



# **SIGNS OF THE TIMES**

**News Articles for Episode 413**

# [Israel sent Iron Dome and troops to help defend UAE during Iran war – report | The Times of Israel.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #israel, #united arab emirates, #military, #relationship

Apr 26, 2026

Israel reportedly deployed an Iron Dome battery to the United Arab Emirates early in the war with Iran, and sent several dozen troops to operate it.

It marked the first time the system has been sent to another country outside of Israel and the US, Axios reported Sunday, citing Israeli and American officials.

During the US-Israel war on Iran, Tehran launched sustained attacks on the UAE, firing some 550 ballistic and cruise missiles and more than 2,200 drones, according to the Emirati defense ministry, making it the most targeted country in the region, including Israel.

Iran, which had vowed to strike US bases in the region, targeted states across the Gulf with missile fire during the war. It also blocked the Strait of Hormuz, choking off a key pathway for the flow of oil and natural gas.

While most projectiles fired at the UAE were intercepted, some struck military and civilian targets, reportedly prompting Abu Dhabi to seek assistance from allies.

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Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered the deployment following a call with UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Israeli officials told Axios. The system was said to have intercepted dozens of Iranian missiles.

Israel and the UAE normalized relations with the 2020 Abraham Accords, a deal motivated in part by the shared threat of Iran.

Since the war began on February 28, Israeli and Emirati officials have said the two countries have been in close military and political coordination, with the Israeli Air Force also carrying out strikes in southern Iran during the war to neutralize short-range missiles threatening Gulf states.

Now, officials from both countries say the partnership between the two is unprecedentedly close, according to the report. It noted, however, that the decision to

send a missile defense system abroad while Israel was under heavy fire could provoke backlash among Israelis.

Axios also said that allowing Israeli troops in the UAE could be “politically sensitive” there. But a senior Emirati official quoted in the report said the UAE was “not going to forget” the assistance provided by Israel during the fighting.

Another Emirati official also praised the US, France, the UK, Italy and Australia for providing help during the war.

The UAE isn't the only country to request Israel's vaunted missile defense systems. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and other Ukrainian officials [have asked Israel](#) to share its Iron Dome technology, but Jerusalem rebuffed those requests.

US President Donald Trump has pushed the development of a [“Golden Dome” missile defense system](#), inspired by Iron Dome. But while Iron Dome is land-based, Golden Dome aims to create a network of satellites to detect, track and potentially intercept incoming missiles. The shield could deploy hundreds of satellites for missile detection and tracking.

# [After Iranian envoy meets with Putin, US weighs Strait of Hormuz proposal | MSN.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #iran, #russia, #putin, #hormuz

Apr 28, 2026

The White House is weighing an Iranian proposal that would see the United States and Iran immediately lift their blockades in the Strait of Hormuz but delay talks regarding Iran's nuclear program and a larger peace deal.

In an interview with Fox News on Monday, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the latest Iranian offer made over the weekend was "better" than what Washington had expected but declined to say whether President Donald Trump would agree to separate negotiations over the crucial waterway's reopening from Iran's nuclear program.

"Suffice it to say that the nuclear question is the reason why we're in this in the first place," Rubio said, adding that the U.S. would not "normalize" a situation in which Iran controlled the strait.

"It's important that straits be open. But it's not just the straits," Rubio said. "They cannot normalize nor can we tolerate them trying to normalize a system in which the Iranians decide who gets to use an international waterway and how much you have to pay them to use it."

Under the proposal, Iran is asking the U.S. to lift its blockade of Iranian ports in exchange for Tehran reopening the strait to maritime traffic, according to a Pakistani official who was briefed on the matter and spoke on the condition of anonymity to share sensitive details. The official did not specify whether Tehran would still require vessels to coordinate passage with the country's military or to pay a toll.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters Monday that the Trump administration is discussing the matter, without offering more details.

The White House deliberations come after Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi met Monday with Russian President Vladimir Putin, who pledged to do "everything" possible to bring peace to the Middle East, amid stalled talks between Iran and the United States.

Araghchi arrived in St. Petersburg early Monday after stops in Oman — like Russia, a key diplomatic mediator for Iran — and Pakistan, which has been hosting on-again, off-again peace talks. Hopes of a deal dimmed over the weekend after Trump [at the last minute called off plans to send](#) to Pakistan envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law.

