CORONAVIRUS

Oscar del Pozo / AFP via Getty Images

Spain is one of the countries that is seeing an explosion of new infections that's outpacing the U.S.

Some nations that crushed COVID now see cases rise

By Michael Birnbaum, Ruth Eglash and James McAuley
WASHINGTON POST

Israel, Spain and France all fought the coronavirus into abatement in the first months of the pandemic with tough measures that won international praise. But the three countries now share a painful distinction: Their infection rates have shot past the United States, even though Americans never got the virus under control.

The experience of these three nations demonstrates the difficulty of keeping the virus at bay, experts and officials say, and how reopening too quickly and other missteps can undermine successful national policies. For countries with more chaotic approaches, such as the United States, the challenge may be even greater.

"We are going into a worsening situation," Hans Kluge, the World Health Organization's top official in Europe, told reporters Thursday. He said the rising numbers on the continent should serve as "a wake-up call for all of us" to be more vigilant about the transmission of the disease.

Israel, meanwhile, entered a new three-week lockdown Friday, a particularly bitter blow because it coincides with the beginning of the Jewish High Holy Days.

U.S. death rate worse

Taking into account population, a handful of countries have higher rates of COVID-19 diagnoses than the United States does. But Israel, Spain and France – all similarly positioned to the United States, in that they are democracies with advanced medical systems and deep pockets – stand out for having made dramatic progress against the health menace before seeing gains reversed.

Israel used an aggressive trace-and-quarantine program to keep its death rates lower than many of its peers. Spain, which was so overwhelmed by death that it had to turn a Madrid ice rink into a morgue, forced citizens to stay inside their homes for six weeks with few exceptions. French residents needed signed attestations that they were doing necessary errands during the hour they were allowed out of their homes every day.

By early June, after months of lockdown, each of these countries had managed to push cases down to lower than 10 per 100,000 people over a two-week period, according to figures from the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control.

Israel now has one of the worst infection rates in the world given its population: Over the past week, it has reported an average of 47 cases per day per 100,000 residents. Spain, which has averaged 22 cases per day per 100,000 people, and France, which has averaged 13, have also been setting daily records.

The United States registered an average over the past week of 12 cases per day per 100,000 people.

The comparisons are imperfect, since testing availability differs from country to country, and some may be undermeasuring. The death rate in the United States remains the worst of the four countries: adjusted for population, its deaths are nearly one-and-a-half times Israel's, double that of Spain, and five times that of France.

"The USA is still tackling their first major peak, and will see further down the line some very similar challenges that a number of European countries are facing now," said Catherine Smallwood, a senior emergency officer at the WHO Health Emergencies Program.

Rush to reopen

Some Spanish experts say that the rigidity of their lockdown may have led to a rush to reopen.

"The lockdown in Spain was fantastic. It was probably the country that did the best. It was very serious," said Rafael Cantón, the head of microbiology at the Ramón y Cajal University Hospital in Madrid. "But probably because of these months of very strict lockdown, when we opened it was very quick, unfortunately. There was a background of virus that was in the population."

Most of Spain's new cases are mild and concentrated among younger, more resilient people, experts say, although hospitalization numbers are shooting up, as are deaths.

Public health officials blame the increase in cases on a virus-friendly cocktail. Vacation season spread the virus across the country. Families reunited, sometimes breaking size limits on gatherings. Teenagers embraced late-night drinking sessions, also ignoring rules on public gatherings. Pandemic policymaking was largely delegated to regional governments, which led to sharply divergent rules and strategies. And testing and tracing failed to keep pace with the rise in cases.

Now, strict lockdowns are set to be reimposed on especially hard-hit parts of Madrid this weekend.

"We don't know for the time being whether we're at the top of the wave or whether we're facing more weeks of increases," said Antoni Trilla, dean of the University of Barcelona Medical and Health Sciences School.

In France, a strict spring lockdown also produced an early-summer payoff.

After cases skyrocketed in March and April, overwhelming emergency rooms and ICU wards, the coronavirus seemed close to disappearing from France altogether by mid-May, when the government lifted the lockdown.

France's reopening was more gradual than in Spain or Israel. But then came the long, hot summer.

