

GM recalls 217,000 vehicles for possible transmission leaks - UPI.com

Nov. 9 (UPI) -- General Motors is recalling more than 217,000 vehicles built between 2018-2020 for the risk of transmission leaks that could cause car engines to stop during travel and possibly ignite engine fires.

The recall affects Chevrolets including the 2018 Malibu and 2018 and 2019 Cruze as well as the 2019 and 2020 Equinox and Traverse and the 2020 Chevy Blazer. Also recalled are GMC cars, including the 2018 through 2020 GMC Terrain and the 2019 and 2020 GMC Acadia. Buick Encores and Enclaves built in 2019-2020 and Buick LaCrosses built between 2018 and 2020 are included, as well as the 2019 and 2020 Cadillac XT4 and the 2020 Cadillac XT6.

The company said two bolts on the end caps of transmission auxiliary fluid accumulators were either missing or might be loose, which could cause transmission fluid to leak.

"A transmission oil leak may progress to a loss of propulsion, which could increase the risk of a crash," the company said in a recall report to the National Highway Traffic Safety Commission. "A transmission oil leak in the presence of an ignition source may increase the risk of fire."

Assembly-line software errors "may have allowed start-stop accumulators to be released from the supplier's automated bolt torque station without two required bolts," the company added.

Owners of the affected vehicles can contact dealers, starting Dec. 14, to inspect the cars to see if repairs are needed, GM said.

Trump accuses FDA and Democrats of holding back Covid vaccine until after election | The Independent

Pfizer announced drug success days after president defeated

Donald Trump has accused the FDA and Democrats of holding back a Covid-19 vaccine until after the election.

Mr Trump took to Twitter to attack his opponents and accuse them of manipulating the virus response to harm his re-election chances.

On Monday drug maker Pfizer announced that early data from its coronavirus vaccine trial shows it is more than 90 per cent effective.

The news came just days after Mr Trump was beaten at the polls by president-elect Joe Biden.

"The @US_FDA and the Democrats didn't want to have me get a Vaccine WIN, prior to the election, so instead it came out five days later – As I've said all along!" Mr Trump wrote on Twitter.

The company says it will have enough doses of the vaccine to give to between 15 million and 20 million people by the end of the year.

Mr Trump had repeatedly said on the campaign trail that a vaccine would be ready by election day.

"This is a historical moment," said Kathrin Jansen, a senior vice president and the head of vaccine research and development at Pfizer.

"This was a devastating situation, a pandemic, and we have embarked on a path and a goal that nobody ever has achieved — to come up with a vaccine within a year."

Pfizer have denied any allegations that politics played a part in the timing of their announcement.

More than 74 million Americans cast votes for president-elect Joe Biden, while more than 70 million voted for Mr Trump, with 65 per cent of eligible voters taking part in the election.

Mr Biden's victory was achieved by rebuilding the "blue wall" of Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania, while flipping the battleground states of Arizona and Georgia.

His victory in Georgia is narrow enough that it will require a recount.

Former GM Jeff Luhnow files lawsuit against Houston Astros after sign-stealing scandal

3:41 PM ET

Former [Houston Astros](#) general manager Jeff Luhnow filed a lawsuit against his former employer Monday for breach of contract, seeking more than \$22 million after alleging his firing was through a "negotiated resolution" between owner Jim Crane and MLB commissioner Rob Manfred that allowed the Astros to keep their 2017 World Series championship.

Luhnow's attorneys wrote in the filing that the agreement between Crane and Manfred "scapegoated Luhnow for a sign-stealing scandal that he had no knowledge of and played no part in."

The lawsuit was filed in Harris County (Texas) District Court.

According to the filing, Luhnow was still owed \$22 million in guaranteed compensation at the time of his firing from a contract signed on May 24, 2018, that was scheduled to pay him more than \$31 million in guaranteed compensation, performance bonuses, profits interest and other benefits.

Luhnow is seeking restitution that includes his remaining compensation owed, plus attorney fees and court costs. He is also seeking a jury trial.

His attorneys allege in the lawsuit that MLB's investigation of the Astros sign-stealing scheme was "deeply flawed" and that there was "no credible evidence" that Luhnow had any knowledge of it.

They also point out that "the video room employees who conceived and orchestrated the sign-stealing system remained employed by the club throughout the 2020 season."

