



COVID-19 4/10 UPDATE

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Global

Total cases – 1,650,210

Total deaths – 101,526

United States

Positive Tests – 486,490 (up 8% from prior day)

% Positive Tests – 24% (same as prior day)

Total # Tests – 2,378,143 (up 8% from prior day)

Total deaths – 17,925 (up 13% from prior day)

Administration

- The **SBA** said that more than 587,000 loan applications totaling more than \$151 billion have been processed as of Friday morning, but there are no data on how much has actually reached business owners desperate to stay afloat.
- **President Trump** says the number of coronavirus deaths in the US will be "substantially below the 100,000" figure projected by health experts as cities like Detroit and New Orleans turn a corner in terms of infections.
 - "This is the end of the week — that famous week that we spoke about last weekend," **Fauci** said today during a White House coronavirus task force meeting. "It's important to remember that this is not the time to feel that since we have made such important advance in the sense of success of the mitigation that we need to be pulling back at all."
- **FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn** said the federal government has provided guidance to manufacturers to make cloth gowns — as opposed to the plastic ones typically used — for health care workers.
 - He also said the **FDA** revised guidance regarding the laundering of gowns "because gowns are another issue in terms of supply" that health care workers fighting coronavirus are facing.
- **Dr. Deborah Birx** said for the first time since the coronavirus pandemic hit, she is seeing a leveling of the curve in the United States.
 - "You can see for the first time that in the United States, we are starting to level on the logarithmic phase like Italy did about a week ago. And so this gives us great heart, that not only in specific places, but we are starting to see that change," Birx said.

- The aid package in **Congress** should be limited to a **funding boost for small businesses** to help them keep their employees, “with no additions,” President **Trump** said in a tweet. “We should have a big Infrastructure Phase Four with Payroll Tax Cuts & more,” he said.
- The **Internal Revenue Service** said Friday that some stimulus payments will start going out [next week](#). Payments will start with those people who have filed their 2018 or 2019 tax returns and have authorized a direct deposit. Those payments will be made automatically.
 - Social Security beneficiaries will also receive their payments automatically. Those payments will go out “in the near future,” the IRS said Friday.
 - Others — who haven’t filed those returns, authorized direct deposits, or receive Social Security — will likely have to [wait weeks and even months before seeing their money](#). Some will have to first file a return or register online in order to receive the payment.
- Also on Friday, the **IRS** launched a new tool to help low-income people who aren’t normally required to file returns to input some basic information so that they can receive the stimulus money. They’ll have to provide their Social Security number, name, address, and the number of their dependents – as well as bank account information if they want to receive a direct deposit.
- **Dr. Anthony Fauci** said Friday on CNN’s “New Day” the idea of Americans carrying certificates of immunity to prove they have tested positive for the antibodies to the coronavirus might “have some merit under certain circumstances.”
 - **Fauci**, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, told CNN’s Alisyn Camerota immunity certificates are being discussed.
 - **Fauci** added that these antibody tests will be important for medical workers and others on the frontline who are fighting the current pandemic.
- The U.S. will “have a rather large number of tests that are available” within a week or so, says **Anthony Fauci**, director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.
 - Tests for coronavirus antibodies are being validated by the National Institutes of Health and FDA to make sure they are consistent and accurate, Fauci says on CNN
 - “As soon as they get validated, they’ll be out there for people to use”
 - **Fauci** says “as we get to the point of at least considering opening up the country” it will be important to understand how much virus has penetrated society; antibody tests would be used to develop strategies with knowledge of who is vulnerable to the virus
- **Trump** said a tentative agreement between **Riyadh** and **Moscow** to cut global oil production is a “very acceptable agreement.” The two nations are “getting close to a deal,” Trump said yesterday.
- **The White House** is considering whether to create a working group focused on reviving the U.S. economy after the coronavirus pandemic eases, and whether the panel should include private-sector representatives.
 - The discussions are in their early stages, according to three people familiar with the matter. Administration officials including **Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin**, **White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows**, President Donald Trump’s senior adviser and son-in-law **Jared Kushner** and the director of the National Economic Council, **Larry Kudlow**, may be involved, the people said.
 - **Meadows** has also asked Trump’s daughter and senior adviser Ivanka Trump to join the group, one person said. All of the people spoke on condition of anonymity because the discussions are ongoing.

