



COVID-19 5/10 UPDATE

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Global

Total cases – 4,091,297

Total deaths – 282,104

United States

Positive tests – 1,327,720

Total deaths – 79,495

Total # tests – 8,987,524

Administration

- **President Donald Trump** declared Friday he's in no hurry for Congress to pass more stimulus measures to help the economy, hours after the Labor Department announced an unprecedented 20 million jobs were lost in April.
 - "We're in no rush," **Trump** said while meeting with about two dozen House Republicans, who spent an hour taking turns complimenting and congratulating the president for his response to the coronavirus outbreak that's cratered the economy.
 - Congressional Democrats, **Trump** said, "want things, and we're happy with what's gone on -- we got what we needed. But at the same time, we want to do what's right for the country."
- **Vice President Mike Pence** is self-isolating away from the White House after an aide was diagnosed with coronavirus on Friday, said three people familiar with the situation.
 - The vice president didn't attend a meeting on Saturday with President Donald Trump and top military officials.
 - Pence, who's repeatedly tested negative for Covid-19, including on Sunday, is staying home out of an abundance of caution, said the people, who asked not to be identified because his isolation hasn't been publicly announced.
- **South Korea** has sent 2 million masks to the U.S. in emergency support to combat the novel coronavirus, its foreign ministry says in a statement.
 - Measure comes after **U.S. President Donald Trump's phone call** with President Moon Jae-in in March, statement says
 - Decision was made after looking into domestic supply of medical masks and details of the situation

- Masks to be provided to U.S. medical workers
 - Flight carrying masks expected to arrive May 11 U.S. time
- One of **Trump's personal aides, Vice President Mike Pence's press secretary and Ivanka Trump's (remote) personal assistant** have all tested positive for the virus in the past few days.
- **President Trump** tweeted that beginning next week, the US will purchase \$3 billion worth of food from farms to provide to food banks.
 - Trump called the initiative "Farmers to Family Food Box."
 - CNN previously reported this program is part of the \$19 billion in aid to farmers the US Department of Agriculture that was announced on April 17.
 - The **USDA** is partnering with private distributors who will buy a variety of food and package it into boxes that it will deliver to food banks. The USDA said it will spend \$100 million a month on fruits and vegetables, \$100 million on dairy products and a \$100 million on meat products.
 - The other \$16 billion will be distributed in payments directly to farmers, though that system is not expected to be up and running until the end of May.
- **White House Economic Adviser Kevin Hassett** admitted "there is no downside" to increased coronavirus testing in the US.
 - "There is no downside. In fact we could use every single test that we can generate. And that's something that we're working overtime on ramping up testing. We tested about 300,000 people I think on Thursday," he told CNN on Sunday. "And there are some new tests that are being approved. You're exactly right, the objective is to get as much testing as possible."
- **Secret Service agents** who are part of the President's protective detail were seen Saturday evening wearing masks in the Cabinet Room.
 - There are 11 Secret Service employees who currently have Covid-19, a congressional source confirmed to CNN.
 - Yahoo News, which first reported the figure basing it on a Department of Homeland Security document, also said 60 employees are self-quarantining. This is a small fraction of the 7,600 Secret Service employees who work for the agency in posts worldwide.
 - A Secret Service spokesperson refused to confirm how many currently have tested positive, would not say where those employees worked nor specify how many are agents.
- The **White House** sent a memo to all staff on Friday after [Vice President Mike Pence's](#) press secretary, Katie Miller, tested positive for the novel [coronavirus](#), an official said.
 - The note details measures taking by the White House to prevent the spread of the virus, including maintaining maximum telework for staff, reporting travel and self-monitoring of symptoms, according to a copy reviewed by CNN.
 - Areas considered "high-touch points" in the White House and the Eisenhower Executive Office Building will receive "heightened levels of cleaning," the memo says.
 - Some departments like the Office of Management and Budget are calling political appointees back to the office despite the maximum telework order.
 - Earlier this week, White House staff received a separate memo informing them that they would be asked upon entry about their symptoms. The measure would be in addition to the temperature checks required for admission to the White House complex.

Anyone who acknowledged having the symptoms may be pulled for further screening or barred entry, that memo said.

- Neither memo mentioned anything about wearing face coverings.
- Contact tracing was performed inside the White House after **Vice President Mike Pence's** press secretary Katie Miller tested positive for coronavirus, a senior White House official said.
 - Everyone who Miller came in contact with tested negative including her husband, Stephen Miller, senior adviser to the President.
 - The White House is making sure staff wears masks in the residence. And Covid-19 tests and temperature checks have been boosted throughout the West Wing.
 - The official also said the entire West Wing is being sanitized more frequently. The official said "it's not perfect" but they are trying to boost measures to be an example to businesses around the country on how to deal with the virus.
- **White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany** addressed reports that the administration will not implement [17-page draft recommendations for reopening America](#) from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "I would ask you, what's the definition of CDC guidelines? Is it something the CDC director has actually seen? I would endeavor to say yes. Is it something that a rogue CDC employee leaks to you guys? No," McEnany said Friday.
- Childhood vaccinations have plunged since the Covid-19 pandemic started hitting the United States, the **CDC** said Friday. The CDC reported a "notable decrease" in the number of vaccines ordered through a federal program that immunizes half of all kids in the US.
- **Dr. Anthony Fauci** told CNN is doing what he calls a "modified quarantine" after it was determined that he was not in close proximity to a White House staffer who tested positive for the novel coronavirus.
 - The nation's top infectious disease expert said he is at "low risk" and tested negative for the virus on Friday.
 - Fauci says he will stay at home and telework -- though he might go to his office at National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, where he is the only one there -- and wear a mask continually for 14 days. He is expected to be tested every day for the virus.
 - Fauci is the third member of the White House coronavirus task force who is going into a type of quarantine. Dr. Stephen Hahn, commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, and Robert Redfield, the director of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, are going into self-quarantine for 14 days.
- **Robert Redfield**, the director of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "will be teleworking" for the next two weeks after he was [exposed to a person at the White House who tested positive for Covid-19](#), a CDC spokesman told CNN.
 - Redfield "has been determined to have had a low risk exposure on May 6 to a person at the White House who has Covid-19. He is feeling fine and has no symptoms. He will be teleworking for the next two weeks," the spokesperson said.
- The **US Army** is asking technology [companies to develop wearable](#) sensors to detect early [symptoms of coronavirus](#). Where ever the sensor is worn on the body, it will provide indicators of a fever, respiratory difficulties, "molecular biomarkers" of exposure to the virus and even the presence of antibodies against it.