Iran continues to block traffic through the Strait of Hormuz and the U.S. continues its blockade against the nation, with severe consequences for the global economy and no clear end in sight.

Russian state media did not report what kind of support, if any, Putin pledged to Araghchi behind closed doors in their meeting Monday. Iran and Russia have long been close strategic partners, and Moscow has so far extended limited support to Iran in its war with the United States and Israel, providing Tehran with targeting information for U.S. forces including warships and aircraft in the Middle East, Western officials have said.

At the same time, Putin, hopeful of negotiating a peace deal in Ukraine favorable to Russia, has tried to avoid upsetting relations with Trump and has sought to assure him that Moscow is not sharing targeting information with Tehran. Russia has long been seeking to offer its services as an intermediary in negotiations between Iran, the U.S. and Israel, in hopes of leveraging its relationship with Iran to bolster its standing with the Trump administration and potentially secure concessions on Ukraine.

“We very much hope that, relying on this courage and the aspiration for independence, the Iranian people, under the leadership of the new leader, will get through this difficult period of trials — and that peace will come,” Putin told Araghchi, according to state news agency RIA Novosti. “For our part, we will do everything that serves your interests and the interests of all the peoples of the region in order to ensure that this peace is achieved as soon as possible.”

Iranian state run media reports have said that Araghchi’s visits to Pakistan and Russia were not related to nuclear talks, but the reports said the foreign minister did raise the Strait of Hormuz and “the imposition of a new legal regime” there.

A prolonged blockade of the strait could send energy prices and fertilizer shortages spiking further and raise the political peril for Republicans in November’s midterm elections. The price of Brent crude oil passed \$111 a barrel on Tuesday,, even though reports had emerged beforehand of Iran submitting a new ceasefire proposition.

Peace talks have also faltered in Lebanon, where Hezbollah and Israel — allies of Iran and the United States, respectively — continued to fire at each other despite efforts by Washington to broker a deal. Israel renewed airstrikes on Monday in Lebanon’s Bekaa Valley after seeing casualties among its ground forces, which are occupying a swath of southern Lebanon. The death toll in Lebanon surpassed 2,500 over the weekend.

Continued fighting between Israel and Hezbollah could strain the U.S.-Iran talks: Lebanon remains a major sticking point, along with Hormuz and the fate of Iran’s nuclear program. Hours after Washington and Tehran reached an initial ceasefire agreement on April 7, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu launched massive airstrikes targeting more than 100 sites in Beirut, the Bekaa Valley and southern Lebanon, infuriating Iran just days before Vice President JD Vance was set to meet

with Iranian officials. A second round of talks involving Vance was set for April 21, but Trump announced at the last minute that it would be postponed indefinitely.

“Too much time wasted on traveling, too much work!” Trump wrote Saturday on Truth Social. “Besides which, there is tremendous infighting and confusion within their ‘leadership.’ Nobody knows who is in charge, including them. Also, we have all the cards, they have none! If they want to talk, all they have to do is call!!!”

In the meantime, both Iran and the U.S. [have seized vessels](#) in the region. Between April 21 and April 24, five or fewer tankers or dry bulk vessels per day transited the Strait of Hormuz, according to maritime intelligence firm Kpler. The longer the vital oil passageway is constrained, analysts and traders have [warned](#), the larger the oil supply shocks. Some countries have already seen oil price spikes and crippling fuel shortages.

# [Texas can require Ten Commandments be displayed in classrooms, US court rules | The Times of Israel.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #ten commandments, #texas, #schools

Apr 22, 2026

Texas can require the Ten Commandments to be displayed in public schools, a US appeals court ruled Tuesday in a victory for conservatives who have long sought to incorporate more religion into classrooms.

The 9-8 decision by the 5th US Circuit Court of Appeals delivered a boost to backers of similar laws in Arkansas and Louisiana. Opponents have argued that hanging the Ten Commandments in classrooms proselytizes to students and amounts to religious indoctrination by the government.

In a lengthy majority opinion, the conservative-leaning appeals court in New Orleans rejected those arguments in Texas, saying the requirement does not step on the rights of parents or students.

“No child is made to recite the Commandments, believe them, or affirm their divine origin,” the ruling says.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and other groups that challenged the Texas law on behalf of parents said in a statement that they anticipate appealing the ruling to the US Supreme Court.

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“The First Amendment safeguards the separation of church and state, and the freedom of families to choose how, when and if to provide their children with religious instruction. This decision tramples those rights,” they said in the statement.

