

WORLD & NATION

WORLD

New Zealand announces it's locking down the entire country ... over one Covid case

New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has announced a nationwide lockdown after the country confirmed one coronavirus case — the first locally transmitted Covid-19 case in the community since February.

Ardern told a press conference Tuesday authorities were assuming it was the contagious Delta variant, although genome sequencing is still underway.

An unvaccinated 58-year-old man in the country's largest city Auckland tested positive for the virus. The man had traveled to other parts of the country, and had obvious link to the border, Director General of Health Ashley Bloomfield said Tuesday.

How to help Haiti earthquake victims

A 7.2 magnitude earthquake hit Haiti Saturday morning, causing widespread destruction and killing more than 1200 people.

Humanitarian officials worry about how quickly aid can be deployed and how Haitians will be affected as the country is still grappling with the assassination in July of President Jovenel Moise.

CNN's Impact Your World has compiled a list of organizations accepting donations so you can help those affected by the crisis.

— From wire reports

Biden administration reverts to internal blame-shifting amid Afghanistan chaos

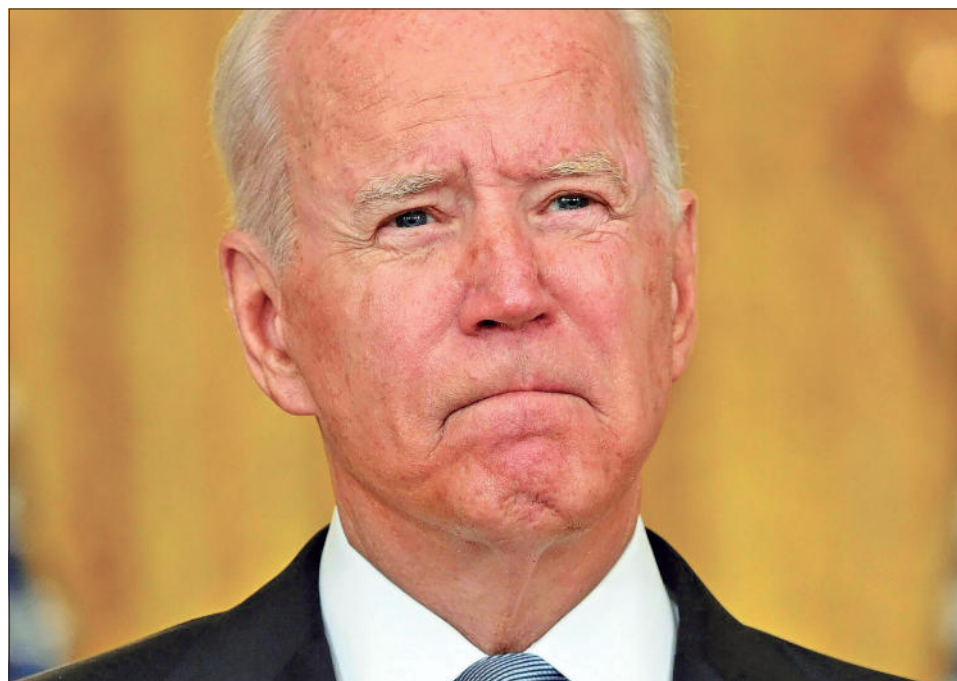
By Natasha Bertrand, Kylie Atwood, Oren Liebermann and Nicole Gaouette
CNN

Factions within the Biden administration are embroiled in a blame game over why the US government didn't act sooner to withdraw American citizens and Afghans who helped the US over two decades of war, leading to a rushed and dangerous evacuation.

Military officials have said that for weeks they urged the State Department to move faster in evacuating its diplomatic personnel. State Department officials have said they were operating based on intelligence assessments that suggested they had more time, but intelligence officials insist that they had long reported the possibility of a rapid Taliban takeover.

An intelligence assessment produced within the last month assessed that the Taliban were pursuing a total military victory in Afghanistan, a source familiar with the intelligence said, despite ostensibly negotiating for peace in Doha and even as the administration continued to express confidence in those talks.

