

Episode 57DHWK June 9 2025 Covid still quiet Measles ticks and wood burning wildfire smoke

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1 Covid still quiet measles ticks and wood burning wildfire smoke **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** Substack Your Local Epidemiologist The Dose June 9 2025 Happy Monday! Covid 19 remains mostly quiet for now but measles ticks and wildfire smoke are ramping up quickly First good news! A new class of antibiotics is here For the first time in nearly 30 years the FDA has approved a brand new class of antibiotics to treat urinary tract infections a breakthrough in the fight against antibiotic resistance The new drug Blujepa works differently than older antibiotics like penicillin or nitrofurantoin which target cell walls or protein production Instead it blocks two enzymes E coli needs to replicate More than 2 point 8 million antimicrobial resistant infections occur in the U S each year so this new class is promising because bacteria have not built up resistance to it In clinical trials it cleared infections in up to 58% of cases slightly outperforming the standard drug 44% It is also safe with mild but some uncomfortable side effects including diarrhea 16% and nausea 9% It is expected to be available by the end of the year though the price has not been disclosed yet The research was partially funded by BARDA the federal agency that supports medical countermeasures for public health threats Latest disease trends Covid 19 is still quiet overall Emergency room visits for Covid 19 are starting to tick up in Hawaii and if you squint in places like Florida YLE has also heard more anecdotal reports lately sometimes an early signal of a wave but wastewater levels remain low across most of the country That said the U S has had a summer wave every year for the past five years and other countries are seeing upticks so we still think one is coming A newer variant NB 1 point 1 was recently detected Time will tell if it has enough oomph to create a wave

Those over age 65 are still eligible for a Covid 19 vaccine every 6 months Sticking to that schedule is still a good idea % ED visits with Covid 19 in Hawaii over time Data CDC Annotations YLE Measles cases continue to pop up The outbreaks in Montana 19 cases and two hospitalizations and North Dakota 34 total cases and two hospitalizations continue to grow Almost all cases are unvaccinated school aged children With an uptick in travel during summer more measles cases will come In Colorado an infected person on a Turkish Airlines flight is now linked to 7 cases all in unvaccinated individuals Four people were passengers on the May 13 flight and three were infected at the airport The incubation period for that flight is now over so hopefully we do not see many more cases The Southwest outbreak has dramatically slowed down with fewer and fewer cases in Texas Kansas Oklahoma and New Mexico Below is a bell shaped curve showing the deceleration nicely Measles is likely running out of infection pathways due to vaccination efforts or people getting infected Weekly cases from Southwest Measles Outbreak Figure from Yale SITREP The U S is on track 1173 cases today to exceed its 30 year high for measles cases 1274 within two to three weeks It is the dead middle of tick season Emergency visits for tick bites have reached 107 per 100000 weekly but trends are coming down hopefully for the year Not every tick you encounter will give you a disease depends on several factors but the highest risk of Lyme disease is in the Northeast and Midwest To protect against ticks cover up with light clothing use an EPA registered insect repellent and remember to do a tick check Source CDC Wildfire smoke returns Smoke from Canadian wildfires over 200 has reached the Upper Midwest and Northeast including New York The heaviest smoke was in northern areas closest to Canada but extended to Kansas Mississippi and South Carolina Air quality alerts range daily but last week unhealthy or very unhealthy levels reached Chicago Milwaukee Detroit and Omaha Air quality levels Source CBS News June 8 12pm PT Recent research showed that exposure to lingering wildfire particles even three months after a fire can increase cardiovascular and respiratory hospitalization risks Check your local air quality index here It is also on the weather app on your phone If you are high risk pregnant older immunocompromised or have chronic conditions take precautions when the AQI is yellow If you are not high risk start acting when it is red Stay indoors drive with windows closed and wear an N95 or P100 mask outside surgical masks will not help here Afterwards be sure to replace the air conditioner filter in your house YLE Q and A answers as many questions as possible Will normal people not at risk be able to get a Covid 19 vaccine this fall? Short answer The U S does not know yet The expert advisory of the CDC group ACIP meets June 25 to 27 and should give some clarity But even after that big unknowns remain including How the FDA updates vaccine licenses Whether formulas will change which may require new trials How RFK Junior will wield his authority as HHS Secretary We will keep you posted but we likely will not know much until closer to the fall season For now confusion seems to be the default setting In case you missed it YLE New York edition covered everything from wildfire smoke to the new Covid variant detected in the NY airport and New York fish contamination Katelyn joined Katie Couric to discuss Covid 19 vaccines disease trends and the dramatic cuts to scientific research Deep dive Bite sized threats of ticks You are all caught up! Have a great week Love The YLE team