The mandate is one of several fronts in Texas that opponents have fought over religion in classrooms. In 2024, the state approved an optional Bible-infused curriculum for elementary schools, and a proposal set for a vote in June would add Bible stories to required reading lists in Texas classrooms.

The decision over the Ten Commandments law reverses a lower federal court ruling that had blocked about a dozen Texas school districts — including some of the state’s largest — from putting up the posters.

The Texas law, Texas Senate Bill 10, signed by Republican Governor Greg Abbott, took effect in September, marking the largest attempt in the country to hang the Ten Commandments in public schools.

From the start, the law was met almost immediately by a mix of embrace and hesitation in Texas classrooms that educate the state's 5.5 million public school students.

The mandate animated school board meetings, spun up guidance about what to say when students ask questions, and led to boxes of donated posters being dropped on the doorsteps of campuses statewide. Although the law only requires schools to hang the posters if donated, one suburban Dallas school district spent nearly \$1,800 to print roughly 5,000 posters.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, a Republican, called the ruling "a major victory for Texas and our moral values."

"The Ten Commandments have had a profound impact on our nation, and it's important that students learn from them every single day," he said.

Tuesday's ruling comes after the appeals court heard arguments in January in the Texas case and a similar case in Louisiana. In February, the court cleared the way for Louisiana to enforce its law requiring the display of the Ten Commandments in classrooms.

Republican Louisiana Attorney General Liz Murrill said the Texas ruling "adopted our entire legal defense" of the law in her state. In Alabama, Republican Governor Kay Ivey also signed a similar law earlier this month.

"Our law clearly was always constitutional, and I am grateful that the Fifth Circuit has now definitively agreed with us," Murrill said in a statement posted to social media.

Judge Stephen A. Higginson, in a dissenting opinion joined by four others on the court, wrote that the framers of the Constitution "intended disestablishment of religion, above all to prevent large religious sects from using political power to impose their religion on others."

"Yet Texas, like Louisiana, seeks to do just that, legislating that specific, politically chosen scripture be installed in every public-school classroom," Higginson wrote.

The law says schools must put donated posters "in a conspicuous place" and requires the writing to be a size and typeface that is visible from anywhere in a classroom to a person with "average vision." The displays must also be 16 inches wide and 20 inches tall (40 centimeters wide and 50 centimeters tall).

Texas's law easily passed the GOP-controlled Legislature and Republicans, including US President Donald Trump, have backed posting the Ten Commandments in classrooms.

The majority's ruling, written by Circuit Judge Stuart Kyle Duncan and joined by Chief Judge Jennifer Walker Elrod and seven other judges, said the law does not violate the US Constitution's prohibition on government establishment of religion or its protection of the free exercise of religion.

The Texas law "does not tell churches or synagogues or mosques what to believe or how to worship or whom to employ as priests, rabbis, or imams," Duncan wrote. "It punishes no one who rejects the Ten Commandments, no matter the reason." The 5th Circuit's ruling reversed a preliminary injunction that had blocked the Texas law from taking effect.

# [Mamdani administration won't use a codified antisemitism definition, representative says | The Times of Israel.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #mamdani, #anti-semitism definition, #hate, #jews

Apr 23, 2026

NEW YORK — The head of New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani's antisemitism office on Wednesday said that City Hall will not replace a widely used antisemitism definition that Mamdani scrapped on his first day in office.

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism equates some forms of anti-Israel rhetoric with discrimination against Jews.

The definition is opposed by anti-Israel activists, who argue that the outline conflates political criticism of Israel with discrimination. Mamdani and members of his administration are harsh critics of Israel.

Former New York City mayor Eric Adams, Mamdani's predecessor, [adopted the definition](#) for the city government last year by executive order. Mamdani [revoked the order](#), along with other Adams executive orders, when he assumed office, sparking questions about how City Hall would recognize anti-Jewish discrimination.

The issue is significant because discrimination against Jews is often not clear-cut and is sometimes associated with Israel or "Zionism," and political rhetoric against Israel is protected speech, even though Jews often experience anti-Zionist activity as discrimination. Mamdani has shown himself ready to condemn "classic" forms of antisemitism, such as [swastikas](#) or [tropes about Jewish greed](#), but [unwilling to label](#) anti-Zionist activities as discriminatory.

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Phylisa Wisdom, the head of City Hall's Office to Combat Antisemitism, testified before a City Council antisemitism task force on Wednesday, in one of her first public appearances since she took up the role last month.

