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Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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U.S. Justice Dept says Trump team may have moved classified papers amid probe

WASHINGTON, Aug 30 (Reuters) - The U.S. Justice Department said it had evidence that classified documents were deliberately concealed from the FBI when it tried to retrieve them in June from former President Donald Trump's Florida estate, prompting its unprecedented search of his home.

In a 54-page filing, prosecutors on Tuesday laid out their evidence of obstruction of justice, alleging publicly for the first time that Trump aides both falsely certified in June that the former president had returned all the government records he had stored in his home after leaving the White House in January 2021.

It also revealed that Trump lawyers "explicitly prohibited government personnel from opening or looking inside any of the boxes" inside a storage room when FBI agents first traveled to his Palm Beach Mar-a-Lago resort in June to retrieve the records.

"The government also developed evidence that government records were likely concealed and removed from the Storage Room and that efforts were likely taken to obstruct the government's investigation," the department said in a filing in U.S. District Court in the Southern District of Florida.

It released a photograph of some of the records found inside Trump's home bearing classification markings, some of which refer to clandestine human sources.

The Justice Department's filings come ahead of a Thursday court hearing before U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon in West Palm Beach. She is weighing Trump's request to appoint a special master who would conduct a privilege review of the documents seized from Mar-a-Lago on Aug. 8, many of which are labeled as classified.

A special master is an independent third party sometimes appointed by a court in sensitive cases to review materials potentially covered by attorney-client privilege to ensure investigators do not improperly view them.

A special master was appointed, for instance, in the searches of the homes and offices of two of Trump's former attorneys: Rudy Giuliani and Michael Cohen.

In Trump's initial request to the court, his attorneys claimed that the former president wanted to protect materials that were subject to a legal doctrine known as executive privilege, which can shield some presidential communications.

Legal experts called that argument into question, saying it was illogical for a former president to claim he wanted to assert executive privilege against the executive branch itself.

Trump's legal team later narrowed its request, asking



for a privilege review without explicitly referring to executive privilege.

The Justice Department on Tuesday said it opposed the appointment of a special master.

Trump, prosecutors argued, lacks standing in the case because the records "do not belong to him."

The Aug. 8 search of Trump's home was a significant escalation of one of several federal and state investigations Trump is facing.

In a redacted affidavit underpinning the search released publicly by the department last week, an unidentified FBI agent said the agency reviewed and identified 184 documents "bearing classification markings" after Trump in January returned 15 boxes of government records sought by the U.S. National Archives.

After the National Archives discovered the classified material, some of which pertained to intelligence-gathering and clandestine human sources, it referred the matter to the FBI.

The Justice Department said on Tuesday it tried multiple times to get all the records back.

But ultimately, it developed evidence to suggest more materials remained at Mar-a-lago and had been hidden from investigators.

The FBI subsequently carted away 33 additional boxes and other items during its Aug 8. search, some of which were marked as "top secret" - the classification level reserved for the country's most closely-held secrets.

Trump's defenses for why he retained the materials have shifted, and he has not offered a reason for why he did not give all the records back. He has previously claimed he declassified all the records, pointing to a president's broad declassification powers.

However, Tuesday's filing by the government denied this.

"When producing the documents, neither counsel nor the custodian asserted that the former President had declassified the documents or asserted any claim of executive privilege," prosecutors wrote.

They also noted that when Jay Bratt, the head of the Justice Department's counterintelligence division, visited Mar-a-lago with the three agents in June to recover additional records, Trump's attorney handed over records "in a manner that suggested counsel believed that the documents were classified" by producing them in a "Redweld envelope" that was double-wrapped in tape.

Inside the envelope, the department said, were 38 unique documents with classification markings, 17 of which were "top secret," 16 of which were "secret" and 5 marked as "confidential."



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WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

08/30/2022

Artemis 1 Moon Rocket Launch Delayed

Because of a brief hydrogen leak creating trouble for cooling one of the rocket's four engines and problems with a balky valve, managers called off the launch countdown Monday morning.