- The Washington Post on Wednesday described the group as a **second coronavirus task force**. People familiar with the planning said the group could be longer-lasting, similar to a commission.
 - **Kevin Hassett**, the former chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers who recently returned to the White House to advise on virus-related matters, may also serve on the panel.
- **Trump** said in a tweet last night he has asked **his agriculture secretary** to “use all of the funds and authorities at his disposal,” to aid U.S. farmers, whose financial peril has worsened in the coronavirus pandemic. The administration plans to announce an aid package next week, according to people familiar with the discussions. Trump’s tweets did not provide specifics, but the coronavirus relief bill Congress passed last month includes \$23.5 billion in aid for farmers.
- An **NIH-funded study** to test hydroxychloroquine as a potential therapy for patients hospitalized with Covid-19 began enrolling patients, the agency announced Thursday.
 - President Donald Trump has repeatedly touted hydroxychloroquine, a malaria drug also used to treat rheumatoid arthritis and lupus, as a “game changer” for combating the coronavirus. But scientists, including White House coronavirus task force member **Anthony S. Fauci** and several former Food and Drug Administration commissioners, have cautioned against promoting a treatment before it’s been shown to work.
- The **Federal Reserve** may not be done with its all-out blitz to help the U.S. economy survive a coronavirus-induced shutdown, even after launching an unprecedented \$2.3 trillion in lending programs.
 - The central bank used up only about 40% of the as much as \$454 billion in seed capital that Congress provided it in extending help to small and mid-sized businesses, state and local governments and some risky corners of the financial markets on Thursday.
 - That leaves roughly \$250 billion it could potentially lever up as much as ten times to bulk up existing programs or launch new ones. The money -- if it’s not otherwise used by the Treasury Department -- could also be available to cover unexpected losses in the facilities it’s already set up.
- The **Pentagon** has delivered 37,000 body bags over the last week to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which is seeking 100,000 to help address the coronavirus pandemic.
 - The Defense Logistics Agency provided what the military calls “human remain pouches” from a combination of its stockpile and expedited shipments from its current provider. In addition, the agency placed orders for 63,000 more of the bags to fulfill the remainder of FEMA’s request, Patrick Mackin, a DLA spokesman, said Thursday in an email
- The **FDA** has authorized devices made by Steris to sterilize face N95 masks so hospital workers can reuse the protective gear that’s been in short supply across the country because of Covid-19. The emergency use authorization will allow the decontamination of up to 750,000 masks a day, FDA says
- President Trump says he discussed aid proposals for **airlines** in a meeting Thursday with **Transportation Sec. Elaine Chao**, **Treasury Sec. Steven Mnuchin** and they may have discussions with airlines over the weekend.
- **U.S. airlines** battered by the coronavirus pandemic are now being told they’ll have to wait at least another week for help covering payrolls as the **U.S. Treasury Department** makes its way through applications.

- Treasury officials informed at least some of the carriers Thursday that it won't provide funds until negotiations over conditions for the grants are complete, and there will be no advance payments, said people familiar with the matter who asked not to be named because the talks are private. The agency thinks it should complete some applications by the end of next week, they said.
 - The delay builds on the [frustration](#) of airlines that initially expected to receive funds earlier this week but instead were asked by federal officials for additional, detailed financial and operational data. Some of those carriers are depending on federal funds to meet payroll obligations next week and face the prospect of furloughing workers. But doing so would render them ineligible for a grant.
 - Earlier Thursday, **Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin** said the agency would provide preliminary details to airlines on how to access the grants and an additional pool of government loans within days
- The **Internal Revenue Service** is delaying more tax deadlines to July 15 for American taxpayers living abroad, trusts and estates, according to guidance issued today.
 - "The extensions generally now apply to all taxpayers that have a filing or payment deadline falling on or after April 1, 2020, and before July 15, 2020," according to a press release
 - The IRS last month delayed the tax filing and payment deadline for many individuals and businesses to July 15, but the extension didn't include several groups of taxpayers
- The **Trump administration** is considering providing coronavirus tests to U.S. food-processing plants and discussed the possibility this week with meatpackers and food producers, the Wall Street Journal [reports](#), citing people involved in the talks.
- **U.S. Surgeon General Jerome Adams** said Friday that most parts of the country won't be able to relax their social distancing efforts by May 1, adding to a more cautious posture President Donald Trump and his top aides have recently adopted toward the coronavirus outbreak.
 - Adams said on Fox News that "some places" in the country with strong surveillance systems for the virus "will be able to think about opening on May 1st."
- The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** extended its "[No Sail Order](#)" for all cruise ships by at least 100 days -- or until Covid-19 is no longer considered a public health emergency.
 - The CDC said there are 100 cruise ships at sea off U.S. coasts, with 80,000 crew members on board. Twenty ships at port or anchorage in the U.S. have known or suspected Covid-19 among crew, according to the agency's statement Thursday
- **Banks** are pushing the **Federal Communications Commission** for permission to send unsolicited mass texts and calls during the coronavirus pandemic without violating a federal anti-robocall law.
 - The banks want to send alerts about issues such as scams, branch closings and how customers can delay mortgage and loan payments. They're asking the commission to clarify that such messages tied to the coronavirus are legal under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act.
 - "Now is the time to be encouraging everybody to reach out to consumers about the options that are available," said Justin Wiseman, managing regulatory counsel at the Mortgage Bankers Association. His is one of seven financial trade groups petitioning the FCC.