Adams also established the Mayoral Office to Combat Antisemitism, while the Bipartisan Task Force to Combat Antisemitism was set up by the City Council, which is independent of the mayor's office. City Council Speaker Julie Menin, who is Jewish, is

leading a [broad effort](#) to rein in antisemitism in the city, including through the task force. Jews are targeted in hate crimes in the city [more than all other groups combined](#).

Wednesday's hearing was the first by the task force, co-chaired by Democrat Eric Dinowitz of the Bronx and Republican Inna Vernikov of Brooklyn.

"We will not be the government that sits silently by. We will not be the government of inaction that allows Jews to be persecuted because we're looking the other way," Dinowitz said in his opening remarks.

The hearing focused on the reporting of hate crimes. In addition to Wisdom, NYPD representatives and Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez testified before a panel of lawmakers. Vernikov said the district attorneys of each borough were invited to attend the hearing, but Gonzalez was the only one of the five to show up.

Vernikov asked Wisdom about Mamdani's repeal of the IHRA definition and which definition the antisemitism office would use. In addition to IHRA, there are several other definitions of antisemitism, some of which are more permissive toward anti-Zionism.

"We don't believe there needs to be a codified definition," Wisdom said. "The policy of this administration is we will continue to not have any codified definition of any form of hate."

"Bias and hate, it's really sticky and extremely serious stuff, and it's case by case," she said.

The office will understand antisemitism as "prejudice, violence and discrimination against Jews because they are Jewish," she said.

Councilmember Simcha Felder, an Orthodox Democrat from Brooklyn, stormed out of the hearing.

"That's crazy, unconscionable. In the history of New York City, there was never a problem figuring out what hate is. We will have to define each time whether an incident was hateful or not?" he said.

The task force also pressed NYPD representatives about the distinction between anti-Zionism and discrimination against Jews.

Dinowitz asked Michael Gerber, the NYPD's deputy commissioner of legal matters, about a hypothetical kosher restaurant vandalized with the words "Kill the Zionists." Gerber said "it's going to depend" on an investigation to determine whether such an incident would be a hate crime.

"If it wasn't pure political motivation," Gerber said, "we have to be able to prove that."

If a kosher restaurant was vandalized with “Kill the Jews,” though, Gerber said, “That’s a hate crime right there. That is clearly because of a perceived Jewish identity.”

“We’ve seen time and time again the word ‘Zionist’ is used as a proxy for ‘Jew,’” Dinowitz said. “There should be no question that those would be hate crimes and I think what you’ve delivered is sort of the ‘out.’ If you just use the word ‘Zionist’ instead of ‘Jew’ then you might be okay.”

“We have to follow the law, and the law does distinguish between crimes because of one’s religious identity and ones because of political viewpoints,” Gerber said.

Hate crimes are enhancements to underlying crimes that increase punishments because hate crimes are seen as targeting not only an individual, but a protected group. Vandalization of a restaurant, for example, would always be prosecuted as a crime, but an added hate crime enhancement would stiffen the penalty.

Hate crimes are [difficult to prosecute](#) because, unlike other offenses, investigators must determine that perpetrators were motivated by animus against a protected group, a high legal bar.

Gerber also said the NYPD does not use a specific definition of antisemitism, but works to determine whether victims of suspected antisemitic incidents were targeted because they were Jewish.

Wisdom’s predecessor, Rabbi Moshe Davis, who was at the hearing, criticized the Mamdani administration for lacking an antisemitism definition.

“You cannot ensure the safety of Jewish New Yorkers while remaining willfully blind to the sources of the hatred directed at them,” he said.

The antisemitism/anti-Zionism fault line is a major battleground in discourse surrounding Jews and Israel in the US, with implications stretching across law enforcement, education, politics and the court system.

Many Jews consider anti-Zionism discriminatory, while opponents view the movement as political advocacy. A growing movement in the Jewish community is [pushing to reframe anti-Zionism](#) as the contemporary iteration of discrimination against Jews, using different tropes but the same structures and patterns as past forms of hatred.

Wisdom, who became the head of the antisemitism office six weeks ago, said the office has a staff of two, and plans to expand to three or four. The staffers are conducting a listening tour of Jewish community leaders and when that is finished, will have a framework for the office’s activities and release a report around the end of the summer, she said.

