

Episode 57DGN April 13 2025 What percentage need to be vaccinated to contain a disease outbreak?

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2 United States Robert F Kennedy Jr RFK Jr giving families false hope on autism says outgoing US vaccine official Dr Peter Marks forced to resign by Trump administration sees no possible way to determine cause by September [Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization](#) The Guardian April 13 2025 The US health secretary Robert F Kennedy Jr should not offer false hope to families by boasting he can figure out what causes autism as soon as September says the physician who resigned as the top vaccine official in the United States amid what he called anti vaccination misinformation from the Trump administration cabinet member In an interview during which he alluded to his help helming Operation Warp Speed the initiative that took only about nine months to develop manufacture and distribute the vaccines protecting the public from Covid 19 Dr Peter Marks warned that autism is an incredibly complicated issue If you just ask me as a scientist is it possible to get the answer that quickly? I do not see any possible way Kennedy has failed to give a full throated endorsement of the extremely effective safe measles vaccine – even after traveling to Seminole to visit the families of the girls who died from the illness He recently told CBS that people should get the measles vaccine but that in his opinion the government should not be mandating those Meanwhile Kennedy has sought to spotlight unconventional practitioners who have eschewed the measles vaccine in favor of vitamins and cod liver oil Marks for his part has blamed the measles deaths in the US on Kennedy and his staff This is the epitome of an absolute needless death Marks told the Associated Press after the second pediatric measles fatality in Seminole These kids should get vaccinated that is how you prevent people from dying of measles Kennedy on Friday went to FDA headquarters in Maryland and without mentioning the Trump elimination of 3500 jobs there reportedly urged workers to resist being a part of the deep state meaning the shadow government that The Trump administration conspiratorially claims has worked to thwart Trump Multiple media accounts

say the Kennedy remarks were quickly leaked to the press and some FDA employees walked out before he was finished speaking

3 California Los Angeles Bernie Sanders rally in LA draws thousands to protest Trump We cannot just let this happen The tour of US Vermont senator Bernie Sanders with Alexandria Ocasio Cortez has been drawing record breaking crowds since February **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** The Guardian April 12 2025 The Vermont senator Bernie Sanders drew a record breaking crowd at his rally in Los Angeles on Saturday which included musical acts from Joan Baez and Neil Young who encouraged the crowd to take America back The Fighting Oligarchy Where We Go from Here tour of Senator Bernie Sanders has been drawing massive crowds Aided by the progressive New York representative Alexandria Ocasio Cortez the team set the record in Tempe Arizona for biggest ever political rally in that state three weeks ago In Denver Colorado more than 34000 people showed up a career high crowd for the 83 year old Sanders Saturday in Los Angeles saw another record at least 36000 people packed a downtown park A host of musical acts kicked off the high energy event including the indie rock band The Red Pears Maggie Rogers Indigo de Souza and legends Baez and Young A representative from the Los Angeles city council district number one said Trump was trying to divide people and get them to blame each other for their problems instead of blaming the people who are actually profiting from our pain The western tour of Bernie Sanders will continue with stops in Utah Idaho and Montana The tour will return to California on Tuesday for events in Folsom and Bakersfield a Republican stronghold which has one of the highest levels of Medi Cal enrollments in the state

4 United States Completely out of touch golf and dinners for king Trump as economy melts down Casual attitude as markets fall suggests man detached from anxieties of ordinary voters and surrounded by yes men **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** The Guardian April 12 2025 After lighting a fuse under global financial markets Trump stepped back – all the way to a Florida golf course A week later having just caved to pressure to ease his trade tariffs Trump defended the retreat while hosting racing car champions at the White House Trump had spent the time in between golfing dining with donors and making insouciant declarations such as this is a great time to get rich even as the US economy melted down It was a jolting juxtaposition that prompted comparisons with the emperor Nero who fiddled while Rome burned or insane monarchs who lost touch with reality It also provided a clear illustration of how Trump governs during his volatile and extreme second presidency erratically with little attention to convention and often on the hoof from one public engagement to another surrounded by courtiers who never disagree with him He is certainly living up to the caricature of being a mad king said a Democratic strategist Last weekend Maureen Dowd a New York Times columnist and author of the book Notorious compared Trump to Richard III from the William Shakespeare play of the same name Richard III comes up to the edge of the stage and wraps the audience into the bad thing he is about to do Richard III tells them and he uses humor so that he is supposed to be the villain but the humor kind of counters it so you do not think of him as badly Trump does the same thing He has this kind of wacky side so then when he does the very authoritarian stuff you get deflected by the crazy side he has I think the SNL Saturday Night Live mimic captures this where he is sort of being funny so then when he turns authoritarian you are thinking wait is he really doing what I think he is doing?

