

Februar 2022

# Länderbericht

Auslandsbüro USA, Washington D.C.



## Februar 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](#).

### **“COVID-19 Pandemic Continues to Reshape Work in America - As more workplaces reopen, most teleworkers say they are working from home by choice rather than necessity”**

Quelle: Pew Research Center (February 16, 2022)

Kim Parker, Director, Social Trends Resyearch; Juliana Menasce Horowitz, Associate Director, Research; Rachel Minkin, Research Associate

According to this Pew Research Center [research](#), nearly two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, roughly six-in-ten U.S. workers who say their jobs can mainly be done from home (59%) are working from home all or most of the time. The vast majority of these workers (83%) say they were working from home even before the omicron variant started to spread in the United States. The authors state that this marks a decline from October 2020, when 71% of those with jobs that could be done from home were working from home all or most of the time, but it's still much higher than the 23% who say they teleworked frequently before the coronavirus outbreak.

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### **“When Will COVID-19 Become Endemic?”**

Quelle: Council on Foreign Relations (February 18, 2022)

Claire Felter, Deputy Editor, Council on Foreign Relations

This [article](#) discusses the future of the coronavirus pandemic and whether it is going to become an endemic. According to the author, some government leaders are optimistic that COVID-19 is becoming endemic, meaning more predictable and manageable. But many scientists say it's too soon to tell and warn against easing pandemic restrictions. The piece also discusses what governments should do until the world reaches an equilibrium with COVID-19.

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### **“COVID-19: A Statistical Analysis of Data from Throughout the Pandemic and Recommendations for Moving On”**

Quelle: The Heritage Foundation (February 24, 2022)

Kevin Dayaratna, Principal Statistician, Data Scientist, and Research Fellow; Doug Badger Senior Fellow, Domestic Policy Studies

This [report](#) states that perpetuating the national emergency mindset is futile, misguided, and infeasible, especially given what the data indicate as well as massive shifts in public opinion. According to the authors, public officials should communicate that COVID-19 is one of many public health problems and diseases in circulation, that vaccines and natural immunity reduce the risk of severe illness and death, and that new medicines make COVID-19 a treatable disease. The authors conclude that people at greatest risk of illness should still take precautions, but government mandates and restrictions are no longer appropriate.

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### **“Harnessing technology for pandemic preparedness demands system reform”**

Quelle: The Brookings Institution (February 18, 2022)

Yolanda Botti Lodovico, Policy Lead, Sabeti Lab, Broad Institute of Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University.

This [article](#) states that ultimately, preparing for the next viral threat will require the creation of new infrastructure, sustainable financing, and a global spirit of collaboration marked by equity and empowerment. The author argues that as we enter the third year of the pandemic, we are all faced with an important question: the technology is already evolving to meet the many challenges of a pandemic-susceptible world—are we as a global community willing to evolve along with it?

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### **“John Barry: “The Guy Who Focuses at the End Will Win””**

Quelle: Center for Strategic and International Studies (February 2022)

John Barry, Historian, author of “The Great Influenza” and “The Story of the Deadliest Pandemic in History;” H. Andrew Schwartz, Chief Communications Officer; J. Stephen Morrison, Senior Vice President and Director, Global Health Policy Center

According to this [podcast](#), Barry has penned many editorials over the course of the pandemic, drawing lessons from 1918. What has he discovered? “What we learn from history is we learn nothing.” Where are we today? “Until vaccines are widely distributed and there is easy access to antivirals, the virus will rule. Barry is optimistic that the virus will continue trending to mildness” but there may be intermediate steps. “Mutations are random.” “We are at a potentially dangerous time” if we throw away our defenses and become indifferent or complacent. Barry concludes that late in the game, you are tired and the other guy is tired. “The guy who focuses at the end will win.”

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### **“The Case against COVID-19 Pandemic Migration Restrictions - Migration and travel bans generally do little to constrain the spread of disease while inflicting severe harm on many people, especially vulnerable migrants and refugees.”**

Quelle: CATO Institute (February 1, 2022)

Ilya Somin, Adjunct Scholar, Professor of Law, George Mason University

According to this [study](#), experience shows that migration and travel bans generally do little to constrain the spread of disease while inflicting severe harm on many people, especially vulnerable migrants and refugees. The author also states that the evidence suggests that governments cannot be trusted to impose travel and migration restrictions in a carefully calibrated way that maximizes potential benefits while minimizing harm. Somin concludes that particularly in the long run, such constraints are the best way to protect lib-

erty, increase human welfare, and promote scientific innovation essential to improving health care.

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### “COVID-19 Costs: Declining Maternal and Child Nutrition in Low-and Middle-Income Countries”

Quelle: Wilson Center (February 9, 2022)

Claire Hubley, New Security Beat, Wilson Center

This [blog](#) states that mitigating the worst of COVID-19's effect on maternal and child nutrition and subsequent health outcomes will require a broad range of interventions targeting more than just food security. However, targeted food security investment still has the potential to improve both the health status and future economic growth in Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs).

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### “The costs and benefits of primary prevention of zoonotic pandemics”

Quelle: Science Advances (February 4, 2022)

Aaron S. Bernstein, Boston Children's Hospital and the Center for Climate, Health and the Global Environment; Amy W. Ando, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; Ted Loch-Temzelides Department of Economics and Baker Institute for Public Policy, Rice University; et al.

This [study](#) in the journal Science Advances emphasizes the critical, largely overlooked need to prevent disease outbreaks before they occur. The average yearly cost in human lives and lost productivity can be in the trillions. The researchers show that boosting surveillance and curbing high risk human activities will save many lives and vast sums of money. “We are grossly underestimating the economic harms [of pandemics], and prevention is far cheaper than a cure,” says lead author Aaron Bernstein.

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### “Daily Wire, Children's Health Defense Capitalize on Vaccine-Hesitant Messaging to Boost Social Media Engagement”

Quelle: German Marshall Fund of the United States (February 24, 2022)

Adrienne Goldstein, Research Assistant, GMF Digital

This [brief](#) shows that overall, “The Daily Wire” published 239 articles about vaccine mandates during the second half of 2021, accruing 11.4 million interactions—the highest number of interactions of any outlet on vaccine mandate articles, and nearly triple the next highest site. The author also states that the Daily Wire's articles on vaccine mandates averaged 18,000 more interactions than their typical article, indicating that the site found success in producing content that tapped into ongoing culture wars around U.S. Covid-19 policies.

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### “A Green Costa Rican COVID-19 Recovery - Aligning Costa Rica's Decarbonization Investments with Economic Recovery”

Quelle: RAND Corporation (February 24, 2022)

David G. Groves, Director, RAND Center for Decision Making Under Uncertainty; Adjunct Policy Researcher, Professor, Pardee RAND Graduate School; James Syme, Assistant Policy Researcher, RAND; PhD Candidate, Pardee RAND Graduate School; Gabriela Alvarado, Assistant Policy Researcher, RAND; Ph.D. Candidate, Pardee RAND Graduate School; et al.

The authors of this [study](#) evaluate how investment in decarbonization through Costa Rica's National Decarbonization Plan (NDP) could improve employment and economic growth in the near term as Costa Rica recovers from COVID-19. Using a computable general equilibrium model, the

authors estimate that five years of decarbonization investments would offset the lingering impacts that COVID-19 would have on employment and economic activity.

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

<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/>

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