The office is still getting off the ground, and many of its plans and activities, such as public messaging and accessibility to the public, have not yet been determined, Wisdom said.

“I take very seriously the safety of every single Jewish person in this city across religiosity, identity, race and understand very acutely the differences between how they experience antisemitism,” she said.

# [US ally warns another antisemitic attack is 'highly likely' in next 6 months | Foxnews.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #britain, #anti-semitism, #london, #hate, #jews

Apr 30, 2026

Britain raised its national terror threat level to "severe" on Thursday in the wake of the [antisemitic stabbing attack in Golders Green](#), warning that another terrorist attack is now considered "highly likely" in the next six months.

The Joint [Terrorism](#) Analysis Centre (JTAC) increased the U.K. National Threat Level from "substantial" to "severe" a day after two people were stabbed in north London in what police have formally declared a terrorist incident.

Officials said the decision was not based solely on the Golders Green attack, but reflects a broader rise in extreme right-wing terrorism in Britain.

Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood called Wednesday's violence an "abhorrent, [antisemitic attack](#)" and said the elevated threat level would be a source of concern for many, "particularly amongst our Jewish community, who have suffered so much."

## [BELGIUM DEPLOYS MILITARY TO PROTECT JEWISH SITES AFTER ANTISEMITIC SYNAGOGUE EXPLOSION](#)

Police said officers were called to Highfield Avenue in the Barnet borough at about 11:16 a.m. Wednesday following reports of multiple stabbings.

Two men, ages 76 and 34, were treated at the scene for stab wounds before being taken to a hospital, where they remain and are "being looked after," Assistant Commissioner Laurence Taylor said.

On Thursday, police identified the suspect as 45-year-old Essa Suleiman. Suleiman is a British national born in Somalia who had a "history of serious violence and [mental health](#) issues", police say.

The Home Office said the threat-level increase comes against a backdrop of [rising terrorism in the U.K.](#)

On Thursday, protesters gathered on Downing Street to voice concerns that not enough has been done to [protect the Jewish community](#).

In response to the attack and a [recent rise of antisemitic arson](#) attacks in London, the government announced an additional £25 million in funding to protect Jewish

communities, bringing total support this year to £58 million. Officials said the money will be used to boost police patrols and protective security at synagogues, schools and community centers.

### [RECORD ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS IN CANADA FUEL CRITICISM OF CARNEY GOVERNMENT RESPONSE](#)

The funding will also support an expansion of Project Servator, which deploys specialist and plainclothes officers trained to spot suspicious behavior and identify people preparing to commit serious crimes.

Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar said the British government cannot credibly claim to be combating antisemitism unless it also confronts what he described as "explicit incitement against the Jewish state."

"Hate slogans and anti-Semitic marches in the streets of London aren't 'free speech'. They are incitement," he wrote on X. "They bring terror directed against Jews. They must be banned. The phrase 'Globalise the Intifada', means killing Jews everywhere. It must be banned."

"This is what the British government must immediately do to fight antisemitism. Otherwise, it's just more empty words."

Taylor said the attack has now been formally classified as terrorism and that [counterterrorism officers are working](#) with security services to establish the full circumstances and develop a complete intelligence picture.

"Whilst I must stress this investigation is at an early stage, we are working quickly to understand exactly what happened," Taylor said.

### [BOULDER TERROR ATTACK LATEST IN ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS RISING ACROSS US IN 2025](#)

A statement posted on X by Shomrim, a volunteer neighborhood watch group in Orthodox Jewish communities, said the suspect was seen "armed with a knife" on Golders Green Road and was detained by members before police arrived.

Detective Chief Superintendent Luke Williams said officers "swiftly Tasered and arrested the suspect before he could cause further harm," adding that investigators are "considering all possible motives" and will maintain a visible police presence in the area.

The U.K. was last at the "severe" threat level in November 2021, following the Liverpool Women's Hospital bombing and the killing of lawmaker Sir David Amess, before it was lowered to "substantial" in February 2022.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer condemned the violence, calling attacks on Jewish residents "an attack on Britain," while London Mayor Sadiq Khan said there is ["no place for antisemitism"](#) in the city.

# [This potentially deadly, flesh-eating parasite is getting closer to the US | Foxnews.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #parasite, #screw worm, #livestock, #mexico

Apr 20, 2026

A potentially deadly parasite that can infect livestock, pets and humans is less than 100 miles away from the [Texas](#) border and is inching closer to the U.S.