- The **Trump administration** has quickly expelled roughly 10,000 migrants to Mexico and other countries in less than three weeks since imposing its most severe immigration restrictions yet in response to the coronavirus outbreak, officials said Thursday.
 - After the United States and Mexico last month closed their border to "nonessential travel," U.S. officials began rapidly removing almost all migrants arriving at the border, with minimal processing. For the first time, those turned away en masse include people seeking asylum as well as [hundreds of lone migrant children](#), both groups that are protected by U.S. law.
- **U.S. Surgeon General Jerome Adams** said few parts of the country will be able to relax social distancing efforts by May 1, taking a more cautious posture as President Trump and his top aides push to get the economy restarted.
 - Some communities with strong surveillance systems "will be able to think about opening on May 1st," Adams said on Fox News. "Most of the country will not, to be honest with you."
- **Vice President Mike Pence** on Thursday outlined mileposts to meet before mitigation steps are relaxed, including widespread testing and therapeutic medicines, both of which may be months away.
- **Daily passenger numbers** in the U.S. averaged 113,498 in the past seven days, compared with 2.3 million a year earlier, according to the **Transportation Security Administration**.
- The **federal government** is recommending that scientists suspend some fieldwork involving bats in North America out of concern that researchers could pass the novel [coronavirus](#) to the animals, possibly imperiling **bat** populations or creating a new reservoir for a virus that has caused a global pandemic.
- The **Pentagon's contractors** have largely avoided widespread closings or "major impacts" so far from the coronavirus pandemic, according to a running tally compiled by its contracts management office. Of 10,509 locations tracked or monitored by the Defense Contract Management Agency, 135 had closed at some point as of Wednesday. Forty-nine of those reopened after an average of about 10 days.
- The **Justice Department** is tracking disinformation campaigns worldwide by Russia and China aimed at sowing divisions over the coronavirus crisis, according to John Demers, head of the department's national security division. The disinformation operations could fuel confusion and division in the U.S. and other Western countries, Demers said yesterday in an interview with Bloomberg News.
- Coronavirus-induced shortages of **N95 respirators** have led federal workplace safety regulators to temporarily set aside a rule for annual respirator fit testing. As long as employers make a "good faith effort" to comply with the **Occupational Safety and Health Administration's** rule on respiratory protections and adhere to agency guidance, the agency won't cite employers for violations of the annual respirator fit testing mandate, the agency announced. The exception expires once the public health crisis ends, OSHA said,
- **Federal regulators'** move to temporarily drop limits on how long truckers can drive, to help restock coronavirus-barren grocery shelves, is running up against two of the most basic human needs: food and bathrooms. Ten drivers, representing those who drive for themselves, small companies, and large carriers, said in interviews that they've struggled over the last several weeks to find hot meals and clean restrooms outside of truck stops throughout the continental U.S