5 The United Kingdom and the United States The Observer Trump tariffs Make America make again? The Trump tariffs will only be manufacturing pipe dreams The Trump gambit to bring the production of goods such as iPhones back to the US ignores huge supply chain complexities Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization The Guardian April 12 2025 The Trump tariff strategy has at least one biblical connection like the peace of God it passeth all understanding Philippians 4:7 Rival attempts to extract a rationale from the chaos include the idea that he is trying to devalue the dollar or that he is seeking to reshore the manufacturing capacity that the US lost through decades of globalization Worse still because of the shortage of local US talent it had to recruit additional engineers in Taiwan who had to be trained and deployed to the US to make TSMC Arizona function with doubled salaries and extra benefits to boot And this training was not just the usual two to four week corporate offsite stuff but up to 18 months long So before the plant produced a single silicon wafer more than 1000 engineers had to be trained from scratch And the company reckons that even when it is working as planned its output will be 50% more expensive than in Taiwan And the moral of the story? Bringing manufacturing back home can be done but not within one electoral cycle Which raises other questions beyond the pay grade of a columnist What I am reading? Phone home Flyover Country is a short story about what a future where iPhones are made in the US would really be like

6A Headlines The New York Times April 13 2025 DOGE Is Far Short of Its Goal and Still Overstating Its Progress The New York Times How Much Vaccination Stops a Measles Outbreak The New York Times Opinion You Try to Build Anything and You are Stepping Into Quicksand The New York Times Opinion America Is Learning the Wrong Lesson from the success of Elon Musk The New York Times Opinion The Supreme Court Ruled Trump and the ACLU Both Claimed Victory Huh The New York Times Tesla US Sales Plunge as GM and Others Make Gains The New York Times The Many Ways Kennedy Is Already Undermining Vaccines The New York Times The Treasury Secretary Is Wrong About How Most Retirees See the Stock Market The New York Times Trump and Some of His Cabinet Members Attend UFC Fight in Miami The New York Times Trump Has Added Risk to the Surest Bet in Global Finance The New York Times US Prepares to Challenge the Social Media Dominance of Meta The New York Times What to Know About the Trump Antitrust Efforts Against Tech Giants The New York Times Why Elon Musk Has not Come Close to Finding \$1 Trillion in Cuts The New York Times Arkansas How an Arkansas City Became an Epicenter of the Biking World The New York Times United Kingdom and the United States How Brexit a Startling Act of Economic Self Harm Foreshadowed The Trump Tariffs The New York Times Russia Launches Deadly Attack on Sumy in Ukraine The New York Times China A Devastating Trade Spat With China Shows Few Signs of Abating The New York Times

6B Headlines The New York Times April 12 2025 United States Bees Are Under Threat from Climate Change the Trade War and Doge The New York Times Opinion A Lot About Trump Does not Add Up The New York Times Opinion Trump is on a Path to Failure The New York Times Opinion The Trump Tariff Pause Is Less Than Meets the Eye The New York Times The Digestible Politics of the Message Tee The New York Times Trump and The Residence Share a Fixation on Water Pressure The New York Times Trump Live Updates New Tariff Rule Exempts Smartphones and Other Electronics From Most Levies The New York Times What Spring Snow Blankets the Northeast The New York Times Canada Trump Tariffs Muddle Campaigning for Conservatives in Canada The New York Times