- The **Department of Health and Human Services** announced Saturday it had shipped 260 cases of the experimental antiviral drug remdesivir to states hardest hit by Covid-19, including Illinois, New Jersey and Michigan.
- The **US Food and Drug Administration** on Friday issued an emergency-use authorization for the first at-home Covid-19 test that uses saliva samples, [the agency said in a news release](#).
 - With the test, people can collect their own saliva at home and send their saliva samples to a lab for results. Testing for Covid-19 so far has usually involved nose or throat swab samples.
 - Rutgers University's RUCDR Infinite Biologics lab received an amended emergency authorization late Thursday. In April, Rutgers University announced that the [FDA authorized the saliva test](#) that it developed with other groups for "emergency use" for diagnosing Covid-19.
- **Office of Special Counsel** determines there are "reasonable grounds" to believe that Rick Bright's removal from his post as director of the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority was retaliatory, lawyers for Bright say in statement.
 - Given its conclusion, the OSC will contact HHS Dept to request it stay Bright's removal for 45 days to allow the agency sufficient time to complete its investigation of Bright's allegations, lawyers Debra Katz and Lisa Banks say in statement.
- **Ivanka Trump's** personal assistant has tested positive for coronavirus, a source familiar with the matter told CNN.
 - The assistant, who works in a personal capacity for US President Donald Trump's daughter, has not been around Ivanka Trump in several weeks.
 - She has been teleworking for nearly two months and was tested out of caution, the source said.
 - She was not symptomatic. Ivanka Trump and her husband Jared Kushner both tested negative on Friday, the person familiar with the matter told CNN.
- **White House Economic Adviser Kevin Hassett** said a new emergency relief bill that would provide funding to state and local governments might not be passed right away.
 - He said the White House wants to learn more about what is going on in the economy as money from previous relief bills is still being distributed.
 - "I think that it's just premature, given that the \$9 trillion of aid that passed in the last three phases, given that that is still out there and there's still a bunch of it that's going to be delivered over the next month, we think we have the luxury of a moment to learn about what's going on so the next step we take can be prudent," Hassett told CNN on Sunday.
 - But he said that while a phase four deal might be on the back burner for now, President Trump would sign the right package.
 - "Of course if we go to a phase four deal, I think President Trump has signaled that while he doesn't want to bail out the states, he's willing to help cover some of the unexpected Covid expenses that might have come their way," Hassett said.
- **Americans** should brace for even more gut-wrenching news on unemployment amid the coronavirus pandemic, and Congress should consider providing more help, said **Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis President Neel Kashkari**.
 - "The worst is yet to come on the job front, unfortunately," he said Sunday on ABC's "This Week," describing the situation after [data](#) on Friday showed the U.S.

- unemployment surging to 14.7% in April as employers cut an unprecedented 20.5 million jobs.
 - “It’s really around 23, 24% of people who are out of work today, and if this is a gradual recovery the way I think it’s going to be, those folks are going to need more help,” he said.
- **Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Stephen Hahn** has quarantined himself after coming into contact with someone who tested positive. Hahn, a member of the White House virus task force, notified staff of his decision in a note Friday, according to an emailed statement from the agency.
 - “Per CDC guidelines, he is now in self-quarantine for the next two weeks,” the FDA said. “He immediately took a diagnostic test and tested negative.”
 - The FDA didn’t identify the infected person, but Hahn’s Covid-19 exposure comes as several aides working in the White House have the virus. Vice President Mike Pence’s press secretary, Katie Miller, tested positive Friday, a day after a positive test was reported for a member of the military who works as a valet to President Donald Trump.
- The **US Food and Drug Administration** has granted the first emergency use authorization for an antigen test for the coronavirus. This is important because antigen tests look for pieces of a virus. That differs from most coronavirus tests, which look for the virus’ genetic material and require a number of chemicals to operate, many of which are in short supply.
 - The **Food and Drug Administration** approved use of Quidel Corp.’s antigen test, the first of its kind to be approved for detecting coronavirus cases in the U.S.
 - The FDA issued an emergency use authorization for Quidel’s Sofia 2 SARS Antigen FIA, according to an e-mailed statement on Saturday. The test, which the FDA called “a new type of diagnostic test designed for rapid detection of the virus that causes Covid-19,” can provide results in minutes, the agency [said](#).
- **The U.S.** will exclude medical equipment, including disposable identification wristbands worn during medical procedures and some wireless communication devices, from its tariffs on China, USTR says in [statement](#).
 - NOTE: Exclusions apply to list of goods with an annual trade value of ~\$300b, effective from Sept. 1, 2019 and extended until Sept. 1, 2020
- The **Pentagon** will publish draft guidance on May 11 allowing agencies to reimburse contract billing rates. There will be an interim period for contractor feedback, followed by a finalized rule by May 22.
 - **Senate Armed Services Committee member Elizabeth Warren** (D-Mass.) is questioning whether the Pentagon’s policy of increasing payment rates for contractors — intended to keep assembly lines humming during the coronavirus outbreak — has sufficient oversight and is helping the companies that need it most.
 - The higher payment rates the Pentagon [instituted in April](#) “may be a cash subsidy that largely benefits big defense companies that can better withstand the economic shock caused by coronavirus,” Warren wrote Pentagon acquisition chief Ellen Lord in the previously undisclosed
- Guidance from the **Centers for Disease Control** on reopening U.S. communities during the pandemic had been cleared by CDC Dir. Robert Redfield and other leaders at the agency before top White House officials decided to bury it, AP [reports](#), citing emails.

