

August 2022

# Länderbericht

Auslandsbüro USA, Washington D.C.



## August 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](#).

### “New data shows long Covid is keeping as many as 4 million people out of work”

Quelle: Brookings Institution (August 24, 2022)

Katie Bach, Nonresident Senior Fellow, Brookings Metro

The author of this [analysis](#) shows that around 16 million working-age Americans (those aged 18 to 65) have long Covid today and that, of those, 2 to 4 million are out of work due to long Covid. The annual cost of those lost wages alone is around \$170 billion a year (and potentially as high as \$230 billion). The author cautions that these impacts “stand to worsen over time if the U.S. does not take the necessary policy actions.” This report also identifies five critical interventions to mitigate both the economic costs and household financial impact of long Covid.

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### “National Research Action Plan on Long COVID”

Quelle: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (August 2022)

This [national plan](#) is based on research into the causes and consequences of Long COVID and associated conditions, the underlying biological mechanisms, the therapies that work, and services and supports needed for persons experiencing Long COVID. The plan presents strategies to prevent, treat, and support those with Long COVID. According to DHHS, the Plan was developed with four guiding principles: orienting research towards improving patient care and outcomes, health equity, accelerating and expanding existing research, and partner engagement.

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### “A Fireside Chat with Dr. Rochelle Walensky, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention”

Quelle: Center for Security and International Studies (CSIS) (August 30, 2022)

Hosts and Moderators:

Julie Gerberding, Chief Executive Officer, Foundation for the National Institutes of Health  
Tom Inglesby, Director, Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security at the Bloomberg School of Public Health

Guest:

Rochelle Walensky, Director, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

This [online discussion](#) reflects on the CDC's critical role in pandemic preparedness and response, at home and abroad. As part of that, Dr. Walensky offers details on recently announced plans for major internal reforms to strengthen CDC's future performance. Walensky states that "this is a critical moment for the CDC. Its people have worked under enormous pressure to deliver guidance to the public on the most challenging issues and timelines." At the same time, serious challenges have emerged that need to be addressed, as acknowledged by Dr. Walensky.

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### **"Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: FDA Authorizes Moderna, Pfizer-BioNTech Bivalent COVID-19 Vaccines for Use as a Booster Dose"**

Quelle: U.S. Food and Drug Administration (August 31, 2022)

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration [amended](#) the emergency use authorizations (EUAs) of the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine and the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine to authorize bivalent formulations of the vaccines for use as a single booster dose at least two months following primary or booster vaccination. The bivalent vaccines, which we will also refer to as "updated boosters," contain two messenger RNA (mRNA) components of SARS-CoV-2 virus, one of the original strain of SARS-CoV-2 and the other one in common between the BA.4 and BA.5 lineages of the omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2. The Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent, is authorized for use in individuals 18 years of age and older and the Pfizer-BioNTech Vaccine for individuals 12 years of age and older.

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### **"China's zero-COVID policies are crippling its economic outlook"**

Quelle: Peterson Institute for International Economics (August 11, 2022)

Tianlei Huang, Research Fellow

This [blog](#) lays out that the Chinese leadership has "tweaked the lockdown policy, but only on the margin, such as earlier and narrower lockdowns combined with more targeted mass testing." According to the author, local authorities in China have continued to impose strict mobility restrictions during outbreaks. The author concludes that "social and economic costs of maintaining zero-COVID are mounting, deepening a general sense of uncertainty in the economy, hurting consumption and investment."

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### **"Investigating COVID-19 Origins: Guideposts for the Next Congress"**

Quelle: Hudson Institute (August 4, 2022)

Moderator:

David Asher, Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute

Speakers:

Tom DiNanno, Adjunct Fellow, Hudson Institute

Paul Thacker, Former Senate Investigator

Dr. Steven Quay, Physician and biotech entrepreneur

Justin Goodman, Senior Vice President, Advocacy and Public Policy, White Coat Waste Project

This [virtual event](#) discusses how a congressionally mandated investigation into the origins of COVID should look like in 2023. The Hudson Institute claims that nearly three years into the COVID-19 pandemic, the investigation into the origins of the virus and its implications for biosecurity has barely begun. According to Hudson, "one million Americans have died, but the United States government is stonewalling Freedom of Information Act requests and dismissing written Congressional inquiries, while the Biden administration punts to an intelligence community, whose inconclusive response is insufficient."

