan un punto de acceso diferente, diciéndole que el nuevo funcionaría mejor. "Pero no fue así", dice Moone.

El rendimiento escolar de Evan empezó a resentirse. Un profesor envió un correo electrónico a Moone diciendo que se conectaba tarde y que le costaba entregar los deberes. Moone, aunque no podía permitírselo, empezó a buscar su propio hotspot. Llamó a todos los proveedores de Internet de la reserva y de sus alrededores: Todos le dijeron que vivía en una zona muerta. Al final compró un dispositivo, pero sólo funcionaba en la cima de la colina.

Los problemas de acceso a Internet en la Nación Navajo no eran nuevos—los organismos gubernamentales los habían documentado durante más de 15 años—pero la situación se agravó enormemente cuando se produjo la pandemia del COVID-19 y todas las escuelas pasaron a la enseñanza a distancia.

La desconexión se multiplica por nueve

Tammie y Clifton Mariano, residentes de Shiprock, tienen 10 hijos en casa, nueve de los cuales asisten a tres escuelas diferentes en la zona de Four Corners de la Nación Navajo.



Carter Mariano tira a canasta en la casa de los Mariano en Shiprock, New México. /
Carter Mariano shoots hoops at the Mariano home in Shiprock, New México.

"Al principio, íbamos a McDonald's y a KFC" para encontrar una buena conexión, dijo Tammie. Pero la Nación Navajo pronto puso en marcha uno de los cierres más estrictos del país, con toques de queda y rígidas restricciones de viaje.

Conectarse a Internet se convirtió en algo casi imposible. "Usamos nuestro punto de acceso telefónico y tratamos de entregar las tareas, pero no las recibimos", dijo.

Atsá Biyáázh ofreció un punto de acceso, pero no funcionó. Al final, la pareja decidió invertir en la instalación de Internet, que tardó semanas y costó unos 500 dólares; incluso entonces, el servicio era deficiente.

Paquetes y bolsillos vacíos

El personal escolar y los profesores, por su parte, describieron entornos de trabajo difíciles

que hacían imposible ayudar a los alumnos. Algunos tuvieron que hacer sus propios paquetes de tareas y pagar las copias de su propio bolsillo. (*Searchlight New Mexico* se puso en contacto con casi una docena de empleados y profesores, pero ninguno quiso declarar, por miedo a las represalias y a la pérdida de empleo).

Al igual que los estudiantes, muchos profesores no tenían banda ancha en casa y tenían que recorrer kilómetros para acceder a Internet. Algunos utilizaron ordenadores portátiles personales y compraron cámaras con su propio dinero, sólo para poder impartir sus clases desde un aparcamiento en Shiprock.

Gary Montoya, presidente del consejo escolar del Distrito Escolar Consolidado Central, vio aún otras crisis. Recorrió los caminos de tierra y de tabla de lavar de la región de las Cuatro Esquinas, dentro y

fuera de la Nación Navajo, para entregar los paquetes de tareas a los alumnos, acompañado por su esposa, Karla Aspaas-Montoya, profesora del distrito.

"Hubo semanas y días en los que condujimos 100 kilómetros de ida y vuelta para entregar a estos niños y comprobar cómo estaban", dijo Montoya.

El extenso distrito, que abarca casi 5,000 kilómetros cuadrados, atiende a más de 5,700 alumnos. Al principio de la pandemia, no podía proporcionar ordenadores portátiles a todos ellos, debido a la escasez nacional y a la falta de fondos.

Montoya dijo que en un momento dado se dio cuenta de que lo mejor que podían hacer él y su mujer para ayudar era entregar paquetes e intentar estar en contacto con las familias que lo necesitaban.

"Sería bonito que en un mundo perfecto todos los niños tuvieran un MacBook, un Chromebook, tuvieran Wi-Fi y agua corriente", dijo.

Impulsados por el éxito

Aun así, en las camionetas de las laderas, los estudiantes también han demostrado una enorme capacidad de recuperación.

La madre de Evan dijo que lo veía en su hijo todos los días. Él y un sinfín de niños como él decidieron seguir intentándolo, seguir conduciendo por la colina, seguir aparcando en los puestos de venta, seguir sentados frente a las casas de la asociación local, seguir entrando.

"Le felicito por ello, porque hay que trabajar duro y él está muy comprometido con su educación", dijo Moone recientemente, luchando contra las lágrimas. Evan había terminado el trimestre de primavera y se había convertido oficialmente en un estudiante de secundaria. Está decidido a forjarse una vida mejor, dijo su madre.

El semestre de otoño comienza en agosto. Evan aún no sabe si estará en un aula o en un camión en la colina. Pero estará allí.

Porque para Evan, el riesgo de abandonar es mucho mayor para un estudiante de la reserva que aprende en el camión de su abuela en medio del desierto.

