

China to counter latest U.S. tariffs as Trump vows deal on U.S. terms



Containers are seen at Yantian port in Shenzhen, Guangdong province, China July 4, 2019. Picture taken July 4, 2019. REUTERS/Stringer

BEIJING/WASHINGTON (Reuters) - China on Thursday vowed to counter the latest U.S. tariffs on \$300 billion of Chinese goods but called on the United States to meet it halfway on a potential trade deal, as U.S. President Donald Trump said any pact would have to be on America's terms. Containers are seen at Yantian port in Shenzhen, Guangdong province, China July 4, 2019. Picture taken July 4, 2019. REUTERS/Stringer

The Chinese finance ministry said in a statement that Washington's tariffs, set to start next month, violated a consensus reached between Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping at a June summit in Japan to resolve their disputes via negotiation.

In a separate statement, China's foreign ministry spokeswoman, Hua Chunying, said, "We hope the U.S. will meet China halfway, and implement the consensus of the two heads of the two countries in Osaka."

WTO paves way for China to seek sanctions against U.S. China hopes to find mutually acceptable solutions through dialogue and consultation on the basis of equality and mutual respect, she added.

Trump, who is seeking re-election in 2020 and had made the economy and his tough stance on China a key part of his 2016 campaign for the White House, on Thursday said any agreement

must meet U.S. demands.

"China, frankly, would love to make a deal, and it's got to be a deal on proper terms. It's got to be a deal, frankly, on our terms. Otherwise, what's the purpose?" Trump said in an interview on New Hampshire radio station WGIR.

The trade picture is further complicated by continuing unrest in Hong Kong, which Trump on Wednesday tied to any possible agreement, saying Xi must first work out the situation in the territory with protesters.

On Thursday, he used Twitter to call on the Chinese president to personally meet with protesters to spur "a happy and enlightened ending to the Hong Kong problem."

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Editor's Choice



Premiere for the film "Good Boys" in Los Angeles, California



Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe bows at a memorial service ceremony marking the the 74th anniversary of Japan's surrender in World War Two, while Japan's Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako watch, in Tokyo, Japan August 15, 2019. REUTERS/Kim Kyung-Hoon TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



French President Emmanuel Macron attends a ceremony marking the 75th anniversary of the Allied landings in Provence in World War Two which helped liberate southern France, in Boulouris



A youth rides his bicycle at Times Square, in New York City, U.S., August 14, 2019. REUTERS/Lucas Landau TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



A couple are reflected in a glass wall as they walk beside CaixaForum cultural centre in Madrid



Democratic 2020 U.S. presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke greets a person while arriving to address the nation in El Paso



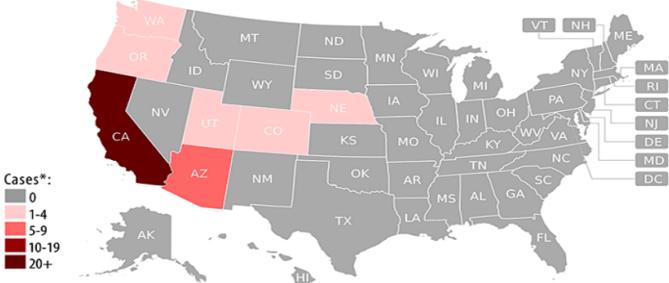
Swedish teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg waves from a yacht as she starts her trans-Atlantic boat trip to New York, in Plymouth



Enguerrand David of Belgium and Leonardo Ugolini of Italy work on their fairytale sand sculptures as they prepare before the opening of an International Sand Sculpture Festival in Ashkelon, Israel August 7, 2019. Picture taken August 7, 2019. REUTERS/Amir Cohen TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY

Measles Outbreak This Year Has Been Worst Of The Century

U.S. Multi-state Measles Outbreak December 28, 2014 - March 13, 2015



From December 28, 2014 to March 13, 2015, 145 people from 7 states in the U.S. (AZ (7), CA (129), CO (1), NE (2), OR (1), UT (3), WA (2)) were reported to have measles and are considered to be part of a large, ongoing outbreak linked to an amusement park in California.

*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.



AP/CDC 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.

Most Americans have no firsthand experience with measles and that lack of familiarity, along with the online success of the anti-vaccine movement, is giving a deadly but easily preventable virus an opening to spread.