Luhnow and manager AJ Hinch were fired by the Astros in January when the results of MLB's investigation were released. Both men were suspended for a season by MLB, with the suspensions ending after the World Series. Hinch has since been hired as the manager of the [Detroit Tigers](#).

Luhnow's lawyers alleged Tom Koch-Weser, the Astros' director of advance information, was the only one of 70 witnesses in MLB's investigation to claim Luhnow spoke of electronic sign stealing. They claimed Koch-Weser stole signs and lied during baseball's investigation and alleged the Astros told Koch-Weser "he could keep his job as long as his actions were sanctioned by his supervisors, including Luhnow."

They said Manfred's investigation "could produce only one untrustworthy source -- the actual ringleader of the Astros' sign-stealing schemes who 'implicated' Luhnow to save his own job."

MLB declined to comment, spokesman Michael Teevan said. The Astros and Koch-Weser did not respond to emails seeking comment.

Study shows oxidant hydrogen peroxide can actually slow down cell ageing

Reviewed by Emily Henderson, B.Sc. Nov 9 2020

At high concentrations, reactive oxygen species - known as oxidants - are harmful to cells in all organisms and have been linked to ageing. But a study from the Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden, has now shown that low levels of the oxidant hydrogen peroxide can stimulate an enzyme that helps slow down the ageing of yeast cells.

One benefit of antioxidants, such as vitamins C and E, is that they neutralise reactive oxygen species - known as oxidants - which may otherwise react with important molecules in the body and destroy their biological functions.

Larger amounts of oxidants can cause serious damage to DNA, cell membranes and proteins for example. Our cells have therefore developed powerful defence mechanisms to get rid of these oxidants, which are formed in our normal metabolism.

It was previously believed that oxidants were only harmful, but recently we have begun to understand that they also have positive functions. Now, the new research from the Chalmers University of Technology shows that the well-known oxidant hydrogen peroxide can actually slow down the ageing of yeast cells. Hydrogen peroxide is a chemical used for hair and tooth whitening, among other things.

It is also one of the oxidants formed in our metabolism that is harmful at higher concentrations.

The Chalmers researchers studied the enzyme Tsa1, which is part of a group of antioxidants called peroxiredoxins.

Previous studies of these enzymes have shown that they participate in yeast cells' defences against harmful oxidants. But the peroxiredoxins also help extend the life span of cells when they are subjected to calorie restriction. The mechanisms behind these functions have not yet been fully understood."

Mikael Molin, Study Lead, Department of Biology and Biological Engineering, Chalmers University of Technology

It is already known that reduced calorie intake can significantly extend the life span of a variety of organisms, from yeast to monkeys. Several research groups, including Mikael Molin's, have also shown that stimulation of peroxiredoxin activity, in particular, is what slows down the ageing of cells, in organisms such as yeast, flies and worms, when they receive fewer calories than normal through their food.

"Now we have found a new function of Tsa1," says Cecilia Picazo, a postdoctoral researcher at the Division of Systems and Synthetic Biology at Chalmers. "Previously, we thought that this enzyme simply neutralises reactive oxygen species. But now we have shown that Tsa1 actually requires a certain amount of hydrogen peroxide to be triggered in order to participate in the process of slowing down the ageing of yeast cells."

Concern of outright war in Ethiopia grows as PM presses military offensive - CNN

Story by Reuters

Updated 6:51 AM ET, Mon November 9, 2020

Ethiopia's prime minister stepped up a military offensive in the northern region of Tigray on Sunday with air strikes as part of what he called a "law enforcement operation," increasing fears of outright civil war in Africa's second-most populous country.

Abiy last week launched a military campaign in the province, saying forces loyal to leaders there had attacked a military base and attempted to steal equipment.

Abiy accuses the leaders of Tigray of undermining his democratic reforms.

Government fighter jets have since been bombing targets in the region, which borders Sudan and Eritrea. Aid workers on Sunday reported heavy fighting in several parts of the region, with at least six dead and dozens wounded.

Also on Sunday, Abiy named a new chief of the army, a new intelligence chief and a new federal police commissioner and foreign minister, changes that analysts said brought close allies into top posts as the conflict escalates.