"Mi futuro está en juego", dijo. "Si no hago esto, entonces no hay nada para mí".

Sunnie R. Clahchischiligi es escritora colaboradora de *Searchlight New Mexico* y miembro de la Nación Navajo. Esta historia fue producida con el apoyo de la beca Doris O'Donnell Innovations in Investigative Journalism Fellowship, otorgada por el Center for Media Innovation de la Point Park University en Pittsburgh, Pa. *Searchlight New Mexico* es una organización de noticias no partidista y sin fines de lucro dedicada al periodismo de investigación en Nuevo México.

Traducido por Juan Carlos Uribe-The Weekly Issue/El Semanario.

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employees and Denver educators, this has come as an absolute surprise to us," he said in an email statement. "As we have the expectation for the district to collaborate with educators in the decision-making process, we have a mutual expectation that governmental officials collaborate with school districts before imposing mandates on their employees and community members."

Most Colorado four-year colleges, including University of Colorado, University of Denver, and Metropolitan State University of Denver, already require vaccination, though the Colorado Community College System does not. Most Colorado school districts are encouraging staff to be vaccinated but have not required it yet. Aurora Public Schools said previously it would mandate the COVID vaccine for all staff on the condition that one of the vaccines

receive full federal approval before the start of the school year.

Approximately 70% of Denver residents aged 12 and older are already fully vaccinated, according to city data. But the daily infection and positivity rates are ticking upward, and Hancock said the more infectious delta variant is now circulating in Denver.

Face masks are still not required in most settings in Denver, and Hancock's vaccination order doesn't change that. Instead, he and other city officials described vaccines as key.

Denver Public Schools is expected to release mask guidance for the fall this week. The first day of school for most Denver students is Aug. 23.

"We are not going to mask our way out of this," said Bob McDonald, executive director of the Denver Department of Public Health and Environment. "We are

not going to test our way out of this. We need to get people vaccinated."

Gerie Grimes, president and CEO of the Hope Center, which enrolls toddlers and preschoolers, said the new mandate won't affect her northeast Denver program much because nearly all of her 31 staff members are vaccinated.

She said some of her employees, many of whom are people of color, were initially hesitant to get the vaccine, in part because of the government's past racism in medicine — letting syphilis in hundreds of Black men go untreated in the infamous Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment, for example.

Such episodes raise the question, "Can you trust the government with anything that they're doing?" she said. "As an African-American, I know the history."

But Grimes, who got vaccinated last winter, also said Hope Center has made an effort to educate staff members about the effectiveness of the vaccine and counter some narratives in the media that spotlighted rare instances of severe side effects.

She said if any employees decide not to get the vaccine by the mayor's deadline, she'll be hard-pressed to find qualified replacements because staff shortages are a major problem in the field.

"We'd be out there looking because we need those positions filled, but it would be tough," she said.

Melanie Asmar is a Senior Reporter with *Chalkbeat Colorado*. Ann Schimke Senior Reporter contributed reporting. Originally published by *Chalkbeat Colorado*.

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IF NOT YOU, THEN WHO?

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Colorado Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline

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COLORADO
Department of Human Services

who were previously released from immigration custody showed up for their hearings in 2019.

The federal government is capable of safely welcoming asylum seekers with dignity and adhering to CDC-endorsed best practices during initial processing, including social distancing, masking and testing. The government has already proved capable of this in processing families and other vulnerable migrants who qualify as exceptions for humanitarian reasons under Title 42.

We can uphold our asylum laws and protect the public's health. And we must. Because denying migrants the legal right to seek asylum and sending them into harm's way only creates a different kind of a public health crisis. After all, no one can live a life of dignity and health if faced with the continual threat of violence and persecution.

People seeking asylum bring courage, hope and resilience to our country and deserve to be treated with compassion. As a border state, New Mexico has an added responsibility to call out the callous indifference happening in our backyard and to advocate for those who our state could help shelter from violence. There are numerous community-based organizations ready to help. Now, we need our local elected officials to show courage. We ask them to contact us and join us in sending a joint letter to the administration calling for an immediate end to the illegal and inhumane use of Title 42.

Nayomi Valdez, Director of Public Policy, Policy and Katie Hoeppner, Communications Director with the American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico. This op-ed was originally published in the Las Cruces Sun News and the Santa Fe New Mexican.

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Denver/Esp

de Denver, ya exigen la vacunación, aunque el Sistema de Colegios Comunitarios de Colorado no lo hace. La mayoría de los distritos escolares de Colorado animan al personal a vacunarse, pero aún no lo exigen. Las Escuelas Públicas de Aurora dijeron anteriormente que exigirían la vacuna COVID a todo el personal con la condición de que una de las vacunas reciba la aprobación federal completa antes del inicio del año escolar.

