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Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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Didi says it stores all China user and roads data in China

HONG KONG/BEIJING, July 3 (Reuters) - China's ride hailing giant Didi Global Inc (DIDI.N) stores all China user and roads data at servers in the country and it is "absolutely not possible" that the company passed data to the United States, a senior company executive said on Saturday.

Didi Vice President Li Min also said the company would sue any social media users who said the company transferred data during its recent initial public offering (IPO) process after claims were made on China's Twitter-like Weibo platform.

China's cyberspace agency announced on Friday it had launched an investigation into Didi to protect national security and the public interest, just two days after the company began trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

News of the Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC) probe, and the agency's decision to block Didi from registering new users during its investigation, knocked 5% off Beijing-based Didi's shares on Friday. read more

Like many overseas-listed Chinese companies, Didi stores all domestic user data at servers in China, it is absolutely not possible to pass data to the United States," Li said in a post on Weibo.

Didi, which offers services in China and more than 15 international markets, gathers vast amounts of real-time mobility data every day. It uses some of the data for autonomous driving technologies and traffic analysis.

Founded by Will Cheng in 2012, the company has already faced regulatory probes in China over safety and its operations licence



Military conflict looms in southern Yemen as tension rises between rivals:

ADEN, Yemen, -- Military confrontations between forces loyal to the Southern Transitional Council (STC) and Yemen's government became imminent amid rising tensions over the control of key areas, a military official told Xinhua on Saturday.

Tensions escalated in the wake of recent government's accusations to the STC on refusing to implement a Saudi-brokered deal signed between the two rivals in 2019.

"The government and the STC dispatched heavy troops backed by armored vehicles to areas near the coastal town of Shuqrah that's located on the Arabian Sea," the source said on condition of anonymity.

"The two sides are currently blaming each other for truce breaches and failure to implement the remaining security provisions of Riyadh deal," he said.

He said the STC's troops were fully prepared and ready to engage in new armed confrontations against the government forces in the country's south.

On the other side, the government forces raised the level of combat readiness

of some units in an attempt to prevent the STC's troops from advancement on-ground and seizing new key southern areas, according to the official.

Another security official confirmed to Xinhua that the relationship between the two rivals representing the country's recent power-sharing government has strained further as the STC's troops tightened its grip over the Socotra Archipelago, an area officially part of Yemen.

"The STC that's part of Yemen's government heavily deployed its military units and tightened the security measures in the strategic Socotra Island," the official said anonymously.

Socotra is located in one of the busiest shipping routes in the world and Yemen's warring factions sporadically engage in armed confrontations over establishing military bases there for controlling the strategic island.

In 2019, Saudi Arabia persuaded the STC and the Yemeni government to hold reconciliation talks, which succeeded in reaching a deal to form a new technocratic cabinet and ending a deadly conflict in the country's southern regions.



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WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

CORONAVIRUS DIARY 07/03/2021

Founding Of Texas Minority Media Alliance



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Texas every day and many of them are members of minority groups, especially those from California.

In the last forty years, Southern News Group has offered many media services to the community, including print newspaper and TV production and we have also held many community events that we have co-sponsored together with many groups.

Most of us came from different corners of the world. We settled down in this great land and made it our home. We all love America.

The Texas Minority Media Alliance can become one of the most important historical organizations in our history. We will continue to write new chapters of history for our community.

Today more than twenty Texas and Houston Minority Media leaders got together at an organizing meeting to form the Texas Minority Media Alliance. Together we will make a formidable force to be reckoned with. We must unite to

leverage the minority population with a voice.

We have united to form an alliance to extend our individual reach and support our collective communities.

We are so glad that our Congressman Al Green, Texas Senator

John Whitmire and State Representative Gene Wu came to the meeting to give us their support.