The premier won last year's Nobel Peace Prize for making peace with neighboring Eritrea and for introducing democratic reforms in one of Africa's most repressive countries.

But the democratic transition he promised is endangered by the Tigray conflict, the International Crisis Group think-tank warned last week.

In a televised address on Sunday, Abiy urged the international community "to understand the context and the consistent transgressions" by the Tigrayan leaders which led the government to undertake "this law enforcement operation."

Tigrayans complain that Abiy, who is from the Oromo ethnic group, Ethiopia's largest, has unfairly targeted them as part of a crackdown on past rights abuses and corruption.

Forces of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), which governs the region, are battle-hardened and possess significant stocks of military hardware, experts say.

They and militia allies number up to 250,000 men, according to the International Crisis Group.

One of the biggest risks is that Ethiopia's army will split along ethnic lines, with Tigrayans defecting to the regional force. There are signs that is already happening, analysts said.

The United Nations raised concerns of reprisals against ethnic Tigrayans amid heightened tension in the diverse country in a confidential report dated Sunday and seen by Reuters.

FDA okays Lilly's antibody treatment for Covid-19 - CNN

(CNN)The US Food and Drug Administration said Monday it had issued an emergency use authorization for Eli Lilly and Co's monoclonal antibody therapy to treat mild to moderate coronavirus infections in adults and children.

The single antibody treatment, called bamlanivimab, must be infused in a hospital or other health care setting. It is the first monoclonal antibody to be authorized for use in treating coronavirus. The idea is to kick-start an immune response against infection.

"Monoclonal antibodies are laboratory-made proteins that mimic the immune system's ability to fight off harmful antigens such as viruses. Bamlanivimab is a monoclonal antibody that is specifically directed against the spike protein of SARS-CoV-2, designed to block the virus' attachment and entry into human cells," the FDA said in a statement.

"The FDA's emergency authorization of bamlanivimab provides health care professionals on the frontline of this pandemic with another potential tool in treating Covid-19 patients," Dr. Patrizia Cavazzoni, acting director of the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, said in the statement. "We will continue to evaluate new data on the safety and efficacy of bamlanivimab as they become available."

FDA authorization was based on a study published in the New England Journal of Medicine in October. It found the treatment seemed to lower the risk of hospitalization and ease some symptoms in a small number of patients with mild to moderate cases of Covid-19.

The Phase 2 trial involved 452 patients, some who received the treatment and some who got a placebo, which does nothing. Only 1.6% of patients given the treatment had symptoms progress enough that they had to be hospitalized or seek care at the emergency room. For patients who got the placebo, the rate of hospitalization was 6.3%.

Lilly announced it had struck a \$375 million deal with the government for 300,000 vials of the antibody treatment, pending EUA, to be delivered in the two months after. Lilly applied for EUA in October. The company said it planned to have 100,000 doses ready to ship within days and would manufacture a million doses by the end of 2020. The treatment would be provided to patients at no cost.

"Lilly will begin shipping bamlanivimab immediately to AmerisourceBergen, a national distributor, which will distribute it as directed by the U.S. government's allocation program," the company said in a statement.

"The issuance of an EUA is different than FDA approval," the FDA noted.

"Based on the FDA's review of the totality of the scientific evidence available, the agency determined that it is reasonable to believe that bamlanivimab may be effective in treating non-hospitalized patients with mild or moderate Covid-19," the FDA said.

"And, when used to treat Covid-19 for the authorized population, the known and potential benefits outweigh the known and potential risks for the drug. There are no adequate, approved and available alternative treatments to bamlanivimab for the authorized population."

Thanksgiving Will Soon Empty Campuses. Will Students Bring Coronavirus Home? - The New York Times

Experts worry that some of the hundreds of thousands of departing students will be “little ticking time bombs.”

Nov. 9, 2020 Updated 7:05 p.m. ET

As Thanksgiving approaches, millions of Americans are weighing the risk of pandemic travel against the yearning to visit friends and family. But one group seems all but certain to be heading home in large numbers just in time for turkey and holiday gatherings: college students.

Since the start of the fall semester, most universities have planned to end in-person classes before Thanksgiving and require students to finish the term remotely, partly to avoid an expected wave of cold-weather infections. That means that in a couple of weeks, hundreds of thousands of students will be streaming back to hometowns until the spring semester begins.

