

'I'll make Britain great again,' PM Johnson says, echoing Trump

LONDON (Reuters) - Boris Johnson promised on Thursday that Brexit would make Britain the greatest place on earth, echoing the patriotic rhetoric of U.S. President Donald Trump in his first speech to parliament as prime minister. Johnson, who was hailed by the U.S. president as Britain's Trump, has promised to strike a new divorce deal with the European Union and to energize the world's fifth-largest economy after what he casts as the gloom of Theresa May's premiership.

On entering Downing Street on Wednesday, Johnson set up a showdown with the EU by vowing to negotiate a new deal and threatening that, if the bloc refused, he would take Britain out on Oct. 31 without a deal to limit economic dislocation.

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He said Britain could be the most prosperous economy in Europe by 2050, a feat that would mean drawing far ahead of France and then overtaking Germany.

Johnson promised that British children and grandchildren "will be living longer, happier, healthier, wealthier lives".

Johnson's ascent has placed an avowed Brexiteer in charge of the British government for the first time since the 2016 EU Brexit referendum, which shocked the world and upset financial markets.

Sterling has lost more than 5% of its value since early May and recently touched a 27-month low against the dollar. It fell further on Johnson's first day in office, trading at around \$1.2450.

Trump has repeatedly praised Brexit and has advised the United Kingdom to "walk away" if the EU offers a poor deal. While he grew frustrated with May, Trump said this week he liked her successor.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson holds his first Cabinet meeting at Downing Street in London, Britain, July 25, 2019 Aaron Chown/Pool via REUTERS

Johnson spiced his pitch to the EU on Thursday by bluntly stating that one of the most hotly contested elements of the Brexit divorce agreement would have to be struck out if there was to be an orderly exit.

His bet is that the threat of the economic disruption that a "no-deal" Brexit would cause will convince the EU's biggest powers - Germany and France - to agree to revise the divorce deal that May agreed last November but failed to get ratified.



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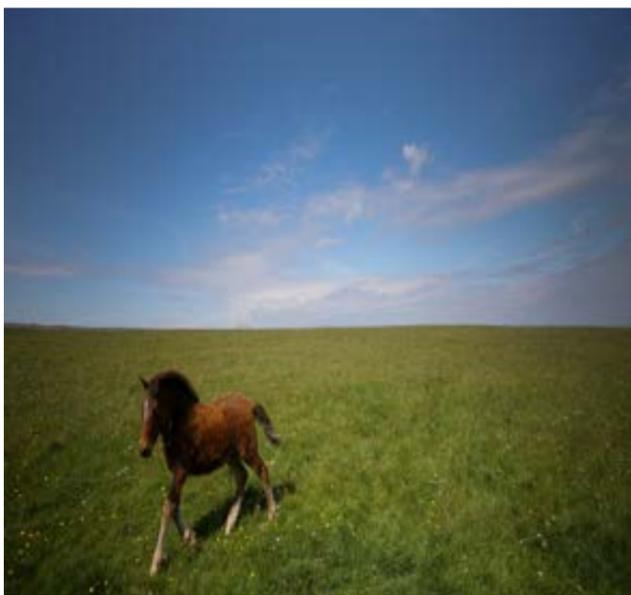


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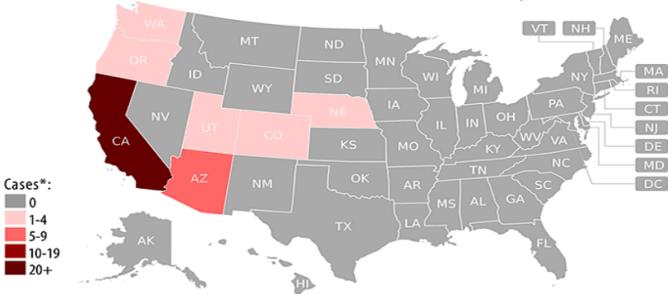
Nissan CEO Hiroto Saikawa attends a news conference to release first quarter earnings at the company headquarters in Yokohama, Japan July 25, 2019. REUTERS/Issei Kato TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



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Measles Outbreak This Year Has Been Worst Of The Century

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*Provisional data reported to CDC's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases



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

As of May 31, the U.S. has recorded 981 cases in 26 states this year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Monday — the highest number since 1992, when 2,196 cases were reported for the year.