- NOTE: White House spokeswoman Kayleigh McEnany on Friday said the documents had not been approved by Redfield
 - The decision to shelve the report came from highest levels of White House: AP
 - Files show after AP reported Thursday that the guidance document had been buried, the Trump admin. ordered parts of it to be fast-tracked for approval, the news wire reports
- **Former Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority Director Rick Bright** says he's frustrated at an "inability to be heard as scientists" and questions whether some health-care workers would have died if more masks and supplies had been deployed to hospitals.
 - Bright, speaking in a CBS interview, says he believes he was retaliated against after raising concerns about the Trump administration's advocacy for hydroxychloroquine as a potential treatment for coronavirus
 - NOTE: Bright was the director of BARDA until late last month, when he was reassigned to a less visible role at the National Institutes of Health
- **White House** extends annual public financial disclosure filings until June 29 in response to the coronavirus pandemic.
 - "In light of the efforts in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, good cause exists to grant a 45-day extension" to the report deadline, Scott Gast, White House senior counsel and designated ethics official, says in [memo](#)
- The **Internal Revenue Service** said it will accept bank account information until noon Wednesday for people who want to receive stimulus payments by direct deposit. After that, the IRS will send the money by check to the address on file, with those payments expected to arrive in late May and June, according to a statement from the agency today. Taxpayers can submit their information and check on the status of their money at the IRS's website
- A request from **Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar** to make an established malaria treatment available for Covid-19 patients set off an internal debate about how to authorize the drug's use for that purpose, a complaint filed by a recent administration official said. The FDA ultimately gave hydroxychloroquine an "emergency use authorization" letting doctors in hospitals, under certain conditions, prescribe the drug for patients with the virus' respiratory disease.
- The **White House** will have **Deborah Birx**, a member of the coronavirus task force, help oversee distribution of Gilead's Covid-19 drug following questions about the opaque process for getting the therapy to U.S hospitals. "She is going to be working and consulting as to where this drug should go," White House spokeswoman Kayleigh McEnany said at a briefing today. "She really has the best grasp as to how that should be distributed"
- The **US National Institutes of Health** said it was beginning a randomized, controlled clinical trial of remdesivir plus baricitinib, usually prescribed to treat rheumatoid arthritis.
 - Remdesivir has emergency authorization from the Food and Drug Administration for use against Covid-19. One NIH-sponsored trial showed it reduced the duration of illness by a few days. The hope is that adding another drug will help patients improve even more quickly.
 - Researchers hope baricitinib, sold under the brand name Olumiant, can help control a condition called a cytokine storm in which the body's immune system overreacts causing severe inflammation. It causes some of the organ damage and failure seen in severe cases of Covid-19.

- USDA approved \$1.2 billion in contracts to support both American producers and communities in need through the [USDA Farmers to Families Food Box Program](#).
- President Trump signed an [Executive Order](#) and announced \$300 million to assure America's competitiveness in the seafood industry and to support fishermen and related businesses hurt by the coronavirus.
 - The President authorized \$16 billion in funding to counter economic losses during the pandemic for farmers, ranchers, and food producers.
- The Administration has provided small agricultural businesses access to capital through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program.
- Treasury, IRS Deliver Economic Impact Payments to 130 Million Americans in Record Time ([HERE](#))
- The U.S. Department of the Treasury and IRS announced that nearly 130 million Americans have received Economic Impact Payments, worth more than \$218 billion, in less than five weeks. These totals do not include the more than \$2.5 billion delivered to U.S. territories for payment to territory residents.
- The Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service today released updated state-by-state figures for Economic Impact Payments, with approximately 130 million individuals receiving payments worth more than \$200 billion in the program's first four weeks. ([HERE](#))
- With a variety of steps underway to speed Economic Impact Payments, the Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service urged people to use [Get My Payment](#) by noon Wednesday, May 13, for a chance to get a quicker delivery. ([HERE](#))
- Vice Premier Liu He, U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin, and Ambassador Robert Lighthizer participated in a conference call and discussed economic and trade issues, including the recently concluded Phase One agreement. The parties shared updates on COVID-19 and their assessments of its effects on economic growth as well as the measures their countries are taking to provide support to their economies. ([HERE](#))
- The Internal Revenue Service updated FAQs #64 and #65 regarding the COVID-19 Employee Retention Credit for how eligible employers treat health care expenses. ([HERE](#))
- The Internal Revenue Service added a new FAQ #79 regarding businesses that repay their Paycheck Protection Program loan by May 14, 2020. ([HERE](#))
- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration authorized the first diagnostic test with the option of using home-collected saliva samples for COVID-19 testing. Specifically, the FDA issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) to Rutgers Clinical Genomics Laboratory for their COVID-19 laboratory developed test (LDT), which had been previously added to the high complexity molecular-based LDT "umbrella" EUA, to permit testing of samples self-collected by patients at home using the Spectrum Solutions LLC SDNA-1000 Saliva Collection Device. ([HERE](#))
- HHS has partnered with pharmacy and retail companies to accelerate testing for more Americans in more communities across the country. ([HERE](#))
- This week, the Department of Health and Human Services deployed 50 portable kidney dialysis machines and supplies to New York City and Long Island Intensive Care Units (ICUs) to provide surge capacity for facilities caring for patients with COVID-19, which has caused acute kidney injury and therefore required dialysis in a share of ICU cases. ([HERE](#))
- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) today issued a final rule that continues the Trump Administration's efforts to promote affordability, improve consumer choice, ensure program integrity, and increase market stability. In response to the coronavirus disease 2019

