**Prison testing revealing**

Large numbers of inmates who test positive - up to 90% in one North Carolina facility - are asymptomatic

Kevin Johnson  
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – There have been much worse outbreaks during this pandemic. But 30 inmates testing positive for the coronavirus at Neuse state prison in Goldsboro, North Carolina, was still cause for alarm.

Of the more than 50 detection centers across the state, none had more infections at the time than Neuse, prompting officials to take the extraordinary step of testing all 701 prisoners at the medium-security facility near Raleigh.

Within a week, infections had surged to 444. Perhaps even more revealing: More than 90% of the newly diagnosed inmates displayed no symptoms, meaning that the deadly virus could have re-entered the facility by lurking asymptomatic prisoners, who used communal bathrooms, dining commons, recreation areas and exercise yards.

“We would never have known,” North Carolina Department of Public Safety spokesman John Bull said.

Even as vulnerable prison systems struggle to control the spread of the coronavirus, USA TODAY reported.

**About the series**

This is the first in a series of stories by the USA TODAY Network examining federal and local correctional facilities with high coronavirus infection rates.

The Marion Correctional Institution tested positive for COVID-19, becoming one of the largest outbreaks in the nation. More than 150 corrections officers and other employees also tested positive as of late last week, according to the Marion Star.

In Marion, Ohio, more than 80% of about 2,500 inmates at Marion Correctional Institution tested positive for COVID-19, becoming the first in a series of stories by the USA TODAY Network examining federal and local correctional facilities with high coronavirus infection rates.

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine has pushed for testing and formed a group of reliable sources of supplies. BARBARA J. ROSS/ DISPATCH

[Image 1 of 2]

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

Approaching 1M U.S. cases

The U.S. surpassed 1 million confirmed coronavirus infections, though experts believe the nation has reached a plateau in the spread. Globally, the number of cases surpassed 3 million with more than 200,000 deaths.

Americans entered another week with most of the nation shut down, coming to terms with predictions over the weekend from Deborah Birx, a top adviser to the president, that social distancing may well be the norm through summer.

About 30 inmates tested positive at Neuse state prison.

**Spokesman John Bull said.**

Prisoner distress.

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[Image 1 of 2]
House Speaker Nancy Pelosi endorsed former Vice Presi- dent Joe Biden on Monday in his quest to unseat President Donald Trump, calling Biden a “battle-tested leader who will fight for the people.”

“He will be an extraordinary president,” Pelosi said in a video statement. “He knows how to get the job done.”

As speaker and later House minority leader, Pelosi worked closely with Biden during his years as vice president under President Barack Obama and the two crafted Biden’s role in overseeing the Recovery and Rein- forcement Act during the Great Recession and the work he did to help ensure the passage of the Affordable Care Act.

Health care is consistently rated as a top concern among voters in polls, and Pelosi said that during the coronavirus pandemic, Biden had offered his views on how to manage the outbreak in interviews from home – “has been a voice of reason and re- silience, with a clear path to saving lives and getting us out of this crisis.”

During the primary campaign, Pelosi chose not to endorse or support Trump in the general election race even as Vice President Joe Biden, who had his roots in the Affordable Care Act, was facing a campaign to “destroy every last inch of the ACA.”

Poll

Continued from Page 1A

Among men, a group that has been part of his political base. While men still back Trump, Biden has been able to consolidate support among them in polls, and Pelosi said in the video statement, “He knows how to get the job done.”

Pelosi endorsed ‘battle-tested’ Biden for president

William Cummings

USA TODAY

December, when it was 56% to 35%, that’s a narrower advantage than in the November 2016 election, when it was 50% to 30%. Women now support Biden 53% to 30%.

Neither ranked high as a ‘strong leader’

Asked about a half-dozen traits important for a president to have, views of Trump were far more split than they were for Biden. That leaves more room for a campaign to define the Democratic challenger in both positive and negative ways.

At the moment, however, the former vice president scored a higher net score (the positive rating minus the nega- tive rating) than the president did on all six characteristics. The traits were:

1. “A strong leader.” Neither was seen by a majority of Americans as a strong leader, with 45% saying that described Trump and 52% that it didn’t. For Biden, 43% said it described him, 47% said it didn’t.

2. “Cares about people like me.” Biden swamped Trump when it came to empathy; 57% said it described the former vice president, just 39% said it described the president.

3. “Knows how to get things done.” Trump fared a bit better. By 58% to 45%, voters said that described him; by 49% to 39% that it described Biden.

4. “Stands up for U.S. interests.” Biden scored better on what has been a prevailing view of Trump and his troops. By 58% to 34%, those surveyed said that described Biden, by 53% to 43% they said it described Trump.

5. “Honest and trustworthy.” This was Trump’s worst rating. By more than 2-to-1, 64% to 35%, those surveyed said that described Biden; by 53% to 34% it described Trump.

6. “Can work with foreign leaders.” Biden was much more likely to be seen as someone who one could do this; 64% said it described the former vice president and 45% said it described the current president.

“The poll is clear in how which candidates qualities align best with voters,” said David Plouffe, a senior advisor at stan- ford University Political Re- search Center. “A central cam- paign theme for Trump will be about getting things done. But while Biden will shape his campaign around caring about ev- eryday people at home while working hard with foreign lead- ers abroad.

The poll of 1,000 registered voters, taken by landline and cellphone Tuesday through Saturday, has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

A red flag among African Americans

The findings also had some red flags for Biden, who since the last poll has emerged as the presumptive Democratic nominee.

His support among black voters has dropped in a hypo- thetical three-way race with Trump and a third-party candi- date. Although the sample size is small, making precise com- parisons unreliable, about two- thirds of African American vot- ers support Biden now; nearly 6 in 10 had backed him in December. Those voters didn’t move to Trump, supported by just 8%. But in a black voters now say they are undecided or would vote for a third-party candi- date.

African American voters in the South Carolina primary and on Super Tuesday were crucial in Biden’s primary victories, and analysts agree it’s impor- tant for him to generate enthu- siastic support among them in November. He has promised to select a woman as his running mate, and some activists are urging him to choose a black woman such as U.S. Sen. Ka- mala Harris of California, U.S. Rep. Val Demings of Florida or Stacey Abrams, who lost a bid for Georgia governor last year.

In the wake of the primaries, Biden has made progress in consolidating support among Democratic; 87% of Democratic voters now back him, and he has been endorsed by his pri- mary rivals, former President Barack Obama and others. He has gained ground among vot- ers under 35, a group that has been more likely in the prima- ries to support U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont. Now Bi- den has a smaller edge among younger voters by 50% to 45%.

That said, I’m of those 11 to 12 years old, are undecided or prefer a third-party candi- date.

“I don’t have anything against Biden; I was just hoping for something different,” said Kate Elliott, 31, a Democrat from Cincinnati who would have preferred Sanders, U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Mas- sachusetts or Pete Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend, Indiana – both of whom have endorsed Biden.

But there’s no question she prefers Biden over Trump, call- ing the president’s leadership during the pandemic irrational and unpredictable.

“I’ll vote for Biden,” she said, “but with a heavy sigh.”

USA TODAY NEWS

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Donald Trump

Joe Biden

Joe Biden’s rivals for the nomi- nation quickly dropped out as he mounted a comeback after losing the first three primary contests. His final opponent, Sanders, showed little sign of official- ly endorsing Biden this month.

In addition to Pelosi and Sanders, Biden has the en- dorsement of most Democratic Party leaders, including Oba- ma, 2004 Democratic nominee John Kerry and former Vice President Al Gore.

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