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USA OUTLOOK

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Foto: cnbc.com

Monkeypox has spread to more than 20 countries, but the outbreaks are containable, WHO says

The World Health Organization on Thursday said the monkeypox virus has spread to more than 20 countries, urging nations to increase surveillance of the infectious disease as outbreaks grow.

About 200 confirmed cases and more than 100 suspected cases of monkeypox have been detected outside of countries where it usually circulates, according to Maria Van Kerkhove, the WHO's Covid-19 technical lead. She said more cases of the rare viral illness will likely be reported as surveillance expands, but added that the recent spread is containable.

"We expect more cases to be detected. We are asking countries to increase surveillance," Van Kerkhove said during a Q&A on the global health agency's social media platforms. "This is a containable situation. It will be difficult, but it's a containable situation in the non-endemic countries," she said.

Monkeypox has spread to North America and Europe in recent weeks, generating outbreaks in countries outside of Central and West Africa where the virus has circulated at low levels over the past four decades. A milder West African strain of the virus is driving the outbreaks and most patients recover in a few weeks. No deaths have been reported so far.

Fuente
<https://www.cnbc.com/2022/05/26/monkeypox-has-spread-to-more-than-20-countries-but-the-outbreaks-are-containable-who-says.html>

Gas prices have soared so high that the US is now seeing demand destruction ahead of the summer driving season

Pain at the pump has gotten so bad that demand for gasoline is dropping just as the summer driving season is about to begin.

Demand on a four-week rolling basis has hit its lowest level during this time of year since 2013, excluding the pandemic-outbreak period in 2020, according to data from the Energy Information Administration compiled by Bloomberg. Compared with year-ago levels, demand is down roughly 5%.

Prices at gas stations across the US have hit record after record over the past two weeks, dashing some hopes for a driving season that approaches pre-COVID-19 levels, AAA previously predicted.

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The average gallon of gas in the US hit \$4.59 on Tuesday, about 51% higher than a year ago, according to AAA data. Regular gas prices have never hit this level. And in California, AAA data showed, prices can be over \$6.

The demand destruction stemming from the high gas prices could alter earlier forecasts for prices to climb even higher.

A JPMorgan note on May 18 said the average US gas price could surpass \$6 a gallon this summer as driving season gets fully underway.



Foto: markets.businessinsider.com

Fuente
<https://markets.businessinsider.com/news/commodities/gas-prices-record-high-us-demand-destruction-crude-oil-prices-2022-5>



Foto: politico.com

U.S. economy is in a 'period of transition,' White House economic adviser says

Despite high inflation, the U.S. is "moving from the strongest economic recovery in modern history to what can be a period of more stable and resilient growth," Brian Deese said.

National Economic Council Director Brian Deese said Sunday that the high inflation rates across the country are a result of the economy's "period of transition" in recovering from the pandemic.

"We're moving from the strongest economic recovery in modern history to what can be a period of more stable and resilient growth," he said on "Fox News Sunday."

And although talk of a recession gained traction in recent weeks, Deese said that Americans hit with higher costs — at the pump or at the grocery store or elsewhere — should "take confidence that [the U.S. is] better positioned than any other country to navigate through this and keep our recovery going."

Ongoing inflation — the highest America has seen since the 1980s — has not only hit many American consumers hard but also put a damper on the political fortunes of President Joe Biden, whom some have portrayed as tone-deaf on economic issues. A CBS News poll released Sunday, in which 69 percent of those surveyed thought the economy was either "fairly bad" or "very bad," put Biden's disapproval rate at 56 percent.

Supreme Court may soon loosen gun laws as nation reels from massacres

While the Supreme Court has been working behind closed doors on its first major Second Amendment opinion in more than a decade, three mass shootings have broken the country, including Tuesday's massacre of 19 schoolchildren in Texas.

Closed off from public view, the justices are penning opinions and dissents in a dispute that targets one concealed carry law in New York that is more than a century old. A narrow ruling could impact only a handful of states with similar laws, but a more expansive ruling could open a new chapter in constitutional challenges to gun safety laws across the country.

"As a formal matter, the Supreme Court's ruling on New York's gun law doesn't call into question gun laws restricting types of weapons or sensitive places where individuals can carry guns," said Jacob Charles, executive director of the Center for Firearms Law at Duke University School of Law.

"But a broader ruling that changes the way courts evaluate gun laws could call into question a wider array of gun regulations like assault weapons bans and other restrictions like high-capacity magazine bans," Charles added.



Foto: edition.cnn.com

Fuente

<https://www.politico.com/news/2022/05/22/inflation-economy-deese-biden-white-house-00034263>

Fuente

<https://edition.cnn.com/2022/05/25/politics/supreme-court-second-amendment-guns-new-york-bruen-ualde/index.html>



US making COVID antiviral drug more available at test sites

Foto: AP News

The White House on Thursday announced more steps to make the antiviral treatment Paxlovid more accessible across the U.S. as it projects COVID-19 infections will continue to spread over the summer travel season.

The nation's first federally backed test-to-treat site is opening Thursday in Rhode Island, providing patients with immediate access to the drug once they test positive. More federally supported sites are set to open in the coming weeks in Massachusetts and New York City, both hit by a marked rise in infections.

Next week, the U.S. will send authorized federal prescribers to several Minnesota-run testing sites, turning them into test-to-treat locations. Federal regulators have also sent clearer guidance to physicians to help them determine how to manage Paxlovid's interactions with other drugs, with an eye toward helping prescribers find ways to get the life-saving medication to more patients. Despite a nationwide surge in COVID-19 cases, deaths from the virus have remained largely stable over the past eight weeks, as vaccine booster shots and widely accessible treatments have helped to delink infections and mortality.



Fuente

<https://apnews.com/article/covid-health-new-york-city-medication-3d59f62083db3f5646ac140009e33427>