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COVID-19 TESTING

By Brian S. McGrath

After weeks of following stay-at-home orders, many people in the United States are eager to get back to work. Since the coronavirus pandemic began, some 22 million Americans have lost jobs, putting governors under pressure to reopen state economies.

Last month, President Donald Trump released guidelines for easing social-distancing rules and reopening businesses. But health experts say more testing for COVID-19 must happen first. Identifying people who have the disease can help states prevent it from spreading. Only then, experts say, can states reopen businesses without risking another spike in infections.

Currently, about 150,000 people in the United States are tested each day, according to the COVID Tracking Project. Researchers say that number needs to triple before states can begin easing restrictions.

On an April 20, Vice President Mike Pence held a videoconference with the nation’s governors. He said the federal government was “here to help.” But some governors say the federal government is not providing enough COVID-19 test kits. Lack of testing is “the Number 1 problem in America,” says Maryland governor Larry Hogan. “We can’t open up our states without ramping up testing.”

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation’s top infectious-disease expert, also thinks testing is key. “Unless we get the virus under control,” he says, “the real recovery economically is not going to happen.”

TEENS BUILD VENTILATORS

By Rebecca Mordechal

Afghanistan is facing the coronavirus pandemic with few resources. The country has only 400 ventilators—machines that help people who are very sick and having trouble breathing—for a population of about 37 million.

A girls’ robotics team in the city of Herat is working on a solution. The girls are building ventilators out of batteries, manual oxygen pumps, and windshield-wiper motors from old cars. The team members are between 14 and 17 years old. Somaya Farooqi, 17, is one of them. “If we even save one life with our device, we will be proud,” she says.

Roya Mahboob, who started the team, works to empower Afghan girls. She hopes the teens will complete a model ventilator this month or next. It will then be sent to Afghanistan’s Ministry of Public Health for testing.
For the Record

**221,855 MILES**

was the shorter-than-usual distance between EARTH and the MOON on April 7. It resulted in a big, bright supermoon.

“All of my best life lessons have come through difficult times,” said Olympic snowboarder CHLOE KIM in TIME. She was one of many people who shared thoughts on staying hopeful and motivated during the pandemic.

**$937,100**

was the amount raised by more than 50 MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL PLAYERS, representing all 30 teams, for the Home Plate Project. The news was announced on April 16. The money provides more than 4 million-meals to prevent childhood hunger during the pandemic.

Service dogs are an important part of society. Canine Companions for Independence is a nonprofit organization that trains dogs to help people with disabilities. Read the timeline below to find out about the life of a Canine Companions service dog.

0-2
A service dog spends the first two years of its life being trained and socialized.

2-10
The average service dog works for eight years. It retrieves items, opens doors, and more.

From age 10 on
The dog retires from service and spends its time as a pet.
ASTEROID BLAST

NASA’s mission to protect Earth from asteroids may cause the first manufactured meteor shower.

NASA is planning a mission to see if it can change the course of objects in space, such as asteroids, that might hit Earth. The mission is called DART—Double Asteroid Redirection Test.

The 1,100-pound DART spacecraft is scheduled to launch from Vandenberg Air Force Base, in California, in late July 2021. It will be carried aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket. Once in space, the DART craft will detach from the rocket. It will cruise for more than a year, until September 2022, when it will crash into a space rock with the force of three tons of TNT.

That collision could create a small meteor shower, the first ever caused by human activity, according to a study appearing in The Planetary Science Journal. This debris may take thousands of years to reach Earth. But some of it could get here in less than a month, giving scientists a glimpse of what near-Earth meteors are made of.

SPACE DEBRIS

The space rock NASA is targeting is called Didymoon. It is 535 feet wide and orbits a larger asteroid. The two make up what is called a binary asteroid, or two-asteroid system, named Didymos. The system travels around the sun, passing Earth every 20 years or so.

“A binary asteroid is the perfect natural laboratory for this test,” says Tom Statler, a NASA scientist who’s working on the DART project. “The fact that Didymos B is in orbit around Didymos A makes it easier to see the results of the impact.”

The spacecraft’s impact will change Didymoon’s speed around the larger asteroid by a fraction of 1%. That may not seem like a lot. But it would be enough to knock Didymoon off course if it were headed for Earth. Scientists want to be prepared for such a possibility. Dozens of small asteroids come relatively close to Earth each year.

The collision is expected to produce between 22,000 and 220,000 pounds of debris. Paul Wiegert is an astronomy professor at the University of Western Ontario, in Canada, and the author of the Planetary Science study. He says Earth could see a few grams of asteroid debris over a couple of days.

This shower will give scientists a chance to study the composition of asteroids like Didymoon, which will be useful in future planetary-defense tests. But while the debris would not pose an immediate danger to Earth, Wiegert says, it should be a warning about the potential danger of creating space debris in the first place.

“We are now reaching a point where we may be denied the full use of valuable portions of near-Earth space because of orbital debris buildup,” Wiegert writes in his study. That may not seem important now, he adds, but it could pose an obstacle to future space missions.