(COVID-19) pandemic, CMS is also announcing today a one week extension of the Qualified Health Plan (QHP) certification and rate review timelines. ([HERE](#))

- Through this program, **USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service** (AMS) is partnering with national, regional and local suppliers, whose workforce has been significantly impacted by the closure of restaurants, hotels and other food service businesses, to purchase up to \$3 billion in fresh produce, dairy and meat products. The program will purchase \$461 million in fresh fruits and vegetables, \$317 million in a variety of dairy products, \$258 million in meat products and \$175 million in a combination box of fresh produce, dairy or meat products. ([HERE](#))
- **U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue** today announced approval of a request from Rhode Island to provide online purchasing of food to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households. ([HERE](#))
- **U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue** today applauded the safe reopening of critical infrastructure meatpacking facilities across the United States. These meatpacking facilities have resumed or plan to resume operations this week following [President Trump's Executive Order](#) directing the facilities to implement the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) guidelines specifically created for the meat and poultry sector response to the COVID-19 pandemic. ([HERE](#))
- **Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross** announced the allocation of \$300 million in economic relief to U.S. fishermen and seafood industries impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The funds were allocated as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), signed into law on March 27 by President Trump. ([HERE](#))
- **CISA** issued a new CISA Insights titled, "COVID-19 Disinformation Activity." This CISA Insights provides guidance to deter false information and conspiracy theories related to COVID-19. It provides factual information to counteract inaccurate claims and provides simple steps the public can take to fact check information and minimize the risk of spreading false or misleading content. ([HERE](#))

Capitol Hill

- **Robert Redfield**, director of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and **Dr. Stephen Hahn**, commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration will testify via videoconference at a Senate hearing about the coronavirus next week.
 - "I am grateful that White House Chief of Staff, Mark Meadows, approved a one-time exception to the Administration's policies about hearings, and has agreed that Dr. Hahn and Dr. Redfield will testify at this hearing by videoconference due to these unusual circumstances," said Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, the Republican chairman of the Senate Health Committee.
 - The two officials will testify remotely after deciding to self-quarantine following a potential exposure to the virus. Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, is scheduled to testify at the same hearing.
- All of the **administration** witnesses at the **Senate Covid-19 hearing on Tuesday**, including Dr. Anthony Fauci, will now testify remotely, Sen. Lamar Alexander, the chairman of the Senate Health Committee, announced today.
 - As of Saturday night, **Fauci** and one other witness, **Department of Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary for Health Dr. Brett Giroir**, were going to testify in person while two others were going to testify by teleconference.

- Fauci was planning to wear a mask during the hearing.
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Dr. Robert Redfield and Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Dr. Stephen Hahn had already worked it out with the committee to testify remotely after deciding in the last few days they would self-quarantine once they had been exposed to the Vice President's press secretary, Katie Miller, who testified positive for Covid-19 on Friday.
 - The hearing is titled: "Covid-19: Safely Getting Back to Work and Back to School."
- **House Speaker Nancy Pelosi** suggested the Democratic National Convention could still be held in-person if attendees sat 6 feet apart. "So maybe you, instead of having 80,000 people there you would have 16,000 people there and just do it all in one day," she said.
- **Rep. Hakeem Jeffries** of New York joined **Gov. Andrew Cuomo** during his coronavirus news conference Saturday to discuss how religious organizations around the state are helping to address the pandemic.
 - "We know that this is an extraordinary pandemic, and it requires an extraordinary governmental response at all levels of government. It's all hands on deck at the city, the state and the federal level," Jeffries said.
 - Jeffries commented on a new initiative where Northwell Health is setting up 22 additional coronavirus testing sites at churches in predominantly minority communities.
- **Progressive House Democrats** advocate using the next bill to promote plans for guaranteed income, higher auto-emission standards and bolstered health care. They seek to showcase those priorities even if it means the House passes a bill with no bipartisan support. Rep. [Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez](#) (D-N.Y.), a high-profile progressive, voted against the last stimulus bill, saying it didn't provide enough direct aid to individuals.
- Some **House appropriators** are wrapping up a first draft of their fiscal 2021 spending bills today, though plenty of issues are still up in the air due to the uncertainty surrounding coronavirus relief bills, a key appropriator said.
 - Lawmakers may need to provide extra funds to address outbreaks at immigration detention centers, **Rep. Roybal-Allard** said, pointing to the recent death of Carlos Escobar-Mejia, a 57-year-old Salvadoran man at an Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention center. On the other hand, border crossings are down significantly, which could reduce the need for some funds, she said.
 - **Senate Judiciary Committee ranking member Dianne Feinstein** (D-Calif.) called on Chairman [Lindsey Graham](#) (R-S.C.) to hold a committee hearing on safety at ICE detention facilities following Escobar-Mejia's death.
 - Roybal-Allard said she's also still considering ways her measure might be able to improve the Federal Emergency Management Agency's response to contagious disease outbreaks in the future, including how to manage the need for personal protective equipment. "We really weren't prepared for something like this," she said of the coronavirus pandemic.
- **House Speaker Nancy Pelosi** and **Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy** are being urged by a group of Democrats to include a "universal, one-time, student loan debt cancellation of at least \$30,000 per borrower in the next round of COVID-19 relief legislation."
 - [Letter](#) to the House leaders was sent by Democratic Reps. [Ilhan Omar](#), [Ayanna Pressley](#), [Alma Adams](#) and 28 other lawmakers

