



## COVID-19 4/13 UPDATE

### **COVID-19 4/13 Update**

#### **Global**

Total cases – 1,872,073

Total deaths – 116,098

#### **United States**

Positive tests – 558,999 (up 5% from prior day)

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

Total # tests – 2,822,311 (up 5% from prior day)

Total deaths – 22,154 (up 8% from prior day)

#### **Administration**

- As of Monday morning, **SBA** had approved 880,000 applications for a total of \$217 billion, according to SBA figures provided to [Fortune](#). That equals roughly 62% of allocated dollars, up from 48% allocated on Friday. Applications for the program are continuing to flood in, with an additional 219,000 submitted since Friday.
- **President Donald Trump** declared Monday that he has the power to “open up” states and relax social-distancing practices adopted to combat the coronavirus outbreak, not governors.
  - He didn’t elaborate on how he reached his conclusion. The Trump administration issued guidance March 16 recommending Americans isolate themselves from one another to curb the spread of the virus, days after many governors, municipal leaders, businesses and families had already adopted the practices themselves.
- **Dr. Robert Redfield**, director of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said this morning on the "Today" show that the US needs to reopen carefully and gradually when asked about concerns of a second wave of coronavirus infections.
  - Dr. Robert Redfield, the director of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said the United States is "nearing the peak right now" of the coronavirus pandemic.
- **US Surgeon General Dr. Jerome Adams** said some of the US hot spots in the coronavirus pandemic — New York, New Jersey, Detroit and New Orleans — appear to be seeing Covid-19 cases "leveling off" or even going down.
  - "In the midst of tragedy, there IS hope," Adams tweeted. "Social distancing and mitigation IS working. There is a light at the end of this dark tunnel."



## COVID-19 4/13 UPDATE

- The **Transportation Security Administration** is now screening about 4% of the number of people it did this time last year.
  - On Sunday, its officers screened 90,510 people, compared to more than 2.4 million on the same day in 2019. That's a 96% drop from last year's traffic.
- **The US Food and Drug Administration** on Sunday announced a plan to decontaminate "millions" of N95 respirators per day, according to the agency.
  - Thousands of hospitals already have the system installed, according to the FDA, and could now use them on N95 respirators, which are in short supply.
  - It's the agency's third such authorization for a respirator decontamination system, with the first issued in late March and the second issued last week.
  - The agency said its most recent authorization, to a company called Advanced Sterilization Products, could allow for the decontamination of approximately 4 million N95 respirators per day.
- **Americans** will start to receive stimulus payments this week, a centerpiece of the \$2.2 trillion rescue package meant to provide a buffer against the coronavirus pandemic that's shuttered much of the U.S. economy.
  - The **Internal Revenue Service** has begun sending \$1,200 payments to middle and lower income adults, plus \$500 for their minor children, though it could take until [September](#) for every eligible person to get the money.
  - The first payments "should be deposited directly into individual's bank accounts; the precise date you will see payments in your account depends on how long individual banks typically take to process direct deposits," according to a press release from the House Ways and Means Committee Republicans.
  - The IRS will first send the money to individuals for whom the agency has direct deposit information, about 60 million people. The remainder will be mailed as checks. That process is expected to begin April 20 but could take until the fall to complete.
  - Payments will be made first to those earning the least.
- Without an effective therapy or a vaccine for the novel coronavirus, the U.S. economy could face 18 months of rolling shutdowns as the outbreak recedes and flares up again, **Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis President Neel Kashkari** said. "We're looking around the world. As they relax the economic controls, the virus flares back up again," Kashkari said yesterday on CBS's "Face the Nation." Kashkari is a voter in 2020 on the Fed's policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee. "We could have these waves of flareups, controls, flareups and controls until we actually get a therapy or a vaccine. I



## COVID-19 4/13 UPDATE

think we should all be focusing on an 18-month strategy for our health care system and our economy.