- **Health-care providers and business associates** operating coronavirus testing sites in communities won't be penalized for some privacy rule violations, **HHS** said today. HHS loosened regulations under health privacy laws to expand the number of local testing sites available. These sites include mobile, drive-through, or walk-up sites that collect Covid-19 specimens or provide testing services to the public, according to the guidance.
- The **US Department of Health and Human Services** is planning on buying \$2 billion worth of ventilators for its strategic national stockpile and will distribute the needed medical equipment to states, a department spokesperson said on Friday.
 - The ventilator deals are meant "to ensure we never have a shortage of ventilators," the spokesperson said.
 - HHS said this week it's planning on awarding more contracts like the GM and Philips deals for more ventilators. The HHS office that runs the stockpile has also encouraged state governments to use and to try to tap into their own supplies of ventilators.
- **U.S. Department of Agriculture** will "develop a program that will include direct payments to farmers & ranchers hurt by COVID-19 & other procurement methods to help solidify the supply chain from producers to consumers," Sec. Sonny Perdue says in a [tweet](#).
- **Anthony Fauci** slashed projections for U.S. coronavirus deaths today, saying that only about 60,000 people may die, almost half as many as the White House estimated a week ago. The falling projection, the result of the aggressive social distancing behaviors Americans adopted to curb the spread of the virus, may accelerate Trump's effort to develop a plan to urge Americans to leave their homes and return to work next month.
- **President Donald Trump's top economic adviser** said the U.S. should allow companies to deduct the entire cost of capital spending, including relocating from China, as the administration looks for ways to jump-start an economy hobbled by the coronavirus pandemic.
 - "Plant, equipment, intellectual property, structures, renovations -- in other words, if we had 100% immediate expensing, we should literally pay the moving costs of American companies from China back to the U.S.," **Larry Kudlow** said in an interview on Fox Business Network on Thursday.
- More than \$6 billion will be available to **colleges** and **universities** for direct emergency cash grants to students affected by the coronavirus pandemic, **Education Sec. Betsy DeVos** says in [statement](#).
 - Schools must send the Education Dept signed certification affirming they will distribute the funds in accordance with the law
 - The college or university can then determine which students will receive the grants
- The **U.S. Postal Service** will run out of cash this fiscal year without help from Congress and the Trump administration, Postmaster General Megan Brennan told lawmakers in a video. The bipartisan Postal Service Board of Governors, appointed by President Trump, asked Congress to provide USPS with \$25 billion in emergency aid to offset coronavirus-related losses, Brennan told House Oversight and Reform Committee members, according to a statement from Democrats on the panel
- **Mnuchin** said that he'll provide preliminary details to airlines on how to access billions of dollars in loans and grants as they cope with a dramatic drop in revenue amid the coronavirus crisis. Mnuchin said he will update the president today on the Treasury Department's latest analysis on how to help airlines. "That's the next big thing we'll be rolling out," he said on CNBC today.

"We hope to get to a lot of the airlines starting tomorrow and over the weekend with preliminary information."

- **Federal Chairman Jerome Powell** said the U.S. central bank was committed to using all its powers "forcefully, pro-actively, and aggressively" to help the country recover from the pandemic, even as he hinted at the limits to that authority. "Many of the programs we are undertaking to support the flow of credit rely on emergency lending powers that are available only in very unusual circumstances," Powell said.
 - His remarks came soon after the Fed made announcements, rolling out new emergency lending programs and boosting existing facilities unveiled in recent weeks. The Fed said today that it will invest up to \$2.3 trillion in loans to help small and mid-sized businesses and state and local governments as well as fund the purchases of some types of high-yield bonds, collateralized loan obligations and commercial mortgage-backed securities
- **Americans** applied for unemployment benefits in massive numbers for a third straight week, bringing the total to about 16.8 million during the coronavirus pandemic's economic shutdown. A total of 6.61 million people [filed jobless claims](#) in the week that ended April 4, according to Labor Department figures released today, as more states ordered residents to stay home and overwhelmed unemployment offices continue to work through applications. The figure compared with a median forecast of 5.5 million, and the prior week's upwardly revised 6.87 million.
 - **California** has been leading other states in jobless claims since mid-March, with 2.2 million applications from the state filed over the past four weeks. That's almost three times more than fourth-ranked New York, the hardest hit state so far from the virus.
- **The US federal government** will still fund and staff some state coronavirus testing sites if needed, Vice President Mike Pence said at a task force briefing today.
 - The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) plans to transition from community-based testing sites to a state-led operation. States will have the option to manage their own sites, but can also request the federal government to play a role.
 - So far, New Jersey, Louisiana, Illinois, Colorado and Texas have requested "continued federal participation," said Pence.

Capitol Hill

- **Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer** (D-N.Y.) spoke Friday with **Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin** and said he hopes to relaunch talks on a new coronavirus aid package that stalled in the Senate on Thursday.
 - "He agreed to pursue bipartisan talks with the leadership of House and Senate Democrats and Republicans on interim Emergency Coronavirus Relief legislation. There's no reason why we can't come to a bipartisan agreement by early next week," Schumer said in a statement.
 - If leadership and the administration is able to get a deal, the Senate is scheduled to briefly be in session on Monday and Thursday next week, giving them two shots at passing an agreement.
- **Top House appropriators** have received preliminary top-line spending figures for their fiscal 2021 bills and are remotely drafting legislation to fund the government past Sept. 30, even as the coronavirus complicates their work.
 - **A bipartisan group of appropriators** have raised the possibility of allowing for more spending in fiscal 2021 by exempting some key programs from the limits agreed to in