- **Democrats** on the **Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis** sent letters demanding large, public corporations to immediately return Paycheck Protection Program loans. “We did not intend for these funds to be used by large corporations that have a substantial investor base and access to capital markets,” the lawmakers wrote in letters to companies including EVO Transportation & Energy Services, Gulf Island Fabrication, MiMedx Group, Quantum Corporation and Universal Stainless & Alloy Products.
- **Three dozen lawmakers** are pushing the Trump administration to get tough on banks and asset managers that restrict financing for oil drilling and coal mining, arguing they are “discriminating against America’s energy sector” and it “must be confronted.” In a letter released today, the lawmakers told Trump that he should punish those lenders by blocking them from participating in federally guaranteed loan programs created in response to the coronavirus, including the PPP
- Top Democrat on the **Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Cmte** [Patty Murray](#) asks HHS’s assistant secretary of preparedness and response Robert Kadlec for “corrected paperwork” regarding potential conflicts of interest, citing news reports that he failed to disclose connections to companies with business directly relevant to his position at HHS.
 - Murray and five other Democrats say in [letter](#) to Kadlec, they “are concerned by recent reports you failed to disclose your work with multiple biodefense entities” to the Senate cmte during the nomination process
 - “We request a briefing on these steps and your assurances that all decisions made at ASPR are driven by public health no later than May 19,” the senators say in letter
- **Iowa Senator Joni Ernst** called for efforts to close the cattle-beef pricing gap that is hurting American farmers.
 - Speaking at a round-table that included Vice President Mike Pence, Senator [Chuck Grassley](#) and CEOs of food producers, she said disruptions caused by the coronavirus pandemic are prompting “a great awakening” as to where Americans’ food comes from
 - “We as Americans need to educate others where our food comes from and we’re starting to see that now”
- **House Democrats** want to provide more funds for Covid-19 testing and surveillance to aid efforts to restart the U.S. economy, **House Energy and Commerce Chairman Frank Pallone** (D-N.J.) said during a teleconference briefing. The House does “intend to do more” in terms of funding testing and contact tracing programs, he said.
 - At the briefing, Andy Slavitt, a former acting administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, outlined his \$46.5 billion plan to reopen the economy and expand the contact tracing workforce. Slavitt warned that the Covid-19 pandemic is still growing in much of the country and the public health infrastructure needs to expand. “We’re heading to 100,000 American lives lost, and we’re not appreciably slowing,” he said.
- The federal government ignored longstanding recommendations for how to handle a pandemic, and President Trump further undermined efforts, **Florida Rep. Donna Shalala** said Friday.
 - “Boy, we weren’t ready,” Shalala, a Democrat who is also former Health and Human Services secretary, said at a meeting of the Bipartisan Commission on Biodefense.

State/Local

- **Washington state** is allowing five of its 39 counties to move on to the second phase of the reopening plan.
 - Businesses in Columbia, Garfield, Lincoln, Ferry and Pend Oreille counties will be allowed to offer in-store retail services. Restaurants will also be allowed to serve dine-in

customers, but with less than half of their normal capacity. Salons and pet groomers can also operate.

