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Inside C2

Tuesday, March 28 2023

## Woman shoots dead 3 children, 3 adults at Christian school in Tennessee

NASHVILLE, Tennessee, March 27 (Reuters) - A 28-year-old woman armed with several guns opened fire on Monday at a private Christian school she once attended in Tennessee's capital city, killing three children and three adult staffers before police killed her, authorities said.

There was no immediate official word on a possible motive for the gun violence, which unfolded on a warm spring morning not long after classes began at The Convent School, whose students consist mostly of elementary school-age children.

The woman was carrying at least two semi-automatic rifles and a handgun, police said.

The Metropolitan Nashville Police Department began receiving calls at 10:13 a.m. of a shooter at the school, and arriving officers reported hearing gunfire coming from the building's second floor, police spokesperson Don Aaron told reporters.

Two officers from a five-member team shot the assailant in a lobby area, and she was pronounced dead by 10:27 a.m..

"The police department response was swift," Aaron said. Police Chief John Drake later described the suspect as a 28-year-old woman from the Nashville area who "at one point was a student at this school." But her identity was not immediately made public.

Deadly mass shootings have become commonplace in the United States in recent years, but a female attacker is highly unusual. Only four of 191 mass shootings cataloged since 1966 by The Violence Project, a nonprofit research center, were carried out by a female attacker.

Law enforcement officers and members of the U.S. marshalls work at a family reunification center after a mass shooting at the Covenant School in Nashville



Law enforcement officers and members of the U.S. marshals work at a family reunification center after a mass shooting at the Covenant School in Nashville, Tennessee, U.S. March 27, 2023. REUTERS/ Kevin Wurm

Reacting to the shooting in Washington, U.S. President Joe Biden urged Congress again to pass more gun reform legislation.

"It's sick," he said, addressing the issue during an event at the White House. "We have to do more to protect our schools so they aren't turned into prisons ... I call on Congress again to pass my assault weapons ban.

Three students were pronounced dead after arriving at Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt with gunshot wounds, John Howser, a hospital spokesperson, said in a statement. Three adult staff members were killed by the shooter, police said.

Besides the deceased, no one else was shot, Aaron said. Students' parents were told to gather at the nearby Woodmont Baptist Church to be reunited with their children. Parents trickled out of the building with their youngsters in tow. One woman was visibly distraught as she was

escorted alone out of the church to an awaiting squad car by police officers.

The Covenant School, founded in 2001, is a ministry of Covenant Presbyterian Church in the Green Hills neighborhood of Nashville with about 200 students, according to the school's website. The school serves preschool through sixth graders and held an active shooter training program in 2022, WTVF-TV reported.

Nashville Mayor John Cooper expressed sympathy for the victims and wrote on social media that his city "joined the dreaded, long list of communities to experience a school shooting.'

There have been 89 school shootings – defined as anytime a gun is discharged on school property – in the U.S. so far in 2023, according to the K-12 School Shooting Database, a website founded by researcher David Riedman. Last year saw 303 such incidents, the highest of any year in the database, which goes back to 1970

## U.S. backstops Silicon Valley Bank sale to First Citizens

March 27 (Reuters) - U.S. regulators said on Monday they would backstop a deal for regional lender First Citizens BancShares to acquire failed Silicon Valley Bank, triggering an estimated \$20 billion hit to a government-run insurance fund.

The deal comes after the Federal **Deposit Insurance Corporation** (FDIC) took over Silicon Valley Bank on March 10 after depositors rushed to pull out their money in a bank run that also brought down Signature Bank and wiped out more than half the market value of several other U.S. regional lenders.

The deal was "momentous" for First Citizens, CEO Frank Holding told investors on a conference call Monday. "We believe this transaction is a great outcome for depositors."

The Raleigh, North Caroli-

na-based lender has completed 21 such government-assisted deals, including 14 since 2009 when CEO Holding was made chairman, according to a Piper Sandler note on Monday.

The FDIC fund does not take U.S. taxpayer money and is instead replenished by a levy on member banks.

"The FDIC's sale of SVB helps show business can go on as usual for the banking industry," a team of Wells Fargo analysts led by Mike Mayo said in a note on Monday.

First Citizens will not pay cash upfront for the deal. Instead, it said it granted equity appreciation rights in its stock to the FDIC that could be worth up to \$500 million -- a fraction of what Silicon Valley Bank was worth before it failed.



