

# The Dallas Morning News

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**CORONAVIRUS**

## New push: vaccinating kids

Those 12 and up could get shots as early as Friday; DISD to bus older teens to shot sites

By **NIC GARCIA** and **CORBETT SMITH**  
Staff Writers

The race is on to vaccinate eligible school-age children in Dallas County before summer starts as federal officials are poised to expand COVID-19 shot access to kids as young as 12 this week.

Dallas County plans to open its Fair Park site to children ages 12 to 15 — accompanied by a legal guardian — as early as Friday, officials said.

And in a new partnership with the Dallas school district, the site will begin vaccinating buses full of students ages 16 to 18 next week.

The goal is to inoculate as many students as possible next week so they can be brought back for a second dose before summer vacation begins June 18, officials said.

And it's a daunting task. Only 2,000 kids who are 17 have been vaccinated, according to Dallas County data — a fraction of the county's middle and high school population. Dallas ISD alone has nearly 72,000 students in sixth through 12th grades. During the last month, 1,106 COVID-19 cases in children and staff members were reported from 417 separate Dallas County K-12 schools, the county said.

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**INSIDE**

**Some warming to shot, poll says**

Fewer Americans are reluctant to get a COVID-19 vaccine than just a few months ago, but questions about side effects still hold some back, according to a new poll. **11A**

**EATERIES** that flexed to cope with virus plan to keep some changes. **3B**

**DALLAS COUNTY** reported eight more COVID-19 deaths and 159 new coronavirus cases Tuesday. **9B**

**BANKRUPTCY COURT**

## Judge rejects NRA filing

Ruling in Dallas blocks move to Texas aimed at avoiding legal case in N.Y.

By **ELIZABETH THOMPSON**  
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The National Rifle Association's bid to declare bankruptcy so it could restructure, move to Texas and keep New York state authorities at arm's length has failed.

A federal judge ruled Tuesday that the embattled gun rights group had acted in bad faith, using a maneuver intended to protect the fiscally insolvent in order to escape legal perils that bankruptcy law was never meant to address.

"The question the Court is faced with is whether the existential threat facing the NRA is the type of threat that the Bankruptcy Code is meant to protect against. The Court believes it is not," Judge Harlin Hale of the U.S. bankruptcy court in Dallas wrote in his 38-page ruling.

"The Court finds there is cause to dismiss this bankruptcy case as not having been filed in good faith both because it was filed to gain an unfair litigation advantage and because it was filed to avoid a state regulatory

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## A rebirth for Dallas' old Masonic Temple



Tom Fox/Staff Photographer

**Downtown Dallas' historic**, art moderne-style Masonic Temple building, with its soaring interior spaces, is about to get a new life as an artistic experience center and museum. Los Angeles-based Impact Museums is converting the 80-year-old building on South Harwood Street into what it calls a center for "next-gen immersive experiences focused on important social causes." **(Story, 3B)**

**Education Lab**

## House OKs bill on critical race theory

Opponents say it would whitewash history of slavery

supporters paint as an effort to keep critical race theory from being taught in schools.

It's a political move that would bring Texas' Republican-controlled Legislature in line with some other conservative states. And for hours on Monday and Tuesday, House Democrats tried to derail the bill with pointed questions about the legislation's intent and potential

By **TALIA RICHMAN**  
Staff Writer  
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A bill that educators say would have a chilling effect on Texas classrooms and efforts to have honest conversations about race is barreling ahead in the Legislature. The House voted 79-65 Tuesday to pass a bill that its

See **HOUSE** Page 10A

## Rare school shooting in Russia



Dmitri Lovetsky/The Associated Press

**The number 175** was formed with candles to honor the nine people, including seven youngsters, who were killed after a gunman opened fire Tuesday on School No. 175 in Kazan, Russia. At least 21 others were hospitalized. The attacker, a 19-year-old former student, was arrested. **(Story, 2A)**

**DALLAS COUNTY**

## Rules failed to stop evictions

Many renters lost apartments despite federal moratorium

tions and confusing legal interpretations at all levels of government failed a number of Dallas County renters they were supposed to protect, a new study concludes.