Today Texas is the state that has so many newcomers looking forward to opportunity. At least 11,000 new residents move to



Southern DAILY Make Today Different

Editor's Choice



An Iranian woman is seen through a plastic sheet as she waits to vote at a polling station during presidential elections in Tehran, Iran June 18, 2021. Majid Asgaripour/WANA (West Asia News Agency) via REUTERS



Emergency workers conduct search and rescue efforts at the site of a partially collapsed residential building in Surfside, near Miami Beach, Florida, June 29, 2021. REUTERS/Joe Skipper



Israeli security force members detain a Palestinian protester during clashes near Damascus Gate just outside Jerusalem's Old City June 17, 2021. REUTERS/Ammar Awad



An aerial view shows houseboats anchored in low water levels at Lake Oroville, which is the second-largest reservoir in California and according to daily reports of the state's Department of Water Resources is near 35% capacity, near Oroville, California, June 16, 2021. REUTERS/Aude Guerrucci



A demonstrator carries a rainbow flag during a protest against an attack on a local office of the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) and the killing of a woman working in the office, in Istanbul, Turkey June 17, 2021. REUTERS/Dilara Senkaya



A Miami-Dade County police boat sits at anchor as emergency workers conduct search and rescue efforts at the site of a partially collapsed residential building in Surfside, near Miami Beach, Florida, June 30. REUTERS/Joe Skipper

BUSINESS

Nearly Half Of New U.S. Virus Infections Are In Five States



Manhattan New York City During Lockdown

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

Nearly half of new coronavirus infections nationwide are in just five states — a situation that is putting pressure on the federal government to consider changing how it distributes vaccines by sending more doses to hot spots.

New York, Michigan, Florida, Pennsylvania and New Jersey together reported 44% of the nation's new COVID-19 infections, or nearly 197,500 new cases, in the latest available seven-day period, according to state health agency data compiled by Johns Hopkins University.

Total U.S. infections during the same week numbered more than 452,000.

The heavy concentration of new cases in states that account for 22% of the U.S. population has prompted some experts and elected officials to call for President Joe Biden's administration to ship additional vaccine doses to those places. So far, the White House has shown no signs of shifting from its policy of dividing vaccine doses among states based on population.

Sending extra doses to places where infection numbers are climbing makes sense, said Dr. Elvin H. Geng, a professor in infectious diseases at Washington University.

But it's also complicated. States that are more successfully controlling the virus might see less vaccine as a result.



"You wouldn't want to make those folks wait because they were doing better," Geng said. "On the other hand, it only makes sense to send vaccines to where the cases are rising."

The spike in cases has been especially pronounced in Michigan, where the seven-day average of daily new infections reached 6,719 cases Sunday — more than double what it was two weeks earlier. Only New York reported higher case numbers. And California and Texas, which have vastly larger populations than Michigan, are reporting less than half its number of daily infections.

Though Michigan has seen the highest rate of new infections in the past two

weeks, Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has said she does not plan to tighten restrictions. She has blamed the virus surge on pandemic fatigue, which has people moving about more, as well as more contagious variants.

"Taking steps back wasn't going to fix the issue," Whitmer said as she got her first vaccine Tuesday at Ford Field in Detroit, home of the NFL's Lions. "What we have to do is really put our foot down on the pedal on vaccines" and urge people to wear masks, keep their social distance and wash their hands.



Whitmer got the shot the day after Michigan expanded eligibility to everyone 16 and older. She asked the White House last week during a conference call with governors whether it has considered sending extra vaccine to states battling virus surges. She was told all options were on the table.

In New York City, vaccination appointments are still challenging to get. Mayor Bill de Blasio has publicly harangued the federal government about the need for a bigger vaccine allotment almost daily, a refrain he repeated when speaking to reporters Tuesday.

"We still need supply, supply, supply," de Blasio said, before adding, "But things are really getting better."

On the state level, Gov. Andrew Cuomo has not called publicly for an increase in New York's vaccine allotment, even as cases ticked up in recent weeks and the number of hospitalized people hit a plateau.

In New Jersey, where the seven-day rolling average of daily new infections has risen over the past two weeks, from 4,050 daily cases to 4,250, Democratic Gov. Phil Murphy said he is constantly talking to the White House about demand for the coronavirus vaccine, though he stopped

short of saying he was lobbying for more vaccines because of the state's high infection rate.



Vaccine shipments to New Jersey were up 12% in the last week, Murphy said Monday, though he questioned whether that's enough.

"We constantly look at, OK, we know we're going up, but are we going up at the rate we should be, particularly given the amount of cases we have?" Murphy said.

New virus variants are clearly one of the drivers in the increase, said Dr. Kirsten Bibbins-Domingo, chair of the department of epidemiology and biostatistics at the University of California at San Francisco. Failure to suppress the rise in cases will lead to more people getting sick and dying, she said, and drive increases in other parts of the country.