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3 Five Big Midterm Questions That Could Shape Democratic 2028 Field Before they can run in 2028 numerous top Democrats will first face re election in 2026 [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](#) [June 7 2025](#) As Democrats descend on party dinners in South Carolina and New Hampshire fund raise across the country and drop into podcasts or start their own insider buzz about the 2028 shadow presidential primary is intensifying But several potential candidates have a more pressing item on their to do lists win re election From [Maryland and Pennsylvania to Minnesota and Illinois](#) a number of prominent Democrats are running for re election in 2026 or are likely to seek another term with some announcements expected as soon as this summer As 2026 races take shape here are five things we are watching **1** Do blue state Democrats run up the score? Several Democrats seen as possible presidential candidates face re election in liberal states including [Governor Wes Moore of Maryland and Senator Cory Booker of New Jersey](#) [Governor Tim Walz of Minnesota and Governor JB Pritzker of Illinois](#) have not yet said whether they will seek third terms but both are widely expected to do so In Maryland one question is whether Larry Hogan who was a popular Republican governor but lost a Senate bid last year will challenge Moore Unlikely How close is Pennsylvania? Governor Josh Shapiro of Pennsylvania Republicans going to try to bang him up Who emerges as a standout surrogate? Governor Andy Beshear of Kentucky an increasingly prominent figure in his party will lead the Democratic Governors Association next year Some of the most talked about Democrats next year may not be on the ballot The surrogate circuit is a campaign trail in itself that can be quite revealing With whom are the swing seat moderates most comfortable appearing? Who is making the rounds at party dinners to fire up activists? Who is campaigning for Democrats in conservative areas or in the traditional early voting primary states? One increasingly prominent figure is Governor Andy Beshear of Kentucky who is not up for re election but will lead the Democratic Governors Association D G A next year If I do my job right that paragraph that speculates on 2028 candidates will get a lot bigger he said in an interview emphasizing his D G A responsibilities I hope that we will win some races that will put people into that conversation and I hope along the way I can help in other types of races that may put people into that conversation Asked if his name should be part of that 2028 presidential conversation he did not hesitate I was pretty sure that this was going to be my last political job he said But I do not want to leave a broken country to my kids so I am going to be out there with my voice making sure that the Democratic Party is talking about the core concerns of our American people He suggested that he would assess in the future whether I am in a position to heal the country or it is someone else but added that his focus was getting us back on track as a nation Democrats who are out of office including former Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg are expected to support candidates across the country And some who are up for re election including Walz Pritzker and Representative Alexandria Ocasio Cortez of New York have already spent considerable time on the road Who are the unexpected stars? Keep an eye on other Democrats running in traditionally Republican leaning territory like Senator Jon Ossoff of Georgia who faces a difficult re election next year Can anyone energize voters around an affirmative new

vision or bold policy ideas that go beyond reining in Trump? Does anyone successfully use a fight with the left flank of the Democratic Party to win over more voters in the middle or manage to create a new coalition entirely? Such questions may not be answered until 2028 but the clues will come sooner. The nominee in 2028 should be someone who will make expensive statements that the exhausted majority loves but the overly online left hates said Representative Jake Auchincloss a Massachusetts Democrat. A campaign is one way to do it. Another way to do it is just governing.