So what are colleges and universities doing to reduce the chances that those students might carry the coronavirus with them?

As has been true with so much of the nation’s pandemic response, the answer is a patchwork of policies, with a minority of schools mandating that students test negative for the coronavirus before they can leave campus — and many more offering little more than optional testing and advice.

Indiana University in Bloomington — where dozens of fraternity and sorority houses had to quarantine in September — will open its weekly surveillance testing to all of the 42,000 students living on or near campus. But the testing will be voluntary for most.

Pennsylvania State University — where off-campus parties around the football opener on Oct. 24 drew a rebuke from President Eric J. Barron — will offer free exit tests and strongly encourage students to get them, but will not make them mandatory for the more than 13,500 students in university housing or the tens of thousands living off-campus.

“We have found that students are responding well to our voluntary, convenient and free walk-up testing sites,” the university said in a statement.

The University of Michigan — where infections recently spiked so severely that local health officials issued a stay-in-place order — will make exit tests mandatory for some 5,000 undergraduates in university housing, but voluntary for thousands more living off-campus.

At the other end of the spectrum, a smaller number of schools are insisting on exit testing.

New York State’s university system — whose Oneonta campus ceased in-person classes in September after more than 700 students tested positive for the virus — will require “all students using on-campus facilities in any capacity” to test negative for the virus within 10 days of their departure, and to quarantine according to county health rules if they test positive,

MLB Rookie of the Year: Mariners slugger Kyle Lewis unanimously takes home AL award - CBSSports.com

Thanks to the weirdness of the 60-game season, several top 2020 rookies will be rookies again in 2021

By

[Mike Axisa](#)

11 hrs ago 6 min read

Monday night, [MLB and the Baseball Writers Association of America](#) will announce the 2020 Rookies of the Year. [Astros](#) righty [Cristian Javier](#), [Mariners](#) outfielder [Kyle Lewis](#), and [White Sox](#) outfielder [Luis Robert](#) are the American League finalists. In the National League, it's [Phillies](#) third baseman [Alec Bohm](#), [Padres](#) infielder [Jake Cronenworth](#), and [Brewers](#) righty [Devin Williams](#).

These days rookies are making an immediate impact more so than at any point in baseball history. They're not just playing well for rebuilding teams. They're impacting postseason races, like Robert and Cronenworth. MLB clubs are very good (and getting better) at player development, and these kids are ready to produce as soon as they arrive in the big leagues. It's awfully impressive.

Earlier this year MLB adjusted the rookie eligibility criteria for the short 60-game season. The 50 innings or 130 at-bats thresholds remain the same, but the service time criteria has changed. Typically players who spend 45 days on the active roster outside the September roster expansion period exhaust rookie status. This year, September counts toward the 45-day limit.

The rule change means players who spent the entire 2020 season on their team's MLB roster will not retain rookie status next year, as they would have under the old rules. Also, MLB has ruled that whoever wins Rookie of the Year this year can not win it again next year, even if they retain rookie eligibility. A two-time Rookie of the Year winner would've been something else, huh?

Chili pepper consumption could help people live longer, says American Heart Association | Fox News

Research suggests that chili peppers might lower risks of cardiovascular diseases, cancer

Chili peppers might just be the spice of life, according to a new study.

The American Heart Association released a statement teasing its findings on Monday, which are set to be presented later this week at a virtual conference titled "Scientific Sessions 2020."

Preliminary research has suggested that regular chili pepper consumers could have longer lifespans due to the fruit's anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, anticancer and blood-glucose regulating properties. These factors play a role in reducing a person's risk of dying from a cardiovascular disease or cancer, according to the AHA.

Researchers who have come to this determination analyzed 4,728 studies related to chili peppers and the aforementioned illnesses.

More than 570,000 health records were included in these studies, which included people from the U.S., Italy, China and Iran. The candidates who ate chili peppers regularly had "a 26% relative reduction in cardiovascular mortality; a 23% relative reduction in cancer mortality; and a 25% relative reduction in all-cause mortality."

"We were surprised to find that in these previously published studies, regular consumption of chili pepper was associated with an overall risk-reduction of all cause, CVD and cancer mortality," said the report's senior author Dr. Bo Xu. "It highlights that dietary factors may play an important role in overall health."