Measles was declared “eradicated” in the U.S. in 2000, years after the development and implementation of the MMR vaccine, which is 97% effective with 2 doses. But the extremely contagious virus has crept back into American society, mainly via pockets of communities who refuse to use the vaccinations, experts have told Axios.

The CDC warned last Thursday in an updated news release:

“Outbreaks in New York City and Rockland County, New York have continued for nearly 8 months. If these outbreaks continue through summer and fall, the United States may lose its measles elimination status. That loss would be a huge blow for the nation and erase the hard work done by all levels of public health.”

Before widespread vaccination, roughly 3 to 4 million Americans got measles each year, leading to an estimated 400–500 deaths and 48,000 hospitalizations,

per the CDC.

•The highest number of annual cases in the U.S. recorded by the CDC since 1942 was in 1958 when 763,094 people reported infections.

STATES WITH MEASLES CASES IN 2019



MPIC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The return of measles

Measles — declared eradicated in the U.S. in 2000 — has roared back at a record pace this year.

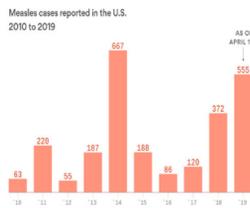
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Today, due in large part to vaccination efforts that began in 1963, most Americans have no experience with the measles virus.



•Parents may be fooled into thinking that measles is a relatively mild disease, similar to the flu, and think vaccination is unnecessary or not a priority.

•This is not only wrong, but it could have deadly consequences.

“Parents may think that many vaccine-preventable diseases are mild, but there’s no way to tell how serious a disease may be for a child,” CDC spokesman Jason McDonald tells Axios via email. But measles can be particularly hazardous for babies and young children, he says.

•From 2001–2013, 28% of children younger than 5 years old who had measles had to be treated in the hospital, McDonald said, referring to relatively small outbreaks related to measles patients who traveled to the U.S. from areas where the disease is still active.

•“Some children develop pneumonia (a serious lung infection) or lifelong brain damage.”

Different vaccine-hesitant communities added together are causing vaccination rates to fall below effective immunity levels, Anthony Fauci, who leads the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, tells Axios.

“It is kind of like all of the stars are in the right place for the disaster we’re seeing now because we’re having multiple factors combining together to give us these outbreaks,” Fauci says.



The situation is worrying enough in New York State alone that the CDC issued a stark warning last week: “The longer these outbreaks continue, the greater the chance measles will again get a sustained foothold in the United States.”

The bottom line: One relatively morbid source of hope, however, are the widely-reported health impacts from the ongoing outbreaks, with children in intensive care units and an El Al Airlines flight attendant in a coma.

“I think unfortunately the best motivation... is that we’re having these outbreaks and people are really getting seriously ill,” Fauci says. “Those are the things that are going to jolt people into reconsidering this.”

Between the lines: The national average vaccination coverage in kindergarten children is at a level (94.3% for 2 doses of the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine for the 2017–2018 school year) consistent with the “herd immunity” necessary to prevent a nationwide outbreak. However, pockets of community resistance to the vaccine are allowing the virus to make inroads, experts have told Axios.

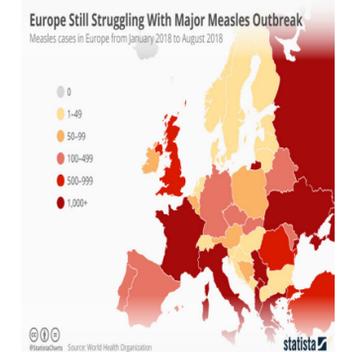
•Globally, the World Health Organization and UNICEF announced Monday that provisional data also shows that in 170 countries there have been more than 112,000 cases so far this year, compared with the numbers from all of last year, which was 28,124 cases from 163 countries.