- the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019 ([Public Law 116-37](#)). The law allows for only about a 0.5% increase in discretionary spending levels from fiscal 2020 to 2021, setting spending caps at \$671.5 billion for defense and \$626.5 billion for nondefense.
- Without a change to those caps, any substantial increase in funding for programs such as vaccine development would have to be mostly offset by cuts to other initiatives.
 - **Appropriations Chair Lowey** “strongly supports budget cap exemptions for programs that relate to coronavirus response...Sadly, this pandemic has laid bare how budget caps restrict resources for important federal efforts like public health. It is critical that we don’t allow such shortsighted limitations to continue this year.”
- **Rep. Tom Cole (R-Okla.)**, ranking member of the Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee, also said he supports cap exemptions in fiscal 2021. **Transportation-HUD Subcommittee Chairman David Price (D-N.C.)** said exemptions “certainly should be part of the conversation.”
 - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institutes of Health, National Strategic Stockpile, and Infectious Disease Rapid Response Fund will all likely need significant funding increases on a regular basis, Cole said. Cole has frequently supported steady increases for biomedical programs, but said the coronavirus should cause lawmakers to reevaluate their approach.
 - More immediately, upcoming emergency bills may need to provide more funds to aid the homeless and for public housing, Price said. Emergency legislation on those measures will affect how he writes the fiscal 2021 Transportation-HUD funding bill, Price said.
 - “Public housing, homeless needs, these are not accounts where there’s a whole lot of slack,” Price said. “They pretty much need to be supplemented. We knew that before the crisis came.”
- **Congressional Democrats** are planning legislation that would create a bipartisan commission to probe the federal government’s response to the coronavirus pandemic, a move they say is modeled on the 9/11 Commission.
 - **Rep. Adam Schiff** introduced a [bill](#) in the House on Friday, and **Senators Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris** will offer companion legislation in the Senate, according to a statement from Schiff
 - The 10-member commission would also examine how state and local governments responded
- **Republicans** on the **House Education and Labor Committee** are proposing that Congress implement a statutory “safe harbor” that would allow businesses to offer benefits to gig workers and other contractors without fear of being sued for not classifying them as employees.
 - Such a provision in the next large-scale stimulus package would help protect the health and safety of workers and the public while allowing an important piece of the economy to continue operating during the Covid-19 crisis, House Education and Labor Committee Republicans said in a blog post Friday.
 - “Businesses should be allowed to assist independent contractors without risking the independent status that the vast majority of these workers [prefer](#). Doing so would protect businesses from additional legal and regulatory burdens at a time they can least afford it, while preserving workers’ flexibility and earning opportunities when they need it most,” the Republicans said in their [post](#).

- A bipartisan group of senators including Connecticut Democrat Chris Murphy and Florida Republican Marco Rubio has asked Secretary of State [Michael Pompeo](#) to urge foreign governments to release American detainees, citing the health risk from the coronavirus pandemic.
 - In a letter sent Friday, Murphy, Rubio and the other senators, including Texas Republican John Cornyn and Patrick Leahy, a Vermont Democrat, ask Pompeo “to strongly press foreign governments to immediately release American citizens unjustly detained abroad, as well as political prisoners, on humanitarian grounds.”
- House Democrats are proposing a federal reinsurance program designed to widely shield large and small businesses against the ravages of the coronavirus pandemic.
 - The program, still in the early stages of negotiation, would mirror an existing federal backstop for terrorism risk created in the aftermath of 9/11, and could be part of the next congressional relief package, according to a [draft proposal](#) circulated by House Financial Service Committee Democrats.
- The debate over **voting by mail** during the coronavirus pandemic took center stage Thursday during a press call about voting rights during the crisis, as Democratic senators and election officials from both parties pitched their solutions to the virus' disruptive effects. Sens. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), Chris Coons (D-Del.) and Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) stumped for [a bill to provide federal funds to roll out nationwide mail-in absentee ballots](#) that don't require an excuse to request.
- Propelled by the federal government's scramble to obtain badly needed medical supplies, Sen. Josh Hawley has begun a push for the next coronavirus recovery package to include a government mandate for more production of those goods in the United States.
 - "It is past time to secure our supply chains by adopting strong local content requirements for all industries essential to our crisis response to be phased in when the current emergency ends," [Hawley wrote in an op-ed in The Washington Post](#). "These measures should be paired with generous financing for all businesses looking to move back home."
- Democratic Reps. Suzanne Bonamici, Debbie Dingell and Rashida Tlaib led [a letter](#) asking leadership to include a minimum of \$4.3 billion in the next coronavirus relief package for supplemental funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. The lawmakers also called for a similar funding mechanism to assist with drinking water and wastewater services that benefit households economically affected by Covid-19.
- House Energy and Commerce Chairman Frank Pallone (D-N.J.) blasted FEMA for issuing an [advisory yesterday](#) requiring states to petition the federal government to continue supporting certain testing sites by the end of the day. Pallone asked the Trump administration to give states more time to decide if they want to take over managing Community-Based Testing Sites that the federal government has so far run and used to test nearly 80,000 Americans. Read the statement [here](#).
- House Homeland Security Chairman Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.) and Border Security Subcommittee Chairwoman Kathleen Rice (D-N.Y.) in a letter to the Department of Homeland Security said the department cannot deport unaccompanied child migrants without legal due process despite border restrictions implemented during the pandemic. A policy change the department informed the committee of April 2 to deport more migrant children who arrived without parents or legal guardians is also illegal, the Democrats said. Read the letter [here](#)

