

# After unruly first debate, Trump and Biden hit campaign trail in crucial states | Reuters

**Clip source:** [After unruly first debate, Trump and Biden hit campaign trail in crucial states | Reuters](#)

By [Jarrett Renshaw](#)

CLEVELAND (Reuters) - President Donald Trump and Democratic challenger Joe Biden will campaign on Wednesday in three U.S. states that will play a key role in the November election, the morning after a chaotic debate marked by interruptions and recriminations.

A 'messy, sloppy, uncomfortable' first debate

Trump deflected an opportunity to condemn white supremacists and again refused to say if he would accept the election results in Tuesday night's first 2020 debate, two moments that could give Biden fresh ammunition.

The chaotic encounter also rattled investors by fueling fears of a contested election result that could lead to a messy transfer of power if Trump refuses to accept a loss, with U.S. stock futures down in pre-market trading.

The first of three televised matchups represented one of Trump's few remaining chances to change the trajectory of a race that most national opinion polls show him losing, as the majority of Americans disapprove of the Republican president's handling of both the coronavirus pandemic and protests over racial injustice.

Already more than 1.3 million voters in 15 states have cast early ballots ahead of the Nov. 3 Election Day, according to the U.S. Elections Project at the University of Florida.

Trump, 74, will spend the day in Minnesota – one of the few states his campaign is targeting that voted Democratic in 2016 – with a fundraiser in the afternoon before a rally in Duluth.

Biden, 77, and his wife, Jill, will embark on an all-day train tour through a half-dozen cities in eastern Ohio and western Pennsylvania, including counties that Trump won four years ago on the strength of working-class white voters.

Pennsylvania, which narrowly voted for Trump in 2016, is seen by many strategists as the most crucial of the six most competitive states that will likely decide the election outcome, which also include Arizona, Florida, Michigan, North Carolina and Wisconsin. The latest Reuters/Ipsos poll of Pennsylvania gave Biden a slight advantage there.

Ohio, which Trump carried by 8 percentage points in his 2016 defeat of Democrat Hillary Clinton, is among the Republican-leaning states that Biden hopes to put into play in November.

Tuesday's debate, marked by Trump's constant interjections and Biden's angry rejoinders, appeared unlikely to significantly alter the campaign's dynamics.

Biden has held a modest but steady lead in national voter surveys for months amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, although polls in the battleground states show a closer contest.

# Zogg fire in Northern California claims fourth victim - Los Angeles Times

**Clip source:** [Zogg fire in Northern California claims fourth victim - Los Angeles Times](#)

(Ethan Swope / Associated Press)

Sep. 30, 2020

Another person has died as a result of the fast-moving Zogg fire burning in Shasta County, officials announced Wednesday, raising the blaze's death toll to four.

The latest victim, a man who was not identified, was taken to a hospital with significant burns Sunday after the fire began, Sheriff Eric Magrini said.

"He was transported to a hospital, and we received word last night that he succumbed to his injuries," Magrini said during a briefing. "So, again, our condolences go out to that family."

The Zogg fire has burned nearly 52,000 acres since starting Sunday afternoon near the community of Igo, about nine miles southwest of Redding.

The fire had destroyed 146 structures as of Wednesday. That figure was unchanged from Tuesday, and crews are now reporting 7% containment of the blaze.

Officials said Tuesday that reinforcements were being deployed to assist in the firefight.

"We're starting to get a foothold, though. We're starting to get the resources in," Sean Kavanaugh, an incident commander with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, said during a briefing. "That's important, and we'll see how we do the rest of the week."

The fire is still threatening more than 1,500 structures, and officials said they will be challenged again Wednesday by hot, dry conditions in the burn area.

The latest breakout of blazes includes the Glass fire in Northern California's wine country. That fire had charred 48,440 acres as of Wednesday morning and has destroyed at least 80 homes — 52 in Napa County and 28 in Sonoma County.

Crews have also reported progress in that firefight. The blaze nearly quadrupled in size between Monday and Tuesday morning but grew by a comparatively low 5,880 acres over the next 24 hours. Officials are reporting 2% containment.

Though more than two dozen residences have been confirmed lost to the fire in Sonoma County, that number will almost certainly rise, according to 1st District Supervisor Susan Gorin, who toured her community Tuesday afternoon.

A firefighter told Gorin at least one neighborhood was "completely wiped out."