What they’re saying: Peter Hotez, professor and dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine, tells Axios:

“The year 2019 may be remembered for

the return of measles to America, almost 20 years after it was eliminated in the U.S. We’re reaching record levels in terms of numbers of cases and outbreaks, with all of them largely engineered by the anti-vaccine lobby. We now have children in intensive care units.”

“If our nation is serious about stopping future measles epidemics, in the coming years it will be essential for us to begin dismantling the anti-vaccine media empire now dominating the internet and social media and e-commerce sites, together with shutting down the non-medical vaccine exemptions currently allowed across most of the U.S.”



The heads of the WHO and UNICEF write in an opinion piece for CNN that there’s a “global crisis.” They implore governments, medical professionals and others to help provide vaccines to lower-income countries and to take a stronger stand against misinformation globally. Per their op-ed:

“Ultimately, there is no ‘debate’ to be had about the profound benefits of vaccines. We know they are safe, and we know they work. More than 20 million lives have been saved through measles vaccination since the year 2000 alone.”

“But children are paying the price for complacency. It will take long-term efforts, political commitment and continuous investment — in vaccine access, in service quality and in trust — to ensure we are, and remain, protected together.” (Courtesy axios.com)

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Trump Administration Plans To Take 3 Million Americans Off Food Stamps

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) officials said the Trump administration will propose Tuesday to tighten access to food stamps, cutting about 3.1 million people from the program, Reuters reports.

Details: The proposed changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) would limit access to food stamps for households with savings and other assets, with the aim of ending automatic eligibility for those already receiving federal and state assistance, per the Washington Post.

The big picture: Residents in 43 states can automatically become eligible for food stamps via SNAP if they receive benefits from another federal program, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Reuters notes.



•USDA officials said they want to require people who receive TANF benefits to pass an income and assets review to determine whether they are eligible for free food from SNAP, according to Reuters.

What they're saying: Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said during a conference call with reporters Monday night that the proposal would "preserve the integrity of the program," according to WashPost. "SNAP should be a temporary safety net," he said.

•Acting Deputy Undersecretary Brandon Lipps said the plan would result in annual budgetary savings of \$2.5 billion and restrict less needy individuals from qualifying for benefits, per WashPost, which notes USDA officials had no specifics on the financial cutoff for their proposal.

The other side: Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.), the ranking Democrat on the Senate Agriculture Committee, told WashPost that the proposed SNAP overhaul was an attempt by the Trump administration to bypass Congress, which blocked its earlier attempts to cut food stamps.



Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue and President Trump. (Photo/Getty Images)

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

Related

Trump administration unveils plan to tighten food stamp access



A woman uses an electronic benefits transfer card to buy groceries in Portland, Maine. (Photo/Portland Press Herald via Getty Images)

The Trump administration announced a plan Thursday to use its executive power to tighten the work requirements for the nation's food assistance program, the Washington Post reports.

What's happening: Americans without dependents are required to work if they

collect food stamps for three months in a three-year period, but that requirement is scrapped if they live in an area where the unemployment rate is 20% higher than the national average — currently 3.7%. The Trump administration wants to allow the waiver to stand only in areas with an unemployment rate above 7%, which could force hundreds of thousands of Americans out of the program.

Tougher food assistance requirements were part of the House's version of the farm bill, but they were not included in the Senate version, which is expected to cross President Trump's desk today.

•Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue defended the policy on a call, per the Post, "This is unacceptable to most Americans and belies common sense, particularly when employment opportunities are as plentiful as they currently are. ... This restores the dignity of work to a sizable segment of our population."

•But congressional Democrats think that the decision oversteps the executive branch's power. Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.), the Senate Agriculture Committee's ranking member, said, "Administrative changes should not be driven by ideology. I do not support unilateral and unjustified changes that would take food away from families."

Trump budget includes proposal to replace food stamps with food packages



(Photo/AFP via Getty Images) The Trump administration is proposing a

major shakeup to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): instead of giving low-income families food stamps every month, they would give them a box of nonperishable foods.

White House Budget Director Mick Mulvaney said the proposal, included in the \$4.4 trillion budget the president sent to Congress for approval Monday, will save billions and offer families a more nutritious option. According to Politico, he also described it as a "Blue Apron-type program" — though the package would not include fresh produce or meat, which is an essential part of the pricey meal delivery service.

