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Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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‘Accidents can happen at European nuclear plants too,’ Russian ex-president

HONG KONG, Aug 12 (Reuters) - Hong Kong's economy contracted 1.3% in the second quarter from the same period a year earlier, government data showed on Friday, following a weak performance in external trade during the period.

It was the second straight quarter of year-on-year contraction for the Asian financial hub's gross domestic product (GDP).

Seasonally adjusted GDP was 1% higher in the second quarter than three months earlier, however.

Rising inflation, cooling global demand and weak consumer sentiment in the trade-reliant city remain significant risks for the recovery, analysts say.

The second quarter's annual growth pace compared with a decline of 3.9% in the previous quarter. The advance estimate for the second quarter had been a 1.4% contraction.

COVID-19 restrictions have weighed on the city's economy since early 2020, grinding tourism and business trips to a halt and battering bars, restaurants and shops repeatedly for prolonged periods.

The curbs are partly blamed for a net outflow of 113,200 people from Hong Kong between mid-2021 and mid-2022, according to government estimates.

The city of 7.3 million has shortened the mandatory hotel quarantine period for all arrivals to three days from seven, but, as much of the world is now co-existing with the virus, the restrictions are expected to keep the city isolated. read more

“The “3+4” scheme may be helpful for trips by Hong Kong residents, but there will not be any meaningful impact in attracting tourists and business travellers until it matches the policies of the competitors, such as Singapore,” said Gary Ng, senior economist at Natixis Corporate and Investment Bank.

The outlook for the global financial hub was overshadowed by increasing inflation rates globally and an uncertain geopolitical situation, although the prospects of a revival in the mainland economy should offset risks, the government said.

“The markedly deteriorating external environment will weigh heavily on Hong Kong's export performance in the remainder of the year,” a government spokesperson said in a statement.

“Elevated inflation in the advanced economies and the aggressive tightening of monetary policy by many major central banks in response will further weaken the global growth momentum, though the expected revival of the mainland economy



U.S. tightens export controls on advanced chip, gas turbine engine tech

WASHINGTON, Aug 12 (Reuters) - The United States on Friday adopted new export controls on technologies that support the production of advanced semiconductors and gas turbine engines that it said are critical to its national security.

The “emerging and foundational technologies” covered by the move include gallium oxide and diamond, because “devices that utilize these materials have significantly increased military potential,” the Commerce Department said. “Technological advancements that allow technologies like semiconductors and engines to operate faster, more efficiently, longer, and in more severe conditions can be game changers in both the commercial and military context,” said Commerce Under Secretary for Industry and Security Alan Estevez. “When we recognize the risks as well as the benefits, and act in concert with our international partners, we can ensure that our shared security objectives are met.”

The four technologies are among items that 42 participating countries reached consensus to control at December 2021 meetings. The United States export controls cover a wider range of technologies, including additional equip-

ment, software, and technology used to produce semiconductors than the international agreement.

Gallium oxide and diamond allow semiconductors “to work under more severe conditions, such as at higher voltages or higher temperatures. Devices that utilize these materials have significantly increased military potential,” Commerce said.

The controls include ECAD, a category of software tools used for validating integrated circuits or printed circuit boards “that can advance many commercial as well as military applications including defense and communications satellites,” the department said.

In June 2021, the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission found the department was not doing enough to keep sensitive technology out of the hands of China's military. The lag in developing the list of emerging and foundational technologies, as required by a 2018 law, may exacerbate national security risks, the report said.

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WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

08/12/2022

The Mortgage Rate Has Climbed Back Again

The national mortgage rate has climbed back to above 5% again this week, but the housing market is starting to stabilize.

The 30-year fixed treasury this week average is 5.22%. This is significantly higher than this time last year when it was 2.87%.

Although the rate continues to fluctuate, recent data suggests that the housing market is stabilizing. According to the latest July figures, the inflation rate has started to slow down, but still remains high.

The supply of housing remains fairly tight

across most of the market. The price will continue to rise, but at a slower pace, for the rest of the summer. But some of the home price reductions reached 19% in July, closing in on level not seen since 2017. This is a welcome sign for those in the market who want to buy a house.

Many Asian families are saying their first priority is buying a house. According to a survey, more than 85% own their home today. We really suggest that they should



wait for a while until the interest rate goes down and the inflation rate could be improved.

Attorney General Approved The Raid On Trump's Mar-a-Lago



Attorney General Herrick Garland spoke about the FBI agents who raided former

President Trump's Mar-a-Lago residence in Florida.

Garland said that the government has filed a motion to unseal the warrant authorizing Monday's search which Trump has sharply criticized as a partisan attack.