# M&A spikes in record third quarter as boards go on pandemic deal spree | Reuters

Clip source: [M&A](#)

LONDON/NEW YORK (Reuters) - Mergers and acquisitions came back with a bang in the third quarter as executives rushed to revisit deals left on hold at the height of the coronavirus pandemic and boardrooms regained confidence after a roller-coaster year.

A deal frenzy in September led to a record third quarter with more than \$1 trillion worth of transactions around the world, mostly focused on coronavirus-resilient sectors such as technology and healthcare, according to Refinitiv data.

The third-quarter spike, however, failed to take up all the slack after a lacklustre start to the year.

M&A deals overall were down 21% at \$2.2 trillion in the first nine months of 2020, with U.S. transactions coming in at \$800 billion, a 43% slump from the same period last year.

"The way out of this crisis is through M&A and we have started to have really engaging conversations with CEOs and boards around strategic positioning post-COVID," said Alison Harding-Jones, Citigroup's [C.N](#) head of M&A for Europe, the Middle East and Africa (EMEA) and vice chairman of EMEA banking, capital markets and advisory.

"People have realised they need to consolidate to create stronger and better-equipped businesses to deal with what the world looks like going forward," she said.

M&A activity in July, August and September leapt 80% from the previous quarter when the spread of COVID-19 triggered global lockdowns and brought business to a standstill.

In the United States, deal volumes rose threefold to \$414 billion from the second quarter, Europe was up 21% at \$231 billion and Asia Pacific spiked 67% to \$274 billion.

"The market is picking up quite rapidly. Ironically, the prospects for M&A activity are stronger now than they were pre-COVID," said Peter Weinberg, founding partner and chief executive of Perella Weinberg Partners.

'GET ON WITH LIFE'

The latest transaction to become a casualty of the pandemic was LVMH's [LVMH.PA](#) \$16 billion takeover of U.S. jeweller Tiffany [TIF.N](#), which is hanging in the balance after the French luxury giant said it could not meet a deal deadline.

While that was a blow for transatlantic mergers, the deal flow between the United States and Europe was partly restored by Nvidia's [NVDA.O](#) \$40 billion swoop on British chip designer Arm Holdings.

German health firm Siemens Healthineers [SHLG.DE](#) and French drugmaker Sanofi [SASY.PA](#), meanwhile, spent billions on U.S. takeovers, buying Varian Medical Systems [VAR.N](#) and Principia [PRNB.O](#), respectively.

# 7-Day Forecast for Latitude 34.05°N and Longitude 118.25°W (Elev. 377 ft) (Text-Only)

Clip source: [7-Day Forecast for Latitude 34.05°N and Longitude 118.25°W \(Elev. 377 ft\) \(Text-Only\)](#)

## NWS Forecast for: East

### L.A. CA

Issued by: National  
Weather Service Los  
Angeles/Oxnard, CA

**Last Update:** 9:13 am

PDT Sep 30, 2020

## Heat Advisory

**This Afternoon:** Sunny and hot, with a high near 103. Northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west southwest.

**Tonight:** Clear, with a low around 70. North northeast wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Thursday:** Sunny and hot, with a high near 100. Light and variable wind becoming southwest 10 to 15 mph in the afternoon.

**Thursday Night:** Clear, with a low around 68. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming northeast after midnight.

**Friday:** Sunny, with a high near 94. North wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south in the morning.

**Friday Night:** Clear, with a low around 66.

**Saturday:** Sunny, with a high near 89.

**Saturday Night:** Clear, with a low around 65.

**Sunday:** Sunny, with a high near 86.

**Sunday Night:** Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 64.

**Monday:** Patchy fog. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 85.

**Monday Night:** Patchy fog. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 63.

**Tuesday:** Patchy fog. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 85.

# Kremlin closely follows U.S. presidential campaign, will refrain from statements | Reuters

**Clip source:** [Kremlin closely follows U.S. presidential campaign, will refrain from statements | Reuters](#)

By Reuters Staff

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russia, like many other nations in the world, is closely following U.S. presidential campaign as the United States is one of the world's top economies, the Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on a daily conference call on Wednesday.

"But we do not want to make any statements as this could be viewed as an attempt to intervene (into the election process). Russia has never, is not and is not going to intervene in U.S. domestic affairs," Peskov said.