The team will get another launch attempt on Friday, Sept. 2, 2022. The delay was a big disappointment for more than 25,000 NASA workers and guests at the Kennedy Space Center.

NASA Administrator Bill Elton said, "We don't launch until it's right. I think it's illustrative that this is a very complicated machine, a very complicated system and all of those things have to work. You don't want to light the candle until it's

ready to go."

The \$4.1 billion rocket is the most powerful rocket ever built for the space agency.

We strongly agree with Nelson's decision because this project will determine whether man can be sent to the moon and then prepare for Mars exploration in the future.

John Hopkins Black Professors Sue Appraisal Company

A couple of John Hopkins University professors filed a lawsuit with a property appraisal company arguing that the company's valuation was set too low because their race.

In the lawsuit, John Hopkins University professors Nathan Connolly and Shani Mott are suing the appraisal company for



damages citing racial discrimination and stating that the decision violated the fair housing act.

We have to point out that this is very common phenomenon even if you are a college professor.

We hope this lawsuit will teach a lesson to those companies, including loan companies, that try to be unfair to people of color, especially when they want to apply for a home loan or sale their property.



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Southern DAILY Make Today Different

Editor's Choice



A woman clad in a burqa walks amid tents as she along with her family take refuge, following rains and floods during the monsoon season in Charsadda, Pakistan. REUTERS/Fayaz Aziz



Royal fan John Loughrey holds a picture of Princess Diana as he pays tribute to her, on the 25th anniversary of her death, outside Kensington Palace, in London, Britain. REUTERS/Peter Nicholls



A Ukrainian woman holds a dog as she looks at a residential building damaged after a Russian strike, as Russia's attack on Ukraine continues, in Kramatorsk, Ukraine. Reuters/Ammar Awad



A helicopter helps to extinguish a wildfire burning in Albacete, Castilla-La Mancha, Spain, August 30, 2022. Javier Valdevira/via REUTERS



Nui and her husband have a picnic in a park with their pet parrots in Phuket, Thailand. REUTERS/Jorge Silva



An interior view of the prison building which was damaged by shelling in July in the course of Ukraine-Russia conflict, in the settlement of Olenivka in the Donetsk Region, Ukraine, in this picture taken during a media tour organized by the Russian Defence Ministry. REUTERS/Alexander Ermochenko

U.S. Declares Monkeypox Outbreak A Major Public Health Emergency

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



The Biden administration is declaring a public health emergency for the monkeypox outbreak in the United States...

This public health emergency will allow us to explore additional strategies to get vaccines and treatments more quickly out to the impacted communities...

Over the last decade, nationwide emergency declarations like this have previously been made only for the COVID-19 pandemic, the opioid crisis, and the Zika virus outbreak in 2017...



The public health emergency declaration could pave the way for the CDC to deploy more staff to respond to the outbreak, officials said...

Federal health officials also told reporters that they were weighing a separate move that would allow the Food and Drug Administration emergency use authorizations that could ease access to treatments and vaccines for the monkeypox outbreak...



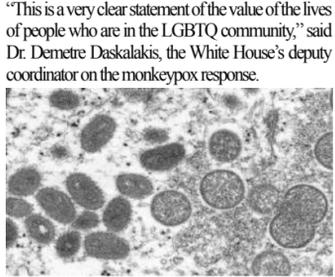
Federal health authorities also have on hand millions of long-expired doses of Jynneos stockpiled years ago, which are now being tested by Bavarian Nordic...

The move comes as a growing number of jurisdictions, including several states and cities, as well as the World Health Organization have all deemed the outbreak an emergency...

"We do expect cases will continue to rise, as we've had more access to testing, people had more access to testing, before they go down again," CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky said.

The majority of infections are still believed to be spreading through close intimate contact among men who have sex with men. While no deaths have been reported, patients often endure at-times ex-

cruciatingly painful rashes and lesions that can last for weeks. The CDC currently estimates that between 1.6 and 1.7 million Americans are in the groups currently being prioritized for vaccine...



