

Januar 2021

# Länderbericht

Auslandsbüro USA, Washington D.C.



## Januar 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.

### “What’s the Fed doing in response to the COVID-19 crisis? What more could it do?”

Quelle: Brookings (January 25, 2021)

Jeffrey Cheng, Research Analyst, Hutchins Center on Fiscal and Monetary Policy, Economic Studies program; et al.

The corona pandemic triggered a deep economic downturn of uncertain duration. This [report](#) shows in detail how the Federal Reserve stepped in and analyses the broad array of actions it took to limit the economic damage from the pandemic, including the \$2.3 trillion in lending to support households, employers, financial markets, and state and local governments.

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### “Data and Policy to Guide Opening Schools Safely to Limit the Spread of SARS-CoV-2 Infection”

Quelle: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (January 26, 2021)

Margaret A. Honein, PhD; Lisa C. Barrios, DrPH; John T. Brooks, MD; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia

This [research](#), published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, maintains that there have been some reported cases of the virus in schools, but they have not been major drivers of transmission. Further, the research examines data from 90,000 students and staff in 11 North Carolina school districts open for in-person learning for nine weeks. According to the authors, there were just 32 infections acquired in school during that time, with no cases of students transmitting the virus to staff, the researchers noted.

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### “The Coronavirus Pandemic Highlights Why Family Caregivers Need to Be Integrated into the Health Care Team and Shows Us How to Make It Happen”

Quelle: RAND Corporation (January 5, 2021)

Esther M. Friedman, Behavioral and Social Scientist; Professor, Pardee RAND Graduate School; Patricia K. Tong, Economist; Robert S. Rudin, Senior Information Scientist

The authors of this [report](#) describe why, in light of coronavirus disease 2019, it is more critical than ever to integrate the estimated 53 million

family caregivers in the United States into patients' health care teams and highlight several solutions for accomplishing this goal. The report maintains that "these caregivers provide a significant portion of health and support services in the United States to individuals with serious illnesses but are often overlooked by existing health care systems."

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### **"Fact Sheet: President Biden Announces New Steps to Boost Vaccine Supply and Increase Transparency for States, Tribes, and Territories"**

Quelle: The White House (January 26, 2021)

In this [press briefing](#), the President announces steps to meet the goal of administering 100 million shots in 100 days. The Administration seeks to ramp up vaccine supply "as fast as possible" by an increase in weekly vaccine supplies to states, tribes and territories and by purchasing 200 Million additional doses. According to the release, the federal government will have "enough vaccine supply for the entire U.S. population by the end of the summer."

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### **"Tracking the COVID-19 Recession's Effects on Food, Housing, and Employment Hardships"**

Quelle: Center for Budget and Policy Priorities (January 27, 2021)

This [research](#) tracks the extent of certain corona-induced hardships (such as unemployment, hunger and inability to pay rent) using "nearly real-time data from several sources on the unfolding economic crisis." The research also finds that the impacts of the pandemic and the economic fallout have been widespread, but "are particularly prevalent among Black, Latino, Indigenous, and immigrant households. These disproportionate impacts reflect harsh, longstanding inequities."

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### **"Global Supply Chains and Economic 'Resilience': (More) Evidence from the Pandemic"**

Quelle: CATO Institute (January 20, 2021)

Scott Lincicome, Senior Fellow in Economic Studies

In this [blog](#), the author reviews several studies which are critical of re-nationalizing supply chains in response to the pandemic. According to Lincicome the studies show that the "United States' openness to trade and investment is compatible with — and often bolsters — our ability to withstand economic shocks, even a once-in-a-generation global pandemic." He further suggests that "policymakers would be wise to remember that lesson before trying to rewire global supply chains in the name of "resilience."

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### **"What Is the Defense Production Act?"**

Quelle: Council on Foreign Relations (January 26, 2021)

Anshu Siripurapu, Writer/Editor, Economics, CFR

This [brief](#) describes how both Presidents Trump and Biden have turned to the Defense Production Act (DPA) to deal with a shortage of critical medical supplies during the coronavirus pandemic. In this piece the author explains what the DPA does specifically and how it was used before.

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### **"Coronavirus Crisis Update: Céline Gounder 'Fatalism is the Greatest Threat to Public Health'"**

Quelle: Center for Strategic and International Studies (January 26, 2021)

Hosts: J. Stephen Morrison, Senior Vice President and Director, Global Health Policy Center; H. Andrew Schwartz, Chief Communications Officer

Dr. Céline Gounder, Assistant Professor, NYU Grossman School of Medicine, President/CEO and founder of Just Human Productions

In this [podcast](#), Dr. Céline Gounder, a member of the Biden-Harris Transition Covid-19 Advisory Board, takes a look at the state of the Covid-19 pandemic shortly after President Biden assumed power. According to Gounder, “the way forward is through continued masking, social distancing, hand washing, along with patience, realism and an optimistic determination in expanding vaccine coverage, amid shortages.”

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### “Informing the New Administration: Ending the COVID-19 Pandemic and the Path to Recovery”

Quelle: The National Academies of Sciences Engineering Medicine (NASEM) (January 22, 2021)

This [piece](#) discusses policy options for the new administration and asserts that as the pandemic persists, the Biden administration — along with state and local decision-makers — “must make difficult choices about how to balance public health priorities with other critical societal functions.” The article also provides suggestions for allocating vaccines equitably, for reopening society and sustained recovery, while fostering international engagement.