Reporting by Dmitry Antonov; Writing by Katya Golubkova; Editing by Louise Heavens

Our Standards: [The Thomson Reuters Trust Principles.](#)

# NBA legend Michael Jordan bets on DraftKings, will advise board; shares jump | Reuters

**Clip source:** [NBA legend Michael Jordan bets on DraftKings, will advise board](#)

By Reuters Staff

(Reuters) - DraftKings Inc said on Wednesday basketball legend Michael Jordan will take an undisclosed equity stake in the fantasy sports and gambling company and join its board as a special advisor.

Shares of the company rose nearly 6% to \$39.07 in morning trading.

Jordan, a six-time NBA champion who led the Chicago Bulls' dynasty in the 1990s, is a Basketball Hall of Famer who owns the basketball team Charlotte Hornets.

His career was thrust into the spotlight after Netflix's docuseries "The Last Dance", which released in April and garnered a large television audience. In May, an autographed and well-worn pair of his Nike Air Jordan sneakers fetched a record \$560,000 at an auction.

Episode 6 of the series delves into Jordan's love of gambling on card games, in casinos and the golf course, and the controversy it created at the time the Bulls were deep in the running for an NBA championship.

Jordan has agreed to take an equity interest in DraftKings and will provide strategic and creative advice on areas including product development and marketing, the sports betting company said on Wednesday.

DraftKings was taken public earlier this year by an entity founded by Hollywood executives Jeff Sagansky and Harry Sloan in a deal that valued the company at \$3.3 billion.

The announcement on Wednesday added nearly \$800 million to the company's market capitalization, which stood at \$13.1 billion, as of last close, according to Refinitiv data.

There has been long-term optimism in the growing market for U.S. sports gambling, even as the COVID-19 pandemic has led to broadcast networks and sports leagues either postponing or rescheduling games and seasons.

Reporting by Akanksha Rana in Bengaluru; Editing by Shailesh Kuber and Shinjini Ganguli

Our Standards: [The Thomson Reuters Trust Principles.](#)

# Reptile dubbed 'Jaws of Death' terrorized Cretaceous seas | Reuters

Clip source: [Reptile dubbed &apos](#)

By [Will Dunham](#)

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Roughly 80 million years ago in the shallow inland sea that once split North America into eastern and western land masses, a fearsome 33-foot-long (10-meter-long) marine reptile with powerful jaws and tremendous bite-force was one of the apex predators.

A type of seagoing lizard called a mosasaur that ruled the oceans at the same time dinosaurs dominated the land, it has now been given a name meaning "Jaws of Death."

A new analysis published on Wednesday of fossils of the creature unearthed in 1975 has determined that it deserves to be recognized as a new genus of mosasaur based on skeletal traits including a unique combination of features in the tooth-bearing bones and the shape of an important bone in the jaw joint.

Its remains were discovered near Cedaredge, Colorado.

This Cretaceous Period creature previously had been classified as the species *Prognathodon stadmani*. Because of its differences from other species of *Prognathodon*, Joshua Lively, curator of paleontology at the Utah State University Eastern Prehistoric Museum, gave it the new scientific name *Gnathomortis stadmani*.

*Gnathomortis* is derived from the Greek and Latin words for "Jaws of Death."

After other marine reptiles like ichthyosaurs and pliosaurs went extinct, mosasaurs terrorized the oceans.

"In general, mosasaurs actually filled a lot of roles in the oceans over the last 15 million years of the age of dinosaurs," Lively said. "Some specialized in eating clams, some were fish specialists, and others were clearly macropredators that could devour anything smaller than them. This mosasaur was one of the latter."

"If you were an animal in the oceans less than 20 feet (6 meters) in length, you are most likely on the menu for *Gnathomortis*," added Lively, whose study was published in the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*.

That menu, Lively said, may have included sea turtles, fish, sharks and other marine reptiles including smaller mosasaurs.

Like other mosasaurs and many lizards and snakes, it boasted an extra set of teeth on the roof of its mouth.

A large depression on the outer surface of its lower jaws is indicative of large muscles that gave it tremendous bite-force. While it lived alongside even-larger mosasaurs like 46-foot-long (14-meter-long) *Tylosaurus* in the Western Interior Seaway that ran from present-day Canada to Mexico, *Gnathomortis* had stronger jaws.

"'Jaws of Death' seemed appropriate for this kind of critter," Lively said. "and it turns out to be an awesome name."

# Judge in Wisconsin upholds extension of state's absentee ballot receipt deadline | Reuters

**Clip source:** [Judge in Wisconsin upholds extension of state's](#)

By Reuters Staff

(Reuters) - A federal appeals court on Tuesday upheld a ruling to allow Wisconsin election officials to count absentee ballots that arrive up to six days after the Nov. 3 presidential election.