Garland said that he personally approved the unprecedented decision to seek such a warrant against the former president.

Republicans want transparency about the raiding on the former president's property, as Trump's supporters have cast the investigation as a partisan sham.

Garland said, "The men and women of the FBI are dedicated patriotic public servants. They protect the American people from violent crime, terrorism and other threats to their safety while safeguarding our civil rights."

We all are waiting for the results of this raid and hope there will be more truth that will come out soon.



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Southern DAILY Make Today Different

Editor's Choice



A rainbow forms as soldiers participate in a rescue operation for miners trapped in a coal mine that collapsed, in Sabinas, Coahuila state, Mexico. REUTERS/Daniel Becerril



Actor Diane Keaton shows her hands after placing them on fresh cement during a ceremony TCL Chinese theatre in Los Angeles, California. REUTERS/Mario Anzuoni



Italy's Nicolò Martinenghi in action during the men's 100m breaststroke semi-final 2 at the European Aquatics Championships. REUTERS/Antonio Bronic



Chicago Cubs pitcher Michael Rucker (59) and bullpen catcher Garrett Lloyd (85) walk through the corn before a Major League Baseball game against the Cincinnati Reds at the Field of Dreams in Dyersville, Iowa. Joseph Cross-USA TODAY Sports



Firefighters embrace as they work to contain a fire in Saint-Magne, as wildfires continue to spread in the Gironde region of southwestern France. REUTERS/Stephane Mahe



U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland turns away and leaves the podium after speaking about the FBI's search warrant served at former President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida during a statement at the U.S. Justice Department in Washington. REUTERS/Evelyn Hockstein

The Return Of Polio? Hundreds Of People Could Already Be Infected With Polio Virus

N.Y. Health Department Confirms First U.S. Polio Case Since 2013

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



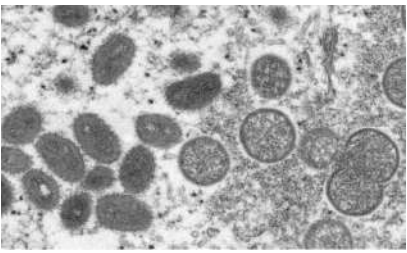
Dr. Jonas Salk studies slides in his laboratory following the invention of his pioneering polio vaccine, circa 1957. (Photo/Three Lions-Hulton Archive/Getty Images/TNS)

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

New York state health officials have found indications of additional cases of polio virus in wastewater samples from two different counties, leading them to warn that hundreds of people may be infected with the potentially serious virus.

Just two weeks ago, the New York Health Department reported the nation's first case of polio in almost a decade, in Rockland County, north of New York City. Officials said that case occurred in a previously healthy young adult who was unvaccinated and developed paralysis in their legs. Since then, three positive wastewater samples from Rockland County and four from neighboring Orange County were discovered and genetically linked to the first case, the health department said in a press release on Thursday, suggesting that the polio virus is being spread within local communities. The newest samples were taken from two locations in Orange County in June and July and one location in Rockland County in July.

"Based on earlier polio outbreaks, New Yorkers should know that for every one case of paralytic polio observed, there may be hundreds of other people infected," State Health Commissioner Dr. Mary T. Bassett said. "Coupled with the latest wastewater findings, the Department is treating the single case of polio as just the tip of the iceberg of much greater potential spread. As we learn more, what we do know is clear: the danger of polio is present in New York today."



The health department reiterated that it is still investi-

gating the virus' origin, and said that it is not yet clear whether the infected person in Rockland County was linked to the other cases.

Polio is "a serious and life-threatening disease," the state health department said. It is highly contagious and can be spread by people who aren't yet symptomatic. Symptoms usually appear within 30 days of infection, and can be mild or flu-like. Some people who are infected may become paralyzed or die.

Before the polio vaccine was introduced in the 1950s, thousands of Americans died in polio outbreaks and tens of thousands, many of them children, were left with paralysis. After a successful vaccination campaign, polio was officially declared eradicated in the U.S. in 1979.

Unvaccinated New Yorkers are encouraged to get immunized right away, the health department said. Unvaccinated people who live, work or spend time in Rockland County, Orange County and the greater New York metropolitan area are at the greatest risk.



Most school-aged children have received the polio vaccine, which is a four-dose course, started between 6 weeks and 2 months of age and followed by one shot at 4 months, one at 6 to 12 months, and one between the ages of 4 and 6. According to the health department, about 60% of children in Rockland County have received three polio shots before their second birthday, as have about 59% in Orange County — both below the 79% statewide figure. According to the CDC's most recent childhood vaccination data, about 93% of 2-year-olds in the U.S. had received at least three doses of polio vaccine. Meanwhile, adults who are not vaccinated would receive a three-dose immunization, and those who are vaccinated but at high risk can receive a lifetime booster shot, according to the health department. The vaccine is 99% effective in children who receive the full four-dose regime, health officials said.

