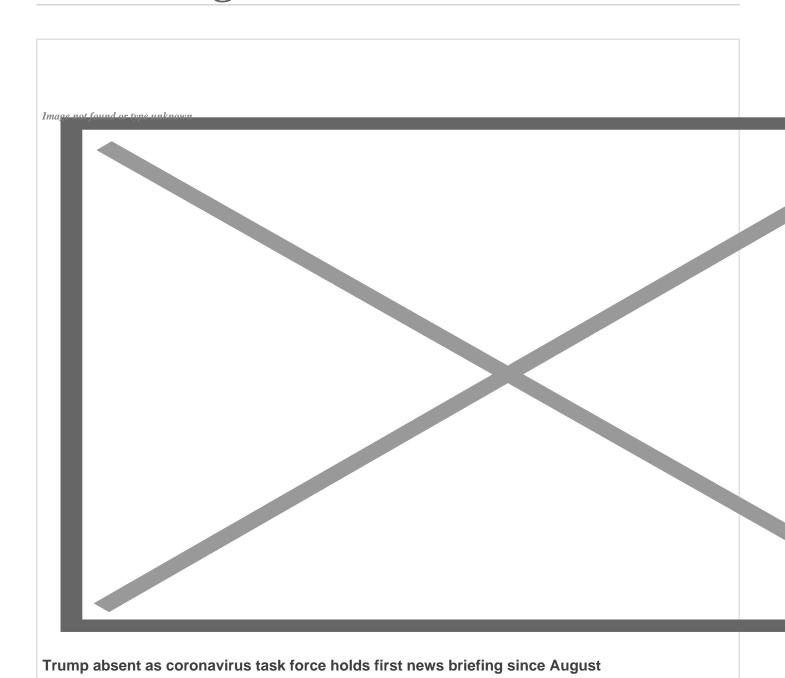
Trump absent as coronavirus task force holds first news briefing since August



Washington, November 21 (RHC)-- The White House coronavirus task force held its first news briefing since August, led by Vice President Mike Pence. Speaking to reporters, Pence said: "Our task force, this

administration and our president does not support another national lockdown. And we do not support closing schools."

President Trump was notably absent from Thursday's White House briefing, as was coronavirus adviser Dr. Scott Atlas, who opposes face masks and has promoted a widely discredited "herd immunity" strategy. Atlas has also called on Americans to "rise up" against public health measures.

As the press conference eneded, Pence turned his back and walked away, refusing to answer questions put to him by those attending the briefing.

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