The ruling, issued by three judges who were all appointed by Republican presidents, upheld a Sept. 21 court order that called for extending the ballot receipt deadline. The earlier ruling had been challenged by lawyers representing the Republican Party.

Tuesday's ruling would allow the state to accept ballots through Nov. 9 as long as they were mailed and postmarked on or before Election Day.

Reporting by Jason Lange in Washington; Editing by Peter Cooney

Our Standards: [The Thomson Reuters Trust Principles.](#)



# Orange County resets clock to move into next reopening tier - Los Angeles Times

**Clip source:** [Orange County resets clock to move into next reopening tier - Los Angeles Times](#)

By [Lilly Nguyen](#) Staff Writer

Sep. 30, 2020

Orange County won't be moving up to the next tier under California's coronavirus reopening rules for at least two more weeks after the [average new daily COVID-19 case rate](#) climbed.

Dr. Clayton Chau, the Orange County Health Care Agency director, said during a Board of Supervisors meeting Tuesday that the county was on track last week to move to the next tier, but the latest data on new infections will keep the county in Tier 2 — the “red tier” — denoting substantial transmission of the illness. The tier is the second-most restrictive in the [state's reopening guidelines](#).

Just a day after [recording no deaths](#), the county agency also reported [a new high of 33 fatalities](#) Tuesday, for a total of 1,249 COVID-19 deaths in Orange County. It was the highest one-day total since 32 deaths were reported on Aug. 6. In addition, 109 new cases were reported Tuesday, bringing the overall tally to 53,557.

The agency reported that the county's new adjusted case rate was 4.4 cases per 100,000 residents, while its average testing positivity rate remained at 3.1%.

The county [moved into Tier 2](#) of the state's four-tiered, color-coded reopening system on Sept. 8.

To advance to the next tier, which indicates moderate transmission of the virus, the county will need to keep its new case rate below 3.9 per 100,000 and its testing positivity rate below 4.9% for two consecutive weeks.

Counties are required to stay in a tier for a minimum of three weeks before moving into the next one.

“We did have a few days of uptick in numbers — small, but significant to affect our tier system. And those numbers, we believe, is the effect of the Labor Day weekend,” Chau said. “We did have a couple days of high numbers for the week of Sept. 13 to 19, and that's what kept our numbers to be in the red tier this week.”

*Nguyen writes for Times Community News.*

# Chaotic U.S. election debate fuels investors' fears of contested result | Reuters

**Clip source:** [Chaotic U.S. election debate fuels investors'](#)

LONDON/SAN FRANCISCO/TOKYO (Reuters) - U.S. equity futures fell and volatility indicators turned jumpy as a chaotic presidential debate between incumbent Donald Trump and Democratic challenger Joe Biden heightened fears that a disputed ballot could lead to a messy transfer of power.

U.S. President Donald Trump and Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden participate in their first 2020 presidential campaign debate held on the campus of the Cleveland Clinic at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, U.S., September 29, 2020. REUTERS/Brian Snyder

Nagging doubts over whether Republican President Trump would agree to hand over the keys to the White House if he loses have grown in recent weeks. And during the first debate on Tuesday, Trump declined to commit to accepting the results, repeating his unfounded complaint that mail-in ballots would lead to election fraud.

Trump repeatedly interrupted Democratic rival Joe Biden in the Cleveland debate, the first ahead of the Nov. 3 vote, as the rival candidates traded barbs over Trump's taxes, the economy, the coronavirus pandemic and the integrity of the election.

"The debate drew further attention to the potential for a contested election," said Hani Redha, global multi-asset portfolio manager, at Pinebridge. "It is likely market participants will continue to price in this issue, heightening volatility all the way to election day and its immediate aftermath."

U.S. stock futures [EScv1](#) reacted to the debate by giving up earlier gains. By 1000 GMT, they were down 1%.

Options on the S&P 500 index show investors bracing for volatility in November and December -- likely because the use of mail-in ballots by voters concerned about the coronavirus could mean delays of weeks or even months in announcing the winner.

"You can see the concern especially if you look at the shift in U.S. index futures pre-debate to post debate... certainly the concern was centred on the scope for post-election disputes," said Chris Bailey, European strategist at Raymond James.