—By Karena Phan
MUSEUMS AT RISK

The pandemic has forced the world's museums to shut their doors. Some may close for good.

About one in eight museums worldwide is at risk of permanently closing because of the COVID-19 pandemic. That's according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the International Council of Museums (ICOM).

"It is alarming data that we are giving," says Ernesto Ottone Ramirez, assistant director-general for culture at UNESCO. The pandemic has forced about 90% of the world's museums to close. That's 85,000 museums. Some are starting to reopen, but others may never be able to do so. After being closed for months, "they have no revenues," or income, Ottone Ramirez says.

Popular museums in Europe have lost up to 80% of their income.

The situation is especially tough in Latin America. There, Ottone Ramirez says, 99.4% of all museums are closed. "So you have [an entire region] that doesn't have anything open," he says.

Reopenings in Europe, however, offer a glimmer of hope. In Berlin, Germany, 10,000 visitors—close to half the usual number—trickled into several museums over the course of a week.

World leaders are showing their support.

Sophie Wilmès, the prime minister of Belgium, toured the Bozar Centre for Fine Arts, in Brussels, on May 19. She encouraged others to do the same. "[We have to] show that [museums] are open again and that people can come back here in complete safety."

GOING ONLINE

While lockdowns are in place, some institutions have found creative ways to deliver the museum experience to people at home. These institutions have been offering free virtual tours of their collections.

For example, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, in New York City, has a page where kids can explore 5,000 years of art history and get ideas for art-related projects. At the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History site, visitors can wander exhibition halls, sometimes with an expert's narration. These digital experiences may not produce revenue. But they might be a way for museums to keep people interested until they can once again visit in person.

—By Rebecca Mordechai
Before you apply to be a TFK Kid Reporter, hear what this year’s team has to say!

Each year, TIME for Kids selects kid reporters from all around the United States. They report on current events, interview interesting people, and review the latest books for TIME for Kids and TIME Edge. This year's group had a few extra challenges, but they pulled through like pros.

ALEXIS BUMAH, AGE 13
One challenge I had to overcome was my shyness. When I applied, I was really shy and wasn't one to put myself out there a whole lot. But over the past few months, I've definitely come out of my shell more, and that's formed me into the amazing junior journalist I am today.

VIRTUAL SPACE Alexis (bottom) and Kid Reporter Jack Doane interview retired NASA astronaut Cady Coleman.

NORA WILSON-HARTGROVE, AGE 10
Being a Kid Reporter was a life-changing experience. It opens up opportunities that you could not get anywhere else. I was also lucky to get an amazing editor. She was always sending me emails with exciting and fun assignments. I even got to be in TIME magazine.

IN PRINT Nora's interview with award-winning author Lois Lowry appears in TIME.

PRISCILLA L. HO, AGE 11
My favorite experience was when a group of other TIME for Kids reporters and I interviewed astronaut Andrew Morgan, who was part of a crew on the International Space Station. At first, I had trouble with interviews because it was hard talking to people I didn't know. But interviews for TIME for Kids have let me grow out of this problem.

NEW HEIGHTS Priscilla reports on rock-climbing gyms. And she gets to try one for the first time.

ESHAAN MANI, AGE 14
I've had such awesome experiences over the past year. For example, I cohosted the TIME for Kids Explains: Pandemics podcast. It was super-duper fun. I also had a viral moment last fall when the Democratic debate came to Houston, Texas.

PRESS ROOM Eshaan works alongside pro journalists at a Democratic debate in September 2019.

Now we're looking for a new batch of young journalists to join our team! Visit timeforkids.com/2020-kid-reporter-contest to learn more.

"To any prospective journalists out there, please apply to be a TIME for Kids Kid Reporter," says TFK Kid Reporter Eshaan, from Texas. "It's an amazing experience, and I highly recommend it." Here, Eshaan and three of his peers share their experiences over the past year. — By Constance Gibbs
**HOMETOWN HEROES**

TIME Edge has written about people taking heroic steps to help one another during the COVID-19 pandemic. We've also asked readers to tell us about whom they'd like to acknowledge during this time. Here, five young people write about hometown heroes who have made a big impact on their lives. Read the entries and let them inspire you to thank your hometown hero!

My hometown heroes are my parents. They both deliver mail for the United States Postal Service (USPS). My dad, Paul, works in our town. My mom, Ricki, works in another town. They're my heroes because they deliver mail and packages. Some of the packages contain medicine, essential items, and things people can't get at stores. My parents also have conversations with people on their routes. One day, my mom helped an elderly man who fell in his house. Both of my parents walk several miles a day and see hundreds of people. Both of them took an oath to deliver mail through snow, rain, and even a pandemic. The USPS logo is an eagle. It represents hope, strength, resilience, and courage.

—Vincent R., 10, Shelby Township, Michigan

I want the teachers, nurses, and everyone who is making a difference to know that I appreciate you deeply for what you are doing. If we help others and contribute our time, then we can get through this. Don't forget: We are all in this together.

