



COVID-19 3/20 PM UPDATE

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Currently, bipartisan and bicameral negotiations are ongoing for the small business, tax, healthcare, and individuals provisions included in the Senate Republican version of CV3, that are also on the list of items Democrats would like to add to this package. This afternoon Majority Leader McConnell filed cloture on the vehicle that will be used to carry the agreed upon text for CV3. The expectation remains that negotiations are held for the rest of the evening and text can be shared back and forth from staff throughout the night and into tomorrow. The Senate will be called back in on Saturday at noon for debate and for negotiations to continue between the Senate, House, and White House, with Secretary Mnuchin again serving as point person. Because cloture was filed today, a vote could happen as early as Sunday. The House will need 24 hours to be called back for a vote on CV3, so we look for that notification to go out sometime this weekend for a likely Monday vote.

All this is complicated by the continued restrictions of travel in places like California, New York, as well as Connecticut and Illinois that have been covered in the press today. Further restrictions on air travel will make the quick return of many members much more difficult and could prolong vote schedules for the House. Most members of the Senate are staying in town this weekend due to the expectation of votes over the weekend or early next week.

Government

- **President Donald Trump** said he did not want the federal government to compete with states in **bids for medical equipment** as jurisdictions all scramble to find the necessary supplies to deal with the coronavirus.
 - On a teleconference call Thursday, governors told the president that after he suggested they seek their own medical supplies earlier in the week, suppliers had canceled orders with state governments for better bids from the federal government.
- **President Donald Trump** stated he did not think the U.S. would implement a **nation-wide shelter-in-place** order similar to those imposed in New York and California to fight the spread of the coronavirus.
- **President Trump** said he doesn't want companies using any stimulus aid to be used to repurchase stock.
 - **"I don't want stock buybacks,"** Trump says at the White House. "I want that money to be used for the workers"
- **Vice President [Mike Pence](#)** said **major U.S. government procurement** coming on masks

- **President Trump** said Friday his administration is waiving all federal requirements for **standardized tests** for students in kindergarten through 12th grade.
 - He also announced that **borrowers with college loans** can opt to suspend payments, a move designed to ease the financial turmoil caused by the pandemic.
- **President Donald Trump** promised to keep pushing for **more federal spending** until the economy recovers from the coronavirus outbreak, and said Americans can expect “much more” than \$1,000 checks from the government.
 - He said at a White House news conference on Friday that if “there’s not enough money” in a stimulus bill currently under debate in Congress, “we’ll do something later, I’m sure.”
- **President Donald Trump** is bringing back the former chairman of his Council of Economic Advisers, Kevin Hassett, who will advise Trump on economic matters in light of the coronavirus outbreak.
- **Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin** sees the proposed **Senate Republican stimulus** measure as too small in some aspects and wants it to include direct payments to more individuals to mitigate the economic consequences of the coronavirus outbreak, according to people familiar with his thinking.
 - President Donald Trump on Friday also suggested that the current GOP bill doesn’t go far enough, and he pledged to “keep going” with subsequent bills.
- **Mnuchin** proposed two rounds of direct payments of \$1,000 per adult and \$500 per child to Americans, with the first batch going out within three weeks of Congress passing the legislation. The plan would amount to \$500 billion in total spending, according to the Treasury Department.
 - Under Mnuchin’s proposal, the second round of payments would only be sent if the national emergency persists. Mnuchin estimated that each round of the direct payments would cost about \$250 billion.
- **The Trump administration** escalated its attacks on **China** over the coronavirus, as U.S. officials publicly alleged that Beijing concealed and minimized the spread of the disease within its borders until it was too late to stop a global outbreak.
- **Education Secretary Betsy DeVos** said in separate announcements Friday that she will make it easier for borrowers to [pause payments](#) on student loans and for states to [forego school testing requirements](#) in response to challenges from the new coronavirus.
 - Members of Congress and student advocates have urged additional relief to student borrowers while school leaders have sought a more streamlined process for testing waivers.
- The **US** has suspended all non-essential traffic across its borders with both **Mexico** and **Canada** as it battles to control the coronavirus outbreak.
 - The curbs take effect at midnight on Saturday but will not affect trade, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said.
 - **Mexico’s Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard** announced the closure on Twitter, and President Trump and U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo confirmed the deal at a White House briefing Friday.
 - **Travel restrictions** exclude traffic across the border for work and other essential reasons, Pompeo says
- **U.S. Secretary State Michael Pompeo** warned that Americans abroad should arrange to immediately return home, as the country tightens border restrictions to fight the coronavirus outbreak.

