

Timeline of President Trump's Covid-19 Diagnosis and Treatment

BY ERIKA SOUKUP

IN THE EARLY MORNING of October 2nd, President Trump tweeted that he and the First Lady, Melania Trump, had tested positive for Covid-19. What was the timeline for his diagnosis, and where is he at now? According to NBC News, we have a detailed outline of the events. On September 26, President Trump hosted a Rose Garden ceremony with more than 150 guests. He, along with Hope Hicks, spoke at an outdoor rally in Middletown, PA. On September 29, the president, and his family attended the first of the presidential debates. September 30, on the returning flight from another outdoor rally, Hope Hicks reported feeling unwell and goes into self quarantine. The following day, Hope Hicks tested positive for the virus. On the same day, Trump visited Shoreview and Duluth. His campaign signed an agreement that pledged to follow state public health guidelines regarding the coronavirus, which included limiting attendance to 250. However, and estimated 2,500 people ended up attending. Attendees stood shoulder to shoulder, and many people did not wear masks. On October 2nd, after another rally, President Trump announced he and the first lady both tested positive, and they have begun the quarantine process. He was then flown to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and given an experimental antibody. On October 4th, Trump left the hospital to drive by a nearby rally in his support. Finally, on October 5th, the president left the hospital after three days of treatment.

On October 2nd, it was announced by the White House that Trump was being given an experimental antibody treatment and, two days later, on October 4th, he was given steroids to help with the recovery. While the antibodies given to Trump were experimental, it was known through previous trials that “no serious safety concerns surfaced, and the treatment reduced viral load and shortened symptomatic disease in patients who did not have SARS-COV-2 antibodies at the trial’s start”, according to *Science Magazine*. Trump did receive an 8-gram infusion, while data showed the smaller dose of 2.4 gram infusion worked just as well. *Science Magazine* also stated that on October 4, “Sean Conley, the White House physician, said in a press conference that Trump had also been started on the steroid dexamethasone. The drug dampens the body’s immune response and can keep it from wreaking havoc in the late stages of

COVID-19. It is the only treatment so far that has been shown to reduce the mortality in patients with severe COVID-19”. *BBC News* announced that Trump’s physician, Sean Conley, said on Monday afternoon that the president, whose oxygen levels dipped twice over the weekend, would be “surrounded by world-class medical care 24/7” at the White House. He refused to answer questions about when the president last received a negative



Photo Credit: Erika Soukup

Everything seems to point in the direction of Trump improving to full health.

test or specifics of the treatment. He would not offer details regarding the president’s scans to check for pneumonia, citing patient protection laws.

There isn’t any current information about Trump and his health and safety, but he has been attending rallies.

A Weakening Democracy in Kyrgyzstan: Tumultuous Times for the Country of Six Million

BY MARYKATE FENSTERMAKER

RECENTLY, PROTESTS IN Kyrgyzstan’s capital, Bishkek, have led to a week-long state of emergency declared by the President, Sooronbai Jeenbekov. Following the now annulled Parliamentary election, protests broke out threatening Kyrgyzstan’s democracy; the only democracy in all central Asia.

On October 5th, over 5000 peaceful protesters gathered in Kyrgyzstan’s capital, Bishkek, to protest the results of the parliamentary election based on voter-buying allegations which favored pro-government candidates. As dissatisfaction with Kyrgyzstan’s government has increased amid the coronavirus, voters were shocked to hear that government-linked parties had been elected. As night fell, the state patrol attacked the protesters with tear gas and rubber bullets. Following the attacks, many protesters were involved in taking over government buildings as well as breaking former president, Almazbek Atambayev, out of prison. Following one death and over 700 injuries in 2 days, the Central Election Committee annulled the election results. Since then, Prime Minister Kubatbek Boronov has resigned due to the pressure. Boronov was replaced by Sadyr Zhaparov who

was freed from prison by anti-government protesters just hours before the announcement. Lawmakers believed that the replacement would calm street violence; however, during the announcement, an angry mob broke out forcing Zhaparov to flee. As of Wednesday the 14th, Zhaparov, back in office, was officially announced the new Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan, a stride which could help end the crisis.

Meanwhile, Kyrgyzstan’s President, Sooronbai Jeenbekov, is ready to stand down and “give the responsibility to strong leaders.” Since elected in 2017, reports have shown that his influence has grown weaker. Following the series of protests, Mr. Jeenbekov has had to flee the violence in Bishkek, declaring a state of emergency lasting nearly two weeks. This is not the first time Kyrgyzstan’s president has had to flee from protests. President Askar Akayev, who served right after Kyrgyzstan’s independence, and his successor, Kurmanbek Bakiyev were both overthrown amid voter fraud allegations. If the President continues to stay in hiding, he could risk another political revolt, making him the third president to be overthrown. While on lockdown, Bishkek is being controlled by a heavy military presence. Some report feeling safer as looting and violence has decreased, but others such as journalists and media groups are being attacked even after the civil society ordered authorities not to target the media. Surrounded by China and Russia, Kyrgyzstan relies on support from western democracies to uphold the country’s freedoms and rights that the democratic republic provides. Despite the chaos, authorities must still protect the democratic values of having the right to peacefully protest, a right to free press, and the ability to write freely without harassment.

Without the support of other democratic nations such as The European Union, Switzerland, and South Korea, Kyrgyzstan would not have been able to accomplish their improved voting methods. In the last 10 years, the voting system has introduced electronic ballot boxes and biometric data verification. Unfortunately, that did not prevent the events leading up to the alleged rigged election. Even so, none of these voting measures have been taken up by Kyrgyzstan’s neighboring countries. Although this will not be the end of the turmoil in Kyrgyzstan, the population of just six million is key to upholding their democracy.