Trump declined last week to commit to a peaceful transfer of power if he loses, and said he expected the election battle to end up before the Supreme Court.

"Trump is very clearly laying the groundwork to dispute the election," said John Woolfitt, director of trading at Atlantic Capital Markets, a brokerage.

"Many Americans do not understand their own electoral process, it is not officially called on the night, it is usually unofficially called by the press and it requires the President (or challenger) to concede."

# Second tanker carrying Iranian fuel reaches Venezuelan waters: data | Reuters

**Clip source:** [Second tanker carrying Iranian fuel reaches Venezuelan waters: data | Reuters](#)

By Reuters Staff

(Reuters) - The second of a group of three Iranian tankers entered Venezuelan waters on Wednesday, carrying fuel for the gasoline-starved nation, which is struggling under a collapsing oil industry and U.S. sanctions that have crippled imports and exports.

The Iran-flagged vessel Fortune reached Venezuela's exclusive economic zone at 1:45 a.m. local time (0545 GMT), following the same route as the Forest, which docked at Venezuela's El Palito port on Monday to discharge fuel, according to Refinitiv Eikon tanker tracking data and sources.

The third vessel in the flotilla, the Faxon, is due to arrive later this week to complete a delivery of some 820,000 barrels of Iranian gasoline and other fuels to Venezuela's state-run PDVSA, according to the data.

The vessels have so far crossed the Atlantic Ocean without any disturbances, according to the data.

PDVSA and Venezuela's oil ministry did not reply to requests for comment.

Venezuela and Iran, both under U.S. sanctions crippling their oil industries, have strengthened collaboration this year by boosting bilateral trade that so far has included crude, condensates, fuel, refinery parts, gold and food.

The foreign ministries of both nations had a virtual meeting on Monday to discuss trade and a proposal by Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro to form a coalition of countries affected by what they called "unilateral sanctions."

The Iranian fuel is desperately needed in the South American country, where long lines of drivers are waiting for gasoline at service stations as domestic production at PDVSA's refineries remains insufficient to meet demand.

Protests over the lack of gasoline and basic services such as water, power and cooking gas have also grown, according to non-governmental organizations in Venezuela.

"If ships arrive from Iran or wherever, and even if gasoline is distributed, protests will continue in claim of other rights," Marco Ponce, director of an organization monitoring social conflict, told journalists on Tuesday.

Reporting by Marianna Parraga in Mexico City and Vivian Sequera in Caracas; Editing by Bernadette Baum  
Our Standards: [The Thomson Reuters Trust Principles](#).

# Azarenka thrashed by Schmeidlova at French Open | Reuters

**Clip source:** [Azarenka thrashed by Schmeidlova at French Open | Reuters](#)

By Reuters Staff

PARIS (Reuters) - Victoria Azarenka's unhappy French Open campaign ended on Wednesday as the former world number one was beaten 6-2 6-2 by Slovakia's Anna Karolina Schmiedlova in the second round.

The Belarussian, who moaned about the cold and damp conditions in her opening round win, capitulated in feeble fashion against her 161st-ranked opponent.

Schmiedlova, who is playing with a protected ranking after knee surgery in 2019, has enjoyed a stunning return to form in Paris, having beaten Venus Williams in round one.

That win over Williams ended a run of 12 consecutive first-round losses in Grand Slams and she backed that up with a commanding display against an error-prone Azarenka.

Tenth seed Azarenka, runner-up at the U.S. Open this month, double-faulted to drop serve in the opening game when play finally started on Court Simonne-Mathieu after yet another rain delay and it did not get much better for the 31-year-old.

The 26-year-old Schmiedlova's one real moment of alarm came at 1-1 in the second set when she slipped and landed heavily on her left knee and required treatment.

But she showed no ill-effects as she moved into a 5-2 lead with a couple of breaks of serve.

Schmiedlova brought up match point with a forehand winner and sealed victory as Azarenka fired a 37th unforced error.

Reporting by Martyn Herman; Editing by Alison Williams

Our Standards: [The Thomson Reuters Trust Principles.](#)

# U.S. fighter jet crashes after collision with refueling plane | Reuters

**Clip source:** [U.S. fighter jet crashes after collision with refueling plane | Reuters](#)

By Reuters Staff

(Reuters) - A U.S. Air Force F-35B fighter jet crashed after it collided with an aerial refueling tanker on Tuesday, a U.S. marines unit said.

The pilot of the F-35B jet ejected and was being treated, while the crew of the KC-130J refueling aircraft had landed safely, the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing said.

