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Daily Read: Vaccines for All in NYC in April — 10% of DC Residents Fully Vaccinated — Everytown's Powerful New Tool to Fight Illegal Guns Takes Off

1 message

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March 4, 2021

New Hope for Ending Gun Violence: [Baltimore's Powerful New Tool to Fight Illegal Guns](#) (Axios)

The City of Baltimore announced Wednesday a first-of-its-kind data intelligence tool to identify illegal firearms and combat the trafficking of guns, as part of a software program developed by **[Everytown for Gun Safety](#)**, the non-profit founded and funded by Mike Bloomberg.

The “Gun Trafficking Intelligence Platform,” which generates custom leads by examining specific trends and patterns in the data, will help the Baltimore Police Department make connections more quickly and comprehensively to solve crimes involving firearms, many of which come from out-of-state.

Last year, for instance, of the 2,543 weapons seized in Baltimore in 2020, 63% came from outside the state, and 82% from outside the city.

"By aggregating data, you are not solving one crime at a time, but you're actually seeing patterns that allow you to unlock trafficking enterprises," said [John Feinblatt](#), president of Everytown.

"Cities have been operating largely in the dark, and this tool is really a flashlight."

Eliminating Coal Power, Plant By Plant.

On the first day of the [2021 Powering Past Coal Alliance Global Summit](#) Tuesday, Mike Bloomberg, the U.N. Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Climate Ambition and Solutions, launched the [Bloomberg Global Coal Countdown](#), a new online data resource that tracks the retirement of the world's remaining 6,601 coal plant units.

Created in partnership with the Powering Past Coal Alliance (PPCA), the [dashboard](#) will showcase progress toward a clean energy future as governments increase climate ambition ahead of the UN Climate Summit COP26 in November.

"There's a saying I like: 'If you can't measure it, you can't manage it,' Mike said. ***"This new countdown tracker will be a go-to source for clear, accurate, and reliable data on coal plant closures around the world. We've made it easy for the public to find and use, so we can track our progress and accelerate the transition to clean energy."***

Praise for the Bloomberg Global Coal Countdown:

At the PPCA Summit's opening plenary with [Anthia Williams](#), Bloomberg Philanthropies' Global Head of Climate and Environment Programs, [Anne-Marie Trevelyan](#), the UK's Minister for Business, Energy and Clean Growth, said she "welcomed the support of Bloomberg Philanthropies" because accelerating action on coal is crucial for keeping global temperature rise to 1.5°C.

Mark Carney, the former governor of the Bank of England and Bank of Canada, also praised the new tracker and paid tribute to Williams and Mike Bloomberg for pioneering the [Task Force for Climate Risk Disclosures](#), which brings transparency to climate risk data and is now, he said, "moving towards becoming mandatory."

Read more: [Bloomberg Philanthropies Launches Global Coal Countdown Tracking Retirement of Remaining 6,601 Coal Plants](#) (Politico)

See the full [announcement](#) or share the Global Coal Countdown [here](#).

America's Race to Vaccinate.

With more than 265 million doses given across the U.S., the pace of vaccinations is picking up even more speed.

New York has vaccinated 7.8% of its population and on Wednesday officials announced that all New York City residents could be offered vaccines [by late April](#).

Washington, DC has vaccinated nearly 10% of its population with both doses of a vaccine, one of the highest rates in the country. Neighboring Virginia has fully vaccinated 8.8% of its population and Maryland 8.2% of its population.

Florida, with another high rate, has 8.4% of its population fully vaccinated. New Jersey is close behind with 8.2% vaccinated.

See chart of the biggest states with the greatest vaccination rates below, and get more details on the Bloomberg vaccine tracker [here](#).

The Return to 'Normal.'

Return-to-Office Plans Are Set in Motion, But Virus Uncertainty Remains

(New York Times)

Businesses — and many employees — are eager to return to some kind of normal work life, going back to the office, grabbing lunch at their favorite restaurant or stopping for drinks after work.

While coronavirus cases are declining and vaccinations are rising, many companies have not committed to a time and strategy for bringing employees back.

The most important variable, many executives said, is how long it will take for most employees to be vaccinated.

Another major consideration revolves around the children of workers. Companies say they can't make firm decisions until they know when local schools will reopen for in-person learning.

There are also big regional differences. In large cities in Texas, more than a third of workers are back, while the New York, San Francisco and Chicago areas remain below 20 percent.