- **Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.)** sent a [letter](#) to the White House yesterday raising concerns about reports President Donald Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser Jared Kushner has been in touch with several private companies about creating a national surveillance system during the coronavirus pandemic. Markey asks how the project would be a more effective way of determining medical-resource-allocation efforts than building upon existing information sets and communications systems, among other questions.

State/Local

- The **US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** reported on Friday that about half of all US deaths have been reported in two states: New York and New Jersey.
 - New York City has had the highest "cumulative incidence" of reported cases, with 915.3 cases per 100,000 people, according to the CDC. Minnesota had the lowest incidence, at 20.6 cases per 100,000 people.
- Two **California** lawmakers on Thursday introduced a handful of bills that would help 1 million farmworkers amid the coronavirus, including expanded sick leave, temporary housing for appropriate social distancing and compensation for health and child care costs, [reports Pro California's Debra Kahn](#).
 - Two Democratic assemblymen, Robert Rivas and Eduardo Garcia, said the measures are the first of their kind and would benefit undocumented immigrants who are ineligible for federal aid yet find themselves deemed "essential" to keep Americans fed. It's unclear when the state legislature will be back in session to consider the package, however, with recess extended until May 4.
- **Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan** announced that he is enacting several cost-cutting measures after the comptroller announced a "potential revenue loss of up to \$2.8 billion for fiscal year 2020," Hogan announced today at a press conference.
 - This amount represents "up to a 15% reduction in revenues" for the fiscal year, which ends on July 1, 2020, Hogan said.
 - To address this expected revenue loss, Hogan said he has directed a "budget freeze on all state spending across all state government agencies" except for spending on payroll and Covid-19 expenses.
- Those attending or holding religious services must abide by social distancing orders during the holiday weekend, **Missouri Gov. Mike Parson** said during a Thursday afternoon press conference.
 - **Parson** said that the state has been in contact with clergy and the faith based community to make sure they abide by the orders.
- **Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer** announced the formation of the Michigan Coronavirus Task Force on Racial Disparities.
 - The task force is designed to provide the governor with recommendations on how to address the disparity among victims from coronavirus. More than 40% of the state's coronavirus deaths are black victims.
- **Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer** has signed an expanded executive order extending her stay-at-home order through April 30.
 - The order also "prohibits all businesses and operations from requiring workers to leave their homes, unless those workers are necessary to sustain or protect life or to conduct minimum basic operations."

- Under the new order, all public and private gatherings among people outside a single household remain temporarily banned.
- **Connecticut** Gov. Ned Lamont said he plans to sign an executive order Friday extending previously enacted closures, social distancing and safety measures until at least May 20.
- **Connecticut** schools will stay closed for “at least another month,” Gov. Ned Lamont said Thursday.
 - Schools had previously been closed until April 20 and now they will stay closed until at least May 20, the governor said. An official announcement will be released by the state “within a day or two” Lamont said.
 - **Lamont** said it’s likely that the state will issue a similar extension for bars and restaurants and other non-essential businesses, though that has not been officially decided yet.
- **Vermont Gov. Phil Scott** announced today he is extending the state's emergency declaration and all corresponding directives until May 15.
- **New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy** announced he is signing an executive order allowing the possible release of some low-risk, vulnerable inmates in the prison system in the wake of the pandemic.
 - Under this order, low-risk inmates whose age or health status puts them at risk, who have been denied parole within the last year or whose sentences are set to expire in the next three months “may be” – and he stresses “may be” – placed on temporary home confinement or granted parole if already eligible, through an expedited process, Murphy said.
- About 74 miles of **Oakland, California**, streets will be closed to give bicyclists and pedestrians more room to spread out during the coronavirus pandemic.
 - Parks are too crowded to maintain proper physical distancing, Chief Resilience Officer Alexandra McBride noted, so the city's creative solution is to take advantage of the 20% to 30% of land dedicated to roads.
 - City streets will close roads to vehicular traffic mostly in and around residential neighborhoods. The official rollout of this emergency and details are expected to be released later today.
- **Alaska** is the latest state to extend school closures through the remainder of the academic year.
 - The state is also extending its social distancing order for another ten days, effective through at least April 21.