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星期二

2023年3月28日

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

# WEALEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

03/25/2023

# The Ethnic Alliance is Being Organized

Leaders of the Houston community led by Congressman Al Green will continue to hold a preparation meeting to actively communicate on how to effectively form a united front. We all fully support this event to jointly carry forward the spirit of unity.

Over the decades. we all took root in this land. This is the period of time that our ethnic

Asian community has unfortunately suffered the most obvious discrimination, which plainly means that a wave of anti-immigrants is forming in our society. This growing and unhealthy trend, if unchallenged, will affect many of our generations to come.

To be honest, most of us of this generation came here to pursue our studies and settle down as



professionals in all kinds of businesses. Today, we are considered to be good citizens.

Today the political ecology of our nation has dramatically and sadly changed. Consider the high-ranking officials and our representatives in the U.S. capitol. They were elected to govern the nation on our behalf, but their recent behavior has become divisive and shameful.



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## **Editor's Choice**



A Chinese student who calls herself Evie makes a video for her followers on Douyin, a Chinese social media network similar to Tiktok, on Tower Bridge in London, Britain. REUTERS/Kevin Coombs



Members of the gendarmerie run during a demonstration called by the collective "Bassines Non Merci" against the "basins" on the construction site of new water storage infrastructure for agricultural irrigation in western France, in Sainte-Soline, France. REU-TERS/Yves Herman



Visitors fly kites during the annual Cherry Blossoms Kite Fest near the U.S. Capitol building on the National Mall, in Washington. REUTERS/Tom Brenner



KeUntey Ousley tries to salvage what he can from his mother's boyfriend's vehicle, as his mother LaShata Ousley and his girlfriend Mikita Davis watch, after a tornado cut through their small Delta town the night before in Rolling Fork, Mississippi. Barbara Gauntt/USA Today Network.



Security forces operate as supporters of Brazil's former President Jair Bolsonaro demonstrate against President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, outside Brazil's National Congress in Brasilia, Brazil, January 8. REUTERS/ Adriano Machado



People reach out to touch Pope Francis' hand during his meeting with the faithful of parishes from Rho at the Vatican. REUTERS/Yara Nardi

### 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

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.



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

# **BUSINESS**

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 FoundIn** 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 waste-

water samples is an urgent reminder, until we #End-Polio for good, it remains a threat to us all. The global eradication strategy must be fully supported to protect people everywhere.



Gates tweeted a similar warning about the threat of polio in July, after New York health authorities announced the discovery of a single case of paralytic polio in an unvaccinated young adult

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 individu-

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 vac-

cination 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



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/)

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

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 viles 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 sub-

urbs, has been a center of vaccine resistance in recent years. A 2018-2019 measles outbreak there infected

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)

# Southern Make Today Different

Health Officials Say They Are Being Forced To Suspend Their Mass Immunization Efforts Amid The Surging Coronavirus Pandemic

### The World Health Organization **Suspends Polio Immunization Efforts Due To COVID-19 Crisis**



Child receives oral polio immunization.

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

LONDON -- Health officials attempting to eradicate polio say they are being forced to suspend their mass immunization efforts amid the surging coronavirus pandemic.

The World Health Organization and partners decided that for the next six months, all polio activities including national vaccination campaigns and house-to-house surveillance "should be suspended to avoid placing communities and frontline workers at unneces-

The announcement came after a meeting last week of the Polio Oversight Board, an expert body coordinated by WHO and partners.

The experts noted that while halting efforts to stop polio is necessary given the speed at which COVID-19 is infecting people globally, it will undoubtedly result in the increased spread of the paralytic disease and the numbers of children paralyzed by the virus.

The mass vaccination campaigns — which occur as frequently as every month - are critical to stopping polio, as eradication requires that more than 95% of children under 5 be immunized.



The polio epidemic of the 1950's.

The global effort to wipe out polio began in 1988 and was intended to eliminate the disease by 2000. But the initiative has been hobbled by numerous problems including resistance to the vaccines, outbreaks in some instances caused by the vaccines themselves and little access to conflict areas in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria.

