

September 2020

Länderbericht

Auslandsbüro USA, Washington D.C.



Corona Update: USA (24) – aktuelle Studien, Analysen und Kommentare

Für die Zeit vom 4. bis 10. September 2020

Zusammengestellt von: Sabine Murphy, Jeanene Laird, Elmar Sulk, Syreta Haggray, Dirk Hegen, Paul Linnarz

Die Corona-Krise hat über die erheblichen gesundheitlichen Risiken und Folgen hinaus weitreichende Auswirkungen auf die Wirtschaft, Sicherheit, Forschung, Innen- und Außenpolitik sowie das gesellschaftliche Leben in den Vereinigten Staaten. Namhafte US-amerikanische Think Tanks und Experten setzen sich intensiv mit den unterschiedlichen Aspekten und Herausforderungen dieser in ihrem Umfang und ihrer Schnelligkeit beispiellosen Krise auseinander. Für einen Überblick über den aktuellen Stand der Diskussion stellt das KAS-Auslandsbüro USA mit Sitz in Washington D.C. wöchentlich eine Auswahl an Studien, Analysen und Kommentaren jeweils mit Links zu den Beiträgen zusammen.

“ ‘One world, two systems’ takes shape during the pandemic”

Quelle: Atlantic Council (September 8, 2020)

Hung Tran, Nonresident Senior Fellow, Global Business & Economics

According to the author, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated fragmentation of the postwar world order and “its most poignant manifestation is in an intensifying competition between the United States and China for political and strategic influence.” [This issue brief](#) (for download as pdf) traces the corona-induced acceleration of the race for high-tech dominance and its impacts on Asia and Europe.

“The Pandemic Forum: COVID-19’s Impact on Geopolitical Risk and Global Resiliency”

Quelle: Wilson Center (Sep 10, 2020)

Tim Weir, VP Global Asset Protection, DXC Technology, et al.

The Wilson Center’s Science and Technology Innovation Program hosted on Thursday September 10 “The Pandemic Forum”, a virtual [event](#) with experts from the healthcare field, national security and risk management. They were discussing COVID-19’s impacts on geopolitical risks and considerations for public and private resiliency. During this event, participants were shining a light on lessons learned, weaknesses exposed and possible policy solutions.

“The Risks of Misinformation and Vaccine Hesitancy within the COVID-19 Crisis”

Quelle: Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS, Sept. 4, 2020)

Katherine E. Bliss, Sr. fellow, et al.

The authors emphasize that combating misinformation about Covid-19 and strengthening the U.S. population’s confidence in vaccines, particularly once a safe and effective Covid-19 vaccine becomes available, would be an urgent national

security matter. "Amid persistent Covid-19 transmission in the United States, with more than six million Americans infected and 180,000 dead, the protection of U.S. national interests requires addressing the circulation of misinformation about the pandemic—far more systematically and effectively than is the case today—to interrupt the erosion of confidence in vaccines," state Katherine Bliss, an international public policy expert, together with the co-authors in this [analysis](#). "The longer the outbreak persists, and schools and universities remain closed ...the greater [will be] the damage to U.S.-based education, cutting-edge research, and innovation."

"COVID-19 and Emerging Global Patterns of Financial Crime"

Quelle: Congressional Research Service (CRS, September 4, 2020)

Liana W. Rosen, Specialist in International Crime and Narcotics

The author provides an [analysis](#) of how the pandemic has increased the vulnerabilities of certain individuals to COVID-19-related criminal schemes. According to the report, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated fraud, which remains at the forefront of money laundering concerns, both domestically and abroad. One highlight in the outlook is that some observers conjecture that the pandemic may be creating new classes of criminals and victims that could have lasting repercussions for transnational crime. The author references current bills that address some of the concerns.

"US productivity is soaring. Hold the applause - Don't be fooled by the gaudy statistic. It just means that less-productive workers were the first to be fired."

Quelle: American Enterprise Institute (AEI, September 9, 2020)

Michael R. Strain, Director for Economic Policy Studies

In the [opinion piece](#), the author explains that announcements of wage growth and increase in productivity alone are not necessarily good news. He points out that wage growth is an average and it grew because so many low-wage workers had been laid off. Furthermore, productivity grew by a "stunning" 10,1% annual rate in the second quarter of 2020 because, according to the author, hours worked declined more rapidly than economic output when the economy went into free fall.

"COVID-19 may have been in L.A. as early as last December, UCLA-led study suggests"

Quelle: University of California Los Angeles (UCLA, September 10, 2020)

Enrique Rivero, Sr. Media Relations Officer

According to a new study, UCLA researchers and colleagues who analyzed electronic health records found that there was a significant increase in patients with coughs and acute respiratory failure at UCLA Health hospitals and clinics beginning in late December 2019, suggesting that COVID-19 may have been circulating in the area months before the first definitive cases in the U.S. were identified.

"The findings, the study authors say, demonstrate the importance of analyzing electronic health records to monitor and quickly identify irregular changes in patient populations", writes Rivero in this [article](#). You can also read the full study [here](#).

"17 Ways Companies Can Help Americans Vote Safely"

Quelle: Center for American Progress (CAP, September 9, 2020)

Alex Tausanovitch, Director, Campaign Finance and Electoral Reform, et al.

