China conducts ‘precision missile strikes’ in Taiwan Strait

WASHINGTON (AP) — The federal government declared a public health emergency Thursday to bolster the response to the monkeypox outbreak that has infected more than 6,600 Americans.

The announcement will free up money for other rounds to fight the virus, which may cause fever, body aches, chills, fatigue and people-like bumps on many parts of the body.

“We are prepared to take our response to the next level in addressing this virus, and we urge every American to take monkeypox seriously,” said Xavier Becerra, head of the Department of Health and Human Services.

The declaration by HHS comes as the Biden administration has faced criticism over monkeypox vaccine availability. Clínica in major cities such as New York and San Francisco say they haven’t received enough of the two-shot vaccine to meet demand, and some have had to step up efforts to close the hole in supply of first doses.

The White House said it has made more than 3.1 million doses available and has helped to boost domestic diagnostic capacity to 80,000 tests per week.

The monkeypox virus spreads through prolonged skin-to-skin contact, including hugging, cuddling and kissing, as well as through clothing and bedding. The people who have gotten sick so far are primarily men who have sex with men, although officials emphasize that the virus can infect anyone.

So far in the United States, 83 cases have been reported in 31 states. Earlier this week, the Biden administration named top officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to serve as the White House coordinators to combat monkeypox.

By VINCE RICHARDSON

#China conducted ‘precision missile strikes’ Wednesdays, in Taiwan Strait.  

One of the missiles fired from an unspecified location Thursday in China.  

China has long threatened to reunify Taiwan by force if necessary.  

But reunification moves by the island to solidify its de facto independence has raised tensions in the region, following a visit by a satellite to Taiwan this week.  

The drills were prompted by a visit to Taiwan this week by Pelosi, who had been previously urged to stop offering the second dose to susceptible people, including children, as the next steps in the Biden administration.

In this image taken from video footage released by China’s CCTV, a missile is launched from an unspecified location Thursday in China.