- **Mississippi's** "safer-at-home" order has been extended two weeks until May 25, Gov. Tate Reeves said today.
 - The governor laid out strict social distancing guidelines and sanitation protocols for salons, barbershops and gyms to follow when they begin to reopen on Monday.
- **South Carolina** will begin universal coronavirus testing of all 40,000 residents and staff at 194 nursing homes across the state beginning May 11, state epidemiologist Dr. Linda Bell said Friday.
 - Bell described the process as "a phased approach to this expansion of testing," with 74 of the 194 facilities starting their testing on Monday.
- **Kentucky** is aiming to test every resident and staff member at all 286 skilled nursing facilities in the state, Health and Family Services Secretary Eric Friedlander said Friday.
 - He said he expects it will take a couple of months to get through all facilities.
- **South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster** announced that restaurants across the state will be allowed to reopen May 11 for limited dine-in services.
 - Restaurant restrictions that will remain in place include, according to McMaster:
 - Tables must be spaced 6-8 feet apart
 - Restaurants can only allow 50% of their inside occupancy rate, as determined by the fire marshal
 - Sanitation and social distancing guidelines must be followed
- Pools, splash pads, water parks, and swim beaches in **Arkansas** will be allowed to open on May 22, **Gov. Asa Hutchinson** said Friday.
 - People who enter the areas will be screened and those with a fever or who have had contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19 will be turned away, Hutchinson said.
 - The governor said pool chemistry should be tested twice a day, and high-touch areas should be disinfected "frequently."
 - Slides, diving boards and any other areas where people form lines should be marked with notices about the 6-foot distancing.
- Several facilities in **New Jersey** will now offer tests to asymptomatic people as part of the state's efforts to increase testing, Gov. Phil Murphy said today.
- All parades and festivals in **Boston** are canceled for the summer, up to and including Labor Day on Sept. 7, due to coronavirus concerns, Mayor Marty Walsh announced today.
- Gov. **Ron DeSantis** announced the reopening of barber shops, hair salons and nail salons in all counties currently in phase one of the state's reopening plan [starting Monday](#).
- Phase one of **North Carolina's** reopening efforts will start at 5 p.m. today, Gov. Roy Cooper said.
 - "I urge everyone to do what we know works, and to stay vigilant," Cooper said. "And even though today at 5 p.m., North Carolina moves into phase one, know that the stay-at-home order is still in effect."
 - Secretary of North Carolina Department of Health and Human Service Dr. Mandy Cohen also announced today that testing is now available for anyone exposed to Covid-19.
- **Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam** announced today that the state is on track for a phase one reopening on May 15 but cautioned "if our trends change, we will adjust that date as needed."

- Northam said that the stay-at-home order that had been in effect will now become a “safer-at-home order” and detailed what restrictions would be lifted in a phase one reopening. Here is what would be allowed in phase one:
 - Nonessential retail establishments can increase to 50% capacity.
 - If restaurants and breweries already have a permit for outdoor seating, “we’ll allow service in that outdoor area at 50% capacity.”
 - Places of worship will be allowed to hold indoor services but only at 50% capacity.
 - Personal grooming services can reopen in phase one “if they can adhere to strict social distancing with face masks required and appointments required.”
 - Private campgrounds can reopen with restrictions between campsites.
 - Here’s what won’t be allowed to reopen in phase one:
 - Overnight summer camps
 - Gyms
 - Entertainment and amusement venues
 - Beaches for anything other than exercising and fishing
- **California** is likely to face revenue shortfalls long after the coronavirus crisis ends, resulting in budget gaps that may total as much as \$126 billion over the next four years if the economy doesn’t quickly recover, the state’s nonpartisan legislative analyst office said in a report today. The analysis comes a day after Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) said the federal government needs to help the state grapple with a \$54 billion shortfall projected through June 202
 - All registered voters in California will receive a mail-in ballot for the November election, [CNN reports](#), citing an announcement from Gov. Gavin Newsom.
- **New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo** said New York State Department of Health is partnering with the New York Genome Center and the Rockefeller University to conduct a genome and RNA sequencing study to better understand the virus.
 - This research will help the state learn more about why young children are getting sick with a coronavirus-related illness that does not present the typical respiratory symptoms, the governor added.
- The **Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe** won’t comply to a request to take down its coronavirus checkpoints.
 - “We will not apologize for being an island of safety in a sea of uncertainty and death,” Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Chairman Harold Frazier said in a statement.
 - [South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem](#) sent letters Friday to the leaders of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe and the Oglala Sioux Tribe, demanding they “immediately cease interfering” with traffic and remove the checkpoints.
 - Reservation residents have been asked to complete a health questionnaire at checkpoints when they leave and when they return, according to Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe policies. South Dakota residents who don’t live on the reservation are only allowed there if they’re not coming from a hot spot and it is for an essential activity
- **Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms** said it’s “frustrating” that some residents continue to congregate in large crowds and do not practice appropriate social distancing.
 - “I think it’s extremely selfish. And I think it puts so many people at risk. Even when I think about our public safety personnel and our police officers … if they are walking into a crowd where people don’t have on masks and are disregarding all of

- the recommendations that have been made, it puts them at risk," the mayor told CNN today.
- Bottoms was critical of Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp's decision to [reopen some businesses in the state](#) in late April.
 - **Maine Gov. Janet Mills** announced a reopening plan for businesses in rural counties that haven't reported cases of community transmission.
 - There are 12 counties included in the Rural Reopening Plan: Aroostook, Piscataquis, Washington, Hancock, Somerset, Franklin, Oxford, Kennebec, Waldo, Knox, Lincoln and Sagadahoc.
 - **New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo** unveiled results from antibody testing which showed that among frontline workers, the New York Fire Department and EMT's had a 17.1% infection rate.
 - "We think it's higher because of the EMT workers," Cuomo said, but this is below the city's normal rate of infection, he reiterated.
 - **Gov. Andrew Cuomo** is going "region to region across the state" to determine what parts can reopen when New York's close down order expires on May 15.
 - The state has a "clear" and "uniformed" set of criteria based on data and science, the governor said Sunday during a news conference.
 - Local governments should start to look into two factors, the governor said:
 - Does data indicate spread under control
 - Does the region have their operation in place – hospital capacity/ testing/ tracing/ isolating – and compliance function
 - **New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo** outlined new guidelines that nursing homes and hospitals must follow in order to protect the elderly.
 - New York state is investigating 85 cases of a coronavirus-related illness that is afflicting children across the state, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said during a news conference Sunday.
 - New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said he has reached out to White House officials and sent a letter to the federal government to try to speed up the shipment of remdesivir to the city.
 - This comes after the city said the medicine seems to be decreasing the average hospital stay from 15 to 11 days in severely ill Covid-19 patients.
 - **North Dakotans** are now permitted to travel to other states without having to quarantine for two weeks when they get home, Gov. Doug Burgum said Friday.
 - "This allows for people to travel freely within the United States and releases requirements for people returning to our state, even from those areas that were previously defined as high outbreak areas; releases people from having to self isolate or quarantine when they come back. The exception to this is international travelers," he said.
 - State Health Officer Mylynn Tufte on Friday amended the previously issued order that required anyone returning to North Dakota to quarantine for 14 days.