Only around 10% of nation's monkeypox testing capacity is being used up right now, which works out to about 8,000 swabs from monkeypox cases per week...

Related

U.S. Monkeypox Cases Surpass 10,000 As CDC Still Aims For "Containment"

More than 10,000 Americans have now tested positive in the monkeypox outbreak across the U.S., according to figures published late Wednesday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention...

Cases have been reported in every state but Wyoming while 15 states and the District of Columbia have reported more than a hundred cases...

Health officials say the virus is mostly spreading through close interactions between men who have sex with men, either through direct skin-to-skin contact or shared linens like towels and bedding...



Activists protest to demand an increase in monkeypox vaccines and treatments, in San Francisco, California, on Aug. 8, 2022.

Federal health authorities have warned for weeks that they expected the U.S. outbreak to accelerate through August, especially as availability of testing ramped up, following the course of some other European countries that saw cases swell earlier in the year...

On Wednesday, 1,391 new cases were reported nationwide to the CDC — the largest single-day increase so far.



"We are still operating under a containment goal, although I know many states are starting to wonder if we're shifting to more of a mitigation phase right now, given that our case counts are still rising rapidly..."

That effort might get easier over the coming weeks, following a move by the Food and Drug Administration this week to grant emergency use authorization to a method of using smaller doses of the Jynneos monkeypox vaccine...

However, the CDC has long warned there was limited data showing how effective the Jynneos vaccine is at actually curbing monkeypox disease and transmission — urging those vaccinated to continue taking "steps to protect themselves from infection" during the outbreak.

The agency has previously reported on a handful of reports of reported breakthrough infections following at least one shot of the two-dose Jynneos vaccine.



Local health officials caution it will take time for them to ramp up the new "intradermal" approach to vaccinations, which relies on different needles and procedures than the traditional "subcutaneous" shot.

Arwady, who is the vice chair of the Big Cities Health Coalition, estimated that around the country it could take up to three weeks for local health departments to begin the new dose-sparing approach.

Citing limited supply, the CDC currently says it does not encourage "mass vaccination for the general public or for all sexually active people."



But with supply now growing in the wake of the FDA's move, McQuiston said the CDC might soon move to expand eligibility for the shots to broader groups of people.

Officials are also weighing use of the older ACAM2000 vaccine, despite concerns that it carries some more side effects and risks than Jynneos.

Monkeypox Outbreak Is Primarily Spreading Through Sex, WHO Officials Say

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



European nations have confirmed dozens of cases in what's become the largest outbreak of monkeypox ever on the Continent, according to the German military.

An outbreak of the monkeypox virus in North America and Europe is primarily spreading through sex among men with about 200 confirmed and suspected cases across at least a dozen countries, WHO officials said on Monday.

The U.S. and Canada each have at least five confirmed or presumed cases so far. Belgium just introduced a mandatory 21-day quarantine for monkeypox patients.

European nations have confirmed dozens of cases in what's become the largest outbreak of monkeypox ever on the Continent, according to the German military. The U.S. and Canada each have at least five confirmed or presumed cases so far.

close contact with people, animals or material infected with the virus. It enters the body through broken skin, the respiratory tract, the eyes, nose and mouth.

"This is a virus that is super stable outside the human host, so it can live on objects like blankets and things like that," Dr. Scott Gottlieb told CNBC in a separate interview Monday on "Squawk Box."

He said to expect more confirmed cases in the U.S. in the coming weeks as doctors and public health officials reevaluate patients who have presented with symptoms and the virus continues to spread.

Early symptoms of monkeypox include a fever, headache, back pain, muscle aches and low energy, WHO officials said. That then progresses to a rash on the face, hands, feet, eyes, mouth or genitals that turns into raised bumps, or papules, that then become blisters that often resemble chicken pox.