International

- The restrictions imposed to stop the spread of coronavirus in **Ireland** will be extended until May 5, Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar announced at a briefing on Friday.
 - Under the new rules, people can go out only to "shop for food or household goods, to attend medical appointments and collect medicines, vital family reasons such as providing care to children and the elderly, to take brief individual physical exercise, for farming purposes and food production," Varadkar announced.
 - Prime Minister said all visits to hospitals and prisons have stopped and public transport is limited to “essential workers and people providing essential services.”
 - Public and private gatherings among people outside of the same household are also banned
- **Moscow** will require citizens to download mobile passes to leave their homes for certain reasons, as the city's mayor announced stricter coronavirus measures Friday.

- The capital is in its second week of a stay-at-home order, and after Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said the government would be holding off on asking Muscovites to download a mobile pass each time they go out, a surge in cases has necessitated them, he said in a video address. The rollout of the pass system will occur gradually starting Monday, he said.
- **The European Commission** next week will circulate revisions to export restrictions on personal protective equipment after reviewing availability of masks and gloves among European Union member states, Sabine Weyand, director-general for the Commission's trade directorate, said Thursday.
 - "Not all PPE is really that scarce. We will reduce that in line with evidence of scarcity. We will exempt humanitarian organizations that are recognized partners in fighting humanitarian crises and it will again be strictly time limited," she said during an event hosted by the Washington International Trade Association.
- **Canada** may be able to loosen lockdowns and let some sectors return to work by summer if the nation abides by tight restrictions now in place, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said.
 - The nation is in the "first and worst phase" of the outbreak and models shows that under a best-case scenario it could emerge relatively quickly if people observe social distancing measures, Trudeau said at a press conference in Ottawa.
- **The U.K.** does not yet have the evidence it needs to ease restrictions imposed to slow the spread of coronavirus, Health Secretary Matt Hancock said.
 - As Prime Minister Boris Johnson begins his recovery from the disease in a hospital, officials are working on a strategy to exit lockdown measures but the outbreak has not yet reached the point at which curbs can be removed. The government's emergency committee will review the restrictions next week.
 - The death toll rose by a further 980 -- the highest daily total so far -- to bring the total to 8,958 in the data published Friday.
- **Greece** is extending by one month, to May 10, the closure of all schools, universities and other educational institutions as a precautionary measure, Deputy Citizen Protection Minister Nikos Chardalias said. The country is already in total lockdown and has so far recorded about 2,000 coronavirus cases and 90 deaths.
- **U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson** "is at the beginning of his recovery and he will be taking the advice of his medical team," spokesman James Slack [told reporters](#). "The prime minister is back on the ward and continuing his recovery, which is at an early stage, he continues to be in very good spirits" after being moved from the intensive care unit, Slack said.
 - The [downtrend](#) of new coronavirus cases in Italy is confirmed, Silvio Brusaferro, head of the country's ISS public health institute, said on Friday. "The curve clearly shows a descending pattern and this is a good sign, but we cannot lower our guard," he said.
- **Finance ministers and central bank governors** from the **Group of 20** will hold a virtual meeting on Wednesday, followed by a virtual press conference, according to a statement from Saudi Arabia, the host country.
- **Spain** [reported](#) the fewest number of new coronavirus deaths in more than two weeks on Friday, yet remains one of the epicenters of the crisis in Europe. There were 4,576 new infections in the 24 hours through Friday, pushing total cases to more than 157,000, according to Health Ministry data. The death toll rose by 605 to 15,843, the smallest increase since March 24.