In his first public comments since the Taliban solidified control of Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, on Monday President Joe Biden laid blame on the Afghan security forces' unwillingness to fight and the decisions of previous administrations, all



Brendan Smialowski/AFP/Getty Images

Factions within the Biden administration are embroiled in a blame game over why the US government didn't act sooner to withdraw American citizens and Afghans who helped the US over two decades of war, leading to a rushed and dangerous evacuation.

while failing to directly address the chaos unfolding on his watch. Biden conceded that the Taliban takeover happened faster than anticipated, though he said he stands "squarely behind" his decision.

Some officials insist that Biden got bad advice from some of his top military and intelligence advisers. One White House official pointed to Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Mark Milley's comments from three weeks ago, when he suggested the Afghan forces had the capacity to fight for and defend their country, and that a Taliban takeover was not a foregone conclusion.

"Utter bunk," the official

said.

Military officials, in turn, have said they were actually prepared for the worst and had been urging the State Department for weeks to begin withdrawing embassy employees in Kabul. Pentagon officials used the words "frustration" and "shtshow" to describe their feelings about Washington and Kabul.

The officials said they had warned the State Department that a last-minute emergency evacuation — if needed — would be more difficult the more staffers remained.

While the embassy had slowly been drawing down personnel over the last few months, the effort to remove

a bigger group of embassy personnel began only late last week with the Taliban near the gates of Kabul. The scenes evoked images from Saigon in 1975, a comparison the administration promised would not happen.

Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said on Monday that the Defense Department "absolutely" did plan for "the possibility that the Taliban would make significant gains throughout the country," but he declined to say whether the President had been briefed. "One of the things that we couldn't anticipate and didn't anticipate was the degree to which Afghan forces capitulated sometimes without a fight," said Kirby.

PEOPLE

Lawsuit alleges Bob Dylan sexually abused a 12-year-old in 1965

A lawsuit filed in New York City claims that legendary singer-songwriter Bob Dylan sexually abused a 12-year-old girl in 1965, according to court documents filed Friday.

The now-68-year-old woman, identified in the lawsuit as J.C., alleges that "over a six-week period" the singer "befriended and established an emotional connection" with her and ultimately sexually abused her multiple times between April and May of 1965 when she was 12.

In a statement to USA Today, a spokesperson for Dylan said Monday that "the 56-year-old claim is untrue and will be vigorously defended." CNN has reached out to two publicists who represent Dylan for comment.

Ryan Reynolds says 'Free Guy' sequel is a go

Well, that was quick and yet not. Ryan Reynolds' latest film "Free Guy" just came out and already there is talk of a sequel.

Over the weekend, Reynolds took to his verified Twitter account to confirm it.

"Aaaaannnd after 3 years messaging #FreeGuy as an original IP movie, Disney confirmed today they officially want a sequel," he tweeted. "Woo hoo!! #irony."

The film's director Shawn Levy retweeted Reynolds, adding his own "Yuuuuuuuuup."

In the movie, Reynolds stars as a bank employee who lives in a world inside of a video game.

— From wire reports

Legal Notice

Public Hearing will be held by the Mayor and Council of the City of Jonesboro at 6:00 P.M. on September 13, 2021 in the chambers of the Jonesboro Municipal Court facility, 170 South Main Street, Jonesboro, GA, to consider a map amendment to the Official Zoning Map for rezoning of property located at 1284 Ga. Highway 138, Jonesboro, Georgia 30236, Parcel No. 12048A F003, from Single-Family Residential (R-4) to Highway Commercial (C-2) by property owner and applicant, Santwan Miller.

David Allen
Community Development Director

Legal Notice

Public Hearing will be held by the Mayor and Council of the City of Jonesboro at 6:00 P.M. on September 13, 2021, in the chambers of the Jonesboro Municipal Court facility, 170 South Main Street, Jonesboro, GA, to consider a Conditional Use Permit application for a food truck park / court, by Don Flanders / Sardis Creek, LLC, property owner, and Tan Bowers / Atl Food Truck Park, applicant, for property at 8271 Tara Blvd. (Parcel No. 13239B D008), Jonesboro, Georgia 30236.

