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Harrowing photo of drowned migrants at U.S. border draws global attention



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Trump says possible he may make trade deal with China's Xi

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. President Donald Trump said on Wednesday it was possible he would emerge from a meeting with Chinese leader Xi Jinping this week with a deal that means there was no need to impose more tariffs on goods from China.

Relations between the two countries have deteriorated since talks to end a trade war collapsed in May, when the United States accused China of reneging on pledges to reform its economy.

"It's absolutely possible ... We have to get a good deal," Trump said in an interview with Fox Business Network. "It's possible that we'll make a deal but I'm also very happy where we are now."

Negotiators have not met since trade talks broke down, and U.S. and Chinese sources informed on the state of talks have told Reuters the best-case scenario for the Xi-Trump meeting is to resume negotiations.

Trump said Chinese leaders "want to make a deal. They want to make a deal more than I do."

Trump has previously said he would raise tariffs if there is no progress on the trade dispute at the meeting, and repeated that on Wednesday.

"I would do additional tariffs, very substantial additional tariffs, if that doesn't work, if we don't make a deal," Trump said.

Trump on Wednesday said he could consider placing a 10% duty on another \$300 billion or so of Chinese goods rather than 25%.

China and the United States have already imposed tariffs of up to 25% on hundreds of billions of dollars of each other's goods in a trade war that has lasted nearly a year.

Fitch Ratings on Wednesday forecast that world economic output would slow by 0.4 percentage point if Trump slapped 25% tariffs on another \$300 billion of imports from China.

The tariffs cover nearly all the remaining Chinese imports into the United States - including consumer products such as cellphones, computers and clothing - and U.S. retailers warn they could boost U.S. consumer prices significantly.



FILE PHOTO: Workers load goods for export onto a crane at a port in Lianyungang, Jiangsu province, China June 7, 2019. REUTERS/Stringer

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Harrowing photo of drowned migrants at U.S. border draws global attention

MATAMOROS, Mexico (Reuters) - A harrowing photo of a man and his young daughter who drowned on the U.S.-Mexico border has brought global attention to the dangers for a wave of mostly Latin American migrants traveling north, with Pope Francis on Wednesday expressing "immense sadness" at the deaths.

The picture of Oscar Alberto Martinez and his 24-month-old daughter Valeria has gone viral on social media and sparked renewed debate about the plight of refugees and migrants who are mostly from Central America. The pair had traveled from their home country of El Salvador and were seeking asylum in the United States.

The photo shows them face down in the reeds on the bank of the Rio Grande river. The father had apparently stretched his T-shirt over her to form a makeshift baby sling, and their heads are nestled together. Her red shorts bulge with a water-logged diaper.

'I told him not to' go, mother of drowned Salvadoran migrant laments Pope expresses 'immense sadness' at picture of drowned migrants in Rio Grande

"With immense sadness, the Holy Father has seen the images of the father and his baby daughter who drowned in the Rio Grande River," Vatican spokesman Alessandro Gisotti said.

The Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, put the picture on its front page.

"The pope is profoundly saddened by their death, and is praying for them and for all migrants who have lost their lives while seeking to flee war and misery."

The portrait has galvanized attention toward record numbers of Central American migrants reaching the United States this year despite a crackdown by the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump. Many flee their homes in Central America to escape high levels of criminal violence.

Trump, speaking at the evangelical Christian Faith and Freedom Coalition on Wednesday, said the problem at the border "could be fixed instantaneously" if Democratic lawmakers would work with him on fixing immigration laws.

"We cannot tolerate the endangerment, abuse or smuggling of children and the only way to really stop it is to change the law and the Democrats can do that immediately."

The United Nations refugee agency UNHCR compared the photograph to the picture of refugee child Alan Kurdi who drowned in the Mediterranean and whose body washed up on a beach in Turkey in 2015.



The bodies of Salvadorian migrant Oscar Alberto Martinez Ramirez and his daughter Valeria are seen after they drowned in the Rio Bravo river while trying to reach the United States, in Matamoros, in Tamaulipas state, Mexico June 24, 2019. REUTERS/Stringer



Rosa Ramirez, mother of a migrant who drowned in the Rio Grande River with his daughter during their journey to the U.S., is pictured at her house in the Altavista neighbourhood in San Martin

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Editor's Choice



A woman walks in front of a shop window on a hot summer day in central Kiev, Ukraine June 26, 2019. REUTERS/Gleb Garanich TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Japanese grannies perform hip-hop and dance to welcome G20 leaders summit in Osaka, Japan, June 26, 2019. REUTERS/Jorge Silva TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