The crash occurred over Imperial County, California, ABC News reported.

“At approximately 1600 it was reported that an F-35B made contact with a KC-130J during an air-to-air refueling evolution, resulting in the crash of the F-35B,” the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing said in a tweet.

The cause of the crash was under investigation, the marines said.

The refueling plane had returned to Thermal Airport and all crew members were safe, it added.

The marines unit did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Reporting by Aishwarya Nair in Bengaluru; Editing by Stephen Coates

Our Standards: [The Thomson Reuters Trust Principles.](#)

# Anaheim approves \$150-million stadium sale to Angels owner - Los Angeles Times

**Clip source:** [Anaheim approves \\$150-million stadium sale to Angels owner - Los Angeles Times](#)

By [Bill Shaikin](#) Staff Writer

Sep. 30, 2020

The Anaheim City Council voted early Wednesday to approve a revised deal with Angels owner Arte Moreno, selling Angel Stadium and the surrounding land for \$150 million in cash in return for the team's commitment to stay in Anaheim through 2050.

The council had voted last December to sell the 150-acre site to Moreno's company, SRB Management, for \$325 million. The city this month proposed to credit SRB for \$170 million of that price, with the company agreeing to build almost 500 units of affordable housing and a seven-acre park within the community that will rise from the stadium parking lots.

After almost eight hours of debate — and after 1:30 a.m. Wednesday — the council approved the revised deal on a 5-2 vote, with council members Jose Moreno and Denise Barnes opposed. The council must take a second vote next week to finalize the deal, although that is considered a formality.

"This is a spectacular day for Anaheim," Councilman Stephen Faessel said.

"This was not a deal," Barnes said. "It was a mess."

The council rejected Jose Moreno's motion to eliminate the credits and compel SRB to pay the full purchase price in cash. The council also rejected Barnes' motion that the vote be delayed until residents could offer comment in person, or at least via Zoom.

Barnes asked why the city did not insist on the right to buy back, at the current sale value, any land SRB might later choose to sell. Kevin Kelley, a Colorado-based lawyer who represents the city, said SRB might not have proceeded with the deal in that case.

"They're buying the property to make money," Kelley said.

Councilman Jordan Brandman expressed concern that Moreno could take the money and run. SRB representative Alex Winsberg said the company certainly could add development partners but would not simply flip the property.

"SRB Management and Angels Baseball will be true and lasting partners to the city of Anaheim," Winsberg said.

In 2005, the Angels changed their team name to the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim, taking advantage of language in the stadium lease that required the team name to "include the name Anaheim therein." After wary council members expressed concern that the agreement proposed Tuesday did not sufficiently protect the city from the team moving out of town, Winsberg agreed to tighten language to explicitly limit the Angels' options to playing in a renovated Angel Stadium or a new stadium that would be built on the adjacent parking lot.

# Australian firm says its nasal spray reduced coronavirus growth in animal study | Reuters

**Clip source:** [Australian firm says its nasal spray reduced coronavirus growth in animal study | Reuters](#)

By Reuters Staff

SYDNEY (Reuters) - Australian biotech company Ena Respiratory said on Monday that a nasal spray it is developing to improve the human immune system to fight common cold and flu significantly reduced the growth of the coronavirus in a recent study on animals.

A study on ferrets showed the product dubbed INNA-051, which could be used complementary to vaccines, lowered the levels of the virus that causes COVID-19 by up to 96%, the company said. The study was led by British government agency Public Health England.

Ena Respiratory said it would be ready to test INNA-051 in human trials in less than four months, subject to successful toxicity studies and regulatory approval.

The company has raised A\$11.7 million (\$8.24 million) for the development of the spray. Investors include venture capital firm Brandon Capital Ltd, the Australian federal government, pension funds and biotech giant CSL Ltd [CSL.AX](#).

Several companies across the world are in the pursuit of developing a coronavirus vaccine. Australia has entered into agreements with some drug companies investing billions to secure potential vaccines for COVID-19, which has killed over 992,000 people worldwide.

Australia has so far reported 875 deaths and just over 27,000 coronavirus cases, far less than the numbers reported in other developed countries.

Reporting by Renju Jose; Editing by Ana Nicolaci da Costa

Our Standards: [The Thomson Reuters Trust Principles](#).

