

NEWS ARTICLES ON KEY ISSUES – MAY 27, 2020

LATEST STATISTICS AND NEWS

NUMBER OF CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES AMONG ICE STAFF AND DETAINED IMMIGRANTS

By U.S. Immigration And Customs Enforcement – May 26, 2020

As of **May 16, 2020**, the total detained population is: 26,660. *There have been 1,201 confirmed cases of COVID-19 among those in ICE custody. To date, there have been 2,394 total detainees tested. (*Information updated 05/22/2020 4:00pm)*

- 15 detainees in Adams County Correctional Center (Natchez, MS)
- 2 detainees in Aurora Contract Detention Facility (Aurora, CO)
- 2 detainees in Bergen County Jail (Hackensack, NJ)
- 111 detainees in Bluebonnet Detention Facility (Anson, TX)
- 1 detainee in Bristol County House of Corrections (North Dartmouth, MA)
- 19 detainees in Broward Transitional Center (Pompano Beach, FL)
- 49 detainees in Buffalo Federal Detention Facility (Batavia, NY)
- 2 detainees in Calhoun County Correction Center (Battle Creek, MI)
- 3 detainees in Caroline Detention Facility (Bowling Green, VA)
- 60 detainees in Catahoula Correctional Center (Harrisonburg, LA)
- 21 detainees in El Paso Processing Center (El Paso, TX)
- 18 detainees in Elizabeth Detention Center (Elizabeth, NJ)
- 3 detainees in Essex County Correctional Facility (Newark, NJ)
- 1 detainee in Etowah County Detention Center (Gadsden, AL)
- 2 detainees in Farmville Detention Center (Farmville, VA)
- 11 detainees in Florence Detention Center (Florence, AZ)
- 2 detainees in Folkston ICE Processing Center (Folkston, GA)
- 49 detainees in Houston Contract Detention Facility (Houston, TX)
- 14 detainees in Hudson County Jail (Kearny, NJ)
- 16 detainees in IAH Secure Adult Detention Facility (Livingston, TX)
- 7 detainees in Irwin County Detention Center (Ocilla, GA)
- 41 detainees in Joe Corley Detention Center (Conroe, TX)
- 1 detainee in Johnson County Law Enforcement Center (Cleburne, TX)
- 13 detainees in Krome Detention Center (Miami, FL)
- 69 detainees in La Palma Correctional Facility (Eloy, AZ)
- 11 detainees in LaSalle ICE Processing Center - Jena (Jena, LA)
- 6 detainees in LaSalle ICE Processing Center - Olla (Olla, LA)
- 1 detainee in Lincoln County Detention Center (Troy, MO)
- 5 detainees in Montgomery Processing Center (Conroe, TX)
- 47 detainees in Morrow County Correctional Facility (Mount Gilead, OH)
- 1 detainee in Nevada Southern Detention Center (Pahrump, NV)
- 1 detainee in Northwest ICE Processing Center (Tacoma, WA)
- 155 detainees in Otay Mesa Detention Center (San Diego, CA)
- 66 detainees in Otero County Processing Center (Chaparral, NM)
- 22 detainees in Pike County Correctional Facility (Hawley, PA)
- 31 detainees in Pine Prairie ICE Processing Center (Pine Prairie, LA)
- 4 detainees in Polk County Jail (Des Moines, IA)
- 1 detainee in Port Isabel Detention Center (Los Fresnos, TX)
- 45 detainees in Prairieland Detention Center (Alvarado, TX)
- 29 detainees in Pulaski County Detention Center (Ullin, IL)
- 64 detainees in Richwood Correctional Center (Monroe, LA)
- 3 detainees in River Correctional Center (Ferriday, LA)
- 37 detainees in Rolling Plains Detention Facility (Haskell, TX)
- 32 detainees in South Texas ICE Processing Center (Pearsall, TX)
- 10 detainees in Saint Clair County Jail (Huron, MI)
- 2 detainees in Strafford County Jail (Dover, NH)
- 16 detainees in Stewart Detention Center (Lumpkin, GA)
- 2 detainees in Tarrant County Detention Center (Estancia, NM)
- 1 detainee in Webb County Detention Center (Laredo, TX)
- 74 detainees in Winn Correctional Center (Winnfield, LA)
- 2 detainees in Wyatt Detention Center (Central Falls, RI)
- 1 detainee in York County Prison (York, PA)



Migrants are gathered inside the fence of a makeshift detention center in El Paso, Texas on March 27, 2019. Photo Credit: Sergio Flores/The Washington Post via Getty Images

There have been 44 confirmed cases of COVID-19 among ICE employees working in ICE detention facilities.