- “**U.S. citizens** who reside in the United States should arrange for their immediate return to the United States unless they are prepared to remain abroad for an extended period of time,” Pompeo said at a White House news conference on Friday.
 - “If you choose to travel internationally, your travel plans may well be substantially interrupted,” he added. “This means that all international travel from U.S. citizens should be avoided.”
- **Customs and Border Patrol** will turn away **migrants** crossing the border without documents, rather than holding them in cramped facilities where social distancing to avoid Covid-19 infection isn’t possible, the Trump administration announced Friday.
 - The **Centers for Disease Control** invoked Section 362 of the Public Health Service Act to block entry to the U.S. of migrants coming from Mexico or Canada because of the public health threat they pose, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar said at a White House briefing Friday. The order applied to **undocumented migrants** trying to enter, not to U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents.
- Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau emerged from self-isolation Friday to announce new measures to contain the coronavirus, including that **Canada** will send back **asylum seekers** who attempt to cross the **U.S.-Canada border**.
 - The measures, announced during a news conference outside Trudeau’s Ottawa home, is a change from plans presented earlier in the week for Canada to allow in and quarantine any asylum seekers coming overland from the United States, Canada’s [CTV News reported](#)
- The **Pentagon’s** chief weapons buyer said **defense contractors** are “expected to maintain their normal work schedules” within recommended guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention amid the coronavirus outbreak because they're considered “critical infrastructure.”
 - “If your contract or subcontract supports the development, production, testing or sustainment of our weapons systems/software systems or the infrastructure to support those activities, you are considered Essential Critical Infrastructure,” Pentagon acquisition chief Ellen Lord wrote Friday in a memo to industry
- **Sec. of State Mike Pompeo** says he’s concerned about agricultural worker visas, working to preserve them amid virus outbreak and travel restrictions.
- About **2,600 U.S. troops** stationed in Europe are under self-isolation due to potential exposure to the coronavirus, European Command chief Air Force Gen. Tod Wolters said Friday, with 35 service members testing positive for the virus.
- A defense contractor who works for the Air Force in the **Pentagon** and a service member who visited the building Monday have tested positive for coronavirus, the Air Force said in a statement Friday.
 - Contractor was last in the building on March 2 and worked at a military symposium at Joint Base Andrews March 3-6. Service member works at the Defense Health Agency in Falls Church, Va.
- **The army chief** has said all recruiting stations closing as service moves to bring on new soldiers 'virtually' because of virus.
- The **U.S. Census Bureau** is delaying the deadline for counting everyone in the U.S. by two weeks because of the spreading novel coronavirus, officials said Friday.

- The 2020 census had been scheduled to stop at the end of July, but the deadline has now been extended to mid-August, said Tim Olson, an associate director for field operations at the bureau.
- The **US Food and Drug Administration** announced a temporary policy change Friday to allow the expanded use of “FDA-cleared non-invasive, vital sign-measuring devices” so health care workers can monitor coronavirus patients remotely.
- **The United States military** airlifted a group of US women’s football players from Honduras to the US on Friday.
- With the current high demand for hand sanitizer, **the US Food and Drug Administration** said it will not take action against companies who are not FDA regulated and who produce hand sanitizers.
- Flight delays and cancellations continued to rise Friday as **an airport tower in Chicago** remained closed and planes were being rerouted above Indiana with the spread of Covid-19 to the federal employees responsible for the air-traffic system.
 - Several routes for cross-country traffic were shut by the **Federal Aviation Administration** after a supervisor tested positive at the **agency’s Indianapolis Center**, which oversees high-altitude traffic across several states. Flights were handled by other controllers at the same facility, the FAA said in an emailed statement.
- A second **Transportation Security Administration** officer at the Orlando airport has tested positive for the coronavirus, the agency said Friday.