- U.S. **defense contractors** and a huge network of their suppliers are expected to seek some of the \$17 billion pool of **federal money** designated for companies vital to national security and contending with coronavirus disruptions. Problem is, no one knows who will qualify for the funds, what the application process will be, or when Mnuchin will distribute the money.
- **President Trump** says "the number that OPEC+ is looking to cut is 20 Million Barrels a day, not the 10 Million that is generally being reported."
  - "If anything near this happens, and the World gets back to business from the Covid 19 disaster, the Energy Industry will be strong again, far faster than currently anticipated," Trump [says on Twitter](#)
- The **Pentagon** rushed to provide new equipment and network capacity that's allowing hundreds of thousands of troops and civilian personnel to work off-site in recent weeks -- and those assets can be retained after the coronavirus pandemic recedes Dana Deasy, Defense Department CIO, said in briefing Monday.
  - Pentagon call volume capacity increased by more than 50% since March; virtual internet service provider connections are up 30%
- **USTR** has canceled its April 28 hearing on a proposed free trade agreement with **Kenya** because of coronavirus concerns. However, interested parties will be able to submit comments on the proposed agreement until April 28, which is about a two-week extension from the original Wednesday deadline
- The **Trump administration** Saturday moved to require group health plans and other insurers to cover both coronavirus testing and some related treatment services with no copays or other cost sharing to beneficiaries, including tests that determine if a person has previously had Covid-19. **The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services**, along with the **Departments of Labor** and the **Treasury**, issued guidance Saturday that clarified that Americans with private health insurance should have access to testing and certain other related services, including antibody testing, at no cost
- The **Pentagon** will award \$133 million in contracts using funds allowed under the **Defense Production Act** for production of N95 masks needed by health care workers and other first responders, a spokesman said. The funding, to be awarded as early as next week, marks the first use of the Korean War-era DPA authorities that allow for targeted investments for critical capabilities. Delivery would be within 90 days



## COVID-19 4/13 UPDATE

- A sailor aboard the **USS Theodore Roosevelt aircraft carrier**, which is docked in Guam after cases of the coronavirus began spreading on the ship, has died after receiving treatment in intensive care, the Navy said in a statement.
  - The sailor, whose name is being withheld for now, tested positive for the coronavirus on March 30. He died from complications related to the virus on April 13, according to the statement.
- **U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin** will take part in video meeting of **G-7** finance ministers and central bank governors on Tuesday, according to Treasury Dept advisory.
- **Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin** is not budging on strict guidelines for airlines wanting taxpayer aid, according to people familiar with the matter.
  - U.S. carriers hoping for less stringent repayment demands on federal funding for payroll assistance see very little room for negotiation with Treasury officials, said the people, who asked for anonymity to discuss private negotiations. The nation's four largest carriers were reviewing grant offers received over the weekend. At least three discount airlines are to discuss proposals with the agency today, one of the people said.
  - Treasury is facing pressure to start doling out money soon to an airline industry facing a ridership drop-off of 95%.
- The federal coronavirus stimulus allows the **Trump administration** to loan out \$349 billion to small businesses — up to \$10 million apiece — without detailing the names of the companies receiving the loans.
  - Significant transparency questions also hover over the Federal Reserve's multitrillion-dollar lending effort.
- The **Supreme Court** announced today that it would hear a handful of cases — including two concerning President Trump's bid to shield his financial documents from release — by telephone sometime time next month.

### **Capitol Hill**

- **House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer** will put out a statement reiterating that small business disaster loans, grants must be increased to satisfy demand, Politico [reports](#).
  - “We Democrats demand adequate funding for the production and distribution of national rapid testing and Personal Protective Equipment,” they also say in the statement



## COVID-19 4/13 UPDATE

- The **Senate** is currently scheduled to come back next week — but senators and aides say there’s a good chance this could change and they expect official announcements later this week.
- **House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Nita M. Lowey (D-N.Y.)** cast doubt Monday on whether lawmakers would return to Washington next week as scheduled — or anytime soon.
  - “I have no interest in going back there now,” **Lowey** said during an interview on C-SPAN. “How do you get there? Train? Plane? Last time I got there, I drove for about five hours. People come from across the country and are not going to take a chance.”
  - **Lowey** suggested that “unless it’s safe,” the better course is to pass legislation by “unanimous consent,” a process that does not require most lawmakers to be in Washington but can be upended if members object.
- **United States Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)** and **Representative Ro Khanna (D-CA)** unveiled a proposal for an Essential Workers Bill of Rights to protect frontline workers during the coronavirus pandemic. The lawmakers also called for the next coronavirus relief package to pass Congress to include the policies in the Essential Workers Bill of Rights.
- Lawmakers already are jockeying for a place on a yet-to-be-named **congressional committee** in charge of examining the federal response to Covid-19.
  - **House Intelligence Chairman Adam Schiff (D-Calif.)** was the first one to announce his plans to draft legislation creating a commission to examine the federal response to the virus. **House Homeland Security Chairman Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.)** then followed with [his bill](#), **House Administration Committee ranking member Rep. Rodney Davis (R-Ill.)** with [his](#), and **Reps. Stephanie Murphy (D-Fla.)** and **John Katko (R-NY)** with their [bipartisan offer](#).
- **Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio)** [called](#) on the DOL April 9 to work with states to use the process required under the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act to speed up the review of unemployment claims. When employers [issue WARN notices](#) ahead of layoffs, the information that they provide to state governments also should be used to streamline laid-off employees’ jobless benefits claims, Brown said.
  - **Brown** is considering introducing a bill to force the Labor Department’s hand, a staffer said.
- **Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-Calif.)**, chairwoman of the House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee, and **Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska)** introduced [H.R. 6474](#) on Friday to provide \$2 billion to expand telehealth and internet connections at public and nonprofit