## [SPIDERS THE SIZE OF A HUMAN HAND ARE SPREADING THROUGHOUT THE US](#)

The flesh-eating parasite, called the New World screwworm, was detected this month in the [Mexican](#) state of Nuevo León, just 90 miles away from the [U.S.](#) border. As of last year, the insect was still 400 miles away.

"The New World screwworm is not some distant problem," Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller said. "It is a direct and imminent threat to Texas, and we are treating it that way. This is a high-stakes situation for our ranchers, our livestock industry and our food supply, and we are moving aggressively to stay ahead of it."

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the New World screwworm is a species of parasitic [fly](#) that completes part of its lifecycle by feeding on the tissue or flesh of warm-blooded animals and people.

## [AMERICA'S MOST BED BUG INFESTED CITIES MAY SURPRISE YOU](#)

This insect is attracted to the smell of wounds and body openings, including the nose, eyes, ears, mouth and genitals.

Once a female fly makes contact, it can lay 200 to 300 eggs in a wound or opening that can be as small as a tick bite. In some cases, the fly may lay up to 3,000 eggs during its 10 to 30-day lifespan.

The eggs then hatch into maggots that burrow into the wound or opening and feed on the flesh. After about seven days of feeding, the larvae drop to the ground and eventually emerge as adult screwworm flies.

"The reality is the spread of the New World screwworm has not been successfully contained to date," Miller said. "That is a serious concern."

In 2023, [Panama and Costa Rica](#) identified an outbreak of the New World screwworm. Since then, all countries in [Central America](#) and Mexico have reported cases among animals and people. Before this outbreak, the spread of the insect had been controlled.

As of this month, nearly 168,000 cases have been reported in [animals](#) and more than 1,700 cases in people, including one case involving a [Maryland](#) resident returning to the U.S. from El Salvador.

This was the first confirmed human case in the U.S. in years. The patient recovered, and no further spread has been identified.

The CDC said that most people who contract the New World screwworm experience symptoms such as feeling or seeing maggots in the skin, a foul-smelling odor from the site of infection and bleeding open sores.

But the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the CDC are working to minimize the spread.

Meanwhile, organizations around the country, including Clemson University, are working with other states to monitor its movement and prevent its spread should it enter the U.S.

As of March, the USDA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced a plan to build a new sterile fly production facility in [Edinburg, Texas](#), to help fight the spread of the parasite.

Even with this increased preparedness, experts still recommend that people take preventive measures and report anything unusual.

"We are educating the public and asking them to report any suspicious findings," Michael Neault, director of Clemson Livestock-Poultry Health, said. "Also, it's important for the public to understand that NWS is treatable and animals can make a full recovery if it is detected early."

# [Highly contagious stomach bug spreads fast, hitting certain patients hardest | Foxnews.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #contagious, #rna virus, #infection, #disease

Apr 23, 2026

A highly contagious [digestive virus](#) is surging across the U.S., experts warn.

Rotavirus, a double-stranded RNA virus, causes acute gastroenteritis — inflammation of the stomach and intestines — which can lead to severe diarrhea, vomiting, fever and stomach pain.

The virus primarily affects infants and [young children](#), but there have also been outbreaks in elderly populations, such as nursing homes.

## [AT LEAST 46 CHILDREN DEAD AMID MEASLES OUTBREAK AS VIRUS SPREADS GLOBALLY](#)

Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows that in the week ending April 4, out of 2,329 rotavirus tests, 7.3% were positive for the infection. Last year's highest infection rate was 6.77% as of the week ending April 19.

"We're seeing a lot of rotavirus [in the wastewater](#) right now," Dr. Marc Siegel, Fox News senior medical analyst, confirmed to Fox News Digital. "Testing for rotavirus is way down, but the percentage of positive tests is up."

While the virus typically peaks in the spring, it is not currently slowing down, he noted.

### **Why cases may be rising**

Patricia Pinto-Garcia, M.D., a medical editor at GoodRx who is based in California, said there are several possible reasons for the rotavirus spike.

"Vaccine rates are down overall among young children, as they decreased during COVID," she told Fox News Digital. "This means there's a growing number of infants and young children who are vulnerable to infection."

The rotavirus vaccine series must be completed by the time a child is 8 months old, she noted.