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## “RAND Review - How Educators Are Faring in the COVID Era”

Quelle: RAND Corporation (August 22, 2022)

Doug Irving, Communications Analyst

This [essay](#) shows that – due to COVID - in big cities and small towns, teachers and principals are “hurting.” According to the author, a recent RAND survey found they are twice as likely as other workers to experience frequent job-related stress. They report higher rates of depression and burnout, and much lower rates of resilience. Nearly a third are so disillusioned that they are considering leaving the profession and the number is even higher among teachers of color, many of whom say they have faced discrimination from colleagues and parents.

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## “Chart Book: Tracking the Recovery From the Pandemic Recession”

Quelle: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) (August 30, 2022)

This [research](#) tracks the pandemic economy, looking at both the macroeconomics (economic growth, employment, wages, and prices) and how different demographic groups have fared. According to CBPP, overall, the policy response has been strong and effective in promoting a rapid economic recovery. From a macroeconomic standpoint, the economy has largely healed, and the groups that experienced the largest losses in the recession have recouped a substantial share of their losses. The research also shows that the overall number of jobs, as of July 2022, was back to pre-pandemic levels and concludes that “even amidst strong job growth, challenges remain to achieving a full and equitable recovery and ongoing economic expansion.”

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## “LIVE ONLINE POLICY FORUM - Pandemic Policy Postmortem: Lessons from Sweden”

Quelle: CATO Institute (August 19, 2022)

Moderator:

Jeffrey A. Singer, Senior Fellow, Cato Institute

Speakers: Jeanne Lenzer, Investigative Medical Journalist

Vinay Prasad, MD, MPH, Associate Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, University of California, San Francisco

Jay Bhattacharya, MD, PhD, Professor of Medicine, Stanford University School of Medicine

Johan Norberg, Senior Fellow, Cato Institute; Executive Editor, Free to Choose Media

This [online event](#) discusses nonpharmaceutical interventions (NPIs). According to CATO, NPIs imposed an enormous economic and social cost by greatly reducing individual liberty in exchange for promised health benefits. The event focuses on Sweden’s approach, which presents “a fascinating quasi-natural experiment to evaluate the merits of the more liberal approach to managing the COVID-19 pandemic and to evaluate whether the loss in personal and economic freedom was partly compensated by a decrease in illness and death.” The panel concludes that Sweden’s outcomes on viral spread, excess mortality, and the socioeconomic consequences of COVID-19 compare well with other countries and suggest that strict NPI policies imposed more harm than good.

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## “Where Have All the Workers Gone? Recalls, Retirements, and Reallocation in the COVID Recovery”

Quelle: National Bureau of Economic Research (August 2022)

Eliza Forsythe, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Lisa B. Kahn, Research Associate, University of Rochester; Fabian Lange, Research Associate, McGill University; David G. Wiczer, Stony Brook University

This [research](#) shows that at the onset of the pandemic, the U.S. economy swiftly lost 20 million jobs and that over the next two years, the economy has been on the recovery path. The paper assesses the labor market two years into the

COVID crisis and shows that early employment dynamics were almost entirely driven by temporary layoffs and later recalls. According to the authors, there is surprisingly little evidence of excess reallocation, despite predictions that COVID would dramatically and permanently change the way we live and work. The authors also state that “employment has reallocated somewhat away from low-skilled service jobs, and, in light of the job vacancy patterns, conclude that worker preferences or changes in job amenities are driving this shift. In addition, the retirements paved the way for movements up the job ladder, making low-skilled customer-facing jobs even less desirable.”

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

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

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

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