So far in 2019:

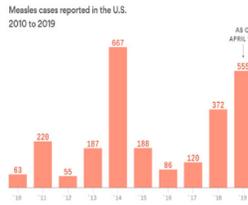
•695 confirmed cases of measles in 22 states.

•More than 70 new confirmed cases re-

ported in just the past week.

•5 states reporting ongoing outbreaks as of Monday (at least 3 cases in one place counts as an outbreak).

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.

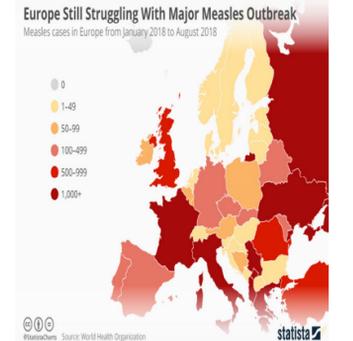
•Globally, the World Health Organization and UNICEF announced Monday that provisional data also shows that in 170 countries there have been more than 112,000 cases so far this year, compared with the numbers from all of last year, which was 28,124 cases from 163 countries.

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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Most U.S. cities are at risk of experiencing extreme heat thanks to the “urban heat island effect” that’s causing cities to warm as much as 50% faster than the rest of the country.

Why it matters: July was the hottest month ever recorded globally, and it was especially brutal for major metros.

“The extreme heat we’re seeing right now is the result of both climate change and urban development patterns. Cities have to think about the long-term implications of the changing environment.”

— Katharine Burgess, vice president of urban resilience at the Urban Land Institute

The big picture: Severe heat wreaks havoc on cities’ infrastructure, like electric grids, and presents serious public health risks.

City planners and developers are rethinking urban design to keep buildings and people cool as temperatures rise, according to a new report by the Urban Land Institute first shared with Axios.



Extreme heat may be a material risk: Moody’s, Fitch Ratings and S&P Global warned that credit ratings could take into account cities’ strategies for dealing with climate change. That could significantly impact cities’ ability to raise capital and finance projects.

•**Midsized U.S. cities** can expect about a 1% GDP loss by 2050 due to increased expenses and reduced growth associated with rising temperatures.

By the numbers: On average, cities are 2°F to 6°F warmer than their surroundings. Because they are covered with sun-absorbing pavement and rooftops, cities can be up to 22 degrees hotter than

July 2019 Was The Hottest Month Ever Recorded Globally
Rising Global Temperatures Wreak Havoc On Urban “Heat Islands”



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

surrounding areas.

•Today, cities have on average 10 more extreme heat events per year than they did in the mid-1950s.

•Heat islands cause about 20% of the formation of urban smog, which then traps even more hot air in a city.



What’s happening: From an economic perspective, cities that plan for super-hot futures may have a competitive advantage as consumers’ preferences change with the weather.

•**In Houston,** a midtown thoroughway was narrowed to make room for 175 large trees to provide shade cover along the corridor, resulting in a 20-degree temperature reduction in shaded areas.

•**In Scottsdale,** a mixed-use development placed clustered buildings at specific angles to provide shade to each other and to pedestrian walkways. A giant custom shade was installed above the

central plaza.

•**In New York City,** parking lots are being turned into green spaces and “cool roofs” are installed throughout the city.

•**In Toronto,** all buildings of a certain size are required by law to install vegetation on rooftops to reduce ambient temperatures. Greening 5% of the city’s rooftop areas is estimated to lower city-wide temperatures by about 1 degree.

•**In Los Angeles,** where 40% of the city is covered with pavement, roofing materials must meet new sun-reflecting standards, and some city roads are coated with light-colored, reflective coating.



The catch: Heat mitigation measures are expensive, especially for large-scale projects. In the near-term, increasing air conditioning will likely be the go-to cooling method, even though they give off heat that may increase local temperatures and, through emissions, worsen climate change.

The most intense daytime urban heat islands are Las Vegas, Albuquerque, Denver, Portland, Louisville, Washington, D.C., Kansas City, Columbus, Minneapolis and Seattle.

Threat level: The impacts of extreme heat are felt disproportionately by a city’s most vulnerable populations — the homeless, elderly, young and those living in poverty. Low-income communities are also less likely to have air conditioning or access to pools or cooling centers.

The bottom line: Severe heat will force cities, especially those in already-warm climates, to find long-term cooling strategies to protect their people, infrastructure and economy. (Courtesy axios.com)



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