- **Pachinko parlors, game centers and internet cafes** in the Tokyo will be [asked to close](#), but “izakaya” pubs providing food and drink will be able to operate, albeit only until 8 p.m. Confirmed cases in the capital tripled in 10 days to top 1,500, raising worries Tokyo could be the next global center to see an overwhelming surge in infections.
- In a live address on Thursday, **President Cyril Ramaphosa** announced a two-week extension to **South Africa’s** current 21-day lockdown, keeping restrictions in place until at least the end of April.
- **Canadian public health officials** for the first time released national projections on the spread of Covid-19 and warned that social distancing measures were unlikely to end soon.
 - Projections released and provided to CNN indicate there could be as many as 700 deaths in Canada by mid-April and anywhere from 11,000 to 22,000 deaths throughout the duration of the pandemic, depending on social distancing measures.
- The **Philippines** has [barred](#) doctors, nurses and other health workers from leaving for overseas work as the nation seeks to stem the coronavirus outbreak. The temporary halt follows an order of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration on April 2, immigration spokeswoman Dana Sandoval said in mobile-phone message. It will last for the duration of the nation’s state of emergency, according to the employment administration order.
- The **French government** has earmarked 20 billion euros of the expanded 100 billion euro emergency spending package for large companies that are considered strategic, *Les Echos* reported. Funds could be used for temporary nationalizations or buying stakes and Air France-KLM is among the companies that could benefit.
- **Prime Minister Scott Morrison** has urged **Australians** to remain at home over the Easter break in an effort to stop the spread of the coronavirus pandemic.
- The **Spanish Government** is working to introduce a preliminary version of a universal basic income as soon as possible, to help Spaniards face the economic fallout of the novel coronavirus outbreak in the country.
 - “This [health] crisis has placed on the table the urgency of a universal basic income, that it is essential and fundamental to guarantee dignity and a minimum purchase power for many Spanish families that are in a desperate situation,” the second deputy Spanish Prime Minister, Pablo Iglesias, said in an interview with national broadcaster TVE on Friday.
- **Malaysia** is extending its nationwide movement restrictions for two more weeks until April 28, Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin announced today, according to state-run Bernama News Agency.
 - The spread of Covid-19 has “more or less” been checked since the order was first imposed on March 18, but the extension will allow more room and flexibility for healthcare workers to combat the virus and prevent cases from surging again, Bernama reported.
 - Under the current restrictions, all Malaysian nationals are prohibited from traveling abroad. All social, religious and educational gatherings are also banned.
- **Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte** is expected to announce an extension to the country’s lockdown measures when he addresses the nation on Friday.
 - According to Ferrari, **Conte** said the extension would continue until May 3 with only a few exceptions of businesses being allowed to reopen slightly sooner. Conte went on to tell union representatives that this was the only way to protect public health in Italy.

Private Sector

- Apple and Google [announced a system](#) for tracking the spread of the new coronavirus, allowing users to share data through Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) transmissions and approved apps from health organizations.
 - [The new system](#), which is laid out in a series of documents and [white papers](#), would use short-range Bluetooth communications to establish a voluntary contact-tracing network, keeping extensive data on phones that have been in close proximity with each other. Official apps from public health authorities will get access to this data, and users who download them can report if they've been diagnosed with COVID-19. The system will also alert people who download them to whether they were in close contact with an infected person.
 - Apple and Google will introduce a pair of iOS and Android APIs in mid-May and make sure these health authorities' apps can implement them. During this phase, users will still have to download an app to participate in contact-tracing, which could limit adoption. But in the months after the API is complete, the companies will work on building tracing functionality into the underlying operating system, as an option immediately available to everyone with an iOS or Android phone.
- A record number of **colleges** and **universities** have in recent weeks dropped the requirement that students applying to enter as freshmen in fall 2021 submit an SAT or ACT test, and some are using it as a pilot to determine whether to eliminate the requirement altogether — actions that could presage a broad shift away from admissions testing in higher education.
- Renault SA Chairman Jean-Dominique Senard said the French carmaker is seeking as much as 5 billion euros (\$5.5 billion) in [government-backed loans](#) to weather the pandemic, while dismissing the possibility of nationalization.
- Amazon has started building a lab that can produce tests for the Covid-19 virus, the latest step among various initiatives the online retailer is taking to try to protect its warehouse workers and delivery drivers who are getting essential products to customers sheltering at home.
- UFC 249, the highly anticipated fight event organized by the Ultimate Fighting Championship, will not happen on April 18 as previously scheduled.
 - "Today, we got a call from the highest level you can go at Disney, and the highest level of ESPN ... and the powers that be there asked me to stand down and not do this event next Saturday," said UFC president Dana White on camera to ESPN.
 - Additionally, all other UFC events have been postponed indefinitely.