"More vaccine needs to be where the virus is," Bibbins-Domingo said, adding that people should get over the "scarcity mindset" that has them thinking surging vaccine into one place will hurt people elsewhere.

In Florida, relaxed safeguards during a busy spring break season likely helped spread virus variants, said University of South Florida epidemiologist Jason Salemi. The state's seven-day average of daily new infections has exceeded 5,400, an increase of 20% in the past two weeks.



While many new infections appear to be among younger people, Salemi said he's worried about Florida's seniors. About 78% of residents age 65 and older have received at least one vaccine dose, but roughly 1 mil-

lion more still have not gotten any shots. "We seemingly have the supply," Salemi said. "Are these people not planning to get vaccinated?"

Talk of sending extra shots to some states comes at a time when the number of daily infections in the U.S. has fallen dramatically compared to a January spike following the holiday season. However, the seven-day average of daily infections been rising slowly since mid-March.

The five states seeing the most infections stand out. As of Tuesday, 31 U.S. states were reporting seven-day averages of fewer than 1,000 new daily cases.

White House coronavirus coordinator Jeff Zients said Tuesday more than 28 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines will be delivered to states this week. That allocation will bring the U.S. total to more than 90 million doses distributed in the past three weeks.

The news came as Biden announced more than 150 million coronavirus shots have been administered since he took office, and that all adults will be eligible to receive a vaccine by April 19.



About 40% of U.S. adults have now received at least one COVID-19 shot, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. About 23% of American adults have been fully vaccinated — including more than half of Americans 65 and older.

Geng said the nation should take a step back and go slow. Even just a few more weeks of Americans sticking with social distancing and other precautions could make a huge difference.

"The take-home message here is, let's not jump the gun," Geng said. "There's light at the end of the tunnel. We all see it there. And we will get there. Slow and steady." (Courtesy apnews.com/)

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

COMMUNITY

SPECIAL REPORT

The World Has Entered A New Age Of Epidemics

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



Illustration above depicts the world in a Petri dish.

In the 1950s, 400–500 Americans died every year from measles and another 100 from chicken pox. In the last major outbreak of rubella — in 1964–'65 — some 11,000 pregnant American women lost their babies and 2,100 newborns died.

• **The 1960s vaccine revolution** all but wiped out these diseases by 2000. But now they are back — in the U.S. and around the world.

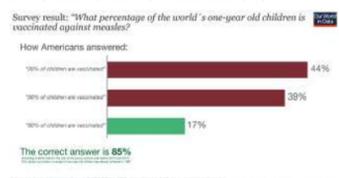
• **Much onus for this regression** so far has been laid on the global anti-vaccination movement. But experts blame much more sweeping reasons, primarily a tectonic change in how humans live now as opposed to three, four and five decades ago.

• **At the top of the list:** we are living closer together in ever-swelling cities, trading and traveling much more, creating climate change, migrating in big numbers — and failing to keep vaccination levels high enough for "herd immunity."

• **What changed is that society changed,** Jeremy Farrar, an expert on infectious disease and director of the U.K.-based Wellcome Trust, tells Axios. • **Driving the news:** Disease was un-

der control for a few decades, but now the environmental circumstances under which they were contained have utterly changed. So new answers have to be found.

• **The big picture:** For 2019, U.S. officials have confirmed 481 measles cases in 16 states as of Saturday, according to the website Precision Vaccinations. The Centers for Disease Control confirms 151 cases of mumps for January and February in 30 states and the District of Columbia. And Kentucky alone has an outbreak of 32 cases of chickenpox as of last week. Measles cases will "certainly" surpass 2018 due to lack of vaccinations



• **Europe, too, has had a surge of mumps, pertussis, rubella and tetanus** over the last two years, reports the World Health Organization. Measles alone killed 72 people in Europe last year, among 82,596

who contracted the disease, according to the agency.

• **In the U.S.,** the outbreaks are often concentrated in tight-knit communities like former Soviet immigrants in Clark County, Washington.

• **Three states — New York, Texas and Washington —** are the "leading measles hot-spots" in the U.S., per Precision Vaccinations.

• **The diseases are often brought** into these communities by travelers returning from countries like Israel, Madagascar, the Philippines and Ukraine.