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### “Stock Prices, Lockdowns, and Economic Activity in the Time of Coronavirus”

Quelle: National Bureau of Economic Research (January 2021)

Steven J. Davis, Research Associate, University of Chicago; et al.

This [study](#) correlates stock prices and workplace mobility and finds that that stricter lockdown policies, both in-country and globally, drove larger declines in national stock prices conditional on

pandemic severity, workplace mobility, and income support and debt relief policies. The study also shows that the pandemic had greater effects on stock market levels and volatilities in the U.S. than in China.

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### “States and COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution | OAS Episode 119”

Quelle: National Conference of State Legislatures (January 18, 2021)

Hemi Tewarson, Visiting Senior Policy Fellow, Margolis Center for Health Policy, Duke University; Tahra Johnson, Policy Expert, NCSL

This [podcast](#) highlights that every state in the U.S. is involved in distributing and administering the two COVID-19 vaccines approved for use by the Food and Drug Administration and that each state is working with a plan that it created in consultation with the federal government. This podcast also discusses how those plans were created, how they have had to change as the pandemic has progressed and what lies ahead.

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### “Foresight Africa 2021”

Quelle: Brookings (January 21, 2021)

Editor: Aloysius Uche Ordu, Director - Africa Growth Initiative, Senior Fellow - Global Economy and Development

In the 2021 edition of the Foresight Africa [report](#), which is mainly related to the pandemic, the authors discuss views of the pandemic as an opportunity for a “great reset” of their economies; strategies for shoring up health systems on the continent to better prepare for pandemics in the future; human development issues in the face of the virus; African entrepreneurs and businesses as they look to restart and grow; and the complex relationship between governments and citizens, especially in times of crisis.

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## “Public Health Systems Still Aren’t Ready for the Next Pandemic”

Quelle: Pew Charitable Trusts (January 27, 2021)

Michael Ollove, Staff Writer, Stateline; Christine Vestal Staff Writer, Stateline

This [article](#) discusses deficiencies concerning the rollout of Covid-19 vaccinations. The authors point to a lack of planning and coordination, insufficient workforce and training, inadequate public messaging and the failure to create a uniform database to track inventory and equitably distribute shots. The article also points to state budget shortfalls which “will limit emergency coronavirus funding, and the long-term development of public health infrastructure.”

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## “The COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout”

Quelle: Council on Foreign Relations (January 15, 2021)

Presider: Irina A. Faskianos, Vice President, National Program and Outreach, Council on Foreign Relations

Speakers: Vin Gupta, Chief Medical Officer of Global COVID-19 Response, Amazon.com; Margaret (Peggy) Hamburg, Former Commissioner, U.S. Food and Drug Administration; Clarion E. Johnson, Co-chair, Public-Private Partnership Initiative, National Academies’ Global Health Board

During this [conference call](#), participants discuss the COVID-19 vaccine rollout across the United States while evaluating challenges and prospects for the future. Issues discussed include logistics, vaccine availability and equity.

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## “mRNA vaccine-elicited antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 and circulating variants”

Quelle: The Rockefeller University (January 19, 2021)

Zijun Wang, The Rockefeller University; et al.

This [research](#) is based on the study of twenty volunteers who received either the Moderna (mRNA-1273) or Pfizer-BioNTech (BNT162b2) vaccines. According to the authors, the results suggest that the monoclonal antibodies in clinical use should be tested against newly arising variants, and that mRNA vaccines may need to be updated periodically to avoid potential loss of clinical efficacy.

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## “COVID-19 is the Number One Cause of Death in the U.S. in Early 2021”

Quelle: Peterson Center on Healthcare and Kaiser Family Foundation (January 28, 2021)

By Cynthia Cox, Vice President and Krutika Amin, Associate Director, KFF.

This [brief](#) looks at the most recent data on deaths from COVID-19 and other causes and shows that COVID-19 is currently the number one cause of death in the United States. As of January 26, 2021, an average of more than 3,000 people per day died of COVID-19 in the U.S. during the first month of 2021.

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## “Relief to Recovery: What's Next for Small Business?”

Quelle: The Hill (January 18, 2021)

Speakers:

Ron Busby, President and CEO, U.S. Black Chambers Inc.; Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD), Ranking Member, Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee; Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO), Member, House Financial Services Committee; Midgi Moore, Owner, Juneau Food Tours & Taste Alaska; William Myers, VP of Business Development, Denison Development Alliance; Joanna Segoviano, Owner, Viano

This [online event](#) addresses the following questions: How do we move from COVID relief to a full

recovery? What support do small business owners still urgently need? How have microbusinesses, minority-owned businesses, and those who could not access PPP funds fared during the pandemic? And what's next for small business owners?

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### “Variants and the Science of Virus Mutations”

Quelle: Covid Act Now (January 13, 2021)

In this [backgrounder](#) a team of researchers and students from Brown University, Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Massachusetts General Hospital, explains the properties of the Covid-19 virus, its spread and its variants.

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

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

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