(*Information updated 05/22/2020 4:00pm)

- 1 at Adelanto ICE Processing Center (Adelanto, CA)
- 15 at Alexandria Staging Facility (Alexandria, LA)
- 2 at Aurora Contract Detention Facility (Aurora, CO)
- 1 in Bergen County Jail (Hackensack, NJ)
- 1 at Butler County Jail (Hamilton, OH)
- 1 at El Paso Processing Center (El Paso, TX)
- 2 at Elizabeth Contract Detention Facility (Elizabeth, NJ)
- 1 at Eloy Detention Center (Eloy, AZ)
- 1 at Essex County Correctional Facility (Newark, NJ)
- 1 at Florence Correctional Center (Florence, AZ)
- 2 at Houston Contract Detention Facility (Houston, TX)
- 1 at Hudson County Jail (Kearny, NJ)
- 2 at La Salle ICE Processing Center (Jena, AL)
- 11 at Otay Mesa Detention Center (San Diego, CA)
- 2 at Stewart Detention Center (Lumpkin, GA)

There have been 116 confirmed cases of COVID-19 among ICE employees not assigned to detention facilities.

(*Information updated 05/22/2020 4:00pm)

❖ Data Source: <https://www.ice.gov/coronavirus>

NUMBER OF DEPORTATION FLIGHTS BY ICE AIR

By Tom Cartwright – Witness at the Border – May 25, 2020

- ❖ There were a total of 16 flights during May 25. The number behind the leg indicates a single individual planes path.
 - MIAMI to COLUMBUS (GA) – 1
 - COLUMBUS (GA) to HOUSTON – 1
 - HOUSTON to HONDURAS – 1
 - HONDURAS to MIAMI – 1
 - SAN ANTONIO to BROWNSVILLE – 2
 - BROWNSVILLE to SAN ANTONIO – 3
 - SAN ANTONIO to ALEXANDRIA (LA) – 4
 - ALEXANDRIA (LA) to HONDURAS – 4
 - HONDURAS to SAN ANTONIO – 4
 - ALEXANDRIA (LA) to BROWNSVILLE – 5
 - BROWNSVILLE to BOGATA – 5
 - BOGATA to ALEXANDRIA (LA) – 5
 - ALEXANDRIA (LA) – HARRISBURG – 6
 - HARRISBURG to BROWNSVILLE – 6
 - BROWNSVILLE to ALEXANDRIA (LA) – 6
 - MIAMI to ALEXANDRIA (LA) – 7
- ❖ Note: ICE Air does not disclose their flights. Flight listing gleaned from public flight information, knowledge of detention center locations, air charter services and historic patterns. In rare cases, there may be a flight missed, or include in error.
- ❖ Statistics Source: <https://www.witnessattheborder.org/posts/52520>

MIGRANTS IN MEXICO

CLINIC STRENGTHENS SAFETY MEASURES AGAINST COVID-19 FOR A CAMP OF ASYLUM SEEKERS

By Andrea Ano – Latin Post – May 18, 2020

- ❖ Due to the growing concerns of the congestion and lack of order in the migrant camp [located in Matamoros, Mexico], the non-profit Global Response Management (GRM) decided to set up a clinic in the area to ensure that the population is prepared against the coronavirus. Executive director of the GRM Helen Perry says that they are yet to confirm any patients confirmed with COVID-19 in the migrant camp in Matamoros. However, they isolated two patients who were exhibiting symptoms of the disease. The test results are due in days or weeks. She added that they were strengthening safety and security measures in the encampment because they were situated near hotspots in Matamoros. Currently, they had five full-time medical workers and a handful of volunteers to help with the services.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.latinpost.com/articles/145563/20200518/clinic-strengthens-safety-measures-against-covid-19-camp-asylum-seekers.htm>