Although there is data showing that chili pepper eaters appear to have lower risks of dying from a cardiovascular disease or cancer, it cannot be determined with certainty that the spicy plants are solely responsible or contribute to prolonged life.

He added: "More research, especially evidence from randomized controlled studies, is needed to confirm these preliminary findings."

Of those who ate chili peppers, consumption rates were variable, so it is not clear how much would need to be consumed to offer health benefits.

7-Day Forecast for Latitude 45.51°N and Longitude 122.66°W (Elev. 200 ft) (Text-Only)

Veterans Day: Isolated showers after 7am. Patchy fog before 7am. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a high near 48. Light south southwest wind. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Tonight: Patchy fog after 1am. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 36. Calm wind.

Thursday: Rain after 10am. Patchy fog before 7am. Snow level 2200 feet rising to 3300 feet in the afternoon. High near 46. Calm wind becoming south 5 to 9 mph in the morning. Chance of precipitation is 90%. New precipitation amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch possible.

Thursday Night: Rain before 1am, then showers between 1am and 4am, then rain after 4am. Low around 44. Breezy, with a south southwest wind 15 to 17 mph, with gusts as high as 29 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%. New precipitation amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch possible.

Friday: Rain. High near 51. Breezy, with a south wind around 16 mph, with gusts as high as 31 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%. New precipitation amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.

Friday Night: Rain. Low around 43. Windy. Chance of precipitation is 90%.

Saturday: Rain, mainly before 4pm, then a chance of showers after 4pm. High near 50. Breezy. Chance of precipitation is 80%.

Saturday Night: A chance of showers before 10pm, then a chance of rain after 10pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 41.

Sunday: Rain likely, mainly after 10am. Cloudy, with a high near 49.

Sunday Night: Rain likely. Cloudy, with a low around 47.

Monday: Rain likely. Cloudy, with a high near 55.

Monday Night: Rain likely. Cloudy, with a low around 46.

Tuesday: A chance of rain. Cloudy, with a high near 54.

Suu Kyi's party claims to have won majority in Myanmar polls

By PYAE SONE WIN 25 minutes ago

YANGON, Myanmar (AP) — Myanmar's ruling National League for Democracy claimed Monday it had won a clear parliamentary majority and would retain power, even though the state election body has named just a few of the winners in Sunday's elections.

The Union Election Commission earlier said full results may take a week. By 8 p.m., it had announced the winners of just nine of Parliament's 642 seats, all nine NLD candidates.

An NLD spokesperson, Monywa Aung Shin, said the party had confirmed it won more than 322 seats — a majority — but the final outcome “would be likely more than” the party's goal of 377 seats.

An NLD victory was widely expected since its leader, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, is immensely popular. Some had speculated its totals might be cut because of deteriorating relations with ethnic minority-based parties, with whom her party had cooperated in 2015 elections.

The United States and other observers have expressed concern about how the election was conducted, especially the disenfranchisement of the Rohingya minority.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Myanmar's second competitive national election since military rule ended was an important step.

“Nevertheless, we are concerned by the large number of unelected seats constitutionally reserved for the military; the disenfranchisement of groups including Rohingya; cancellation of voting in parts of several states and regions; and the disqualification of candidates based on arbitrary application of citizenship and residency requirements, which prevent the realization of a more democratic and civilian government,” Pompeo said in a statement released by the State Department.

The Fortify Rights group said it was concerned about the election's conduct as well as arrests of activists and a crackdown on free expression and assembly.

“A core principle of elections under international law is universal and equal suffrage and that is not what took place yesterday,” Ismail Wolff, regional director of Fortify Rights, said in a statement released Monday. “The international community must unequivocally condemn the disenfranchisement of Rohingya and other ethnic nationalities or risk paving the path for future violations.”

Suu Kyi, 75, has retained the mass appeal built up during her decades of democratic activism while Myanmar was under military rule. Her administration's record has been mixed at best, with little economic growth and no end to armed strife with ethnic minorities seeking greater autonomy.

Outside of Myanmar, her reputation has been damaged by her failure to defend the rights of the Muslim Rohingya minority, who were targeted in a brutal counterinsurgency campaign by Myanmar's security forces that sent 740,000 fleeing to neighboring Bangladesh.