7 United States Can You Stop an Outbreak of a Contagious Disease? Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization The New York Times April 12 2025 To stop the spread of an infectious disease like measles you do not have to vaccinate everyone But you do have to vaccinate many Just how many? To let you discover for yourself we simulated an outbreak of a hypothetical disease about as contagious as the flu A lot less contagious than measles We would like you to contain it But first some basics Here is a sick person in a population with no protection against the disease That person infects some neighbors Who in turn do the same Soon almost everyone has been infected In a world where no one has immunity infectious diseases spread exponentially That is what happened early in the Covid pandemic But for most infectious diseases many people will already have some level of immunity whether through a previous infection or through vaccination and this can slow the spread Now it is your turn to try Level 1 Less Contagious How low can you set the vaccination rate to contain the outbreak? VACCINATED This simulation uses randomness so the results will turn out somewhat differently every time you play it But there are patterns that you can discover When the vaccination level is below around 40 percent outbreaks are very likely Above that level of vaccination they are quickly extinguished Based on a million simulations That sharp gradient from red to white shows us this herd immunity threshold where vaccination can halt an outbreak and protect the unvaccinated Including those who cannot be vaccinated such as infants and people with weakened immune systems The difference is stark A little below that threshold of 40% vaccination outbreaks easily grow out of control Above it they are quickly squelched This is why it is so important to keep vaccination levels above the herd immunity threshold Next let us see what happens with a disease that is more contagious Level 2 More Contagious How low can you set the vaccination rate to contain the outbreak? Because this disease is more contagious it can more easily slip through the gaps of unvaccinated people That is why the vaccination level needed for herd immunity rose from around 40 percent to around 60 percent in this example It takes greater levels of vaccination to contain a more contagious infectious disease Many kindergartners live in counties and go to schools where the vaccination rates have fallen even further below 80 percent or even below half making it possible for measles to spread like wildfire

8 United States Tesla US Sales Plunge as GM and Others Make Gains Overall sales of electric vehicles rose almost 11 percent in the first three months of the year as traditional carmakers offered new models Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization The New York Times April 11 2025 Sales of Teslas in the United States fell almost 9 percent in the first three months of the year even as the overall market for electric vehicles grew according to data compiled by a research firm Car buyers are moving away from Teslas and toward models like the Chevrolet Equinox electric vehicle from General Motors which starts at around \$35000 and can travel more than 300 miles on a charge Sales of all electric vehicles in the United States rose 11 percent during the first quarter to about 300000 cars and light trucks much faster than the overall auto market which has been flat About 8 percent of new domestic car sales were electric Cox said a slight increase from 2024 Tesla whose chief executive is Elon Musk still sells far more electric cars in the United States than any other automaker accounting for 44 percent of the market But its share has fallen from 51 percent a year earlier The decline in the US sales of Tesla mirror a global slump Democrats and independents are more likely to buy electric vehicles than Republicans Tesla sold 6400 Cybertruck just half as many as in the last three months of 2024 GM sold 10300 Equinoxes in the quarter The vehicle

was not available a year earlier GM brands which also include Cadillac and GMC accounted for 11 percent of the electric vehicle market during the quarter up from 6 percent a year earlier The Ford Mustang Mach E was the best selling electric vehicle that was not a Tesla The Trump trade war is expected to have a smaller effect on Tesla because the company makes all the cars it sells in the United States in factories in California and Texas But it will still be hurt

9 United States The Many Ways Kennedy Is Already Undermining Vaccines The health secretary has chipped away at the idea that immunizing children against measles and other diseases is a public health good **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** The New York Times April 13 2025 Updated 5:45 am ET During his Senate confirmation hearings to be health secretary Robert F Kennedy Jr presented himself as a supporter of vaccines But in office he and the agencies he leads have taken far reaching sometimes subtle steps to undermine confidence in vaccine efficacy and safety The National Institutes of Health halted funding for researchers who study vaccine hesitancy and hoped to find ways to overcome it NIH under Trump also canceled programs intended to discover new vaccines to prevent future pandemics The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shelved an advertising campaign for the flu shot Kennedy has said inaccurately that the scientists who advise the CDC on vaccines have severe conflicts of interest in promoting the products and cannot be trusted The Health and Human Services Department cut billions of dollars to state health agencies including funds needed to modernize state programs for childhood immunization Misinformation is particularly difficult to counter when it is someone that has a leadership position especially within the health care system