By **DOM DIFURIO**  
Staff Writer  
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Do you know what to do if you find an eviction notice posted on your apartment door?

Many renters don't — and a patchwork of quickly conceived eviction protec-

Researchers at the University of Texas at Dallas' Institute for Urban Policy Research analyzed eviction filings from January 2017 to April 2021. They found that eviction filings in Dallas

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Cloudy and cool



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**NATION & WORLD**

**More migrant kids in custody**

The number of migrant children in government custody more than doubled in the past two months, to around 21,000 this week. **4A**

**Mideast violence spreads**

Violence between Israelis and Palestinians approached all-out war. **5A**

**ALSO:** A man accused of killing eight people at three massage businesses was indicted on murder charges. **6A**

**METRO & BUSINESS**

**Foster care contractor quits**

As the number of Texas foster children without suitable placements spirals, the state's lead contractor in San Antonio has quit. **1B**



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# Eviction protections ‘somewhat effective’

Continued from Page 1A

County continued over the course of 2020 — while federal moratoriums were in place — at nearly half the rate as they did before the pandemic in 2019.

Timothy Bray, the institute’s director and author of the study, said he believes eviction protection policies were “somewhat effective.” He also said the only times during the pandemic when eviction filings dropped off considerably were when courts were physically closed in spring 2020 or when the state lost power in February’s winter storm.

In some cases, tenants who should have been protected by the federal CARES Act were evicted from their homes anyway, according to the group’s analysis of a random sample of eviction cases and outcomes at a single justice of the peace court in Dallas County.

The study found that a moratorium imposed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for public health reasons slowed the pace of growth in eviction filings, but that its impact was not as immediate as a Dallas city ordinance put in place in March 2020.

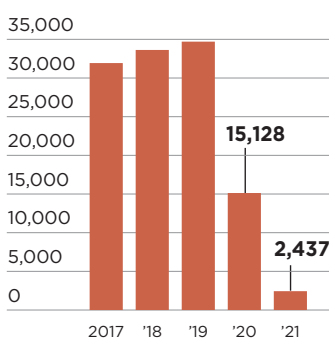
UTD’s random sample study was conducted to reveal more about the nature of eviction filings. Dallas County has shared limited data online on its caseload.

## Falling through cracks

The Child Poverty Action Lab obtained eviction filing data since 2017 from Dallas County and shared it with Bray’s team, but the data doesn’t include the outcome of the eviction case — whether or not the landlord won and the

## Moratorium didn’t stop evictions

Eviction filings in Dallas County were cut in half last year during the height of the pandemic, but a federal moratorium didn’t halt them completely.



NOTE: 2021 data through April 30. SOURCE: The Institute for Urban Policy Research Staff Graphic

tenant was evicted.

So Bray’s researchers went to a single eviction court to manually review 200 randomly selected cases filed between January and June 2020. Of those, 190 involved tenants being evicted for nonpayment of rent, and 75% of those were ultimately decided in favor of the landlord. In eviction cases where the landlord won, it was most often due to a tenant’s failure to appear in court.

Their sample also included six tenants who were evicted despite being protected by the CARES Act’s ban on eviction for nonpayment of rent from federally subsidized properties or properties with federally backed mortgages. That ban took effect in late March.

“They fell through the cracks,” Bray said. “The challenge here ... is the complexity of these systems. And the constantly evolving implementation rules made it very difficult for people to seek protection under these laws.”

As part of the study, Bray and his team held focus groups

with tenants, policymakers, landlords and attorneys. Even attorneys told the group that they had trouble keeping up with who is and who’s not protected by the patchwork of eviction moratoriums, Bray said.

The CDC order took effect Sept. 4, 2020, and has been extended through June 30 of this year. But that order is being challenged in court, adding to renters’ confusion.