More Workplace News:

- **Luring Back NYC Tenants: [Landlords Boost Amenities — Think Yoga Rooms, Meal Delivery — To Get Workers Back to Offices](#)** (Wall Street Journal)
- **London Rental Surge: [Office Values Could Gain 25% Over Next Five Years, Outpacing Other European Capitals](#)** (Bloomberg)

[**Click here to get the latest on The Return to 'Normal.'**](#)

What I'm Reading.

January 6 Riot Repeat Today?: [Police Uncover 'Possible Plot' By Militia to Breach Capitol Thursday](#) (Associated Press)

The threat is connected to a far-right conspiracy theory, promoted by supporters of QAnon, that Trump will rise again to power on March 4. That was the original presidential inauguration day until 1933, when it was moved to Jan. 20.

New Study: [Right Wing Misinformation Dominates Facebook](#) (CNN)

According to new research from New York University, Facebook accounts rated by outside media watchdogs as being far-right and frequent spreaders of misinformation are far more likely to generate likes, shares and other engagement than left-wing sources of misinformation.

Albany Latest: [Gov. Cuomo Says He Won't Resign, Apologizes](#) (Bloomberg)

Hope For UK Economy: [Chancellor of the Exchequer Extends Furlough Pay for U.K. Workers Until September](#) (Bloomberg)

National People's Congress Starts Friday: [Thousands of Delegates to China's Biggest Political Event Get Sinopharm Vaccine Shots](#) (Bloomberg)

Climate Updates:

- **Editorial of the Day: [How Farmers Could Fight Climate Change — and Make a Profit](#)** (Bloomberg Editorial Board)
- **Miami Head in Sand: [Officials Release Upbeat Strategy For Ocean Rise By 2060, Including Elevating Homes and Roads, Ignoring Greater Threats](#)** (New York Times)

After Texas Mask Mandate Repeal: [Joe Biden Calls State Mask Decisions 'Neanderthal Thinking'](#) (New York Times)

U.S. Fourth Wave Warning: [Country May Be On Verge of Another Surge in Covid Cases, Despite Weeks of Good News](#) (Axios)

As Texas and Mississippi end restrictions, cases are up in the states by 27% and 62% respectively over the past week. Mississippi, in fact, had the biggest jump of any state.

Universal Basic Income Experiment: [Study Finds Higher Rates of Employment Among Those Who Got \\$500 Monthly Payments](#)
(Associated Press)

The program, run by former Stockton, California Mayor Michael Tubbs, included people who lived in census tracts at or below the city's median household income of \$46,033.

"The \$500 allowed people to be entrepreneurial and bet on themselves," [he said](#) on MSNBC. "They were able to take time off from work to interview for other jobs."

Talent War in Financial Technology: [Wall Street Poaching Season Heats Up With Fintech and Funds on the Hunt](#) (Bloomberg)

Future of NY-NJ Tunnel: [Joe Biden's Deputy Dept. of Transportation Pick Promises to Prioritize NJ-NY 'Gateway Rail Tunnel'](#) (Bloomberg)

Future of Flying: [Warren Buffett's NetJets to Buy 20 Supersonic Planes for Delivery in 2027](#) (Bloomberg)

Social Media Read of the Day: [Can Buzzy Clubhouse App Keep the Conversation Going?](#) (Bloomberg Businessweek)

Watch: [Passengerless SpaceX Starship Prototype Launches, Sticks Landing — But Then Explodes](#) (YouTube)

Best of Late Night.

"Former President Trump and former First Lady Melania Trump reportedly received the Coronavirus vaccine at the White House in January. I guess that's all right, he has preexisting conditions and she works in eldercare."

-- [Seth Meyers](#)

"While Covid numbers are looking good, they're about the same as they were last summer. And last summer was no picnic in that I did not go on any picnics."

-- [Stephen Colbert](#)

"President Biden announced that, after the FDA approved the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, there will now be enough vaccine available for the entire adult population of the United States by the end of May. I could kiss that man!"

By the end of May."

-- Stephen Colbert

"Massachusetts announced the reopening of restaurants, movie theaters and roller skating rinks. Roller skating rinks? Are they reopening the state in 1956?"

-- Stephen Colbert

Thank you for reading!

If you live in [New York](#) or [New Jersey](#), download your state's Covid-19 exposure notification app. The more people who use the app, the more effective it will be.

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