"It is concerning that polio, a disease that has been largely eradicated through vaccination, is now circulating in our community, especially given the low rates of vaccination for this debilitating disease in certain areas of our County," Orange County Health Commissioner Dr. Irina Gelman said. "I urge all unvaccinated Orange County residents to get vaccinated as soon as medically feasible."



Rockland County Department of Health Commissioner Dr. Patricia Schnabel Ruppert issued a similar

statement, calling on people who are not vaccinated to get the shots "immediately."

Polio has rarely appeared in the U.S. since it was declared eradicated over 40 years ago. The last reported case was brought by a traveler in 2013, according to The Associated Press. (Courtesy cbsnews.com)

Related
Bill Gates Warns That Polio Found In New York Is 'A Threat To Us All'

A once-eradicated disease has reemerged in New York, and it's spooking health officials and billionaire philanthropist Bill Gates.

On Aug. 4, New York health authorities announced they had detected polio in wastewater samples from two counties north of New York City. Officials called the results, along with a confirmed case of polio in New York's Rockland County in July, the "tip of the iceberg" for a wider polio outbreak of the disease that can cause paralysis.



Microsoft cofounder Bill Gates, through the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, has been a vocal advocate for stamping out polio for years.

LEON NEAL—POO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES
Gates—a longtime champion of polio eradication—weighed in Monday, calling the news an "urgent reminder" that "until we #EndPolio for good, it remains a threat to us all," on Twitter.

"The global eradication strategy must be fully supported to protect people everywhere," wrote Gates, a Microsoft cofounder and the world's fifth-richest man with a net worth of \$118 billion.

TWEET
Bill Gates
@BillGates

News that polio has been detected in New York wastewater samples is an urgent reminder: until we #EndPolio for good, it remains a threat to us all. The global eradication strategy must be fully supported to protect people everywhere.



Gates, through the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, has been a vocal advocate for eradicating polio for years. The foundation is one of several partners in the Polio Global Eradication Initiative (PGEI), alongside organizations like the World Health Organization, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef). The PGEI hopes to eradicate polio in the wild by 2026. The Gates Foundation has donated \$4.2 billion to the GPEI, and in 2020 alone provided about 47% of

the initiative's total funds, making it the largest donor ahead of the U.S. government.

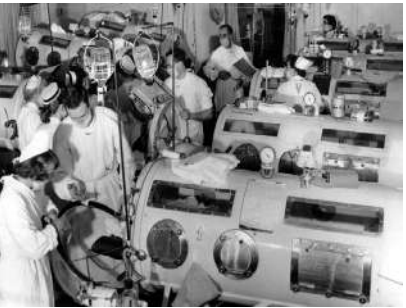
Despite new evidence of polio in New York, the campaign to eradicate the disease has been one of the world's most successful public health initiatives. There were 350,000 cases of polio in 1988, when the GPEI was founded. That total has fallen to 688 in 2021. Two of polio's three strains have been eradicated.



The World Health Organization considers polio to be endemic in Pakistan and Afghanistan, meaning that the poliovirus still exists in the wild. Outbreaks in other countries are either sparked by imported cases, or spread by an individual who received the oral polio vaccine, which uses a weakened, but not inactivated, poliovirus that can then infect unvaccinated individuals.

According to the CDC, many carriers of the poliovirus are asymptomatic, and one in four will get flu-like symptoms. However, somewhere between one and five in a thousand cases can suffer from serious and life-threatening symptoms, like paralysis. Even those who recover can have symptoms like muscle weakness and paralysis return years later in a long-lasting condition known as post-polio syndrome.

Rockland County has some of the lowest overall vaccination rates in New York State, including for polio, with only about 60% of young children getting the required three doses for full protection. In 2019 the county was hit by a severe measles outbreak that forced the government to remove thousands of unvaccinated children from schools.



Efforts to fight the COVID-19 pandemic may be diverting resources away from public health campaigns like polio eradication. Global vaccination coverage for polio fell to 80% in 2021, down from 86% in 2019.