COVID-19 has a major influence on how the presidential election will be conducted this year. If voters must wait in long lines at polling places that have not taken sufficient precautions, there is a risk that they will be exposed to COVID-19. In this [commentary](#), the authors are laying out ideas how the business community can help with facilitating voter registration, encouraging and enabling safe practices when voting and encouraging healthy employees to volunteer as poll workers.

"Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the CARES Act on Earnings and Inequality"

Quelle: W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research (September 8, 2020)

Guido Matias Cortes, Associate Professor at York University (Canada), et al.

The [research paper](#) focuses on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the CARES Act on the labor market. The authors provide an account of the impact of the pandemic and the associated public policy response on earnings. One finding is that low-earning individuals were disproportionately likely to lose their jobs during the pandemic. And the authors conclude that in the absence of the public policy response through the CARES Act, earnings inequality would have experienced a dramatic increase.

"Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Congress Should Give Colleges a Lifeline in Next Stimulus"

Quelle: New America (September 9, 2020)

Alejandra Acosta, Policy Analyst, Higher Education at New America, et al.

New America's recent [blog post](#) addresses the dilemma colleges and universities find themselves

in as they struggle to reopen campuses amidst rising infection rates in their student populations - or else lose federal funding. Acosta et. al. call on Congress to put aside their partisan politics and pass another relief package that will help colleges and universities keep their doors open and their students safe.

"With Schools Starting Online, Vaccinations Head for Recess"

Quelle: Kaiser Health News (September 8, 2020)

Carmen Heredia Rodriguez, Reporter

Schools play a pivotal role in U.S. vaccination efforts. Laws require children to have certain immunizations to enroll and attend classes. The COVID-19 pandemic led to schools all around the U.S. to suspend in-person education. Public health officials have relied on schools as a means to control vaccine-preventable diseases for over a century. Now vaccinations are "harder to enforce" according to this [article](#).

"The Contagion Externality of a Superspreading Event: The Sturgis Motorcycle Rally and COVID-19"

Quelle: Center for Health Economics and Policy Studies at San Diego State University (September 5, 2020)

Dhaval Dave, Bentley University, IZA and NBER, et al.

Between August 7 and August 16, 2020, nearly 500,000 motorcyclists converged on Sturgis, South Dakota for its annual motorcycle rally. According to this working paper by researchers of San Diego State University and other research institutions, this event led to significant spread of the novel coronavirus in the event's home state of South Dakota and in other parts of the United States. The study is not peer-reviewed, however,

the researchers emphasize that the consequences of this event were "substantial." Read the full pdf [here](#).

"How to make telehealth more permanent after COVID-19"

Quelle: The Brookings Institution
(September 4, 2020)

Nicol Turner Lee, Sr. Fellow; Niam Yaraghi, Non-resident Fellow

This [blogpost](#) about the rise of telehealth during the current corona virus pandemic states that there were various benefits from cost reduction in both medical and mental services to quality improvement, as well as increased patient satisfaction. The report also points out that "certain conditions must be instituted to ensure long-term delivery of telehealth services, starting with access to high-speed broadband among patients and providers, national interoperability, new fraud detection methods, and more lenient and favorable federal and state policies towards its use."

Weitere Kurzbeiträge:

"Winners and Losers of the Pandemic Economy"

Quelle: Center on Foreign Relations
(CFR, September 8, 2020)

A. Michael Spence, distinguished visiting fellow

According to the author, highly accommodative monetary policies are principally aimed at creating space for governments to use debt to finance large fiscal programs in response to the COVID-19 shock. "But while ultra-low interest rates may provide some general support for today's market valuations, they do not account for the stark differences across sectors", states Michael Spence in this [piece](#), who served as the chairman of an

independent commission on growth in developing countries and is professor emeritus of management at Stanford University. He continues, "when the post-pandemic phase comes into view, labor-intensive sectors with lower intangible capital per employee may enjoy a period of outperformance as they bounce back. Yet even in this scenario, the economy's digital footprint is likely to expand, and the underlying trend favoring intangible capital and its owners will continue."

"Schools Need to Be Planning for the Next 9 Months, Not the Next 9 Weeks"

Quelle: RAND Corporation (September 8, 2020)

Shelly Culbertson, Senior Policy Researcher, et al.

The authors in this [commentary](#), that appeared in The Hill (a news website), argue that schools cannot simply wait out this pandemic, nor will short-term planning and ad-hoc infrastructure get them successfully through this academic year. Instead what is needed, according to the authors, is long-term planning so that the CDC guidelines for in-person learning can be met: a sanitation regime that includes masks and reducing the number of people sharing a classroom.

"Nine CEOs sign historic pledge to continue to make the safety and well-being of vaccinated individuals the top priority in development of the first COVID-19 vaccines"

Quelle: Sanofi (September 8, 2020)

In this [pledge](#) CEOs of nine biopharmaceutical companies involved in the development of vaccines for the COVID-19 virus declare their "on-going commitment to developing and testing potential vaccines for COVID-19 in accordance with high ethical standards and sound scientific principles." They further pledge to "only submit for approval or emergency use authorization after

demonstrating safety and efficacy through a Phase 3 clinical study that is designed and conducted to meet requirements of expert regulatory authorities such as FDA.”

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/coronavirus-us-cases.html>

Für die aktuellen Zahlen zur Corona-Krise in den USA:

The Centers for Disease Control:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

The Johns Hopkins University:

<https://gisanddata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6>

The New York Times:

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e. V.

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