• **How the revolution happened:** The vaccine against measles was licensed in 1963, chickenpox in 1995, mumps in 1967, and rubella in 1969. Jonas Salk's polio vaccine — igniting the vaccine revolution — came into use in 1955, and the oral version, created by Albert Sabin, was commercialized in 1961.

• **But the revival of these once-unavoidable,** disfiguring and sometimes deadly diseases is only part of the new age of epidemics — they are a component of the general breakdown of the decades-old political and social order.

• **This is particularly apparent in** the anti-vaccination movement, what has been rebranded "vaccine hesitancy." "People wonder, 'Why am I still getting vaccinated if disease no longer exists?' It's not a stupid question," Farrar said.

• **But the trend includes the other social factors as well:** climate change, migration, urbanization and elevated travel, which are spreading disease-carrying species such as mosquitoes, bats and rats.



• **What's next:** Farrar is pressing for governments to create a commercial impetus for companies to figure out how to navigate the new age. But to get started, says Peter Hotez, dean at the Baylor College of Medicine and author of "Vaccines Did Not Cause Rachel's Autism," they need to separate out the various factors.

• **Malaria in Greece and Italy** have been blamed on climate change, but Hotez

says human migration and re-emerging poverty may also be at fault.

• **In Texas, the appearance** of Zika and dengue may be attributable to any or all the same factors. "We don't know," he said. (Courtesy axios.com)

• **Related**
Measles outbreak is bringing vaccine exemptions into spotlight

The federal government may try to take action if states don't tighten their vaccine exemption laws and measles continues to spread in sections of the U.S., FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb tells Axios.

• **Driving the news:** Overall case numbers of measles remain low in the U.S. but the disease is growing in areas of high non-vaccination rates. Some states like Washington are considering tightening their exemptions even as they continue to face a more organized anti-vaccination movement.



• **"It's an avoidable tragedy,"** Gottlieb, who says he's usually a proponent of state rights, tells Axios. "Too many states have lax laws."

• **Background:** The highly contagious disease can only be controlled if there's a large vaccination rate in the population, which the World Health Organization says should be 93%–95% of people.

• **States are allowed to adopt** their own rules over what types of exemptions are allowed for vaccines. All of them allow exemptions for medical reasons, but many also provide exemptions on religious and/or philosophical grounds.

• **These pockets of unvaccinated people** are transmitting measles in the U.S., which is particularly dangerous to those who can't get vaccinated, including babies under 12 months and people with susceptible immune systems.

• **Gottlieb says the vaccine** is one of the most effective ones (97% with 2 doses) created so far, and for one of the most contagious viruses.

• **Measles can cause various complications,** including pneumonia, brain damage and sometimes death, and it has been

linked to longer term immune problems.

• **What's happening now**
WHO reported last week that measles cases tripled globally in 2018 from the prior year, and current reports show multiple deadly outbreaks in the Philippines, Ukraine, Israel and Madagascar.

• **In Washington state,** the number of confirmed cases has more than doubled since Gov. Jay Inslee declared a state of emergency on Jan. 25, to 54 as of Feb. 13.

• **Clark County,** where a majority of the Washington cases are located, reported a 70% MMR vaccination rate for 19–35 month olds. But since the outbreak, there was an almost 450% increase in vaccination rates in January compared with the same month the prior year.



• **In New York,** there is an outbreak in Rockland County, Monroe County and New York City, and Texas reported 8 cases in 5 different counties as of Feb. 14.

• **"It's a self-inflicted wound,"** says Peter Hotez, dean at Baylor College of Medicine who published a study last year showing possible U.S. "hotspots" of measles due to vaccine exemptions, that he says is already proving to be true.

• **Pro-vaccination groups** are "losing the battle" to anti-vaccination groups, who've been very active on social media and forming at least one PAC to promote their message, he says.

• **The other side:** Barbara Loe Fisher, co-founder and president of the nonprofit National Vaccine Information Center often labeled as anti-vaccination, tells Axios that 100 cases of measles in a population of 320 million "is not a public health emergency."

• **"[I]t should not be used to justify** eliminating the legal right to exercise informed consent to vaccination, which is protected by the inclusion of flexible medical, religious and conscientious-belief vaccine exemptions in public health laws," she says. (Courtesy axios.com)