On July 22, Gates called the drop in vaccination rates "heartbreaking" on Twitter, saying that "there's a lot of work ahead to get back to, and eventually exceed, pre-pandemic vaccination levels." (Courtesy https://fortune.com/)

Related
Strongly Urging Immunization, New York State Department of Health Updates Citizens On

Polio Samples That Have Been Detected



Key Points

Following the Identification of a Paralytic Polio Case in Rockland County, More Virus Found in Environmental Samples in Rockland and Orange Counties - Evidence of Local Transmission To Keep New Yorkers and Children Polio-Free, Unvaccinated New Yorkers Should Get Immunized Right Away

Vaccines became available starting in 1955, and a national vaccination campaign cut the annual number of U.S. cases to less than 100 in the 1960s and fewer than 10 in the 1970s, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In 1979, polio was declared eliminated in the U.S., meaning there was no longer routine spread. Rarely, travelers with polio have brought infections into the U.S., with the last such case in 2013.

U.S. children are still routinely vaccinated against polio. Federal officials recommend four doses: to be given at 2 months of age; 4 months; at 6 to 18 months; and at age 4 through 6 years. Some states require only three doses.

According to the CDC's most recent childhood vaccination data, about 93% of 2-year-olds had received at least three doses of polio vaccine.

Polio spreads mostly from person to person or through contaminated water. It can infect a person's spinal cord, causing paralysis and possibly permanent disability and death. The disease mostly affects children.



Dr. Jonas Salk, developer of the Salk polio vaccine, with vaccine vials in the mid 1950's.

Polio is endemic in Afghanistan and Pakistan, although numerous countries in Africa, the Middle East and Asia have also reported cases in recent years.

Rockland County, in New York City's northern suburbs, has been a center of vaccine resistance in recent years. A 2018-2019 measles outbreak there infected 312 people.

Last month, health officials in Britain warned parents to make sure children have been vaccinated because the polio virus had been found in London sewage samples. No cases of paralysis were reported. (Courtesy apa-az)

COMMUNITY

Decades After Polio, An Iron Lung Is Still Relied On To Breathe By Patient

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



Martha Lillard needed a large respirator called an iron lung to recover from polio, which she caught in 1953. She still uses a form of the device at nights. (Photo courtesy of Martha Lillard)

On June 8, 1953, Martha Lillard celebrated her fifth birthday with a party at an amusement park in Oklahoma. A little over a week later, she woke up with a sore throat and a pain in her neck. Her family took her to the hospital, where she was diagnosed with polio.

She spent six months in the hospital, where she was put in a giant metal tank — a ventilator informally called an iron lung — to help her breathe. To this day, Lillard is one of the last people in the U.S. who still depends on an iron lung to survive.

Polio is a potentially life-threatening disease, once among the world's most feared. In the late 1940s, polio disabled an average of 35,000 people in the U.S. every year. A polio vaccine became widely available in 1955, and millions of Americans got vaccinated. Since 1979, no cases of polio have originated in the U.S., according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The disease has been nearly eradicated — the World Health Organization documented only 175 cases of wild polio in 2019. It remains endemic in only Pakistan and Afghanistan. Although most people who contract polio will not have visible symptoms, a severe case can infect the brain and spinal cord and cause paralysis. Lillard's breathing muscles were weakened by the disease, and she survived thanks to the iron lung.



Iron lung respirators are prepared in an emergency polio ward at a Boston hospital in August 1955. (Photo/AP)

The machines are giant ventilators about 7 feet long. Patients lie inside with just their heads resting outside; a seal around the patient's neck creates a vacuum. Bellows at the base of the device do the work of a human diaphragm — they create negative pressure so the user's lungs fill with air, and positive pressure allowing the person to exhale.

Sixty-eight years later, an iron lung is still keeping Lillard alive — she sleeps in it every night. While many people who had polio or post-polio syndrome either weaned themselves off the machines or switched to another form of ventilator, Lillard never did.

"I've tried all the forms of ventilation, and the iron lung is the most efficient and the best and the most comfortable way," she told Radio Diaries.

The antiquated machines are now more likely to be found in a museum than in someone's home. In the 1990s, when her iron lung was breaking down, she called hospitals and museums that might have had old ones in storage. But they'd either thrown them away or didn't want to part with their collection. She eventually bought one from a man in Utah — the machine she still uses today.

The machines were once serviced by Philips Resperonic, but Lillard says the assistance she received from the company was minimal. Once, she says a technician was sent to service her machine and prepared to leave before putting the machine back together.

Lillard has gotten stuck in the iron lung. She lost power when an ice storm came through Oklahoma and her emergency generator didn't kick on, leaving her trapped in the device without heat.

"It's like being buried alive almost, you know — it's so scary," Lillard says. She tried to call 911, but the cell towers weren't working. "I was having trouble breathing. And I remember saying out loud to myself, 'I'm not going to die.' " Lillard was eventually able to get a signal, but she remembers the emergency responders had no idea what an iron lung was. Luckily, they were able to get the generator going for her.