# Maskless Raiders under investigation after charity event | Reuters

**Clip source:** [Maskless Raiders under investigation after charity event | Reuters](#)

By Reuters Staff

While the Tennessee Titans were dealing with a COVID-19 outbreak Tuesday, the Las Vegas Raiders may have landed in some pandemic-related trouble, too.

Quarterback Derek Carr was one of several Raiders to show up without masks Monday night at a fundraising event organized by tight end Darren Waller's foundation, violating NFL regulations and Nevada restrictions.

Video from The Darren Waller Foundation charity event, held at the DragonRidge Country Club in Henderson, Nev., showed Carr and Waller were among a group of Raiders to attend the indoor function that also included Jason Witten, Zay Jones, Nevin Lawson, Foster Moreau, Hunter Renfrow, Derek Carrier and Nathan Peterman. They were mingling with guests in an effort to raise money for youth addiction but were not wearing masks.

Raiders owner Mark Davis, who said he made a donation to the cause but did not attend, told the Las Vegas Review-Journal that the team would look into the matter internally.

"We obviously take responsibility for this," Davis told the newspaper. "You don't like seeing this. I don't know that it's actually been built into our memories that you have to wear a mask. Our organization takes it very seriously."

The NFL and NFL Players Association have an agreement that bans players from activities that violate state and local COVID-19 safety regulations in an effort to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus.

The NFL already fined the Raiders \$250,000 and head coach Jon Gruden \$100,000 for not wearing their masks properly during a Week 2 win over the New Orleans Saints. The team, according to ESPN, is also reportedly being investigated for allowing unauthorized locker room access following that Saints victory.

The country club was fined \$2,000 for four state of Nevada violations, including people not wearing masks and more than 50 people at an event.

--Field Level Media

Our Standards: [The Thomson Reuters Trust Principles.](#)



# Flight of Hong Kong protesters piles pressure on Taiwan | Reuters

Clip source: [Flight of Hong Kong protesters piles pressure on Taiwan | Reuters](#)

By [Reuters staff](#)

TAIPEI/HONG KONG (Reuters) - For some Hong Kong protesters, stripped of their passports and facing criminal charges, a perilous 600 km sea journey to Taiwan is their only hope of escape. For Taiwan, which has promised assistance to the people of Hong Kong but is wary of antagonising China, this brings a dilemma.

People began fleeing to Taiwan from the early months of the Hong Kong protests last year, mostly legally by air, sometimes by fishing boat, said activists in Taipei who have helped Hong Kong citizens obtain visas. Numbering a few hundred, they included people who took part in the pro-democracy protests, as well as clergy, social workers and others who offered care and support to protesters.

This year, coronavirus-related travel restrictions and Hong Kong's new security law, which was imposed on June 30 and handed the police and Chinese security agents sweeping powers, have narrowed the protesters' options to leave and sharply reduced the numbers fleeing to Taiwan to a few dozen. The most desperate are taking their chances by sea.

In the past month, China stopped a boat carrying 12 people, and Taiwan intercepted a craft carrying five near the Taiwan-controlled Pratas Islands in the South China Sea. Several sources with knowledge of the smuggling operation said at least a dozen more pro-democracy activists have reached Taiwan by boat.

These crossings have brought some "comfort" to the mostly young, pro-democracy activists who fled to Taiwan before the Hong Kong security law took effect, said one. "We have always felt guilty about running away."

Those left behind in Hong Kong had two options - to face trial or to flee. "It's a choice between hope and hopelessness. Of course some have chosen to risk their lives at sea."

This person and other activists, speaking on condition of anonymity, described a small-scale operation, organized by individuals in Hong Kong and Taiwan, to ferry protesters across the typhoon-prone South China Sea. The few risking the journey have been charged with crimes such as arson and rioting by Hong Kong authorities and had their passports confiscated. Hong Kong has so far charged over 600 people with rioting, which carries up to a 10-year jail term.

The crossing, that can take more than a day, is fraught with risk. Driving a speedboat under cover of night brings the danger of collision with submerged rocks and buoys. There is also the danger of detection. In Hong Kong waters, police marine patrols are frequently seen among the fishing trawlers, container ships, pleasure craft and speedboats. Stepped up Chinese military patrols and training exercises in the South China Sea around Hong Kong have increased the risk of interception.

At least a dozen other protesters who possess travel documents, have come by air in recent months, despite the suspension of most Taiwan visa applications because of the coronavirus. Taiwan said in June it would allow Hong Kong citizens to apply for entry for "special humanitarian considerations."