FDA greenlights first diagnostic test for COVID-19 antibodies that block the virus from entering cells | FierceBiotech

by [Conor Hale](#) |

Previously, measuring virus-neutralizing antibodies required the use of live samples of the coronavirus—a difficult task performed in specialized laboratories equipped with high-level biocontainment hardware to prevent the spread of potentially lethal pathogens. (Getty Images)

The FDA has authorized what it describes as the first COVID-19 diagnostic test that detects whether a person has the specific antibodies known to block the coronavirus from entering and infecting human cells.

These neutralizing antibodies are seen as a strong biomarker of potential immunity against the disease—compared to other antibodies created by the body, which have only been used as evidence of previous exposure to the virus.

The commercial diagnostic kit developed by GenScript is designed to provide a test result within one hour. However, it is still unknown how long these neutralizing antibodies can last within the body, and how many are needed to provide protection against the novel coronavirus.

A company was facing major challenges in a global clinical trial program with 30 studies for an uncommon indication. Not only did they need to transition all ongoing clinical trials to the Bioclinica Clinical Adjudication platform for better analysis — but they also needed to do it within 60 days.

[Download the Case Study.](#)

“The ability to detect neutralizing antibodies can help us gain additional insight into what the existence of antibodies may mean for patients as we continue the fight against COVID-19,” [said](#) Tim Stenzel, director of the FDA’s Office of In Vitro Diagnostics and Radiological Health.

“There are still many unknowns about what the presence of SARS-CoV-2 antibodies may tell us about potential immunity, but today’s authorization gives us another tool to evaluate those antibodies as we continue to research and study this virus,” Stenzel added. “Patients should not interpret results as telling them they are immune, or have any level of immunity, from the virus.”

Previously, measuring virus-neutralizing antibodies required the use of live samples of the coronavirus—a difficult task performed in specialized laboratories equipped with high-level biocontainment hardware to prevent the spread of potentially lethal pathogens.

But GenScript’s assay, developed with Duke-National University of Singapore Medical School, mimics the neutralization process using safer materials. It combines recombinant protein fragments of the coronavirus’ receptor binding domain—which the virus uses to unlock and enter human cells—with an enzyme derived from horseradish roots.

“Unlike commercially available antibody-based tests that are routinely used for detecting prior exposure to the virus, the cPass kit can assess both prior exposure and the presence of neutralizing antibodies in convalescent patients,” [said](#) David Martz, vice president of new product management for GenScript’s life sciences group.

Gov. Cuomo's office 'not inclined' to OK scholastic winter sports anytime soon - syracuse.com

Updated 4:28 PM; Today 12:38 PM

By Lindsay Kramer | lkramer@syracuse.com

Syracuse, N.Y. -- The fates of some popular high school winter sports in New York looks gloomy after a top state official indicated on Monday there are no imminent plans to ease prohibitions against them.

Speaking on Gov. Andrew Cuomo's media telephone conference, state budget director Robert Mujica cited recent spikes in coronavirus rates as working against the opening of high-risk sports such as hockey, basketball and wrestling. Those sports will be allowed to practice but, as of now, can't compete until at least Dec. 31.

"As we're seeing the inclines in different parts of the state, we're not inclined to go ahead with opening the winter sports at this time," Mujica said. "We're continuing to look at those numbers. But the numbers right now don't indicate that we're going to expand them right now."

Exceptions to the winter sport prohibitions are lower-risk sports such as skiing, bowling and swimming.

Last week, the Section III athletic council set Dec. 14 as the start of winter sports practices, with competition beginning after Jan. 1 and running through Feb. 28. That schedule, of course, is dependent upon Cuomo and the state health department giving its approval.

There is a bit of wiggle room, however, as the section could push the start of winter practices into January.

Big Oil Stocks Are Soaring on COVID-19 Vaccine News Today | The Motley Fool

Nov 9, 2020 at 10:57AM

"Today is a great day for science and humanity," said Dr. Albert Bourla, CEO of COVID-19 vaccine developer **Pfizer**. That statement came with the company's data that its vaccine candidate proved to be more than 90% effective in preventing the virus in a study of thousands of volunteers worldwide. That news is fueling a massive rally in the stock market, with industries hardest hit by the pandemic leading the way.