## COVID-19 4/13 UPDATE

healthcare facilities during the coronavirus pandemic. “The coronavirus has only increased the need for high-quality and reliable internet connectivity as healthcare is increasingly delivered through telehealth and healthcare professionals depend on broadband for every aspect of their operations,” Eshoo said in a statement.

- **Sens. Mark Warner (D-Va.) and Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.)** along with **Rep. Eshoo** sent a [letter](#) last Friday to President Donald Trump’s son-in-law and senior adviser Jared Kushner about reports that he is working to create a public health surveillance database in response to the coronavirus pandemic. They ask which technology companies and data providers have been approached to participate, and the measurements that will be used to protect user’s privacy. The lawmakers also join **Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.)** who sent a [letter](#) to the White House raising the same concerns last Thursday.
- **Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio)**, the ranking member of the House Oversight Committee, sent a [letter](#) to **Committee Chairwoman Carolyn Maloney (D-N.Y.)** asking her to stop the use of committee business over Zoom videoconferencing service due to cybersecurity concerns. He noted the Senate sergeant of arms reportedly notified Senate offices that the videoconferencing service lacks privacy, and is not a Senate-supported service. He also raised concerns about a large portion of Zoom’s research and development work being done by employees in China.
- **Reps. Doug Collins (R), Austin Scott (R), and Sanford Bishop (D)** sent a [letter](#) on Friday to Windstream, an internet service provider in Georgia and 17 other states, stressing the importance of providing increased access to broadband internet in rural areas during the coronavirus pandemic. Windstream has failed to provide adequate broadband speeds to consumers despite collecting taxpayer dollars, they wrote.
- **House Agriculture Chairman Collin Peterson** led [a letter Friday urging Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue](#) to direct funding from the recent coronavirus relief bill to support the biofuels industry. "The biofuels industry entered this crisis behind the curve following the last few years of disastrous management of the [Renewable Fuel Standard] program by the EPA," Peterson said in statement. "The biofuels industry is going to need significant support to weather this disaster." The House letter followed [a letter last week from a bipartisan group of 15 senators](#) also urging Perdue to direct some of the department's coronavirus relief aid to struggling biofuel producers.
- **A group of lawmakers** representing districts that contain regional airports is asking DOT to be sensitive to those airports as the agency enforces the minimum service orders. **Rep. Chris Pappas (D-N.H.)**, who led the letter, warned that DOT's decision to mandate service to regions rather than specific airports could threaten Manchester Boston Regional Airport and others like it. "We urge you to use your considerable discretion



## COVID-19 4/13 UPDATE

under the law to ensure that air carriers applying for these loans maintain service to our regional airports," [the lawmakers wrote](#).

- A **bipartisan group of 31 lawmakers** asked the Trump administration on Friday to delay implementation of the USMCA's automotive rules of origin, as automakers face major supply chain disruptions due to the pandemic.
  - [In a letter sent to U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer](#), the lawmakers — including **Reps. Haley Stevens (D-Mich.), Jackie Walorski (R-Ind.), Terri Sewell (D-Ala.) and Jim Baird (R-Ind.)** — explained that an extended transition period is needed because the auto industry is currently dealing with regional shutdowns or revamping production lines to manufacture medical equipment. Companies still need to make costly and complex changes required to comply with the USMCA.