Martha Lillard says she worries about running out of replacement parts to make her iron lung respirator function properly. (Photo courtesy of Martha Lillard)

Wear on parts is her main issue now. The belts need to be replaced every few weeks, the cot inside every six months, the motor every 12 years or so. Her most immediate need is collars. The collars create the critical airtight seal around the neck. Each one lasts only for a few months. And she has bought all the back stock of collars from places that don't produce them anymore.

"That's the main thing I'm having a hard time with, because I try to stretch out, make these collars last longer," Lillard says. "And when they start deteriorating, it gets harder and harder to breathe as they leak more."

She has only a handful of collars left. "I really am desperate," she says. "That's the most scary thing in my life right now — is not finding anybody that can make those collars."



Dr. Jonas Salk administers vaccine to young patient.

Being affected by polio at such a young age has meant Lillard hasn't been able to have all the experiences others have had. She attended school from home for much of her childhood and couldn't participate in most extracurricular activities — she still remembers longing to go camping with her siblings. She was not able to have children or hold a steady job because of her physical limitations.

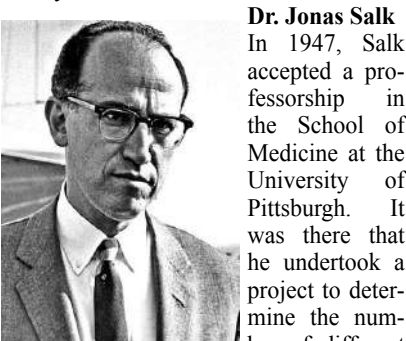
Although some of her life experiences were limited, Lillard thanks a childhood friend named Karen Rapp for teaching her to appreciate small things. Together, they observed ants and built little villages of grass huts.

"There's much more to see if you really look for it," she says.

And she's grateful for the iron lung. "It's what sustains me. It's what heals me. It's what allows me to breathe the next day," Lillard says. "I look at it as a friend, as a very dear friend." (Courtesy npr.org)

Related

Jonas Salk Creator Of The Salk Vaccine
Jonas Edward Salk (Born Jonas Salk; October 28, 1914 – June 23, 1995) was an American virologist and medical researcher who developed one of the first successful polio vaccines. He was born in New York City and attended the City College of New York and New York University School of Medicine.



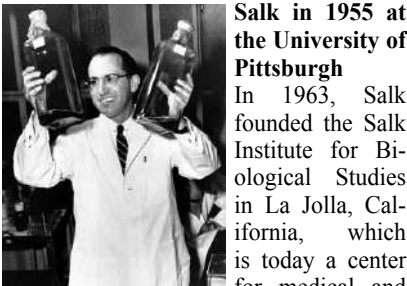
Dr. Jonas Salk
In 1947, Salk accepted a professorship in the School of Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh. It was there that he undertook a project to determine the number of different

types of poliovirus, starting in 1948. For the next seven years, Salk devoted himself towards developing a vaccine against polio. Salk was immediately hailed as a "miracle worker" when the vaccine's success was first made public in April 1955, and chose to not patent the vaccine or seek any profit from it in order to maximize its global distribution. The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis and the University of Pittsburgh looked into patenting the vaccine but, since Salk's techniques were not novel, their patent attorney said, "if there were any patentable novelty to be found in this phase it would lie within an extremely narrow scope and would be of doubtful value."



Jonas Salk wrote about the polio vaccine trial project, "the most elaborate program of its kind in history, involving 20,000 physicians and public health officers, 64,000 school personnel, and 220,000 volunteers," with over 1.8 million school children participating in the trial. A 1954 Gallup poll showed that more Americans knew about the polio field trials than could give the full name of the current U.S. president.

An immediate rush to vaccinate began in both the United States and around the world. Many countries began polio immunization campaigns using Salk's vaccine, including Canada, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, West Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and Belgium. By 1959, the Salk vaccine had reached about 90 countries. An attenuated live oral polio vaccine was developed by Albert Sabin, coming into commercial use in 1961. Less than 25 years after the release of Salk's vaccine, domestic transmission of polio had been completely eliminated in the United States.



Salk in 1955 at the University of Pittsburgh
In 1963, Salk founded the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in La Jolla, California, which is today a center for medical and scientific research. He continued to conduct research and publish books in his later years, focusing in his last years on the search for a vaccine against HIV. Salk also campaigned vigorously for mandatory vaccination throughout the rest of his life, calling the universal vaccination of children against disease a "moral commitment". Salk's personal papers are today stored in Geisel Library at the University of California, San Diego. (Courtesy Wikipedia)