As a result of the declining vaccinations, herd immunity isn't protecting vulnerable children, according to Pinto-Garcia. "Children who haven't finished the [vaccine series](#) yet, are too young to get vaccinated, or can't get the vaccine due to medical illness are

more likely to get exposed to the illness because other children aren't vaccinated," she said.

Siegel noted that before the vaccine became available, rotavirus resulted in 55,000 to 70,000 in the U.S. per year.

"I am concerned that the vaccination rate has been declining over the past seven years and is continuing to decline in the current climate of vaccine skepticism," he said.

Surveillance methods are also much better than they used to be, Pinto-Garcia noted, which means [public health](#) experts are able to pick up and track cases better than ever before.

## [HOW LONG YOU'RE CONTAGIOUS WITH THE FLU – AND WHEN IT'S SAFE TO GO OUT](#)

"But we see that rotavirus-related healthcare visits are also up, so improved detection is not the only reason we are seeing this spike," she said.

The [COVID pandemic](#) also disrupted the pattern of infections, according to Pinto-Garcia, so it's "tricky" to compare the current levels against older cycles.

"It's possible that what we are seeing is still some post-pandemic rebound, but it's unlikely that this year's pattern is fully explained by just this factor," she added.

### **Transmission and risk**

Dr. Zachary Hoy, a pediatric [infectious disease](#) specialist at Pediatrix Medical Group based in Nashville, Tennessee, often sees young patients with rotavirus.

"Rotavirus is spread via the fecal-oral route, meaning that a person comes into contact with [virus droplets](#) from contact with other children or adults, or from contact with objects such as toys that have been contaminated with the virus from someone who is sick," he told Fox News Digital. "This can lead to outbreaks, especially at schools where many young children share the same toys."

"It's possible that what we are seeing is still some post-pandemic rebound, but it's unlikely that this year's pattern is fully explained by just this factor."

Rotavirus is associated with many dehydration cases in the hospital due to the degree of diarrhea, according to Hoy.

In some severe cases, the virus can lead to seizures due to electrolyte imbalances from dehydration and loss of electrolytes in the stool.

"Younger children do not have the reserves that older children and adults have, so they can become more dehydrated quicker and develop more severe electrolyte imbalances, leading to more [severe infections](#)," Hoy said.

"Patients with problems with their immune systems or on medications that can decrease their immune systems can have more severe and prolonged infections, too."

## **Treatment and care**

Because rotavirus is a [viral infection](#), antibiotics are not effective against it. There is no specific antiviral treatment for the condition, with doctors typically recommending supportive care.

"The mainstay of treatment is hospitalization for rehydration via intravenous (IV) fluids," Hoy told Fox News Digital. "Sometimes it can take up to two to three days of IV fluids to help get patients rehydrated."

Blood draws are often necessary to evaluate patients' electrolyte levels, such as sodium, potassium, calcium and magnesium, according to the doctor.

"If these electrolyte levels are significantly low, sometimes patients need special IV solutions or individual electrolyte medications," he added.

Dr. Daniel Park, medical director of the Pediatric Emergency Department at UNC Health in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, noted that most children recover with supportive care, but parents should seek [medical attention](#) if a child shows signs of dehydration. Those include decreased urination, lethargy or inability to keep fluids down.

"While rare, rotavirus can be life-threatening in vulnerable populations, especially very young infants or children with underlying [medical conditions](#)," Park told Fox News Digital.

## **Prevention strategies**

Given the lack of [antiviral medications](#) for rotavirus, doctors emphasize the importance of prevention, primarily the vaccine.

There are two rotavirus vaccines – Rotateq (a three-dose series) and Rotarix (a two-dose series). They are given starting at age 2 months as oral drops, not injections, according to Hoy.

"It's important to get the rotavirus vaccines on schedule, because these younger infants are at greatest risk if they get rotavirus," he advised.

Other recommended prevention methods include handwashing with soap and water.

# [Ancient ritual complex unearthed at site tied to biblical city in Ezekiel | NY Post.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #ezekiel, #bible, #archaeology, #discovery, #city

Apr 28, 2026

Officials recently unveiled the remains of an ancient religious complex at a site often identified with a biblical city cited in the Old Testament.

The ritual complex, dedicated to the local deity Pelusios, was found at Tell el-Farama in North Sinai.

Tell el-Farama was once the ancient city of Pelusium — and is sometimes identified with a biblical city called “Sin,” mentioned in the Book of Ezekiel.

The recent excavation revealed a massive basin with a diameter of 115 feet, which was once filled with water from the Nile River.