DEPORTATIONS DURING COVID-19

U.S. STARTS FLIGHTS TO TAKE DEPORTED MIGRANTS TO MEXICO CITY

By *The Associated Press* – May 20, 2020

❖ The U.S. government has resumed an old practice of flying deported migrants back to Mexico City, though it apparently did not promise to test them for coronavirus before sending them home. The first flight landed May 19, and video showed migrants sitting on a packed airplane, and having their temperatures checked. Mexico's Foreign Relations Department said Wednesday, May 20, the flights will carry up to 133 migrants apiece. In past years, the U.S. government used such flights to Mexico City, in the country's center, to move migrants away from the border and discourage repeat attempts to cross. This time, it also cited coronavirus concerns. A total of eight flights are planned, four from San Diego, California and four from Brownsville Texas, through May 29. The Mexican government will arrange transportation to their home towns, but will not subject them to a mandatory quarantine, instead suggesting they self-isolate for two weeks. "Before the flights leave, U.S. authorities will carry out sanitary protocols to detect early symptoms of COVID-19," the department said. "It is important to note that only those who, at the time of deportation, show no symptoms or who are asymptomatic, will board the flights." "Upon the arrival of the flight, the international Sanitary team will carry out a preventative check of the Mexican citizens ... to detect symptoms related to COVID-19." The issue of migrants arriving with coronavirus had temporarily halted deportation flights to Guatemala. That nation's government demanded the United States test migrants before sending them back, but some have still arrived infected. U.S. Customs and Border Protection said it "has observed an increase in Mexican nationals who make repeated attempts to enter the U.S. illegally and bypass public health measures. Such behavior increases the risk of exposure to immigration officials at the ports-of-entry, Border Patrol agents, and the American public."



A migrant camp near the U.S. border in Matamoros, Tamaulipas, in Mexico on November 1, 2019.

Photo Credit: AFP via Getty Images

❖ News Article Source: <https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/us-starts-flights-deported-migrants-mexico-city-70795770>

FAMILY SEPARATIONS

ICE ACCUSED OF USING CORONAVIRUS CRISIS TO LAUNCH 'FAMILY SEPARATION 2.0'

By *Chantal Da Silva* – *NewsWeek* – May 19, 2020

❖ The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency has been accused of trying to exploit the coronavirus pandemic by pressuring immigrant parents to agree to being separated from their children. Recently, ICE officers presented parents with a choice to either agree to be separated from their children so their offspring could be released from detention or face detention together indefinitely. Of the 366 families presented with the choice, not a single family agreed to be separated. Lawyers representing immigrant families faced with the option said it would be easier for ICE to deport adults out of the country if they were separated from their children. Condemning ICE for suggesting that children be separated from their parents rather than simply releasing families together amid the coronavirus pandemic, immigration advocacy group Families Belong Together accused the agency of trying to launch a "Family Separation 2.0" program. Families Belong Together chair Jess Morales Rocketto has now said, in a statement shared with Newsweek: "While tens of thousands lose their lives to one of the biggest public health crises of our lifetime, the Trump administration is doubling down on its sadistic treatment of children and families." In a similar statement published on Twitter, The Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES) also accused ICE of trying to "take advantage of the #COVID-19 situation in order to separate families again." "This is family separation 2.0," the organization said. RAICES then issued a call to Homeland Security Acting Secretary Chad Wolf and his department to "stop Family Separation 2.0 from happening" and instead release immigrant families detained by ICE amid the pandemic. Since the pandemic began, immigration advocates have been calling for the release of ICE detainees, with a focus on those who are elderly or who have pre-existing conditions that make them vulnerable to suffering serious health consequences if they contract the virus. ICE has pushed back against calls to release detainees, with the agency fighting court decisions that ordered the release of dozens of people held in custody. According to ICE data, as of May 15, the agency had released at least 324 detainees as a result of court orders.