International

- **France** reported 243 deaths and 1,525 new infections on Friday, the public health agency said. Total deaths rose to 26,230 and total cases reached 210,969.
 - Authorities outlined measures to sharply limit the number of passengers on public transportation starting Monday when the country is set to ease lockdown measures.

About half of the Paris Metro's stations will stay closed as the capital's commuter network is considered a risk for a new wave of infections.

- The **European Union** plans to prolong until June 15 a ban on most travel into the bloc, saying the pandemic situation "remains fragile both in Europe and worldwide." Maintaining the restriction on non-essential travel into the EU for another 30 days is necessary to contain the spread of the coronavirus, said the European Commission, the bloc's executive arm in Brussels. The measure was introduced in mid-March for 30 days and extended a first time last month until May 15.
- Thousands of people gathered in **Minsk** on Saturday to attend a Victory Day military parade, despite increasing numbers of coronavirus cases in Belarus.
 - Unlike other former Soviet states, **Belarus** did not cancel mass events to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe and has not imposed strict self-isolation rules.
- All bars in **Seoul** have been ordered to close until further notice after a spike in coronavirus cases linked to nightclubs in the South Korean capital.
 - At a briefing Saturday, Seoul Mayor Park Won-soon said that clubs and bars would all need to shut, effective immediately.
- The leaders of the **United Kingdom's** devolved nations – **Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland** – have rejected Boris Johnson's revised coronavirus guidance, which now advises citizens to "stay alert" as opposed to "stay-at-home" to control the outbreak, the Press Association (PA) reported Sunday.
 - According to the Press Association, the three leaders said they had not been consulted over the new government guidance ahead of a national security meeting on Sunday morning.
- **Taiwan's** professional baseball league played before spectators Friday for the first time since the coronavirus pandemic began.
- A thousand fans were allowed to attend Xinzhuang Baseball Stadium in **New Taipei**, where the home-team Fubon Guardians won 7-6 against the Uni-President Lions, state-run news agency Focus Taiwan reported.
- **Boris Johnson** will unveil a virus alert system, similar to the color-coded terror-threat scale, in a Sunday address to Britain that will set out some conditions for removing restrictions on the economy.
 - The five-level alerts range from one (green), which would enable life to return to normal, to five (red). England is on the verge of improving from level four to three, which indicates the infection rate isn't increasing significantly, Johnson is expected to say. A new motto is also to debut: "Stay alert, control the virus and save lives."
 - Johnson will urge workers and businesses to stay alert by following social distancing rules, potentially angering some in his Conservative Party who want a swift end to the lockdown that has scarred the economy.
- **Travelers** arriving in the U.K., including Britons returning from abroad, will be told to self-isolate for 14 days as part of the government's plans to try to avoid a second wave of the coronavirus.
 - The rules, set to start next month, will force travelers to declare where they will stay in isolation, said a person familiar with the plans. Violators face fines as high as 1,000 pounds (\$1,145) or deportation.
 - The measures may heighten criticism that Boris Johnson's government was slow to contain the pandemic.

- As part of the government's long-term "road map" for the gradual relaxation of the nationwide lockdown, **United Kingdom Prime Minister Boris Johnson** announced Sunday that the government will seek to re-open schools, shops and some aspects of the hospitality industry over the weeks and months ahead.
 - "If we, as a nation, begin to fulfill the conditions I have set out, then in the next few weeks and months, we may be able to go further," Johnson said after confirming that the nationwide stay-at-home order would be relaxed on Wednesday to allow for unlimited outdoor exercise. "At the earliest by June 1, after half term, we believe we may be in a position to begin the phased re-opening of shops and to get primary pupils back into school."
 - "Our ambition is that secondary pupils facing exams next year will get at least some time with their teachers before the holidays," he added.
- **Indian Railways** announced passenger services will partially resume in the country starting Tuesday.
 - The railways will start with special trains on 15 selected routes, including the New Delhi-Mumbai route, according to the Railways Ministry. Indian Railways will then start additional special services on other routes based on availability.
 - Priority will be given to 20,000 coaches for Covid-19 care centers and then up to 300 trains every day to bring home stranded migrant workers across the country, the statement added.
- Elderly people in **Turkey** were allowed out of their house on Sunday for the first time in 49 days.
 - The older Turkey citizens have been confined to their homes since March 21 when the government announced a lockdown for people over the age of 65 as a part of measures to combat the coronavirus pandemic.
 - They were allowed out for four hours between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. local time today during a general weekend lockdown that prohibits all but essential workers from going out.
- **African nations** needs a two-year debt standstill to give governments the fiscal space to fight the pandemic, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said. A \$100 billion injection of emergency economic stimulus is also required to combat the impact of the disease and almost half of that could come from waiving interest payments, according to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.
- The spread of the novel coronavirus has slowed down significantly in most parts of **Canada** but the situation in **Montreal** remains critical.
 - "Of course I'm worried — as a Quebecer, as an MP — about the situation going on in my riding, in the province, as I am concerned about Canadians coast to coast, as prime minister," Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told reporters on Saturday in Ottawa.
- The **United Kingdom** announced a \$2.48 billion package to encourage citizen to ride their bike or walk more. This is part of the effort to promote alternative forms of travel to accommodate social distancing restrictions on public transport networks
 - Dr. Mike Ryan, executive director of the World Health Organization health emergencies program, said the lives of people across the world could face "significant alteration" until a coronavirus vaccine is developed.