It will be up to individual countries to decide whether to suspend their vaccination campaigns, according to a note released after the polio meeting. Officials warned that stopping polio efforts will require scaled-up work once immunization activities can re-

Polio is endemic in Afghanistan and Pakistan and continues to be a problem in about 10 other countries worldwide. (Courtesy https://abcnews.go.com/)

Related |

# COMMUNITY

Surge As COVID-19 Forces Suspension Of Vaccination Campaigns

"A devil's choice." That's how Seth Berklev. head of GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance. describes the dilemma facing global health organizations in the past few weeks. They could either continue to support mass vaccination campaigns in poor countries and risk inadvertently helping to spread COVID-19—or recommend their suspension, inevitably triggering an upsurge of many other infectious diseases. In the end, they chose the latter. As Science reported last week, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative on 24 March recommended suspending polio vaccination campaigns until the second



Door-to-door campaigns against polio, such as this one in Kenya in 2018, could help spread COVID-19.

Two days later, the World Health Organization's (WHO's) Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE) issued a broader call, recommending that all preventive mass vaccination campaigns for other diseases be postponed. "Any mass campaigns would go against the idea of social distancing," says Alejandro Cravioto of the National Autonomous University of Mexico's faculty of medicine, who chairs SAGE.

But experts say the fallout from the wrenching decision will be huge and may last long after the pandemic subsides. It comes on top of the damage COVID-19 will do to the fragile health systems in many countries.

Mass vaccination campaigns against a host of diseases are already grinding to a halt in many countries. For many children, these campaigns are the only chance to get vaccines. Some 13.5 million have already missed out on vaccinations for polio, measles, human papillomavirus, yellow fever, cholera, and meningitis since the suspensions began, Berkley says. "I tell you those see today.

In the case of polio, more children will be paralyzed in countries where polio is still circulating, and the virus will likely spread to countries that are now polio-free. The decision couldn't come at a worse time. The polio eradication effort is already reeling from setbacks in Afghanistan and Pakistan, where the wild virus is surging, and in Africa, where outbreaks caused by the live polio vaccine itself are spiraling out of control. The program will reassess the decision every



Twenty-three countries have already suspended their measles campaigns, and as a result, 78 million children will miss out on the vaccine, says Robb Linkins, a measles expert in in the Global Immunization Division of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Sixteen other countries are still deciding. Linkins foresees "tragic" consequences. In poor countries, the virus can kill 3% to 6% of those it infects, WHO says, with malnourished children especially at risk. Measles infected an estimated 10 million and killed 140,000 in 2018, the last year for which numbers are complete. And because measles is incredibly contagious, case numbers could quickly surge following the suspensions.

Unlike the polio initiative, SAGE stopped short of recommending that countries halt campaigns to quell ongoing measles outbreaks, but it said they should carefully weigh the risk of an immediate response against that of a delayed one. For now, campaigns are continuing in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where the world's biggest outbreak has so far killed an estimated 6500 children—far more than the ongoing Ebola outbreak in that country-and sickened more than 340,000.

WHO, GAVI, and other health organizations stress that routine immunization of individual children at clinics must continue as much

But health systems in many countries were already stretched thin, and protective gear is often lacking. Berkley fears severe disruptions of routine immunization if health workers are diverted to COVID-19 or become sick or die, or if parents are afraid to bring their children to a clinic. Vaccines may run out as well. Some countries are already experiencing shortages as flights are grounded and borders close, Berkley says.



Other essential health services will also be disrupted, says Augustin Augier, executive director of the Alliance for International Medical Action. Every year, ALIMA trains about 500,000 African mothers to diagnose acute, potentially fatal malnutrition in their children; those programs have been suspended. The knock-on consequences of the pandemic "will be much stronger and more lethal for the world's most vulnerable populations," Augier says.

Across all these programs, the goal is to regain lost ground quickly once the pandemic is over. In the meantime, WHO says, countries should continue surveillance for vaccine-preventable diseases to figure out where pathogens are circulating and which children are most at risk. But that, too, is a challenge amid the fear and disruption from COVID-19.

Berkley sees some hope in the experience in West Africa after the 2014-15 Ebola outbreak. "There was an unprecedented flow of finance and goodwill," he says. "We did campaigns once Ebola was over and strengthened routine immunization. We not only recovered coverage levels, but exceeded them." But that epidemic was largely confined to three countries with a combined population of fewer than 25 million people. This time, the entire world is affected. (Courtesy https://www.sciencemag.org/)