❖ News Article Source: <https://www.newsweek.com/ice-accused-using-coronavirus-crisis-launch-family-separation-2-0-1505156>

❖ To see the form being distributed by ICE among detained families go to: <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/6891226-Parole-Determination-Worksheet.html>

DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVAL (DACA)

RELEASE: NEARLY 650,000 AWAIT A SUPREME COURT RULING ON DACA AND THE ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE

By Claudia Montecinos – Center for American Progress – May 13, 2020

- ❖ As the nation and hundreds of thousands of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients await a decision from the U.S. Supreme Court on the legality of the Trump administration's termination of DACA, a new column published by the Center for American Progress highlights the stakes of the decision and what the Trump administration must do if the court allows it to end DACA. Should the Supreme Court rule for the government, the administration likely will have the power to preserve the status quo and continue accepting and processing DACA renewal applications or to automatically extend protections for those with upcoming expiration dates. Over the course of the next year, more than 340,000 individuals stand to lose DACA protections if the administration fails to act.
- ❖ Among the key findings of the column:
 - Today, there are nearly 650,000 individuals who currently hold DACA and could lose their protections—all at once or over a period of two years—depending on how the Supreme Court rules and what the administration does.
 - Through the end of March, 23,020 DACA recipients with April, May, and June expirations had yet to apply to renew their protections.
 - If DACA recipients lose the ability to renew their protections, nearly 1 in 5 DACA recipients—119,620—will have lost their protections by November 2020.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.americanprogress.org/press/release/2020/05/13/485046/release-nearly-650000-await-supreme-court-ruling-daca-administrations-response/>
- ❖ To read the column published by the Center for American Progress go to: <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/news/2020/05/13/485026/supreme-court-ruling-clear-path-trump-administration-strip-protections-hundreds-thousands-daca-recipients/>

BORDER WALL

UNLIKELY ALLIES BAND TOGETHER IN LAREDO TO OPPOSE THE BORDER WALL

By John Burnett – NPR – May 26, 2020

- ❖ The federal government is planning to put 69 miles of its massive border wall along the river in Texas' Webb and Zapata counties. When it became clear that the imposing barrier would plow through the center of the proud city of Laredo, a remarkably diverse coalition of people assembled to fight it. Tony Medina is a 72-year-old retired land surveyor with a small tract upriver from Laredo that the feds want. With only three acres, he thinks his property would be effectively covered up by the wall and its 150-foot-wide enforcement zone — as wide as a four-lane highway. "I don't think we have a national emergency here on the Mexican border. People aren't flooding across the border, I haven't seen it in my lifetime," Medina said, his voice rising with anger. Downriver, outside the historic town of San Ygnacio, Elsa Hull, a state water quality monitor, lives on a remote plot with her two daughters. The government wants her three acres, too, for the wall, which will have stadium lights installed every 150 feet. Medina and Hull are among some 250 private landowners along the river in Webb and Zapata counties whose land the government is condemning through its powers of eminent domain. They will ultimately be offered a monetary sum, which they can appeal. Customs and Border Protection says more than half of the property owners who've been contacted have voluntarily signed Rights of Entry papers to allow surveyors onto their land, and a quarter of them have refused. The Justice Department has sued the city [of Laredo] to get access to 983 acres of city-owned riverfront. In its response, the city maintains the wall is illegal because when Congress appropriated the funding it did not specify that the structure would be built in Webb County. That issue is pending before a local federal judge. Many Laredoans are offended that the steel and concrete barrier would cut across a golf course, a riverside park and an orphanage. And it would symbolically sever Laredo from its sister city, Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, with whom it maintains deep cultural and familial ties. "It's an insult to us and to our neighbors to the south," said City Councilman Mercurio Martinez III, who traces his lineage back to ranchers who settled on a Spanish land grant.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.npr.org/2020/05/26/861401372/unlikely-allies-band-together-in-laredo-to-oppose-the-border-wall>

DETENTION CENTERS NEWS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

COVID-19 CASES AT A TEXAS IMMIGRATION DETENTION CENTER SOARED. NOW, TOWN LEADERS WANT ANSWERS.