—Kylie M., 12, San Antonio, Texas

I want to thank all of the doctors and nurses that are helping people who have the virus.

—Robert J., 8, Atlanta, Georgia
My mom does everything she can to help our family and other people. On April 14, she went to Hope Lutheran Church to give blood. My mom also got a sewing machine for Christmas, and put it to use making masks for hospital workers. She had never used her sewing machine before. So she had to learn how to use it first, and then she made masks. It took her about five days to make them all. And she donated money to the Humane Society. Think about all of the dogs and cats and bunnies—my mom gave money to help them.

—Addie S., 12, Eau Claire, Wisconsin

My hometown hero is someone I always looked up to. He’s my older brother, Giuseppe. He’s a volunteer firefighter. His future wife, Kate, works as a certified nursing assistant at the hospital. Giuseppe volunteers his time there, too, and is going to school to be a police officer. He goes to visit our grandma to make sure she’s okay. He also made care packages for families that are dealing with COVID-19. He likes to make a difference and always wants to help. He’s willing to put his own life in danger to help others. He’s tough as nails and never asks for anything. I haven’t seen my brother much since the COVID-19 pandemic started. It’s hard to be away from him, but I know other people need him. My whole life, I have wanted to be just like my hero. I’m going to follow in his footsteps and help everyone I can.

—Sonny P., 10, Shelby Township, Michigan
BLUEBERRY-BANANA ICE POPS

Fourteen-year-old Paul Kimball has been cooking since elementary school. "Food is always better when you make it yourself," he told TIME Edge. "And I like being able to share food with friends and family members, and see their faces light up when they eat it."

Paul is one of the five authors of Chef Junior, a new cookbook made by kids for kids. It includes 100 recipes for kid-friendly foods. Paul believes the book is perfect for this period of social distancing. "You have all this time to get your cooking skills down," he says. "Then you can put them into play and start making food for yourself and for other people."

Paul shared a recipe from the book with TIME Edge: blueberry-banana ice pops. He likes this recipe because there are whole blueberries hidden at the bottom of each pop. "It's like finding treasure," he says.

— By Shay Maunz

**RECIPE BY PAUL KIMBALL**

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**EQUIPMENT**

- Blender
- Measuring cups and spoons
- 4 ice-pop molds or an ice-cube tray

**INGREDIENTS**

- 1 cup milk
- 1 banana (can be frozen)
- 1 1/2 cups frozen blueberries
- 2 tablespoons honey

**ACTIVE TIME**

5-10 minutes

**TOTAL TIME**

5-10 minutes + overnight freezing

**MAKES**

4 servings

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1. Place a blender on your counter. Put the milk, the banana, 1 cup of the blueberries, and the honey into the blender, and press the lid on tight.

2. Blend the mixture on high speed if you have a low-power blender and on medium if you have a high-power blender, until there are no chunks, about 30 to 60 seconds.

3. Put 3 or 4 blueberries into each ice-pop mold or a couple into each compartment of the ice-cube tray.

4. Pour the mixture into the molds or the ice-cube tray, and put the mixture in the freezer until frozen—overnight or for 12 to 14 hours.
COOL TREAT Made with milk, berries, and honey, these ice pops are perfect for dessert or an afternoon snack.
Playing video games is a great way to spend time with friends and family while you're stuck at home. TIME Edge's Karena Phan lists some of her favorite new games below.

**FOREST PROTECTOR**

**ORI AND THE WILL OF THE WISPS** follows a forest spirit, Ori, who's on a mission to protect the woods and all the magical creatures that live there. This game is the new sequel to Ori and the Blind Forest. The action and adventure take place in a large open world that you can explore. Embark on a forest odyssey, where you can make new friends, solve puzzles, and battle foes. The game features beautiful animation and music. (Xbox One and PC)

**LIVING THE ISLAND LIFE**

Travel to a tropical island and live your best island life. In **ANIMAL CROSSING: NEW HORIZONS**, players have their pick of activities. Build a home and furnish your island however you please. Govern your fellow islanders. Spend your time catching bugs, going fishing, or digging for fossils. This game is a great boredom buster. It lets you get creative with your surroundings and gives you daily goals to accomplish. (Nintendo Switch)

**BATTER UP**

**MLB THE SHOW 20** brings Major League Baseball into your home. The real-life MLB has delayed its season this year because of the pandemic. But this game lets you enjoy playing baseball from the comfort of your couch. The realistic simulation lets you create and manage a team. You pick the logos and make the plays. The game includes in-game purchasing options for additional content, but you won't need it to enjoy yourself. (PlayStation 4)

**TOO MANY COOKS**

This kitchen has too many cooks! In **OVERCOOKED! 2: GOURMET EDITION**, each player is assigned a kitchen job. Chefs must work together to complete their tasks, serve tasty meals, and save the Onion Kingdom. The better your teamwork, the better your score. There are 130 exciting levels to play. (PC, Nintendo Switch, PlayStation 4, and Xbox One)