10 United States The Treasury Secretary Is Wrong About How Most Retirees See the Stock Market **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** The New York Times April 13 2025 Last weekend Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent went on television and said people who wanted to retire right now were not paying attention to the stock market On the NBC program Meet the Press referring to those who have put away for years in their savings account he said the following I think they do not look at the day to day fluctuations of what is happening Is that true? I asked readers of our Your Money newsletter who were on the cusp of retirement whether they were watching the markets and if so why? About 400 people replied More than 90 percent of them said they were looking They gave me an earful

11 United States Trump and Some of His Cabinet Members Attend UFC Fight in Miami The spectacle at the mixed martial arts event was emblematic of an emboldened Trump who increasingly encourages displays of force to carry out his agenda **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** The New York Times April 13 2025 Trump some of his cabinet members and his adviser Elon Musk sat ringside in Miami late Saturday night at the Ultimate Fighting Championship event a spectacle of violence throbbing music and cheering crowds that Trump has long admired It is the second UFC event that Trump has attended since he was elected for a second time in November and the first of his presidency

12 United Kingdom and the United States How Brexit a Startling Act of Economic Self Harm Foreshadowed The Trump Tariffs The decision to leave the European Union by Britain in 2016 was sold to voters as a magic bullet that would revitalize the British economy Its impact is still reverberating **Excerpts**

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Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization

The New York Times April 13 2025 Britain has watched Trump tariffs with a mix of shock fascination and queasy recognition The country after all embarked on a similar experiment in economic isolationism when it voted to leave the European Union in 2016 Nearly nine years after the Brexit referendum it is still reckoning with the costs The lessons of that experience are suddenly relevant again as Trump uses a similar playbook to erect walls around the United States Critics once described Brexit as the greatest act of economic self harm by a Western country in the post World War II era It may now be getting a run for its money across the Atlantic Even The Trump abrupt reversal last week of some of his tariffs in the face of a bond market revolt recalled Britain where Liz Truss a short lived prime minister was forced to retreat from radical tax cuts that frightened the markets Her misbegotten experiment was the culmination of a cycle of extreme policies set off by the decision by Britain to forsake the largest trading bloc in the world In a way some of the worst legacies of Brexit are still ahead said Mark Malloch Brown a British diplomat who served as deputy secretary general of the United Nations Britain he said now faces a hard choice between rebuilding trade ties with Europe or preserving them with Trump America The Trump MAGA coalition has some of the same ideological fault lines as the Brexiteers pitting economic nationalists like Stephen K Bannon against globalists like Elon Musk That has led analysts to wonder if post Trump politics in the United States will look a lot like post Brexit politics in Britain Brexit caused profound damage to the Conservative Party It has been rendered unelectable because it is riven by factions Will the Republican Party be similarly factionalized after Trump?

13 United States Trump Obsessed With Water Pressure? On Netflix and in the White House Paul William Davies the creator of The Residence talks about overlapping themes between his series and the actual Trump administration Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization The New York Times April 11 2025 This week as the global economy struggled to adjust to whipsawing tariff policies Trump signed an executive order to address another national crisis weak shower head pressure The order aimed at reducing bureaucracy and regulation reverses limits on how much water can pour out of a nozzle per minute which were implemented by the Obama and Biden administrations in an attempt to conserve water The Netflix recent screwball mystery series The Residence in which President Perry Morgan played by Paul Fitzgerald has a similar pet peeve with a White House usher explaining that he demands pressure like a fire hose As the White House staff tries to get the pressure right President Morgan is vocally disappointed A rumor of a mist he declares after one attempt At one point NASA gets involved The Shondaland show revolves around a murder at the White House during a state dinner unleashing a sprawling whodunit in the mansion with details about the building and its history that are drawn heavily from the Kate Andersen Brower nonfiction book The Residence Inside the Private World of the White House It premiered last month and rocketed into the Netflix top 10 most watched shows