

April 2021

# Länderbericht

Auslandsbüro USA, Washington D.C.



## April Corona Update: Aktuelle Studien, Analysen und Kommentare

Zusammengestellt von: Dirk Hegen

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. monatlich eine Auswahl an Studien, Analysen und Kommentaren jeweils mit Links zu den Beiträgen zusammen. Die bisherigen Ausgaben des Corona Update: USA finden Sie [hier](#).

### “Economic Policy for a Pandemic Age: How the World Must Prepare”

Quelle: Petersen Institute for International Economics (PIIE) (April, 2021)

This [briefing](#) sets out some key lessons of the current response to COVID-19, along with policy recommendations to prepare for the real possibility of a pandemic age. These recommendations include multilateral projects as well as coordinated actions by individual countries. The briefing also covers several policy areas in which “co-operative forward-looking policy action will materially improve our chances of truly escaping today’s pandemic and making future pandemics less costly.”

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### “Will Productivity and Growth Return After the COVID-19 Crisis?”

Quelle: Information Technology & Innovation Foundation (ITIF) (April 20, 2021)

Panelists:

Robert D. Atkinson, President, Information Technology and Innovation Foundation

Robert Gordon, Professor of Economics, Northwestern University

Jan Mischke, Partner, McKinsey Global Institute  
Paul Mizen, Professor of Monetary Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Nottingham

Moderator:

Nell Henderson, Economics Editor, Wall Street Journal

According to ITIF, the economic, health, and social crises associated with COVID-19 have reshaped economies around the world, opening up new ways of working and doing business, and new ways for consumers to access products and services, many of them driven by technology. This [virtual event](#) addresses the following questions: Will these changes persist post-COVID? What are businesses likely to do and how is this likely to impact productivity growth and jobs? What should governments do to support this IT-enabled transformation?

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### “A world apart: How wealthy nations can strengthen the COVID safety net”

Quelle: Atlantic Council (April 21, 2021)

Jeremy Mark, Nonresident Senior Fellow and Vasuki Shastry

The authors of this [article](#) maintain that by enabling the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to provide substantial amounts of foreign-exchange reserves to its 190 member countries, the international community has delivered important progress in combating the impact of COVID-19. However, according to the article, much more was needed to assist low-income countries that remain burdened by the pandemic's economic and human costs.

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### **“To recover from COVID-19, downtowns must adapt”**

Quelle: Brookings (April 15, 2021)

Tracy Hadden Loh, Fellow, Metropolitan Policy Program, Anne T. and Robert M. Bass Center for Transformative Placemaking; Joanne Kim, Senior Research Assistant, Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program

According to this [report](#), city-watchers are starting to ask if we are going to lose some places due to the pandemic. Across the U.S., the pandemic has left downtowns “devastated” and the authors point out that in downtown Washington, D.C., for example, daytime population plummeted 82% from February 2020 to February 2021, and only 9% of office space was occupied as of February 2021. If these daytime populations do not rebound to pre-pandemic levels, “a cascade of impacts will be felt far beyond downtowns.”

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### **“Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People”**

Quelle: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (April 27, 2021)

In these [recommendations](#), the CDC states that fully vaccinated people no longer need to wear a mask outdoors, except in certain crowded settings and venues and clarifies that fully vaccinated workers no longer need to be restricted

from work following an exposure as long as they are asymptomatic.

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### **“Vaccine Passports: What to Know”**

Quelle: Council on Foreign Relations (April 7, 2021)

Claire Felter, Senior Copy Editor/Writer

This [brief](#) discusses that some governments and businesses are starting to use digital and paper passes that certify that a person has been immunized against COVID-19, while also highlighting the debate over the ethics of so-called vaccine passport.

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### **“Are Health Centers Facilitating Equitable Access to COVID-19 Vaccinations? An April 2021 Update.”**

Quelle: Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) (April, 2021)

Bradley Corallo, Policy Analyst, Program on Medicaid and the Uninsured; Samantha Artiga Vice President; Jennifer Tolbert Director of State Health Reform

According to KFF, community health centers serve as a national network of safety net primary care providers and are a primary source of care for many low-income populations and people of color. This [analysis](#) examines the extent to which vaccination efforts through community health centers reach people of color using data from the federal government's weekly Health Center COVID-19 Survey.