### *State/Local*

- **New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo** said he will be joined by other governors and announce a "geographically coordinated" plan of reopening this afternoon.
  - He said he has been in close contact with his New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Rhode Island counterparts over the past few weeks on a variety of coronavirus issues that impact the northeast region.
- While discussing reopening the economy, **New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo** emphasized the importance of starting the transportation system along with the rest of the economy.
  - "You can't start one system without starting the other systems. You can't start the economic system without starting the transportation system. And if you can't run the transportation system, then you can't reopen the economy," he said today at a coronavirus briefing.
- While **Texas Gov. Greg Abbott** said he plans to issue an executive order this week with [guidelines to reopen businesses in the state](#), **Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner** said his city is not ready.
  - "If you ask now if we're ready to open up today or next week, the answer is no. We haven't reached the peak yet," he told CNN's Poppy Harlow.
- A federal judge is blocking the full enforcement of an **Alabama emergency order** which would put off some abortion procedures during the coronavirus emergency.
  - In a rare injunction issued on a Sunday, Judge Myron Thompson said Alabama's rule could effectively keep some pregnant women from being able to obtain an abortion at all.



## COVID-19 4/13 UPDATE

- **New York City** may be close to seeing a decline in new coronavirus infections after having hit a peak, but Mayor Bill de Blasio says a lack of universal testing means it could be summer or fall before the city can start returning to normal.
  - “What we need is much more widespread testing,” de Blasio said Monday at his daily virus briefing. “This is the crucial need if we’re going to transcend to the next level.”

### *International*

- **South Korea** will send a shipment of Covid-19 testing kits to the United States on Tuesday afternoon, an official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs told CNN on Monday.
  - The official did not disclose how many kits would be sent, but said the kits had been produced by two manufacturers.
- **The Japanese island of Hokkaido** has issued a state of emergency over the novel coronavirus outbreak for the second time, as the prefecture reported a double-digit increase in infections for a fifth day Sunday.
  - Residents urged to stay indoors: Naomichi Suzuki, the Hokkaido governor, said a “second wave crisis” was hitting the region, urging residents to stay indoors unless essential. Suzuki indicated that Hokkaido had a number of positive cases of people who had traveled from other prefectures currently under a state of emergency.
  - The Hokkaido prefecture has also asked residents to avoid dining in restaurants to prevent face-to-face contact, while urging the national government to help mitigate the economic fallout, particularly to the tourism industry.
- **Italian** police fined almost 23,000 people for breaking coronavirus containment rules on Friday and Saturday, the country’s Interior Ministry said today.
  - The ministry is expected to release the number of fines handed out on Easter Sunday later today.
- Around 300,000 non-essential workers have gone back to their jobs Monday in the **Madrid** region, a spokesman for Madrid’s regional government told CNN.
  - Despite still reporting hundreds of new infections every day, the Spanish government announced it would begin rolling back some of its tough lockdown restrictions after the Easter holiday.
  - Spain’s General Workers Union, GTU, a major trade union, raised concerns over the safety of those returning to work. The union, which has 940,000 members according to its website, called for employers to be responsible for providing personal protection equipment.



## COVID-19 4/13 UPDATE

- **Lebanese** Army units deployed throughout the country will on Tuesday begin distributing aid packages to citizens who have lost their income because of coronavirus, the army says.
  - The Lebanese government had earlier pledged to allocate 75 billion Lebanese Liras (about US\$4.97 million) in social aid to those in need.
- Emergency measures against Covid-19 in the **UK** will remain in place for now and are not expected to ease this week, the UK Foreign Secretary said on Monday.
  - The government's coronavirus task force will meet this week to discuss the measures but Dominic Raab said that there will be "no changes to measures in place at that point."

### *Private Sector*

- **SoftBank Group CEO Masayoshi Son** says he has reached a deal to supply 300 million face masks a month for Japan, his home country. Son announced the deal [on Twitter](#) over the weekend, saying that he had partnered with Chinese automaker BYD to dedicate a factory line exclusively for SoftBank.
- **Amazon** plans to hire 75,000 more workers to meet increased demand for household essentials and other goods spurred by the coronavirus pandemic.
  - The tech giant on Monday also said it has hired 100,000 new workers for its distribution centers since announcing plans to do so in mid-March.
  - Amazon said it now expects to spend more than \$500 million in pay increases for workers, up from its previous expectation of \$350 million.