

OCTOBER COVID SURPRISE, PART DEAUX [UPDATE-4]

Rayne's original October Surprise post is getting very top heavy in the number of comments. There are ongoing revelations, including KellyAnne and Bill Stepien now being COVID positive. There are going to be more because the Trump Administration continues to be a walking and talking superspreader.

At any rate, a new thread is needed. And Rayne and/or Marcy may add to it later (heck, I may even add more content later), but a new stub was needed.

So bring all yer COVID talk here.

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UPDATE-1 – 10:10 A.M. –

Hey. Rayne here, adding to bmaz's overflow post. Recall my concern about the timeline of events from my previous October Surprise post?

This medical professional has similar concerns:

Breaking news about @realDonaldTrump now attempting remdesivir treatment in hospital & note from physician that he does not yet need supplemental oxygen. But what are his vital signs? Why such rapid progression? There is a lot we don't know and a lot that doesn't make sense. pic.twitter.com/DGJMx3y6YY

– Leana Wen, M.D. (@DrLeanaWen) October 3, 2020

An M.D. and former public health official can't make sense of the timeline based on the information given to the public. I don't agree with her that we need to know exactly what an oximeter says about Trump's condition, but we do

need to know at what point Trump is in the expected course of COVID-19. We have a right to know how close we are to a transition of authority to VP Pence, temporary or otherwise.

IMO – and I am not a doctor – Trump had to have been sicker than we've been told to be given an experimental therapy yesterday. (Frankly, we can't be certain he didn't receive the antibody infusion on Wednesday based on what has been reported.) He had to have been sicker earlier than we've been told, likely at the debate on Tuesday night, posing a risk to Biden and to every person in the venue with whom Trump came in contact.

Apart from the malignant handling of the Barrett super spreader event in the Rose Garden this past weekend, Trump's disclosures about his illness is wholly disqualifying for re-election. He is failing to communicate a national security risk we can all see unfolding before us after failing to protect national security at the Barrett event.

He couldn't even be bothered to ensure Barrett's children were protected when Barrett herself failed to do so by either leaving them at home or making them wear masks.

Most community members at this site wouldn't trust Trump with their health or their kids. We don't need yet another Justice who can't protect ours let alone hers or her children.

Additional updates will appear here at the bottom of this post.

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UPDATE-2 – 12:10 P.M. –

Rayne here with the next update.

Trump's physician Dr. Sean Conley gave an update on Trump's condition. The presser was scheduled for 11:00 a.m. ET and didn't start until nearly 40 minutes later. Make of that what you will.

■ Questions Trump's doctors have refused

to answer in this press conference:

When was Trump's last negative test?

How high was his fever?

Did Trump get supplemental oxygen at any point?<https://t.co/bnNYS9Ckz7>

– Andrew Prokop (@awprokop) October 3, 2020

Video of the presser is linked in the tweet above but it's via Fox News. Fuck them. See the video link in this tweet:

Dr. Sean Conley: "This morning the president is doing very well...at this time the team and I are extremely happy with the progress the president has made."

Watch here: <https://t.co/4fKkt0oqCX>
pic.twitter.com/7y8oyiXFhj

– CSPAN (@cspan) October 3, 2020

The oxygen issue isn't going to go away. If he was on oxygen his O2 levels were low; at that point the public should have been told about Trump's condition because it could have gone (may yet go) south rapidly, requiring sedation and ventilation. Just too hedgy about this:

Q: "He has not received any supplemental oxygen?"

A: "He is not on oxygen right now, that's right."

Q: "He has not needed any at all?"

A: "He has not needed any this morning today at all. That's right."

– Trump Dr Sean Conley

Wonder why the public is skeptical.

– Helen Kennedy (@HelenKennedy) October 3, 2020

But the big takeaway from today's presser: Trump may have been hiding his COVID-positive status.

Conley said Trump was 72 hours post-diagnosis – that's +72 hours to testing, ++72 hours to whatever triggered the testing.

When was Trump tested? When did Trump first have symptoms? Did he go to the debate with symptoms and test results pending? Did he already know he was sick, exposing everyone including Biden?

Meanwhile, the Republicans' Red Wedding Massacre continues. Chris Christie has now disclosed his COVID positive status; he'd helped prepare Trump for the debate and he'd attend the Barrett super spreader event.

I want to know which GOP members of congress were on Air Force One:

Trump boarded AF1 for three straight days before testing Covid+. Other passengers included Hope Hicks, who fell ill on one trip, plus:

*41 WH aides & family

*9 campaign staffers, GOP officials & political advisers

*5 members of Congress

Full manifest here:

<https://t.co/itaBboBgmX>

– Michael C. Bender (@MichaelCBender)

October 3, 2020

It'd be nice for the public to know who to avoid at campaign events, you know? It'd also be nice to know if COVID-positive Sen. Ron Johnson was one of them, though he says he flew to D.C. on the 29th.