Aproximadamente el 70% de los residentes de Denver mayores de 12 años ya están completamente vacunados, según datos de la ciudad. Pero las tasas de infección y de positividad diarias están aumentando, y Hancock dijo que la variante delta, más infecciosa, está circulando ahora en Denver.

Las mascarillas todavía no son obligatorias en la mayoría de los entornos de Denver, y la orden de vacunación de Hancock no cambia eso. En cambio, él y otros funcionarios de la ciudad describieron las vacunas como clave.

Se espera que las Escuelas Públicas de Denver den a conocer esta semana la guía de mascarillas para el otoño. El primer día de clases para la mayoría de los estudiantes de Denver es el 23 de agosto.

"No vamos a enmascarar nuestra salida de esto", dijo Bob McDonald, director ejecutivo del Departamento de Salud Pública y Medio Ambiente de Denver. "No vamos a hacer pruebas para salir de esto. Tenemos que vacunar a la gente".

Melanie Asmar es reportera senior de Chalkbeat Colorado. Ann Schimke, reportera senior, contribuyó con su reporte. Publicado originalmente por Chalkbeat Colorado.

Traducido por Juan Carlos Uribe-The Weekly Issue/El Semanario.

Para Noticias de Colorado: [ELSEMANARIO.US](https://www.elsemanario.us)

Classifieds / Clasificados

HELP WANTED

Yard Supervisor

Satellite Shelters, Inc. and industry leader and provider of mobile offices, prefabricated buildings, blast resistant modules, construction job-site office trailers, and storage solutions; has an excellent opportunity for a construction professional with leadership experience and skills. Our Commerce City branch, near Denver, has an opening for a Yard Supervisor. This is a hands-on role that will mix both supervising yard staff, vendors and sub-contractor's; and the repair and refurbishing of our modular units.

Some of the duties include:

- Maintaining, coordinating and monitoring fleet schedule and repairs.
- Coordinating yard personnel schedules for cleaning, repair, delivery and maintenance of fleet.
- Managing inventory.
- Maintaining positive working relationships with all other company employees, vendors, sub-contractors and customers.
- Upholding the Satellite values of quality, customer service and work ethic.

Skill required include:

- Basic construction & carpentry skills.
- General knowledge of electrical work.
- Basic plumbing skills and experience.
- Strong background in safe work practices.
- Management skills.
- Dedication to customer service.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite

Physical/Mental Demands:

- Ability and willingness to work both indoors and outdoors in the elements.
- Walking, climbing, standing, stooping, squatting, bending, twisting, kneeling, lifting, pushing and pulling
- Ability to hold air impact tools up to 30lbs.
- Ability to lift a minimum of 50lbs.

Satellite Shelters, Inc. offers a competitive salary and benefits package and potential for annual bonuses in this role.



HELP WANTED

Yard Technician

Satellite Shelters, Inc. and industry leader and provider of mobile offices, prefabricated buildings, blast resistant modules, construction job-site office trailers, and storage solutions; has an excellent opportunity for those with general construction /general contract experience to work on our mobile office fleet in our Commerce City branch near Denver.

Some of the duties include:

- Preparing units for rental in a timely manner according to Satellite's quality standards.
- Making needed repairs and modifications on units as required.
- Performing general maintenance on modular units.
- Replacing/installing floor tile.
- Washing and waxing flooring.
- Replacing and installing siding.
- Removing and replacing walls
- Removing and replacing lighting, plumbing and electrical work

Skill required include:

- Basic construction & carpentry skills.
- Strong background in safe work practices.
- Ability to pass required background checks and drug screen. (minus THC)

Physical/Mental Demands:

- Ability and willingness to work both indoors and outdoors in the elements.
- Walking, climbing, standing, stooping, squatting, bending, twisting, kneeling, lifting, pushing and pulling
- Ability to hold air impact tools up to 30lbs.
- Ability to lift a minimum of 50lbs.

Satellite Shelters, Inc. offers a competitive salary and benefits package and potential for annual bonuses in this role.

Técnico de Mantenimiento

Satellite Shelters, Inc. y líder de la industria y proveedor de oficinas móviles, edificios prefabricados, módulos resistentes a las explosiones, remolques de oficinas para obras de construcción y soluciones de almacenamiento; tiene una excelente oportunidad para aquellos con experiencia en construcción general/contrato general para trabajar en nuestra flota de oficinas móviles en nuestra sucursal de Commerce City, cerca de Denver.

Algunas de las tareas incluyen

- Preparar las unidades para el alquiler de manera oportuna de acuerdo con los estándares de calidad de Satellite.
- Realizar las reparaciones y modificaciones necesarias en las unidades según sea necesario.
- Realizar el mantenimiento general de las unidades modulares.
- Reemplazar/installar las baldosas del suelo.
- Lavar y encerar el suelo.
- Reemplazar e instalar los revestimientos del suelo.
- Retirar y reemplazar paredes.
- Retirar y sustituir la iluminación, la fontanería y la electricidad.