REFILE - ADDITIONAL INFORMATION Singapore Armed Forces paratroopers jump out of a C130 aircraft in their parachutes, during a training exercise, in Singapore June 26, 2019. REUTERS/Edgar Su TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Palestinian demonstrator scuffles with Israeli forces during a protest against Bahrain's workshop for U.S. peace plan, in Bethlehem, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank



Boris Johnson, a leadership candidate for Britain's Conservative Party, visits a tea shop in Oxshott



Britain's Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge joins a photography workshop in Kingston upon Thames



U.S. President Trump signs executive order on plan to create affordable housing council at White House in Washington



Ground personnel help NASA astronaut Anne McClain to get out of the Soyuz MS-11 capsule shortly after landing in a remote area outside Zhezkazgan, Kazakhstan June 25, 2019. Alexander Nemenov/Pool via REUTERS TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY

(CNN) A multistate outbreak of E. coli has raised alarms and questions: As of Thursday, 72 people in five states have become ill, yet the cause of their infection remains unknown, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported Friday.

Symptoms of this bacterial infection, which usually begin about three or four days after consuming the bacteria, can include watery or bloody diarrhea, fever, abdominal cramps, nausea and vomiting.

Eight people involved in the mysterious outbreak have been hospitalized. No deaths have been reported. People started becoming ill March 2, and the patients range in age from 1 to 74 years old. Additional illnesses tied this outbreak may still be reported, the CDC said.

States reporting sick patients are Georgia (8 patients), Kentucky (36), Ohio (5), Tennessee (21) and Virginia (2).

Government scientists have not identified a food item, grocery store or restaurant chain as the source of these infections. The CDC, state health departments, the US Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service and the US Food and Drug Administration are investigating the outbreak.

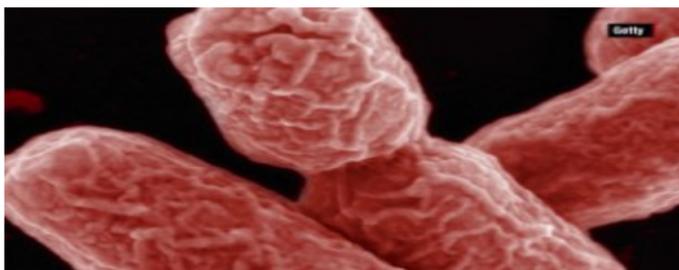


You do not need to avoid any particular food, the CDC said, and grocery stores, retailers and restaurants do not need to avoid serving or selling any particular food.

Anyone concerned that they might have an E. coli infection should talk to their health care provider. It is important to write down everything you ate in the week before developing symptoms. A medical professional can diagnose you as well as offer advice, including washing your hands, to avoid spreading it to other people.

E. coli are a diverse family of bacteria that can be found in the environment, in foods and in the intestines of people and animals. Most strains are harmless. To avoid becoming

Mystery E. Coli Outbreak Sickens 72 People In 5 States, CDC Says



Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

ing infected with a harmful strain, the CDC recommends using proper hygiene; cooking meat at proper temperatures; avoiding raw milk, unpasteurized dairy products and juices; and not swallowing water when swimming.

Most people infected by the bacteria get better within five to seven days. Antibiotics are not recommended for patients with suspected E. coli infections until testing has been performed. (Courtesy cnn.com)

Related

E. Coli Outbreaks: Fast Facts



E. coli outbreaks in the United States

General Information: (from the CDC) There are many strains of the bacteria Escherichia coli (E. coli). Most strains are harmless and live in the intestines of healthy humans and animals.

Some kinds of E. coli cause disease by producing Shiga toxin. The bacteria that make these toxins are called "Shiga toxin-producing" E. coli (STEC). The most commonly found STEC in the United States is E. coli O157:H7.

The symptoms of STEC infections can include stomach cramps, diarrhea and vom-

iting. Some infections are mild, but others can be life-threatening.

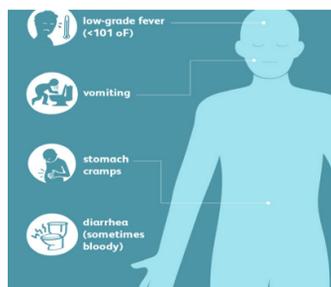
The CDC estimates that 265,000 STEC infections occur each year in the United States. E. coli O157:H7 causes more than 36% of these infections.

People of all ages can be infected, but young children and the elderly are more likely to develop severe symptoms.

The types of E. coli that can cause illness can be transmitted through contaminated water or food, or through contact with people or animals.

Prevention:

To avoid E. coli infections, experts advise to thoroughly cook meat, avoid unpasteurized dairy products and juices, avoid swallowing water while swimming and wash hands regularly.