A federal judge struck down the CDC moratorium last week, potentially putting thousands of housing insecure Texans at risk of losing their homes two months before the eviction ban is set to expire. The Justice Department plans to appeal the ruling and seek a stay of the decision, which would keep the protection in

place for renters as the court battle plays out.

## ‘Intimidating process’

Bray describes attempts at eviction protections as a “systems-level problem.”

The CDC moratorium didn’t automatically afford tenants protection — it required them to declare their rights in court. That means a renter has to know whether the property they rented was financed by a federally backed mortgage.

“It really is an intimidating process at a time in life when people are already vulnerable because they’re dealing with fi-

nancial hardship and everything else,” Bray said.

At the end of last month, roughly 130,000 Dallas-Fort Worth residents were behind on their rent or mortgage or have little or no confidence they can pay next month’s housing costs on time, according to the latest survey data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Housing advocates have lauded the CDC’s eviction ban as a necessary tool for residents trying to keep a roof over their heads while states like Texas scramble to distribute billions in rental assistance and support hundreds of thousands of unemployed workers.

The Texas Apartment Association, which represents thousands of property managers across the state, has said it believes the CDC moratorium is

unconstitutional and that eviction courts shouldn’t enforce it.

## Need for intervention

The study was conducted in association with the Texas Tenants Association with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Bray said it shows that eviction is a traumatic experience for people who can’t pay their rent.

“We need trauma-informed intervention,” he said. “Their brains are not making a bunch of logical decisions. They’re scrambling to try and figure out how to keep their kids from sleeping in the car tonight. We’ve got to come at this differently.”

Twitter: @DomDiFurio

# Travel card plan faces roadblocks

EU hopes to ease mobility within bloc, but agreement elusive

By SAMUEL PETREQUIN  
The Associated Press

BRUSSELS — As strict lockdowns are loosened across Europe and many European Union citizens dream about holidays in the sun, the 27-nation bloc has yet to agree on how to quickly implement a virus certificate plan to boost summer travel and tourism.

European affairs ministers gathered Tuesday in Brussels to assess progress in discussions with European lawmakers and expressed their optimism that trans-border travel passes will be approved soon.

A deal between the Parliament and EU countries is required in May to ensure the system facilitating free movement within the EU during the COVID-19 pandemic will be up and running by the end of June, but several sticking points remain.

When it proposed the scheme in March, the EU Commission said coronavirus certificates would be given to EU residents who can prove they have been vaccinated or those who tested negative for the virus or have proof they recovered from it.

EU lawmakers and nations agree on that, but the Parliament insists that COVID-19 certificates should be enough to allow EU citizens to move about freely and that EU countries shouldn’t be allowed to impose extra restrictions on certificate holders such as quarantines, tests or self-isolation measures.

That’s a major roadblock, since border controls are a national responsibility.

A senior EU official, speaking anonymously as is customary before Tuesday’s meeting,

said EU nations had different opinions on the topic and the bloc was working to find a universal solution. The official said the pressure was on since vaccinations were increasing across Europe and more and more people wanted to travel.

The European Commission hopes that about 70% of the EU’s adult population will be vaccinated by the end of the summer.

The Parliament has also raised concerns about the price of the coronavirus tests, which could be included in the certificates, which will be available in a digital or paper format with a code. EU citizens will get the pass for free, but the price of tests varies widely across the bloc.

EU lawmakers said member states should “ensure universal, accessible, timely and free-of-charge testing” to avoid discrimination against those who have yet to be vaccinated.

Ana Paula Zacarias, Portugal’s secretary of state for EU affairs, noted “very good” technical discussions with the Parliament but said a fixed common price for the tests cannot be imposed. Portugal currently chairs the rotating presidency of the Council of the EU.

“It’s a free market; we can only try to see if there is a possibility that the price of the tests can be lowered,” she said.

Lawmakers agreed with the European Commission that all vaccines approved by the European Medicines Agency, the EU’s drug regulator, should be automatically recognized. So far that includes vaccines from AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson.

They also offered EU countries the possibility of including other vaccines listed by the World Health Organization for emergency use, which would include China’s Sinopharm vaccine.

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