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### **“Pandemic Brings WASH to Rare Inflection Point: Despite Fears of Collapse, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Draw Closer to Epic Goal”**

Quelle: Wilson Center (April 20, 2021)

Keith Schneider, Senior Editor and Chief Correspondent, Circle of Blue, and Global Choke Point Project, Wilson Center

In this [piece](#), Schneider asserts that the virus raised awareness of health care facilities with inadequate hygiene, the nearly 600 million children who attend schools that lack safe toilets, and 800 million students without wash basins. Schneider concludes that “as an impediment to universal access to WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene), the pandemic was not nearly as significant as population growth, rural migration to urban slums and insufficient financing.”

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### “Shot of Truth: Communicating Trusted Vaccine Information”

Quelle: U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation (April 15, 2021)

Witnesses:

The Honorable Gordon H. Smith, President and CEO, National Association of Broadcasters; Tracie Collins, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Health; member, Association of State and Territorial Health Officials; Yonaira Rivera, Ph.D., M.P.H., Assistant Professor of Communication, Rutgers University School of Communication and Information

This [hearing](#) examines the ways in which media is disseminating vaccine safety and COVID-health related information to encourage Americans, particularly those in rural areas and in communities of color, to get vaccinated. It also explores what more can be done to encourage media outlets, including television, radio, and online platforms, to promote reliable and trustworthy vaccine information.

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### “Private Schooling after a Year of COVID-19: How the Private Sector Has Fared and How to Keep It Healthy”

Quelle: CATO Institute (April 13, 2021)

Neal McCluskey, Director, Center for Educational Freedom

This [paper](#) provides data on private school closures one year after the first reported COVID-19-connected closure, covering March 18, 2020, to March 17, 2021. It also discusses overall private schooling vitality, including why the pandemic’s effects on this sector were less dire than many people likely expected, which schools and areas were most affected, and what policies going forward can preserve private schooling for families that desire it.

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### “Virtual Event | A Pandemic of Deception: COVID-19 and Disinformation Operations”

Quelle: Hudson Institute (April 5, 2021)

Sarah J. Gamberini, Policy Fellow, National Defense University’s Center for the Study of Weapons of Mass Destruction (CSWMD); Aurimas Piečiukaitis, International News Editor, Lithuanian National Radio & Television and Former Baltic American Freedom Foundation Fellow, Hudson Institute; Richard Weitz, Senior Fellow & Director, Center for Political-Military Analysis, Hudson Institute; Tod Lindberg, Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute

This [virtual discussion](#) centers on how authoritarian regimes have distorted information related to the COVID-19 pandemic to wage malign influence campaigns worldwide. Key questions include what impact these campaigns have had and whether the U.S. is doing enough to counter them.

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### “COVID-19: HHS Should Clarify Agency Roles for Emergency Return of U.S. Citizens during a Pandemic”

Quelle: Government Accountability Office (GAO) (April, 2021)

This GAO [report](#) indicates that at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. returned, or repatriated, about 1,100 U.S. citizens from abroad and quarantined them domestically to prevent the spread of COVID-19. According to the report, “the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) experienced coordination and safety issues that put repatriates, HHS personnel, and nearby communities at risk.”

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### “Economic Fragility and COVID-19 in the Middle East: Will More Civil Unrest Follow the Pandemic?”

Quelle: Wilson Center (April, 2021)

Alexander Farley, Program Associate; Brooke Sherman Program Assistant

This [article](#) shows that as of November 2020, COVID-19 claimed nearly 100,000 lives in the region and infected more than 3.4 million others. The authors conclude that this pandemic is exacerbating the underlying social and economic conditions that triggered the first wave of Arab uprisings in 2011.

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### “Distance Learning Strategies in California Schools”

Quelle: Public Policy Institute of California (April 2021)

Niu Gao, Research Fellow; Laura Hill, Policy Director and Senior Fellow; Julien Lafortune; Research Fellow

This [report](#) assesses that the full impact of the pandemic on student learning will take years to repair and that schools needed to support students through the pandemic and beyond to address the on-going impact of COVID-19 disruptions. The authors recommend that policymakers

focus on sustained state and federal support, investments in broadband, prioritizing in-person instruction for high-need students, and expanding funding and services around mental health.