4 Here is What is Happening in America in Six Mostly Russian Terms. RAWSEP View of Russian Terms applied to the Trump government. 1 Mnogohodovochka roughly equals the Trump Art of the Deal. 2 Power vertical roughly applies to Trump executive orders. 3 Siloviki are the people who help the leader establish his power vertical. Roughly translated as men of power siloviki is a political caste authorized to use violence against citizens. Who that applies to in the Trump administration is yet to be determined. 4 Byudzhetniki Dictators are relatively powerless without a pliable population creating the illusion of support for the leader. In the Trump administration they are those whose livelihoods depend on Trump or people working for Trump. 5 The near abroad roughly applies to Greenland and Panama in the Trump administration. 6 good czar, bad boyars roughly applies to Trump as the good czar and Musk as a bad boyar who is blamed for everything. 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 June 9 2025. Over decades of facing dictators Russians have developed a vocabulary to make sense of authoritarian reality. Some of these terms have already started to crop up in America. Words like oligarchy and gulag have been used as people try to make sense of Trump. But there are more. 1 Mnogohodovochka Let us start with something fun. Mnogohodovochka is an ironic Russian term that translates literally as multiple steps and usually means master plan. The term emerged online to mock the need for the Kremlin to explain the Putin actions even when they make no sense. State media presents everything he does as part of a brilliant long term plan that will one day bring great benefit to ordinary citizens. The Trump art of the deal is the American equivalent of mnogohodovochka. Look for it being mentioned to explain away whatever blunder the administration makes next. 2 Power vertical One of the Putin plans has actually been successful the building of a power vertical or vertikal vlasti in Russian. It means a hypercentralized strictly hierarchical system of governance. This approach aligns with the so called unitary executive theory pushed by American conservatives. According to it the president has the sole authority over the executive branch which supersedes the rest. 3 Siloviki Who helps the leader establish his power vertical? Roughly translated as men of power siloviki is a political caste authorized to use violence against citizens. Its members are the police the border control the army the security services the spies. For their service to the regime they are rewarded with early pensions plenty of cash and almost total immunity from investigation for corruption or brutality. In truth the American security state with its qualified immunity surveillance apparatus and extrajudicial tactics has long resembled something not far from a siloviki state. But the new administration is taking it to a new level. 4 Byudzhetniki Dictators are powerless without a pliable population creating the illusion of support for the leader. That is where byudzhetniki come in. The word literally means budget people and describes the people whose livelihoods depend on the government. In America this kind of paid for partisanship is rare. But there are signs that the Trump administration wants its own byudzhetniki. Elon Musk tried unsuccessfully to buy support in Wisconsin and Pennsylvania handing out cash through a lottery to circumvent laws prohibiting direct payment to voters. And Trump with Trumpcoin and his advocacy of cryptocurrency is creating a community of people whose financial security depends on his success. A dependable layer of byudzhetniki to could help celebrate your birthday. 5 The near abroad denoted former Soviet republics suggesting that