Other details included in the proposal: •**Low-income** Americans who receive at least \$90 a month, which accounts for just over 80% of all SNAP recipients, would receive roughly half of their benefits in the form of a "USDA foods package," or what the Agriculture Department is calling "America's Harvest Box."

•**The proposal** described the package as containing items such as "shelf-stable milk, ready to eat cereals, pasta, peanut butter, beans and canned fruit and vegetables."

•**Under the current program**, those within SNAP receive money that's loaded onto an EBT card. According to NPR, recipients can use the card to "buy what they want as long as it falls under the guidelines."

•**According to the Trump administration**, this and other changes to the program would cut the SNAP budget by 30% to \$213 billion over ten years.

Statement from Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue:

"USDA America's Harvest Box is a bold, innovative approach to providing nutritious food to people who need assistance feeding themselves and their families — and all of it is home grown by American farmers and producers. It maintains the same level of food value as SNAP participants currently receive, provides states flexibility in administering the program, and is responsible to the taxpayers." (Courtesy axios.com)



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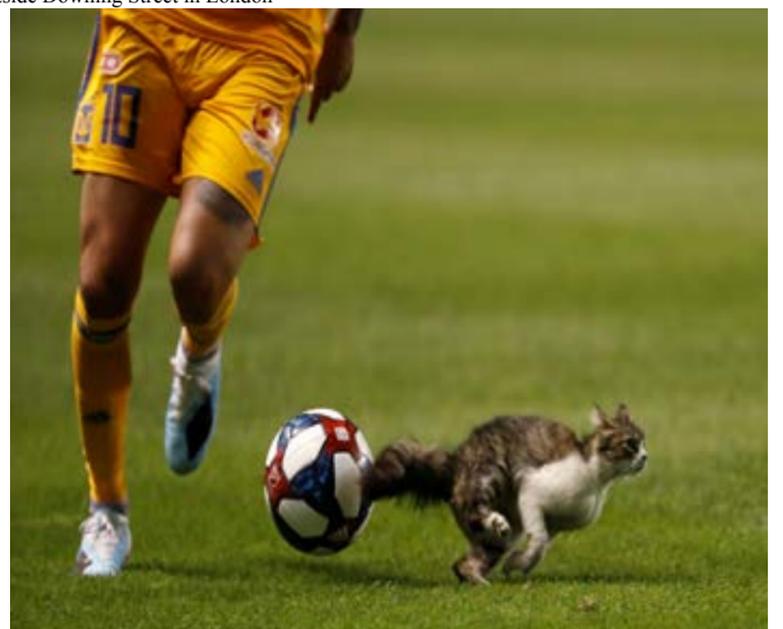
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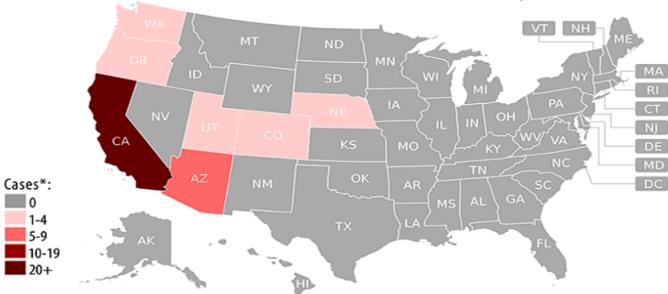
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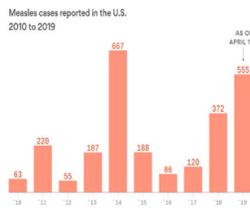
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•This is not only wrong, but it could have deadly consequences.

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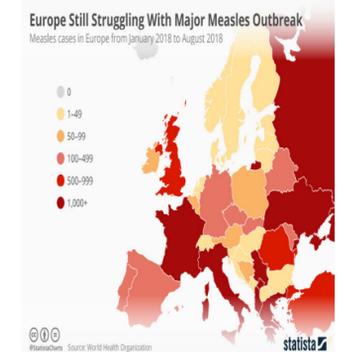
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Trump Administration Plans To Take 3 Million Americans Off Food Stamps

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) officials said the Trump administration will propose Tuesday to tighten access to food stamps, cutting about 3.1 million people from the program, Reuters reports.