The oil sector is in that group, as the coronavirus crisis has crushed demand for oil this year, causing crude prices to plunge. However, today oil is in rally mode. The global oil price benchmark, Brent, has surged nearly 9% as of 9:30 a.m. EST. WTI, the U.S. oil price benchmark, has jumped more than 10%. That rebound in the oil market fueled massive gains in most oil stocks, including leading big oil producers **BP** ([NYSE:BP](#)), **Shell** ([NYSE:RDS.A](#)) ([NYSE:RDS.B](#)), **ExxonMobil** ([NYSE:XOM](#)), **Chevron** ([NYSE:CVX](#)), and **Total** ([NYSE:TOT](#)), which all rallied by double digits in pre-market trading.

Fueling the surge in big oil stocks is the hope that this vaccine signals the beginning of the end for the global pandemic that has killed more than 1 million people while wreaking havoc on the global economy. Government-mandated shutdowns earlier this year to slow the spread of the virus tanked oil demand, forcing OPEC and other major oil-producing nations to enact historic production cuts to better match supplies with weakening demand.

The OPEC agreement calls for easing its production cuts from the current level of 7.7 million barrels per day (BPD) to 5.7 million BPD in January. However, the group's leader, Saudi Arabia, said that it would maintain its current production level if needed to keep supplies from running ahead of demand until it recovers. An increase in consumption seems much more likely now that there appears to be a highly effective vaccine on the way.

Those dual catalysts provided a jolt to the beleaguered oil market. Major oil producers BP, Chevron, Exxon, Shell, and Total have been under significant pressure this year due to weak oil demand and lower oil prices. Those headwinds had forced **BP** and **Shell** to slash their dividends, while Exxon kept its flat for the first time in 38 years. Meanwhile, these big oil producers also reduced investment spending and jobs to cut costs so that they can better weather this year's deep downturn.

While the vaccine news and the potential additional support of OPEC are both near-term positives for these oil stocks, the longer-term picture for the oil market has dimmed considerably this year. BP believes the industry has already reached the zenith for demand, which is leading the energy company to pivot toward renewable energy. Total and Shell are making similar moves away from oil, putting pressure on Exxon and Chevron to reconsider their strategies.

The entire world is breathing a sigh of relief today on the hope that we're turning the corner on this pandemic. That's fueling massive rallies in the shares of industries and companies most impacted by the virus.

US coronavirus: 10 million people have been infected with coronavirus in the US -- and the rates keep rising in 43 states - CNN

(CNN) In less than 10 months, the US went from one known coronavirus infection to 10 million.

That bleak milestone was reached Monday, according to [data from Johns Hopkins University](#). And the most recent 1 million infections happened faster than any previous million, in just 10 days.

The virus is now spreading exponentially in all regions of the country. As of Monday, 43 states reported at least 10% more new Covid-19 cases compared to last week, according to Johns Hopkins.

And the rate of new infections is far outpacing the rate of testing.

The average daily number of new cases soared 34% over the past week, but testing has only increased 7.41% over the past week, according to data from the Covid Tracking Project.

"We absolutely need more testing. Cases are rising faster than testing rates are rising," said Dr. Rochelle Walensky, a professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School.

With every surge in new infections comes new hospitalizations and deaths. More than [238,000 people have died from Covid-19](#) in the US, according to Johns Hopkins.

But amid the horrific trends, there's some good news on the vaccine front.

On Monday, the drugmaker Pfizer said early data show its Covid-19 vaccine is more than 90% effective.

More than 43,000 volunteers had received either two doses of the vaccine or a placebo.

A so-called interim analysis looked at the first 94 coronavirus infections among the group. Fewer than 10% of infections were in participants who had been given the vaccine. More than 90% of the cases were in people who had been given a placebo.

Pfizer said it plans to seek emergency use authorization from the US Food and Drug Administration soon after volunteers have been monitored for two months after getting their second dose of vaccine, [as requested by the FDA](#).

That request could be made by the third week of November.

Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla said so far, the vaccine has shown no safety problems.

"But we need to wait until the results are there," Bourla told CNN Chief Medical Correspondent Dr. Sanjay Gupta.

It's not clear exactly when the vaccine might be publicly available to most Americans. But when it is, "the vaccine will be available for free to all American citizens," Bourla said.