Capitol Hill

- **Senate Democratic leader** Chuck Schumer says the Republican virus stimulus bill is inadequate and doesn’t help hospitals.
 - Schumer says he sent white paper to McConnell with Democratic demands for the measure, including paid sick leave expansion
- A staffer in **Rep. Yvette Clarke’s** Brooklyn office has tested positive for the coronavirus — the first known case of the respiratory infection in New York’s congressional delegation, the Daily News has learned.
- The **members of Washington state’s congressional delegation** urged Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, and five House committee chairs to address some of Washington state’s growing economic challenges in the next coronavirus-related emergency package.
 - The delegation called on House leaders to support workers and businesses to mitigate the long-term impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak by expanding access to economic assistance, increasing investments to prevent housing displacement, creating parity for tribes, and providing direct assistance to individuals. These policies reflect the needs of state, local, and tribal officials as communities across the state are adapting to prolonged social distancing measures. Washington state was the first impacted by COVID-19 and remains one of the most negatively affected.
- **House Homeland Security Chair Bennie Thompson and Rep. Lou Correa** are requesting a briefing from the TSA on how the agency is protecting its officers still working in airports during the coronavirus outbreak.
- The **Senate Republican proposal** to send \$1,200 to many American adults and \$500 to children would cost \$248 billion, according to a new study from the Tax Foundation.

State/Local

- The governors of **New Jersey, New York, Connecticut** and **Pennsylvania** urged the federal government to consider a fiscal stimulus of at least \$100 billion in direct cash to all four states to help cover costs related to coronavirus response operations.
 - The four governors made the request in a letter issued to President Trump, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy
 - The letter estimates that for the four states alone, the direct cash assistance must total at least \$100 billion to account for the fiscal challenges ahead of state budget deadlines.
- **North Carolina** postpones Congressional District 11 Primary that was set for May 12 due to coronavirus-related concerns, according to [statement](#). The election is moved to June 23
- **Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves** postpones the March 31 Republican primary runoff in the state's 2nd Congressional District to June 23 because of the coronavirus, according to a [statement](#) from his office.
- **Indiana** on Friday became the seventh state to push back its presidential primary because of the pandemic.
 - Voting, originally scheduled for May 5, will be postponed to June 2, the state's Republican governor, Eric Holcomb, announced at a news conference.
- **Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan** (R) has signed an executive order to allow Medicaid providers to receive payment for telehealth services.
 - "To respond to the state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency, health care providers must be permitted to deliver health care services at sites other than the sites at which patients are located," the order reads.
 - He also ordered [all of the state's horse racing tracks and casinos closed indefinitely "to the general public" last Sunday](#), after horse racing [continued in Maryland](#) through the weekend without fans in attendance but still able to wager online.
- **Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker** has issued a "stay-at-home" order Friday for the entire state to prevent the spread of coronavirus.
 - Pritzker said the order goes into effect at 5 p.m. CT on Saturday and lasts through April 7.
 - Residents will still be able to go to grocery stores, pharmacies, medical offices, hospitals and gas stations.
 - They can still go running or hiking and walk their dogs.
- **DC Mayor Bowser** announced DC Schools will continue distance learning through April 27th.
 - The closure of DC bars and restaurants will also extend until April 27, Mayor Muriel Bowser just announced. The city had already shut down bars and restaurants except for takeout and delivery, and that order will now last for at least another month. Bowser said the city's previous restrictions on mass gatherings would similarly be extended until at least April 27.
- **Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis** issued an executive order mandating all restaurants and food establishments in the state to suspend all food and alcohol consumption on site Friday.
- Non-essential medical and dental procedures are temporarily restricted across **Michigan**, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's office said in a statement Friday.

- **King County Metro** (Seattle) will no longer require customers to pay fares for rides on buses, water taxis and Access paratransit beginning Saturday until further notice amid the coronavirus outbreak. Passengers will also be directed to board and exit using the rear doors of the buses.
- **Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont** has asked all non-essential employees to "stay home to stay safe" at least for the "foreseeable future."
 - This is an executive order and businesses could be subjected to fines if they stay open, Lamont said. The order has not been officially signed yet, but will be later today and guidance will be issued, officials said at the presser. The order is expected to go into effect by 8 p.m. ET Monday.
- The federal government has approved **Washington state** for a special health care status that could help officials and doctors here respond to the novel coronavirus crisis.