they might be independent but just for now and in name only Justifications for Russian meddling in the near abroad grew as Putin became more and more assertive The Kremlin claimed that Russians built the infrastructure in Kazakhstan that Russians saved Ukraine in World War II that the Baltics had become a nest for neo Nazis and much more The post Soviet states were portrayed as too weak perennially at risk of NATO encroachment and other menaces to protect themselves The term entered American vocabulary when the U S military used it to describe Greenland and Panama in an internal memo It repeats the propaganda of the Kremlin leading up to the war in Ukraine denial of sovereignty mocking of the weak and even referring to wartime sacrifices that need to be repaid **6 Good czar bad boyars** Dating back to imperial Russia it describes the belief that the ruler is wise and benevolent but is surrounded by corrupt officials and elites boyars in czarist Russia who sabotage the good intentions of the ruler Putin finds scapegoats when unpopular policies cause public outrage He distances himself from the whole thing allowing ministers to take the blame He occasionally fires and even imprisons local officials reinforcing the idea that he is fighting against a corrupt and incompetent system rather than being its architect In America the MAGA movement encourages supporters to trust the plan And when things go wrong Trump distances himself from it Trump stayed away from the Department of Government Efficiency and ushered Musk out the door when he became too unpopular The bad boyar had to go Term seven is prodazhnost the sense that everything is corrupt and for sale But six terms will do it is better to name what is happening than to look on speechless as your country goes to ruin **5 My Journey Deep in the Heart of Trump Country in Kentucky RAWSEP View** If Democrats say I told you so to Kentucky Trump Voters who are hurt by Trump economically then Trump Voters will spitefully vote for Trump again according to this writer **RAWSEP** notes that the chair of Democratic Governors Association beginning in 2026 is Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear **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 June 9 2025 In the 2024 election 81 percent of the Fifth Congressional District in Kentucky the whitest and third poorest in the nation voted for Trump Once full of New Deal Democrats the region had suffered losses that its people felt modern Democrats did not care about or address During World War I and II the black gold dug out of their mountains fed industrial America Then the coal mines closed and the drug crisis crept in In 2016 The Trump answer to these losses took the form of policy promises and a story Many of the policies he promised never panned out If people in Pike County or elsewhere get socked with higher prices there might come a tipping point But what happens then would hinge on how Democrats handle it what better ideas they have to offer **their tone of voice** If the left starts scolding that You Trump supporters brought this on yourselves or We told you so people around here will get more angry at the snarky left than they are at the hurtful right and Trump will march on **6 Seven Hidden Ways The Trump Megabill Would Remake America RAWSEP View** RAWSEP used excerpts from six of the seven ways this bill will remake America **1 A presidential power grab 2 A sicker America 3 Less public spending for fewer public benefits 4 Gimmicky expirations 5 Dirty more dangerous air and 6 A weaker military** **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 June 9 2025 Far more expensive than the pandemic stimulus package Trump signed in his first term the bill would provide some \$3 point 8 trillion in tax cuts that favor the wealthy paid for by cutting over a trillion dollars from government programs and borrowing most of the rest As the Senate takes up the legislation after its passage in the House last month Trump and his allies have worked hard to conceal the true impact it would have on the country falsely casting it as a golden deal with no downside for the American people **1 A presidential power grab** An under the radar provision of the House bill would undermine the power of federal courts **2 A sicker America** The current draft of the Republican tax bill would reduce the federal Medicaid budget by at

least \$600 billion over a decade That would be the largest cut the program has faced since its inception Administration officials have insisted that the cuts are not cuts but just a reduction in the rate of growth But at least \$600 billion less would leave a big hole in the health care budget of America however you frame it **3A A little less public spending a lot fewer public benefits** According to an estimate from the Congressional Budget Office the bill would nominally cut federal spending by \$1 point 3 trillion over a decade The largest component of that would be the cuts to Medicaid followed by the curtailment or elimination of other programs such as **the clean energy subsidies from the Inflation Reduction Act** What makes these cuts especially galling is that the bill would actually do very little to reduce federal spending once you consider the debt it would create The tax cuts would force the federal government to borrow trillions of additional dollars incurring hundreds of billions in added interest payments that would go a long way to offset that \$1 point 3 trillion in reduced spending The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the legislation as written would add \$551 billion to the government interest bill over the next decade But the bill contains **3B gimmicky expirations which were temporary could be made permanent** Republicans intend to make permanent many of the tax cuts they wrote into the bill as temporary If all the provisions of the bill would eventually be made permanent that added interest bill would rise to \$736 billion As the bill stands the Congressional Budget Office expects the federal government would spend \$89 point 3 trillion over the next decade Because a majority of the spending cuts of the bill would be offset by higher government borrowing costs it would shave at most a few hundred billion dollars off that base line while throwing millions of Americans off Medicaid Not great! **4A More economic turmoil and isolation** Trump has made clear that foreigners are not welcome here He has sought to prevent them from selling their goods and services here And now Republicans have a plan to discourage them even from investing in the United States The bill would create a **4B barrier to foreign investments from countries** including Australia Britain and Germany that according to the bill impose unfair taxes on American investors The provision Section 899 would impose a 5 percent tax in the first year which could rise to 20 percent by the fourth year on a wide range of investments the interest on loans to American borrowers the dividends from owning shares in American companies the profits from manufacturing products in the United States if Republicans pass their bill which would significantly expand the federal debt the United States will need a lot more money from the rest of the world **5 Dirtier more dangerous air** The bill would prevent America from innovating in the energy sector and make the country poorer but Americans by and large would not feel that **What they /would/ feel is what this bill would do to their air** By **slowing the rollout of renewable energy and by removing incentives for Americans to buy electric vehicles** the bill would increase the amount of coal natural gas and oil **burned** nationwide making pollution far worse **Power prices may also rise** That means more microscopic scraps of soot could enter the lungs and bloodstream of Americans endangering their health Somewhere from 50000 to 350000 premature deaths in the United States are attributed to fossil fuel pollution each year The Inflation Reduction Act was set to help bring that number down This bill would keep it high **6 A weaker military** Trump has demanded NATO allies meet the 5 percent military spending standard to merit continued U S support His administration should meet that standard itself **7 Crimea Once a Crossroad of Civilizations Finds Itself Isolated and Under Attack Mostly Russian visitors now cavort along its historic beaches hoping to avoid the Ukrainian drones whizzing toward military targets** **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 June 9 2025 Every month Ukraine unleashes three or four attacks on the Crimea bridge The latest one last week used underwater explosives to try to damage the support structure Ukraine said Each salvo forces the bridge to close disrupting the main artery between the Russian mainland and the Black Sea peninsula for up to seven hours While official information is scarce a channel on the Telegram app warns motorists to avoid