Infections slowly started increasing in late July.

The resurgence has alarmed the French government, although for now it has held back from imposing significant new lockdown measures.

Schools are open, and attendance is compulsory. Many restaurants are crowded. And the government is encouraging people to return to work.

"The virus is still here for several more months," French Prime Minister Jean Castex said. "We have to succeed in living with it without letting ourselves slip back into a lockdown."

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3555 Timmons Lane, Houston, TX.
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832-681-2592 or www.hgacbuy.org for info.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas (METRO) is planning to issue the procurement documents listed in this advertisement.

IFB No. 4020000174: B.O.O.S.T. Pilot Project Solicitation will be available on or about 9/15/2020.

Prospective bidders/proposers can view and download these solicitations by visiting METRO's website at https://www.ridemetroapp.org/procurement/

If you are unable to download the documents or are having difficulty, please contact METRO Plan and Bid Room at (713) 739-4881.

AA – Advertisement for Sealed Proposals

NEW CANEY ISD ADVERTISEMENT FOR SEALED PROPOSALS NCISD TECHNOLOGY BUILDING
New District Technology Building located at 21480 Valley Ranch Bend Dr. Porter, TX 77365 (Project **#024-2015**). Proposals are due **October 8, 2020**, on or before (2:00pm **CDST/CST**) in the Conference Rm of the New Caney ISD Facility Planning & Construction Office, Bldg. "E" located at 22784 US Highway 59S, Porter, TX 77365. The Proposal opening will be broadcast via Zoom Conference Only. **Meeting ID: 828 7928 2227 using Passcode: 7cy5Pj**. A Proposal Security in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the proposal amount is required. **The Project is a new 15,900 SF facility for the District Technology Department. The Work includes all site work, building construction-S.O.G., structural steel, masonry, veneer & C.M.U.**
A Pre-proposal Conference will be held via Zoom Conference Only: on **September 30, 2020** at 10:00am **CDST/CST. Meeting ID: 811 2669 2191, Passcode: 1Z8Uu8.** Proposal Contract Documents will be available **September, 28, 2020** from the office of the architect (Corgan). Make requests to Paige Russell, **paige.russell@corgan.com** 20 East Greenway Plaza, Suite 410, Houston, TX 77046.

The Contract may be awarded to a proposer per the following criteria: **1.** Offeror's submitted base proposal – 50%; Offeror's experience & reputation – 15%; Quality of offeror's good and services – 15%; Offeror's safety record – 2%; Offeror's proposed personnel – 5%; Whether the offeror's financial capability is appropriate to the size and scope of the project – 5%; Offeror's ability to complete project on time – 5%; Offeror's performance in responding to warranty – 3%. The District reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, and the right to negotiate with any proposers after submission of proposals. In addition, the District, at its discretion, may waive any formalities or minor irregularities regarding the proposals.

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS
The Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas (METRO) is planning to issue the procurement documents listed in this advertisement.
RFP No. 4020000193: Broadcast Production Services. Solicitation will be available on or about 9/21/2020.
Prospective bidders/proposers can view and download these solicitations by visiting METRO's website at **https://www.ridemetroapp.org/procurement/**
If you are unable to download the documents or are having difficulty, please contact METRO Plan and Bid Room at (713) 739-4881.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Amigos Par Vida-Friends For Life Public Charter School (APV-FFL) requests proposals for Catering Services for Federal Breakfast, Lunch and After-School Snack Programs for the 2020-2021 school year . If interested, please visit our website at www .amigosporvida.co m. Bid documents may also be obtained at the administrative office at 5503 El Camino Del Rey St, 713-349-9945, or by faxing your request to 713-349-0671. APV-FFL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids as it deems to be in its best interest and to waive formalities and reasonable irregularities in bidding. **All bids are due Monday, September 30, 2020 at 3PM.**

Request for Proposals
RFP #20-03
Housing Choice Voucher Mobility Demonstration Program

The Harris County Housing Authority **("HCHA")** is requesting proposal submissions from qualified Mobility Related Service Providers **(Offerors)** to provide a range of services, including but not limited to pre-move support and housing search assistance, landlord outreach, post-move, and subsequent-move support for the HCHA HCV Mobility Demonstration Program. This **RFP** contains submission requirements, the scope of service, period of service, terms, and conditions, and other pertinent information for submitting a proper and responsive proposal. **RFP #20-03** will be posted on **September 21, 2020**, and can be downloaded from HCHA's website **www.hchatexas.org**.