Details: The proposed changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) would limit access to food stamps for households with savings and other assets, with the aim of ending automatic eligibility for those already receiving federal and state assistance, per the Washington Post.

The big picture: Residents in 43 states can automatically become eligible for food stamps via SNAP if they receive benefits from another federal program, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Reuters notes.



•USDA officials said they want to require people who receive TANF benefits to pass an income and assets review to determine whether they are eligible for free food from SNAP, according to Reuters.

What they're saying: Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said during a conference call with reporters Monday night that the proposal would "preserve the integrity of the program," according to WashPost. "SNAP should be a temporary safety net," he said.

•Acting Deputy Undersecretary Brandon Lipps said the plan would result in annual budgetary savings of \$2.5 billion and restrict less needy individuals from qualifying for benefits, per WashPost, which notes USDA officials had no specifics on the financial cutoff for their proposal.

The other side: Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.), the ranking Democrat on the Senate Agriculture Committee, told WashPost that the proposed SNAP overhaul was an attempt by the Trump administration to bypass Congress, which blocked its earlier attempts to cut food stamps.



Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue and President Trump. (Photo/Getty Images)

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

Related

Trump administration unveils plan to tighten food stamp access



A woman uses an electronic benefits transfer card to buy groceries in Portland, Maine. (Photo/Portland Press Herald via Getty Images)

The Trump administration announced a plan Thursday to use its executive power to tighten the work requirements for the nation's food assistance program, the Washington Post reports.

What's happening: Americans without dependents are required to work if they

collect food stamps for three months in a three-year period, but that requirement is scrapped if they live in an area where the unemployment rate is 20% higher than the national average — currently 3.7%. The Trump administration wants to allow the waiver to stand only in areas with an unemployment rate above 7%, which could force hundreds of thousands of Americans out of the program.

Tougher food assistance requirements were part of the House's version of the farm bill, but they were not included in the Senate version, which is expected to cross President Trump's desk today.

•Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue defended the policy on a call, per the Post, "This is unacceptable to most Americans and belies common sense, particularly when employment opportunities are as plentiful as they currently are. ... This restores the dignity of work to a sizable segment of our population."

•But congressional Democrats think that the decision oversteps the executive branch's power. Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.), the Senate Agriculture Committee's ranking member, said, "Administrative changes should not be driven by ideology. I do not support unilateral and unjustified changes that would take food away from families."

Trump budget includes proposal to replace food stamps with food packages



(Photo/AFP via Getty Images) The Trump administration is proposing a

major shakeup to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): instead of giving low-income families food stamps every month, they would give them a box of nonperishable foods.

White House Budget Director Mick Mulvaney said the proposal, included in the \$4.4 trillion budget the president sent to Congress for approval Monday, will save billions and offer families a more nutritious option. According to Politico, he also described it as a "Blue Apron-type program" — though the package would not include fresh produce or meat, which is an essential part of the pricey meal delivery service.

Other details included in the proposal: •**Low-income** Americans who receive at least \$90 a month, which accounts for just over 80% of all SNAP recipients, would receive roughly half of their benefits in the form of a "USDA foods package," or what the Agriculture Department is calling "America's Harvest Box."

•**The proposal** described the package as containing items such as "shelf-stable milk, ready to eat cereals, pasta, peanut butter, beans and canned fruit and vegetables."

•**Under the current program**, those within SNAP receive money that's loaded onto an EBT card. According to NPR, recipients can use the card to "buy what they want as long as it falls under the guidelines."

•**According to the Trump administration**, this and other changes to the program would cut the SNAP budget by 30% to \$213 billion over ten years.

Statement from Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue:

"USDA America's Harvest Box is a bold, innovative approach to providing nutritious food to people who need assistance feeding themselves and their families — and all of it is home grown by American farmers and producers. It maintains the same level of food value as SNAP participants currently receive, provides states flexibility in administering the program, and is responsible to the taxpayers." (Courtesy axios.com)



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