crossing as it did during another recent attack because a hail of shrapnel peppers the bridge when the considerable air defenses of Russia blast the Ukrainian drones Ever since Russia seized Crimea in 2014 in a preview of its full scale invasion of Ukraine eight years later the peninsula has been a focal point of the conflict between the countries Moscow says its conquest righted a historical wrong and demanded in cease fire negotiations in Istanbul last week that any settlement include international recognition of Russian control Ukraine vows to never abandon its claim **8** Ukraine Says Russia Launched Biggest Drone Assault of the War Most of the drones and missiles were intercepted according to the Ukrainian Air Force and there were no immediate reports of widespread damage **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 June 9 2025 Russia and Ukraine started exchanging prisoners on Monday hours after Moscow attacked Ukraine with the largest drone assault of the war Russia has been intensifying its attacks on Ukraine as peace talks stall The latest round of talks between the two sides earlier this month in Istanbul yielded little result apart from another agreement to swap prisoners On Monday the Russian Defense Ministry said that an exchange was underway Without specifying numbers the ministry said in a statement that Russia had received the first group of Russian troops and had sent an equal number to the Ukrainian side President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine confirmed that a swap of the wounded the severely wounded and those under the age of 25 had begun adding that the exchange would continue in several stages over the coming days Earlier on Monday the Ukrainian Air Force said that Russia had launched 479 drones and 20 missiles overnight the largest number of drones recorded since the war began more than three years ago Most were intercepted but 10 strikes were recorded according to the air force One person was killed in the Rivne region of western Ukraine and a Russian strike damaged a private home in the Kyiv region according to the local authorities Officials in the Sumy region in the northeast said that nine people had been injured over the past day Defense Ministry said on Monday that its air defenses had destroyed or jammed 49 Ukrainian drones overnight The Ukraine military claimed it had targeted a Russian airfield in the Nizhny Novgorod region and a facility in Cheboksary both east of Moscow **9** Ukraine claims to have damaged Russian fighter jets in night time raid Special forces reportedly launched assault on Russian airfield about 400 miles from Ukrainian border **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** The Guardian June 9 2025 Ukrainian special forces claim to have damaged two fighter jets in a night time raid on an airfield deep inside Russia as Kyiv sought to disrupt the Putin steady advances on the frontline A week after the spectacle of Operation Spiderweb when drones struck the nuclear capable bombers of the Kremlin the general staff of the Ukrainian army claimed a fresh success Special operations forces were said to have launched an assault on the Savasleyka airfield located in the Nizhny Novgorod region of Russia about 400 miles from the Ukrainian border The army did not provide any details about the nature of the operation and questions remain about the extent of the damage inflicted The airfield is used by Russia to deploy MiG 31K fighters carrying Kinzhal ballistic missiles that have been used against Ukrainian armed forces and its cities