Prospective **Offerors** desiring any explanation or interpretation of this solicitation must make the request in writing no later than **September 28, 2020**. The request must be emailed to Debra McCray at **debra.mccray@hchatexas.org**. Any information given to a prospective **Offeror** about this solicitation will be furnished to all other prospective **Offerors** as a written amendment to the solicitation. All amendment(s) to this solicitation, if issued, will be posted on HCHA's website **www.hchatexas.org**.

The **RFP** submission must be emailed as a PDF attachment to **debra.mccray@hchatexas.org**.

Submittals must reach **HCHA** no later than **2:00 P.M. (CST)** on **October 6, 2020.**

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
MUNICIPAL SETTING DESIGNATION
CITY OF HOUSTON

Virtual Meeting: Microsoft Teams Platform
Date – Time: October 19, 2020 – 6:00 PM

For meeting link and additional project information go to:
https://www.publicworks.houstontx.gov/msd-calendar

Applicant: Weingarten Realty Investors, LLC

Site Location: 4529 FM 1960 West, Houston, Texas 77069

Legal Description: Res A1 BLK 1 Stuebner Forest: Res A2 Blk 1 Stuebner Forest

Contaminants of Concern: Tetrachloroethene, Trichloroethene

This designates an area in which the use of impaired groundwater is prohibited for use as potable water (i.e. drinking, cooking, bathing etc.). If you have questions or comments, please contact the City of Houston MSD Program at (832) 394-9003 or email at msd@houstontx.gov.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
MUNICIPAL SETTING DESIGNATION
CITY OF HOUSTON

Virtual Meeting: Microsoft Teams Platform
Date – Time: October 21, 2020 – 6:00 PM

For meeting link and additional project information go to:
https://www.publicworks.houstontx.gov/msd-calendar

Applicant: Rexam Beverage Can Company

Site Location: 8501 East Freeway, Houston, TX 77029

Legal Description: TRS 11A & 15B, GLENDALE

Contaminants of Concern: Trichloroethylene, 1,1-Dichloroethene, Vinyl Chloride.

This designates an area in which the use of impaired groundwater is prohibited for use as potable water (i.e. drinking, cooking, bathing etc.). If you have questions or comments, please contact the City of Houston MSD Program at (832) 394-9003 or email at **msd@houstontx.gov**.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas

Notice of Virtual Public Hearing for Proposed METRO Fiscal Year 2021 Operating & Capital Budgets

The Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas (METRO) is holding a virtual public hearing to receive public comments on its proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Operating and Capital Budgets (October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021). The public hearing will be held at 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 by telephone and video conference call on the Zoom virtual meeting platform.

The public may join the virtual hearing on Zoom at https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88606113800 or by dialing: 346-248-7799, Meeting ID: 886 0611 3800. Participation on Zoom is only necessary if you want to provide comments during the public hearing. Otherwise, you may view a livestream of the virtual hearing online at https://www.ridemetro.org/Pages/BoardStreamingVideo.aspx. A video recording of the hearing will also be archived on www.ridemetro.org.

A copy of METRO's proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Operating and Capital Budgets is currently available for review by the public on METRO's website at www.ridemetro.org and in the lobby of the METRO RideStore in the Lee P. Brown METRO Administration Building, located at 1900 Main Street, Houston, Texas 77002.

Based on the current guidance from public health officials recommending the limitation of in-person public meetings to slow the spread of the Coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, the public hearing will only be conducted virtually.

PROCESS FOR PROVIDING PUBLIC COMMENTS

It is recommended that anyone wanting to make public comments register as a public speaker with METRO's Board Office at least 48 hours in advance of the hearing by calling 713-739-4834 or sending an email to boardoffice@ridemetro.org, and providing their name, address and telephone number. If you pre-register, your comments will be heard first at the public hearing. Your name will be called at the appropriate time for you to make your comments.