International

- **Italian police** cited a record 9,600 people on Thursday for violating the country's strict coronavirus-related lockdown, Italy's interior ministry said Friday.
- **Italy** has imposed stricter quarantine measures across the country, according to a new order issued by the Italian Health Minister.
 - Access to parks, play areas, and public gardens will be prohibited starting Saturday.
 - The order also bans jogging and other "outdoor physical and leisure activities," which will now only be allowed in the "vicinity of the people's homes." They must maintain a distance of one meter (3 feet) from each other.
 - People are also prohibited from moving from one residence to the other including holiday homes
- In an unprecedented step for the **British government**, the chancellor, Rishi Sunak, said the state would pay grants covering up to 80% of the salary of workers if companies kept them on their payroll, rather than lay them off as the economy crashes. The extraordinary payments will be worth up to a maximum of £2,500 per month, just above the median income.
- The **World Health Organization** has distributed 1.5 million coronavirus lab tests around the world and they will need 80 to 100 times that, according to Dr. Mike Ryan, executive director of the World Health Organization health emergencies program.
- **UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson** instructed cafes, pubs, bars and restaurants to close on Friday "as soon as they reasonably can and not to open tomorrow," in order to stem the tide of the coronavirus.

Private Sector

- The lowest number of passengers ever recorded at **U.S. airports** is being reported by the Transportation Security Administration. Nearly 624,000 people passed through its outbound checkpoints on Thursday, the TSA said. That compares with 2.4 million on the same day a year earlier. It's the lowest number of outbound passengers ever recorded by an agency created in November 2001 in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.
- **American Airlines** is initiating cargo-only flights between the US and Europe. FedEx and UPS were expecting to absorb a greater share of cargo typically carried by commercial airlines, which have severely cut capacity.
- **Air Canada** is laying off more than 5,000 flight attendants, about 60% of that staff, according to a union official, as the country's largest airline grounds its planes.

- **United Airlines** said it would start layoffs by April if a federal aid package doesn't come through, while **Delta** suspended its dividend and said 13,000 employees will take unpaid leave.
- **Target Corp.** said Friday it will give a \$2 an hour wage increase to its 300,000-plus workers who have been scrambling to help customers.
- **AT&T** cancelled a \$4 billion accelerated stock buyback program scheduled for the second quarter.
- **Coca-Cola Co.** no longer expects to reach previously set financial goals for the year. Coke said in a regulatory filing that restaurant closures, suspended NHL, NBA and MLB seasons, reduced travel, social distancing, and more people working from home is straining operations.
- **Mercedes-Benz** is one of the latest automakers to announce that it's pausing production. The company says Friday its auto plant in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and a van factory in Charleston, South Carolina, will start to wind down production Monday, for at least two weeks.
- **Apple** is allowing people to buy only two iPhones online. It appears to be attempting to prevent the large purchase and resale of its technology at higher prices.
- **Microsoft** and Seattle-based biotech firm **Adaptive Biotechnologies** are now working together as part of a partnership seeking to map the human-immune response to COVID-19.
- **Bridgewater** predicts the coronavirus will lead to \$4 trillion in lost corporate revenue for both public and private businesses in the US, according to a [report the firm published Friday](#).
- **3M** says it has doubled its global output of N95 respirator masks during the coronavirus outbreak. According to a statement on Friday, the company has doubled the output of respirators to a rate of 1.1 billion per year, or nearly 100 million per month.
- Automaker **General Motors Co.** and **Elon Musk**, the CEO of Tesla Inc. and SpaceX, have [offered](#) to make hospital ventilators, and other manufacturers are being [called upon](#) by the Trump administration to quickly make 500 million N95 air-filtering respirator masks.
- At the close of trading Friday, all three major **US stock indexes** experienced their worst weekly performance since October 2008.
- **Netflix** announced it was creating a \$100-million fund to provide emergency support to workers on its productions, including electricians, carpenters and drivers, said Ted Sarandos, Netflix's chief content officer, in a blog post Friday.
- The **American Medical Association** has called on the Trump administration to "leverage every tool at its disposal" to address a shortage of protective equipment and coronavirus tests.
 - In a statement Friday, the doctors' group said that "critical shortages in test kits and personal protective equipment (PPE) remain unaddressed."
- **Trump National Golf Club Los Angeles** is closed until further notice due to the coronavirus pandemic, a representative at the golf club confirmed to CNN Friday.



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