By Perla Trevizo – *The Texas Tribune and ProPublica* – May 11, 2020

- ❖ As the coronavirus pandemic continues to spread inside immigration detention centers, local leaders in Pearsall, Texas have called on the GEO Group, to publicly explain itself. They say the company has not been transparent, and has failed to respond to emails and letters seeking answers to a simple question: What is the GEO Group doing to prevent the virus outbreak inside the privately owned facility from creeping into their community? The leaders have invited company officials to attend the Frio County commissioners meeting May 11, and sent a list of 20 detailed questions, ranging from what safeguards are in place to protect employees and detainees to how it can make the information more readily available to the community. The letter was drafted before the number of confirmed cases inside the South Texas ICE Processing Center jumped from seven to 31 detainees, as of May 8. Seven employees have also been infected. ICE said there were 900 detainees in custody in Pearsall from May 3rd to 9th. The GEO Group says that it has been in communication with local leaders, although it didn't specify who, and that it has taken steps to mitigate the risks. Nationwide, there are nearly 800 confirmed cases inside immigration detention centers. More than 1 in 4 of those cases are in Texas. In response to the pandemic, ICE says it's taking steps to minimize the spread of the virus. It has limited some arrests, suspended social visits and released more than 900 detainees since March who might be vulnerable.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.texastribune.org/2020/05/11/covid-19-cases-soar-texas-immigrant-detention-center-town-wants-answer/>
- ❖ To read the transcript from the recent Frio County commissioner's court meeting about the Pearsall detention center's response to COVID-19 go to: <http://www.co.frio.tx.us/upload/page/1949/UPDATED%20RESPONSE.pdf>



CBP announces 65 miles of new border wall construction in Rio Grande Valley Sector.

Photo Credit: U.S. Customs and Border Patrol

SECOND IMMIGRANT DIES OF CORONAVIRUS COMPLICATIONS WHILE IN ICE CUSTODY

By Camilo Montoya-Galvez – *CBS News* – May 25, 2020

- ❖ An immigrant in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody died of coronavirus complications on Sunday, May 24, while waiting to voluntarily depart to his native Guatemala, becoming the agency's second detainee to die from the virus. The 34-year-old immigrant, Santiago Baten-Oxlag, died at a hospital in Columbus, Georgia after being transferred there from the Stewart Detention Center, a privately operated prison near the state's border with Alabama, according to an ICE notification to Congress obtained by CBS News. Baten-Oxlag had been receiving care at the Columbus hospital since April 17. The preliminary cause of the death, first reported by BuzzFeed News, is "complications related to COVID-19," the notification said. ICE told Baten-Oxlag's family, the Guatemalan government, as well as the offices of inspector general and professional responsibility within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. It is unclear if Baten-Oxlag had any underlying medical conditions. Baten-Oxlag is the second known immigrant to die of COVID-19 while in ICE custody. Earlier this month [May], Carlos Ernesto Escobar Mejía, an immigrant from El Salvador who had lived in the U.S. since the 1980s, died of coronavirus complications at a San Diego-area hospital after being transferred there from a for-profit prison ICE uses to detain hundreds of detainees in southern California. More than 1,200 immigrants have tested positive for coronavirus while in ICE custody, according to the agency. Roughly 50% of the 2,394 detainees ICE has screened for the virus so far have tested positive.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/second-immigrant-dies-of-coronavirus-complications-while-in-ice-custody/?ftag=CNM-00-10aac3a>

REPORTS

FAMILY SEPARATION 2.0: "YOU AREN'T GOING TO SEPARATE ME FROM MY ONLY CHILD.

By *Amnesty International* – May 21, 2020

- ❖ This briefing report documents ICE's actions on May 13 and May 14, 2020, presenting families detained at the three family residential centers with a binary choice of separating from their children or remaining detained together. It is based on interviews with legal service providers and review of public documents, and has quotations and first-hand accounting from families as reported to their lawyers.
- ❖ To read this report go to: https://www.amnestyusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Amnesty-International-USA-Family-Separation-2.0_May-21-2020-.pdf

Benedictine Sisters Corporate Responsibility Coalition

REPORT: DEPORTATION WITH A LAYOVER: FAILURE OF PROTECTION UNDER THE U.S.-GUATEMALA ASYLUM COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

By Rachel Schmidtke, Yael Schacher, and Ariana Sawyer – *Refugees International and Human Rights Watch* – May 19, 2020