- Speaking on Friday during a briefing, Ryan said, "There is a path out, but we must remain ever vigilant. And we may have to have a significant alteration to our lifestyles, until we get to a point where we have an effective vaccine, or an effective treatments."
 - Ryan said the team at WHO feels the effects of physical distancing, just like the rest of the world.
- France's National Assembly voted today to extend the nationwide state of emergency until July 10.
- More than 50% of Spain's population will advance to phase one on Monday as part of the country's de-escalation process, during the coronavirus crisis, Spain's health minister announced on Friday.
 - But Madrid and Barcelona, the two largest cities in the country and the hardest hit by the pandemic are staying behind.
 - Simón listed a total of 11 regions that will transition fully to the next phase: Galicia, Asturias, Cantabria, País Vasco, La Rioja, Navarra, Aragón, Extremadura, Murcia, Balearic Islands, Canaries, and Spain's two enclaves on Morocco's north coast, Ceuta and Melilla.
 - Other regions such as Castilla Leon, Catalonia, Castilla La Mancha, Valencia and Andalusia will have some of their provinces or health districts advancing to phase one, but not the entire region.
- At least 2 million Canadians lost their jobs in April, adding to the 1 million who were already unemployed through March. Canada's unemployment rate stands at 13%, the second highest ever recorded.
- The European Commission is encouraging countries in the European Union to extend restrictions on nonessential travel and to keep external borders closed until June 15.
- Kuwait imposed a nationwide lockdown starting Sunday until the end of May, the government said on Friday.
- The UK media has widely published a new slogan expected to be unveiled by UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Sunday evening, in which the advice to "stay home" will be replaced with "stay alert."
 - Johnson said earlier this week that he will present a plan to begin easing the country's lockdown, and that he hoped some measures could be relaxed by Monday.
 - But Johnson has struggled to get all four countries within the UK on the same page, and Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said Sunday she would stick with the older "stay at home" message for her people.
- New South Wales, Australia's largest state, will begin easing restrictions on some gatherings and allow restaurants to open with new restrictions starting May 15, Premier Gladys Berejiklian said on Sunday.
 - Restaurants and cafes will be allowed to open for up to 10 patrons at a time. Outdoor gatherings, weddings, and religious services will be limited to 10 people, while outdoor funerals will be permitted with up to 30 mourners.

Other

- Amtrak said it will [resume](#) high-speed Acela service in the Northeast Corridor on June 1 on a modified schedule of three weekday roundtrips to meet an anticipated demand boost.
- Tesla [filed a suit Saturday night](#) against Alameda County, California, after local officials there refused to let the company reopen its Fremont factory.

- In a series of tweets earlier Saturday, Tesla CEO Elon Musk also threatened to move the company's headquarters [to Texas](#) or [Nevada](#), where shelter-in-place rules are less restrictive.
 - "Frankly, this is the final straw. Tesla will now move its HQ and future programs to Texas/Nevada immediately," Musk tweeted. Tesla did not respond to a request for comment on Saturday.
 - The automaker had planned to [allow a fraction of its factory workers](#) to return to work by Friday, but was warned by the Alameda County Health Department in [a livestreamed town hall](#) on Friday that such a move would be violating the county's rules.
- **Johnson & Johnson** is looking to produce a [billion coronavirus vaccines](#) for next year, the company's chief scientific officer said. Clinical trials will start in September.
- Although states are starting to reopen, people still need to wear a mask and practice physical distancing to prevent a "backlash," **Dr. Thomas File, the president of the Infectious Diseases Society of America**, said.
 - "We still have to use the personal practices that have led us to the present state now where we're starting to at least, you know, flatten the curve," he told CNN on Sunday.
 - "That means continue to use physical distancing, continue to use masks when we're out in public — because until we have widely available antimicrobial or antiviral therapy and a vaccine, the best defense is physical distancing," File added.
- **Former President Barack Obama** delivered a blistering attack on Donald Trump's handing of the coronavirus pandemic, calling it "an absolute chaotic disaster" as well as "anemic."
 - Obama's remarks, [first reported](#) by Yahoo News, came in a leaked call as the former president exhorted members of his administration to rally behind presumptive 2020 Democratic nominee [Joe Biden](#). The comments were perhaps the most scathing criticism Obama has yet delivered of his successor in the White House.
- **Delta Air Lines** said it is temporarily halting service at 10 airports in an effort to reduce health risks for its employees. The airports are in metropolitan areas with other airports nearby, the airline said in a statement Friday.
 - "These changes will allow more of our frontline employees to minimize their COVID-19 exposure risk while ensuring convenient access to Delta's network for those who must travel," Delta said.
 - While Delta said the move is to protect its frontline employees at those airports, like all airlines, it has seen a major reduction in passengers during the pandemic.
 - Routes will be shuttered to airports such as Chicago Midway. The airline will instead funnel passengers through the O'Hare International Airport.
 - "Delta will continue providing essential service to impacted communities via neighboring airports," the statement said.