"I don't think this is going to be uncontrolled spread in the same way that we tolerated the Covid-19 epidemic," Gottlieb said. "But there is a possibility now this has gotten into the community if in fact it's more pervasive than what we're measuring right now, that becomes hard to sniff out."



Monkeypox Is Not like COVID-19 — That Is Good



Spallanzani infectious disease hospital director Francesco Vaia talks to reporters at the end of a news conference Friday in Rome.

The recent headlines about a sudden emergence of an unusual disease, spreading case by case across countries and continents may, for some, evoke memories of early 2020. But monkeypox is not like COVID-19 — and in a good way.

Scientists already know how it spreads, and it's different than COVID. Monkeypox typically requires very close contact to spread — most often skin-to-skin contact, or prolonged physical contact with clothes or bedding that was used by an infected person.

By contrast, COVID-19 spreads quickly and easily. Coronavirus can spread simply by talking with another person, or sharing a room, or in rare cases, being inside a room that an infected person had previously been in.

"Transmission is really happening from close physical contact, skin-to-skin contact. It's quite different from COVID in that sense," said Dr. Maria Van Kerkhove, an infectious disease epidemiologist with the WHO.

It's not a situation where if you're passing someone in the grocery store, they're going to be at risk for monkeypox, said Dr. Jennifer McQuiston of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in a briefing Monday.

Monkeypox likely isn't much of a threat to the public, a White House official says

The people most likely to be at risk are close personal contacts of an infected person, such as household members or health care workers who may have treated them, she said.

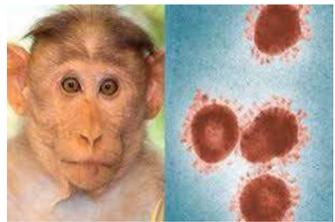
Monkeypox is less contagious than COVID-19. One factor that helped COVID-19 spread rapidly across the globe was the fact that it is very contagious.

Although the recent spread of monkeypox cases is alarming, the virus is far less contagious than COVID-19, according to Jo Walker, an epidemiologist at Yale School of Public Health.

Most estimates from earlier outbreaks have had an R0 of less than one. With that, you can have clusters of cases, even outbreaks, but they will eventually die out on their own.

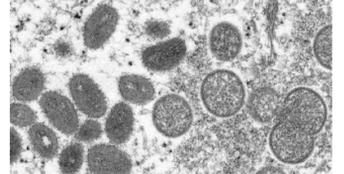
Because monkeypox is closely related to smallpox, there are already vaccines. Monkeypox and smallpox are both members of the Orthopox family of viruses.

Now, those can be used to contain a monkeypox outbreak. The FDA has two vaccines already approved for use against smallpox.



One, a two-dose vaccine called Jynneos, is also approved for use against monkeypox. About a thousand doses are available in the Strategic National Stockpile, the CDC says, and the company will provide more in the coming months.

Monkeypox likely isn't much of a threat to the public, a White House official says



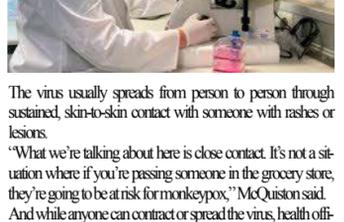
This 2003 electron microscope image made available by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows mature, oval-shaped monkeypox virus particles, left, and spherical immature particles, right.

The risk posed to the U.S. general public from ongoing outbreaks of monkeypox cases reported in Europe, the U.K. and Canada is low, a White House official told Morning Edition on Monday.

Historically in countries with weaker health care systems less than 1% of patients have died from this milder strain," Panjabi said. "We have access to vaccines and even treatments here in the U.S., and so the risk we believe is substantially lower."

The virus usually spreads from person to person through sustained, skin-to-skin contact with someone with rashes or lesions.

"What we're talking about here is close contact. It's not a situation where if you're passing someone in the grocery store, they're going to be at risk for monkeypox," McQuiston said.



Monkeypox appears to be circulating globally in parts of the gay community," says Dr. John Brooks, medical epidemiologist with the CDC's division of HIV prevention.