- ❖ An agreement between the United States and Guatemala, the U.S.-Guatemala Asylum Cooperative Agreement (ACA), enables the United States to rapidly transfer non-Guatemalan asylum seekers to Guatemala without allowing them to lodge asylum claims in the United States, but also leaves them without access to effective protection in Guatemala. As a result, they are effectively compelled to abandon their asylum claims and some who have a well-founded fear of persecution appear to be returning to their home countries where they are at real risk of serious harm.
- ❖ To read this report on its entirety go to: https://www.refugeesinternational.org/reports/2020/5/8/deportation-with-a-layover-failure-of-protection-under-the-us-guatemala-asylum-cooperative-agreement?mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiWldNNFpqZ3dOMk0zTIROaSlInQoiJOek02T01RRGFZbk9tWUNBb2FBdmZiM21EV3JaMWp0UEExtOVFdcUd4RzR2SWNneUdQeDhud2hQS3huVDI1T3g0cDk3UXI0Y0dFemR4clplakt0QmMyeWRVNUV6WFdlakxtMVBjR3JCalhpdWE4WGxIYytXc3g1c2JMbFJdY3JnVyJ9

COURT RULINGS/HEARINGS DURING COVID-19

JUDGE DEMANDS ICE BETTER EXPLAIN WHY IT WON'T RELEASE KIDS

By Nomaan Merchant – *The Associated Press* – May 22, 2020

- ❖ On May 22, U.S. District Judge Dolly M. Gee criticized the administration's handling of detained immigrant children and families, ordering the government to give the court detailed information about its efforts to quickly release them in the wake of the coronavirus. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has come under fire for allegedly asking parents in custody if they would allow their children to be released without them. Parents at all three facilities — one in Pennsylvania and two in Texas — were called into short meetings and asked if there were sponsors available to care for their children, lawyers who represent the families reported. They were then asked to sign a form. Gee wrote that she didn't find that ICE officially sought to get those formal waivers, but that officers' conversations with detained parents "caused confusion and unnecessary emotional upheaval and did not appear to serve the agency's legitimate purpose of making continuous individualized inquiries regarding efforts to release minors." While some parents reported slightly different details, the lawyers said they broadly believed they were being asked to choose between staying in custody with their children or letting their children leave. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement accused advocates of making "misrepresentations" and says it remains in compliance with President Donald Trump's June 2018 executive order intended to stop family separation. In a statement, the agency said the form was used as part of a "routine parole review consistent with the law" and Gee's previous orders. "The court recognized that parents, not the government, should decide whether the juvenile should be released to a sponsor," the agency said.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/wireStory/judge-demands-ice-explain-release-kids-70845534>

U.S./MEXICO BORDER

CORONAVIRUS ON THE BORDER

By Kevin Sieff – *The Washington Post* – May 27, 2020

- ❖ As Mexico's health-care system has strained under the coronavirus, small community hospitals in Southern California, some of the poorest in the state, have been flooded with Americans who have fallen ill and crossed the border. They are retirees and dual citizens, Americans working in Mexico or visiting family there. It is an example of how easily the virus moves between countries, even as governments — and particularly the Trump administration — have attempted to shut their borders. And it's a window into how many American lives span the U.S.-Mexico border, including families who have moved freely across the region since before that line was drawn and whose movement has continued during the pandemic. Public health issues have always straddled the border here. Texas conducts mosquito-spraying campaigns with the Mexican state of Tamaulipas during dengue outbreaks. Arizona has joint firefighting exercises with Sonora. California and Baja California have long battled a cross-border tuberculosis epidemic together. The San Ysidro International Bridge, south of San Diego, is the busiest ambulance pickup point in the United States. For years, the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission conducted simulations on how the two countries would respond if a pandemic settled on the border. A special procedure was created for Mexican ambulances to transfer patients to U.S. ambulances on American soil. Then a real pandemic struck. Now, approximately half of the coronavirus patients in several California border hospitals, including El Centro Regional Medical Center, are recent arrivals from Mexico. As a result of that surge, Imperial County, home to El Centro, has a much higher concentration of coronavirus cases — 760 per 100,000 residents — than any other county in California. About 1.5 million Americans live in Mexico, and more than 250,000 of them live in the cities just south of California. Those cities have been hit harder by the coronavirus than almost anywhere else in Mexico.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2020/05/27/coronavirus-mexico-border/?arc404=true>