Alternatively, you may provide public comments after the pre-registered speakers by selecting the "Raise Hand" feature on the Zoom platform online or by pressing *9 if joining by telephone. Those calling in will automatically be placed on mute. After an unregistered speaker's name or number is recognized, their microphone will be unmuted and they will be able to provide their comments.

The public may also provide comments by email to Budget.Book@ridemetro.org or by calling METRO's Customer Care Center at 713-635-4000 in advance of the public hearing.

LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE, ACCESSIBILITY AND SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Upon request, METRO provides free language assistance to help patrons who have a limited ability to read, write, speak or understand English in accordance with its language assistance plan. METRO's public hearings are accessible to persons with disabilities. Request for language assistance and other accommodations should be directed to the Board Office at 713-739-4834 at least 48 hours in advance of the hearing.

The Houston Housing Authority ("HHA") is soliciting sealed proposals to engage the services of a National Broker with Commercial Real Estate experience in accordance with the requirements and terms and conditions specified RFP 20-49 Real Estate Brokerage Services.

Interested parties who wish to respond to this solicitation must submit the required documents in a sealed envelope by 10 A.M. Central Standard Time (CST) October 20, 2020 to the Houston Housing Authority Attn: Kevin M. Coleman, MS, C.P.M., Subject: RFP 20-49 Real Estate Brokerage Services - DO NOT OPEN 2640 Fountain View Drive Houston, Texas 77057.

RFP 20-49 can be obtained by going to the doing business with HHA section of HHA's website at **www.housingforhouston.com**, or by sending an e-mail to HHA's Procurement Dept. at **Purchasing@housingforhouston.com**.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY A Fair and Equal Employment Opportunity Agency. For assistance: Individuals with disabilities may contact the 504/ADA Administrator at 713-260-0528, TTY 713-260-0574 or **504ADA@housingforhouston.com**

LEGAL NOTICE

BakerRipley a non-profit human services organization, announces a Request for Proposal (RFP) #20-24 for **Telecommunications Procurement Consultant** for BakerRipley's telecommunications services.

The RFP will be posted on our website at http://www.bakerripley.org/about/vendors on **September 22, 2020**.

Interested Vendors can submit a proposal to awaheed@bakerripley.org.

The deadline for submitting a proposal is **Thursday, October 22, 2020 by 10:00 a.m. (Central Time Zone).**

BAKERRIPLEY ENCOURAGES SMALL AND HISTORICALLY UNDERUTILIZED BUSINESSES TO APPLY.

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN WATER QUALITY PERMIT
PROPOSED PERMIT NO. WQ0015903001

APPLICATION. Lago Utility LLC, 1215 Gessner Road, Houston, Texas 77055, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for proposed Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0015903001 (EPA I.D. No. TX0140465) to authorize the discharge of treated wastewater at a volume not to exceed a daily average flow of 900,000 gallons per day. The domestic wastewater treatment facility will be located approximately 4,600 feet southwest of the intersection of Farm-to-Market Road 1942 and Sralla Road, in Harris County, Texas 77532. The discharge route will be from the plant site to a Harris County Flood Control District ditch; thence to San Jacinto River Tidal. TCEQ received this application on June 25, 2020. The permit application is available for viewing at https://odyssey.syncedtool.com/shares/file/Zp4G1w15VCC/. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application. https://tceq.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=db5bac44afbc468bbddd360f8168250f&marker=-95.0463%2C29.8671&level=12

ADDITIONAL NOTICE. TCEQ's Executive Director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After technical review of the application is complete, the Executive Director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. **Notice of the Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the county-wide mailing list and to those who are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the deadline for submitting public comments.**

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting on this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments, and the Executive Director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision and for requesting a contested case hearing.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period and, the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period.**

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at https://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address, and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea informacion en Espanol, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Lago Utility LLC at the address stated above or by calling Ms. Jennifer L. Elms, P.E., Odyssey Engineering Group, at 281-306-0240, Ext. 124.

Issuance Date: September 3, 2020

IF YOU THINK LEGAL NOTICES ARE PAINFUL, WAIT UNTIL YOU PLACE ONE IN THE WRONG PAPER.

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