Heaven help all the support people around these careless and indifferent Republican motherfuckers – from the pilot and crew on Air Force One and Marine One, to the wait staff at the Barrett super spreader event.

Heaven help even these ethically-deficient White

House staffers who are terrified and should quit for their safety and that of their friends and family (open pic link).

White House press sec. Kayleigh McEnany waits with others as Pres. Trump prepares to leave the White House to go to Walter Reed Medical Center after he tested positive for COVID-19.

<https://t.co/4fUBzoe08c>
pic.twitter.com/46zJ7qu64l

– ABC News (@ABC) October 2, 2020

Additional updates will appear here at the bottom of this post.

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UPDATE-3 – 1:40 P.M. –

Rayne here yet again (yes, I have no life...).

Immediately following the presser with Trump's physician, there was an off-the-record update with White House press pool in which the anonymous source said,

BREAKING: "The president's vitals over the last 24 hours were very concerning and the next 48 hours will be critical in terms of his care. We're still not on a clear path to a full recovery."

–A source familiar with the President's health, to pool reporters

– Sara Cook (@saraecook) October 3, 2020

The source has now been identified as White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows:

UPDATE: Immediately after the press conference ended and before the anonymous statement was sent out, Mark Meadows briefed reporters without cameras—but he was caught on a feed asking to be off the record.

pic.twitter.com/JyrhSmu1Y0

– Olivia Nuzzi (@Olivianuzzi) October 3, 2020

So...not good, which matches the seriousness necessitating infusion with antibody therapy and then remdesivir.

One of our community members, pdaly, noted some missing specificity in journalists' questions to Dr. Conley which might have offered far more detail about Trump's condition:

The doctor mentioned Trump's oxygen saturation is 96% (on room air, implied, if not receiving supplemental oxygen). The reporters could ask if that reading is "at rest" or "with activity."

The follow up question could be: "What is Trump's O2 saturation with ambulation?"

If there is no reading, why not? Is he bedridden? Or does he desaturate with exertion?

One other big tell, in my opinion: the lack of a proof-of-life video. Trump, who is a camera hog and lives for TV ratings, couldn't possibly have missed an opportunity to share a short video clip from within Walter Reed in which he smiles and waves to his base, giving them a thumb's up.

Unless he's far sicker than we are being told even by Meadows in an off-the-record update.

It'd certainly explain Trump's dearth of tweeting today.

Additional updates will appear here at the bottom of this post.

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UPDATE-4 – 7:50 P.M. –

Hey, it's Rayne again, with yet another update.

Looks like somebody was worried we'd miss his sorry ass mooching our tax dollars on the golf course. More likely Trump didn't want to sound weak after his chief of staff Mark Meadows was caught on audio and video earlier.

Rudy Giuliani gave a statement for him after a 2:30 p.m. phone call with Trump but it wasn't enough – too many people thinking it sounded like more of Rudy's smarmy bullshit.

So Trump sat down and gave a proof-of-life video – not embedding it here, only giving you a link.

To me he sounds a little breathless for somebody used to rambling at full volume for an hour behind a podium at rallies.

He's still full of shit, exaggerating what he's doing in the hospital as if he's taking it on for everyone around the world – talk about a narcissistic messiah complex – but he manages to choke out four minutes of happy talk.

He may literally be a "happy hypoxic," too, since we don't know if he's been on oxygen today or not.

His color is bad but then he's addicted to wearing foundation. He also looks like he's lost weight; perhaps he's lost his sense of taste and smell which are common enough symptoms of COVID, making food and beverages less appealing.

But of course he's lied to us so goddamned much over the last 4-plus years it's hard to believe this is a straight-up honest update. I'm ~~skeptical of the timing and location because the backdrop doesn't match anything in the photos of the Presidential Suite at Walter Reed.~~

~~We're supposed to believe a small crew of a couple people with a mic and camera couldn't have shot this four minute clip in the Presidential Suite?*~~

Like I said, he's lied so much it's hard to believe anything he says let alone anything we see in which he appears.

Doesn't help matters that there are noticeable, um, hiccups. Holly Figueroa O'Reilly pointed to one:

Wait, what happened here after the word "therapeutics"?

pic.twitter.com/6tkBkreJTk

– Holly Figueroa O'Reilly
(@AynRandPaulRyan) October 3, 2020

Did they edit out a mistake? Did they cut out a cough? Or was this simply a dystonic jerk of his shoulders we've seen frequently when he's speaking at podiums, likely related to whatever neurological problem also causes his right foot to drag and his speech to be sporadically garbled?

* Note: Apparently USA Today published an article explaining the photos making the rounds today of Walter Reed's Presidential Suite are from 2007. That said, we still have little information about when/where/how the proof-of-life video was recorded.

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