Archaeologists believe the basin was used continuously from the second century B.C. to the sixth century A.D.

“It was filled with water mixed with Nile silt, symbolizing a connection to the god Pelusios, whose name is derived from the Greek word ‘pelos,’ meaning ‘mud,’” officials said in a translated statement.

The basin was “surrounded by channels and water reservoirs, with multiple entrances on the eastern, southern, and western sides, while the northern side suffered significant destruction,” the statement also noted.

The discovery was years in the making.

In 2019, archaeologists uncovered just a fraction of a circular red-brick structure that later revealed the entire complex.

While it was at first believed to be a civic council building, officials recently determined it was a “sacred water installation associated with religious rituals.”

Sin is described in the Book of Ezekiel as a stronghold of Egypt, a characterization that aligns with Pelusium’s location as a key gateway on the country’s northeastern frontier.

In Ezekiel 30:15, God says, “I will pour out my wrath on Sin, the stronghold of Egypt.”

The biblical city of Sin has been identified with Pelusium since early Greek translations of the Bible, with some modern versions still noting the connection in footnotes.

In a statement, Sherif Fathy, the minister of Tourism and Antiquities, said the basin discovery “underscores the strategic and archaeological importance of North Sinai, which is rich in promising sites that still hold many secrets.”

The discovery is one of several notable finds recently announced in Egypt.

Last month, officials announced the discovery of eight rare papyrus scrolls dating back nearly 3,000 years — whose contents still remain unknown.

Egyptian officials also unveiled the discovery of an ancient monastery dating back to the dawn of Christian monasticism.

The site was established between the fourth and sixth centuries A.D.

# [Donnie Wahlberg Says Fame Left Him Empty Until He Accepted Jesus as His Savior | Crosswalk.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #salvation, #jesus, #gospel

Apr 27, 2026

Donnie Wahlberg says in a new interview that fame never brought lasting joy and that he only found peace in recent months after committing his life to Christ.

Wahlberg is best known to today's audiences for his on-screen roles in projects such as *Blue Bloods* and *Boston Blue*, but he first rose to international fame in the late 1980s and early 1990s as a member of New Kids on the Block. The group's popularity has surged again in recent months through its Las Vegas residency.

He credits the faith of his wife, actress and model Jenny McCarthy, with helping lead him to faith.

Donnie Wahlberg Says He's Given His Life to [Jesus](#)

"I had just finished creating the New Kids Las Vegas show and being involved in creating this new spin off TV show that I'm the star of ... To the outside world, it's like you are at the top, and I felt at the bottom. I talked to... [pic.twitter.com/u5bWM7IDt4](https://pic.twitter.com/u5bWM7IDt4)

— Chief Nerd (@TheChiefNerd) [April 25, 2026](#)

"Jenny and I Bible study together, we pray together, we do all the things," he said on *The George Janko Show*.

But for much of his adult life, Wahlberg said, he was hollow despite his fame. He grew up Catholic but remembers realizing, "I'm missing something, you know, missing a connection."

"I got famous at, like, 19-20 years old. ... it instantly became this thing where I was, like, held up on this pedestal to everybody," he said, describing instances when adults much older than him would ask him for advice.

"I'm like, 'What do I know?' I'm in a boy band. But then I'm also a people pleaser, right? I want to fix everyone's problems inherently. So now I'm like, well, I've got to have all the answers. And I literally have walked around for the last 37-38 years thinking I have all the answers – and it's been so difficult in the last year to realize I don't, I don't have them all."

To the outside world, Wahlberg said, he appeared to have a perfect life – a successful career in the public eye with a wife and children.

“Everything to the outside to everyone looks perfect,” he said. “And I was empty. I was empty without Him.”

That searching for purpose led him to a conversation with his wife one morning, shortly after he had finished work helping create the New Kids on the Block Las Vegas residency, *The Right Stuff*.

“And I sat down with my wife one morning,” he told Janko. “... And to the outside world, it's like, you are at the top – and I felt at the bottom. And I talked to my wife, and I said, I have to connect with [Jesus](#). I have to give my life to Him now. And she was like, ‘Of course.’”

Asked by Janko why he would get into heaven, Wahlberg answered simply, “because [Jesus](#) Christ is my Lord and Savior – and it's by His grace.”

## **Related Video**

[Mark Wahlberg Credits His Success 'to My Faith' in God](#)