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### “State Plans for Accelerating Student Learning: A Preliminary Analysis”

Quelle: National Governors Association (NGA) (April 22, 2021)

The COVID-19 pandemic forced state and school leaders across the nation and around the world to immediately close school buildings, the lasting impact on students is increasingly evident. This [memo](#) provides an overview of notable state strategies, activities and trends. This memo also includes a range of state legislative examples and links to related resources.

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### “Are Multilateral Development Banks Doing Enough to Close the COVID-19 Gender Gap?”

Quelle: Center for Global Development (April 7, 2021)

According to this [report](#), the evidence to date suggests that the pandemic and resulting global recession have exacerbated pre-existing gender inequalities in economic standing and broader well-being in low- and middle-income countries. The authors discuss whether donors like the World Bank and other regional development banks are doing enough to close the gender gaps exacerbated by the pandemic.

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### “Stories of Hardship from Families with Young Children as the COVID-19 Pandemic Persists”

Quelle: Urban Institute (April 27, 2021)

Elaine Waxman, Senior Fellow; Poonam Gupta, Research Analyst

This [research brief](#) shows that while the COVID-19 pandemic wears on, many families with young children have faced and continue to experience an overwhelming amount of material and economic hardship and food insecurity. The authors conclude that this not only creates distress in the short term but has “significant implications for children’s longer-term well-being and development.”

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### “COVID-19 and the State of Global Mobility in 2020”

Quelle: Migration Policy Institute (MPI); International Organization for Migration (IOM) (April 24, 2021)

Meghan Benton, Director of Research, MPI International Program and MPI Europe; Jeanne Batalova, Senior Policy Analyst, Manager, Migration Data Hub; Samuel Davidoff-Gore, Research Assistant

This [report](#) documents MPI’s analysis of IOM’s COVID-19 Mobility Impacts platform, which collects all of the actions taken by countries and subnational authorities in response to the pandemic. Such actions include to close international borders, restrict travel between particular locations, impose quarantines and health requirements for travelers and establish “travel bubbles” and other arrangements.

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### “Digital Health Passes in the Age of COVID-19 - Are “Vaccine Passports” Lawful and Ethical?”

Quelle: JAMA Network (April 7, 2021)

Lawrence O. Gostin, JD, O’Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law, Georgetown University, et al.

The authors show that as COVID-19 vaccination rates in high-income countries increase, governments are proposing or implementing digital

health passes (DHPs) (vaccine “passports” or “certificates”). This [article](#) examines the benefits of DHPs, scientific challenges, and whether they are lawful and ethical.

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### “The Pandemic Reveals Some of the Noxious Side Effects of the GDPR”

Quelle: Center for Data Innovation (April 14, 2021)

Daniel Castro, Director, Center for Data Innovation, Vice President of the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation

In the author’s opinion, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) has come under renewed scrutiny recently “as its regulations have stood in the way of providing relief to European citizens and businesses hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic.” This [commentary](#) looks back at “where the law has fallen short during the pandemic.”

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### “Vaccine Passports: A public health solution or ethical & legal minefield?”

Quelle: Wilson Center (April 8, 2021)

Speakers:

Melinda Mills, Professor of Demography and Sociology, University of Oxford; Deanna Kasim, Executive Director for Health Policy, Change Healthcare; Brian Behlendorf, Executive Director for Linux Foundation Public Health/COVID Credentials Initiative; Ron Roozendaal, Director of Information Policy and CIO, Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport

Moderator:

Daniel S. Hamilton, Director, Global Europe Program; Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation Distinguished Fellow

This [virtual discussion](#) shows that the concept of vaccine passports has gained significant traction among policymakers and business leaders. But

the discussion also highlights that vaccine passports are not an easy solution, "as they come with significant drawbacks that could exacerbate inequality and discrimination against vulnerable groups."

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#### **Für die aktuellen Zahlen zur Coronakrise in den USA:**

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

#### **Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e. V.**

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