1998 - The Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points program (HACCP) begins requiring meat processors to establish critical checkpoints in the plants to prevent pathogens from contaminating meat.

- Inspectors from the food-safety agency randomly test all facilities that grind meat

products to make sure that the plants are complying with the HACCP program.

1999 - The USDA approves the irradiation process for meat. Irradiation is a process that uses beams of high-speed electrons to kill E. coli and other bacteria.

May 2000 - Huisken Meats of Sauk Rapids, Minnesota, becomes the first meat processor to begin selling irradiated ground beef to retailers.

June 2009 - EpiTopix LLC, a Minnesota-based veterinary pharmaceutical company, begins licensing a new vaccine for cows that reduces the transmission of E. coli between cows and humans.

Timeline of selected E. coli outbreaks in the United States:

Jack in the Box (E. coli O157:H7)

1992-1993 - The Jack in the Box outbreak kills three children and makes about 500 people sick in the Northwest United States. The Jack in the Box incident leads the Bill Clinton administration to begin random testing for E. coli in ground beef.

The meatpacking industry sues the USDA to block the tests. The USDA wins the lawsuit.



ConAgra Beef Co. (E. coli O157:H7)

July 19, 2002 - Nineteen million pounds of meat produced at the ConAgra Beef Co.'s Greeley, Colorado, plant is recalled.

At least 35 people become ill due to this meat contamination and one person dies. The contaminated meat is shipped to at least 21 states.

Prepackaged Spinach (E. coli O157:H7)

September 14, 2006 - The FDA issues a warning to consumers about an E. coli O157:H7 outbreak in multiple states. The warning states, "preliminary epidemiological evidence suggests that bagged fresh spinach may be a possible cause of this outbreak."

Romaine Lettuce (E. coli O157:H7)

April 10, 2018 - The CDC says it's investigating a multistate outbreak of E. coli

infections.

April 13, 2018 - The CDC reports that its investigation is focused on chopped romaine lettuce from the Yuma, Arizona, region. According to the CDC, 35 people from 11 states have fallen ill.

April 18, 2018 - In an update, the CDC reports that 53 people from 16 states have been infected. A total of 95% of those sickened said they ate romaine lettuce before the illness started.



April 20, 2018 - The CDC expands its warning to include all forms of romaine lettuce from the Yuma area, including whole heads and hearts, not just chopped.

May 2, 2018 - The CDC reports an individual in California has died from the outbreak. There are 23 additional cases of E. coli, bringing the total to 121 cases in 25 states.

June 1, 2018 - The CDC reports an increase in the number of infected people to 197 in 35 states. A total of five deaths have been reported.

June 28, 2018 - The CDC announces that the outbreak has ended. Five deaths were reported, and a total of 210 people in 36 states were infected. It's the worst outbreak of E. coli O157:H7 since a 2006 outbreak linked to spinach.

Romaine Lettuce (E. coli O157:H7)

November 20, 2018 - The CDC, along with the FDA, announces it is investigating a multistate outbreak of E. coli infections most likely linked to romaine lettuce.

November 26, 2018 - In an update, the FDA reports that 43 people from 12 states have been infected.

January 9, 2019 - The CDC announces the outbreak appears to have ended. In total, 62 people in 16 states were infected between October 7, 2018, and December 4, 2018. (Courtesy cnn.com)

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A Government Toxicology Report Found Links Between High Levels Of Nonstick Compounds In People's Blood That Caused Health Problems

FDA: Sampling Finds Toxic Nonstick Compounds In Food



Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Andrew Wheeler speaks at the National Press Club in Washington, Monday, June 3, 2019. The Food and Drug Administration's first broad testing of food for a worrisome class of nonstick, stain-resistant industrial compounds found high levels in some grocery store meats and seafood and in off-the-shelf chocolate cake. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Food and Drug Administration found substantial levels of a worrisome class of nonstick, stain-resistant industrial compounds in some grocery store meats and seafood and in off-the-shelf chocolate cake, according to FDA researchers.

The FDA's food-test results are likely to heighten complaints by states and public health groups that President Donald Trump's administration is not acting fast enough or firmly enough to start regulating the manmade compounds.

A federal toxicology report last year cited links between high levels of the compounds in people's blood and health problems, but said it was not certain the nonstick compounds were the cause.

The levels in nearly half of the meat and fish tested were two or more times over the only currently existing federal advisory level for any kind of the widely used manmade com-

pounds, which are called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS.



Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Andrew Wheeler speaks at the National Press Club in Washington, Monday, June 3, 2019. The Food and Drug Administration's first broad testing of food for a worrisome class of nonstick, stain-resistant industrial compounds found high levels in some grocery store meats and seafood and in off-the-shelf chocolate cake. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

The level in the chocolate cake was higher: more than 250 times the only federal guidelines, which are for some PFAS in drinking water.

Food and Drug Administration spokeswoman Tara Rabin said Monday that the agency thought the contamination was "not likely to be a human health concern," even though the tests exceeded the sole existing federal PFAS recommendations for drinking water. As a handful of PFAS contaminations of food emerge around the country, authorities have deemed some a health concern but not others. The agency considers each discovery of the compound in food case by case, including the kind of food, levels of contamination, frequency of consumption and latest scientific information, Rabin said. There are nearly 5,000 varieties of PFAS, which DuPont created in 1938 and first put into use for nonstick cookware. Industries use them in countless consumer items — food packaging, carpets and couches, dental floss and outdoor gear — to repeal grease, water and stains.

The chemicals also are found in firefighting foam, which the Defense department calls irreplaceable in suppressing jet-fuel fires. Especially around military bases and PFAS facilities, decades of use have built up levels in water, soil and some treated sewage sludge used to fertilize non-organic food crops and feed for livestock.

They've been a topic of congressional hearings, state legislation and intense federal and state scrutiny over the past two years.



Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Andrew Wheeler responds to a question from the audience at the National Press Club in Washington, Monday, June 3, 2019. The Food and Drug Administration's first broad testing of food for a worrisome class of nonstick, stain-resistant industrial compounds found high levels in some grocery store

meats and seafood and in off-the-shelf chocolate cake. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

Last year's federal toxicology review concluded the compounds are more dangerous than previously thought, saying consistent studies of exposed people "suggest associations" with some kinds of cancers, liver problems, low birth weight and other issues. The compounds have been dubbed "forever chemicals" because they take thousands of years to degrade, and because some accumulate in people's bodies.

The Environmental Protection Agency earlier established a nonbinding health threshold of 70 parts per trillion for two-phased out forms of the contaminant in drinking water.

The EPA has said it would consider setting mandatory limits instead after the toxicology report and after federally mandated PFAS testing of water systems found contamination. The administration has called dealing with PFAS a "potential public relations nightmare" and a "national priority." "I know there are people who would like us to move faster" on PFAS, EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler said Monday at the National Press Club. "We are addressing this much faster than the agency has ever done for a chemical like this."

Impatient for federal action, several states have moved to regulate the chemicals on their own, including setting standards for groundwater or drinking water.

The FDA study sampled market-basket items bought in three, undisclosed mid-Atlantic cities in 2017, testing for PFAS.

PFOS — already phased out of production in the U.S. as a health concern — turned up at levels ranging from 134 parts per trillion to 865 parts per trillion in tilapia, chicken, turkey, beef, cod, salmon, shrimp, lamb, catfish and hot dogs. Chocolate cake tested at 17,640 parts per trillion of a kind of PFAS called PFOA.



FILE - This Thursday, Aug. 2, 2018, file photo shows the U.S. Food and Drug Administration building behind FDA logos at a bus stop on the agency's campus in Silver Spring, Md. The Food and Drug Administration's first broad testing of food for a worrisome class of nonstick, stain-resistant industrial compounds found high levels in some grocery store meats and seafood and in off-the-shelf chocolate cake, according to unreleased findings FDA researchers presented at a scientific conference in Europe. (AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin, File)

The FDA presentation also disclosed PFAS findings — one spiking over 1,000 parts per trillion — in leafy green vegetables grown within 10 miles (16 kilometers) of an unspecified eastern U.S. PFAS plant and sold at a farmer's market.

And it previewed test levels for a previously reported instance of PFAS contamination of the food supply in the feed and milk at a dairy near an Air Force base in New Mexico. The FDA called the milk contamination a health concern.

FDA researchers discussed the results at a conference by the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry last week in Finland. The Environmental Defense Fund and the Environmental Working Group obtained the FDA presentation and provided it to The Associated Press.

"What this calls for is additional research to determine how widespread this contamination is and how high the levels are," said Linda Birnbaum, director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, in an interview. "We have to look at total human exposure — not just what's in the water or what's in the food ... or not just dust. We need to look at the sum totals of what the exposures are."

"Drinking one glass of contaminated water is unlikely to be associated with health risks, as is eating one slice of contaminated chocolate cake," said Jamie DeWitt, a toxicologist at East Carolina University who studies PFAS. "Individually, each item is unlikely to be a huge problem, but collectively and over a lifetime, that may be a different story." (Courtesy apnews.com)

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