David Allen
Community Development Director

NOTICE OF MUNICIPAL ELECTION DAY POLLING PLACE CHANGE CITY OF JONESBORO

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to O.C.G.A. 21-2-265, you are hereby notified of a proposed change in the Municipal Election Day polling location for those voters within the corporate city limits of the City of Jonesboro. The Elections Superintendent plans to relocate the voters effective for the next scheduled election on November 2, 2021. The proposed change is as follows:

Old Voting Location	New Voting Location
Jonesboro Police Department 170 South Main Street Jonesboro, Georgia 30236	Lee Street Elementary School 178 Lee Street Jonesboro, Georgia 30236

The Jonesboro City Council will hold a public hearing on September 13, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. in the Chambers of the Jonesboro Police Department to hear any objections to this change. Objections must be filed in writing before the time of the hearing, or presented orally during the hearing.

Once adopted, the change will be effective beginning immediately. If you have any questions concerning this polling location change or your voter registration status, please call City Hall at 770-478-3800.

Ricky L. Clark, Jr., CMC
Elections Superintendent
City of Jonesboro

File: Public Notice- Change of Polling Place

Ricky L. Clark, Jr., City Clerk

NATION

Some US Capitol rioters stay defiant, even while pleading guilty

Boyd Camper was set to join the ranks of those pleading guilty in the January 6 insurrection when the federal judge overseeing the case abruptly postponed the plea hearing over questions about whether Camper really believed he did anything wrong.

"Then this plea doesn't go forward," Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly told Camper's lawyer, who objected to a line in the plea deal that said Camper "unlawfully" entered the US Capitol. "If he's in there and doesn't think he did anything wrong, then there is no plea."

It's one example of the spectrum of contrition from the Capitol rioters. Some have offered emotional apologies and renounced the "big lie" about the 2020 election. Others remain defiant and see themselves as "political prisoners." Some rioters, even while pleading guilty, pushed back when pressed by judges to take responsibility, leading to hiccups and delays at several recent hearings.

The pushback from rioters comes at a key moment in the national reckoning over January 6 as Congress ramps up its inquiries and as former President Donald Trump and his allies continue to whitewash the deadly attack, often promoting the same self-serving narratives as the rioters.

A lack of remorse could also have legal consequences. Defendants who plead guilty aren't required to apologize, though it can persuade a judge to show leniency at sentencing. Federal prosecutors have said they're looking for contrition from the insurrectionists.

Biden administration expected to advise Covid booster shots for most Americans

Top health officials in the



Samuel Corum/Getty Images

Pro-Trump supporters storm the U.S. Capitol following a rally with President Donald Trump on January 6 in Washington, DC. Some rioters, even while pleading guilty, pushed back when pressed by judges to take responsibility, leading to hiccups and delays at several recent hearings.

Biden administration are coalescing around an agreement that most Americans should get Covid booster shots eight months after becoming fully vaccinated, two sources familiar with the discussions tell CNN.

The plan, which is still being developed, would involve administering third shots beginning in mid- to late September, one source added, pending authorization from the US Food and Drug Administration. Pfizer and BioNTech said Monday that the companies have submitted initial data to the FDA to support the use of booster doses for their Covid-19 vaccines.

The plan could be announced as soon as this week, though the timing could slide. Until now, federal health officials have said boosters are not needed by the general population. Last week, the FDA authorized third doses for some people who are immunocompromised and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention almost immediately recommended giving those doses.

News of the plan for boosters for most Americans was first reported by The New York Times.

Given that health care workers and nursing home patients were first to receive their shots, the administration currently expects they'll be first to receive boosters as well. Older populations who were also at the front of the line for first vaccinations would be next, the

source said.

This is the current booster plan for those who got vaccines with two doses. Officials are still gathering data for Johnson & Johnson's one-shot vaccine. Experts currently anticipate that those who received J&J will need booster shots as well, but they will make that decision once they have more data, a source familiar with discussions told CNN.

Earlier Monday, Pfizer and BioNTech said they had submitted initial data to the FDA to support the use of a booster dose of Covid-19 vaccine.

Investigation underway after paratrooper found dead in his Fort Bragg barracks room

An investigation is underway after an 82nd Airborne Division paratrooper was found unresponsive in his barracks room on Fort Bragg and pronounced dead on Friday, a release from the 82nd Airborne Division public affairs office said.

Pfc. Mikel Rubino, 29, was declared dead by emergency medical services upon their arrival, the release said.

"The loss of Mikel to his family, friends, and fellow Paratroopers is a tragedy," said Col. Phillip J. Kiniery III, commander of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division. "We mourn Mikel's passing alongside his family. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time."

— From wire reports