Las habilidades requeridas incluyen:

- Conocimientos básicos de construcción y carpintería.
- Conocimiento sólido de las prácticas de trabajo seguras.
- Capacidad de pasar las comprobaciones de antecedentes y las pruebas de drogas requeridas. (menos THC)

Exigencias físicas/mentales:

- Capacidad y disposición para trabajar tanto en el interior como en el exterior a la intemperie.
- Caminar, trepar, estar de pie, agacharse, ponerse en cuclillas, arrodillarse, levantar, empujar y tirar.
- Capacidad para sostener herramientas de impacto de aire de hasta 30 libras.
- Capacidad de levantar un mínimo de 50lbs.

Satellite Shelters, Inc. ofrece un salario competitivo y un paquete de beneficios y potencial de bonificación anual en esta vacante.



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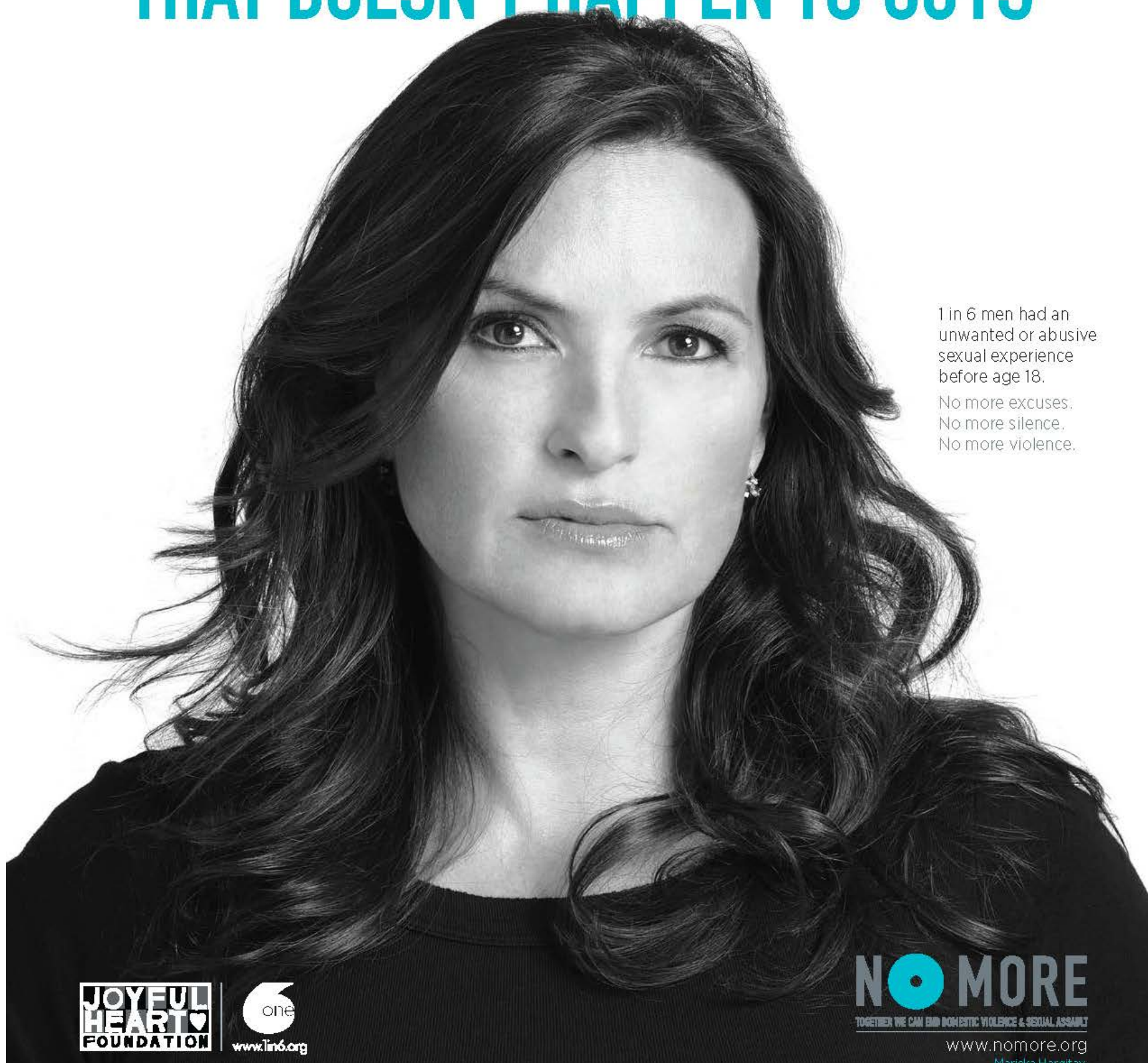


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El Semanario



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