



## COVID-19 4/15 UPDATE

### **COVID-19 4/15 Update**

#### **Global**

Total cases – 2,008,850

Total deaths – 129,045

#### **United States**

Positive tests – 613,187 (up 4% from prior day)

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

Total # tests – 3,098,235 (up 5% from prior day)

Total deaths – 26,119 (up 10% from prior day, mostly due to revised NYC #s)

#### **Administration**

- As of April 14, the SBA has approved more than [1,680,000 loans](#) for a total of \$268 billion, with more than 4,700 lenders participating.
- **President Donald Trump** said Tuesday that he would be discussing ways to revive the U.S. economy as it emerges from the coronavirus crisis with chief executives from some of the largest U.S. companies.
  - The president said that the discussion would take place by telephone and would also include other leaders, including Richard Trumka, the head of the AFL-CIO.
  - “The plans to reopen the country are close to being finalized,” Trump said. He said that the executives could provide some “great ideas.”
- **White House** [issues list of participants](#) in “Great American Economic Revival Industry Groups,” which it says will work together to chart path forward for economy after coronavirus outbreak.
  - Groups are divided into agriculture, banking, construction/labor/workforce, defense, energy, financial services, food and beverage, healthcare, hospitality, manufacturing, real estate, retail, tech, telecommunications, transportation, sports, and thought leaders/groups
  - Individuals named include Blackstone’s Stephen Schwarzman, NFL’s Roger Goodell, FedEx’s Fred Smith, Comcast’s Brian Roberts, Apple’s Tim Cook, Alphabet’s Sundar Pichai, Walmart’s Doug McMillon, Amazon’s Jeff Bezos, Vornado Realty Trust’s Steven Roth, Tesla’s Elon Musk, Las Vegas Sands Corp.’s Sheldon Adelson, McDonald’s CEO Chris Kempczinski, YUM! Brands’ David Gibbs, ExxonMobil’s Darren Woods, Lockheed Martin’s Marilyn Hewson, JPMorgan Chase’s Jamie Dimon, Archer-Daniels-Midland Company’s Juan Luciano
  - Link to [full list](#)



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- **President Donald Trump** said he would authorize governors to implement plans to reopen the economy, appearing to back away from comments a day earlier that he had total authority to lift states' stay-at-home orders.
  - "I will be speaking to all 50 governors very shortly," Trump said Tuesday at the White House, "and will hold the governors accountable, but again we're going to be working with them to make sure."
- The **Treasury Dept** is launching the "[Get My Payment](#)" web application to assist Americans in getting their stimulus checks to mitigate the economic impact from the coronavirus.
- The **U.S. Small Business Administration** on Tuesday released the most comprehensive [report](#) to date of the \$349 billion [Paycheck Protection Program](#), a cornerstone of the federal government's \$2.2 trillion response to pandemic. It details more than 1 million applications totaling \$247.5 billion approved as of Monday.
- **FEMA, CDC** have drafted a public health strategy to gradually reopen parts of the U.S., Washington Post [reports](#), citing a copy of the plan.
  - Plan lays out three stages: preparing the nation to reopen with a national campaign until May 1; through May 15 a ramp up of manufacturing of testing kits and PPE; then staged reopenings would begin, depending on local conditions: WaPo
  - FEMA, CDC plan is part of larger Trump admin. effort and has been discussed at White House, WaPo reports citing two unidentified admin. officials
- **U.S. airlines** reached preliminary agreements with the Treasury Department to access billions of dollars in aid as the government attempts to shore up one of the industries hardest hit by the coronavirus pandemic.
  - The deal covers all major carriers, Treasury said in a statement. American Airlines Group Inc. said it would get \$5.8 billion in payroll support, while Southwest Airlines Co. said it would get \$3.2 billion. The money comes from \$25 billion in payroll assistance allocated for passenger carriers in the \$2.2 trillion stimulus package signed into law March 27.
- On an April 6 phone call, members of a prestigious scientific committee told members of the **White House Office of Science and Technology Policy** there are issues with the availability and reliability of the antibody tests in the United States right now.
  - A few days after the phone call, the NAS scientists wrote a letter to the White House frankly apprising them about the quality of antibody tests. Antibody tests check to see if a person has previously been infected with Covid-19, an indication that they've had the virus and now could be immune to it.



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- Results from antibody tests "should be viewed as suspect until rigorous controls are performed and performance characteristics described, as antibody detection methods can vary considerably, and most so far have not described well-standardized controls," according to the letter.
- We're going to be very strong on food supply," **President Trump** says at White House coronavirus briefing.
  - Says U.S. farmers are "incredible" and producing levels of food that is "unbelievable"
  - Says **Kroger, Walmart** seem to be in "very good shape"
- The **US Immigration and Customs Enforcement** has released nearly 700 people from custody after conducting medical reviews stemming from concerns about coronavirus, according to Acting Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security Ken Cuccinelli.
  - The move comes amid lawsuits calling for the release of ICE detainees, as well as newly introduced legislation to require the release of most people in ICE detention during a national emergency related to a communicable disease.
- After loosening restrictions on [antibody tests](#), the **US Food and Drug Administration** has decided the government will review data on lab tests that claim they can detect if someone has antibodies to Covid-19, according to the CEO of a lab association who was on a call with FDA officials this morning.
  - On March 16, the FDA loosened its standards and allowed companies to sell antibody tests without submitting any evidence that they worked.
  - That led to "crappy" tests flooding the market, according to Scott Becker, CEO of the Association of Public Health Laboratories.
- The **commander of the US Forces Japan (USFJ)** has declared a public health emergency for all forces in the country amid the novel coronavirus outbreak, the USFJ said in a statement Wednesday.
  - The order, which will remain in effect through May 15, "ensures commanders possess the necessary authorities to enforce compliance with health protection measures" on those who live and work on US installations.
- **US President Donald Trump** stunned world leaders and health experts on Tuesday when he announced [he was halting funding](#) to the World Health Organization, in the middle of the [global coronavirus pandemic](#).
- **President Trump's trade adviser Peter Navarro** appeared on Fox News after the White House briefing to defend the President's WHO funding halt and discuss how it could impact US-China relations.



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- “The World Health Organization is a single failure during this epidemic. They basically hid information from the public, they failed to call this a pandemic long after others had rightfully done so. There is blood on their hands. I think President Trump is absolutely correct to have a full investigation of how that happened and what China’s role might’ve been to that,” Navarro said.
  - Pressed on how this could impact future trade negotiations with China, he called those “interesting questions” but went on to talk about supply chains.
- The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** is working hard to make sure testing, contact tracing and an expanded public health capacity is in place as the country begins talking about opening back up, director Dr. Robert Redfield said this morning on CBS.
  - “It's going to be really important to get a few things in place: more obviously testing for early diagnostics, expand the public health capacity for early diagnosis, isolation and contact tracing. This is going to be fundamental to maintain and contain cases as they occur. And then make sure we have the health capacity to deal with this, as we work to regain the confidence of the American public that it's safe to go back to work," Redfield said.
  - Asked about the study saying Americans may need to social distance until 2022, Redfield said, “I think the mitigation steps that we’ve done are going to be an important component of it. I think it's really, really a moment to take a bow for the American public that really embraced the social distancing recommendations that we put forward.”
- **Dr. Anthony Fauci**, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said during an interview Wednesday that the US is seeing a flattening out of new coronavirus cases.
  - Except for a few cities where cases haven't peaked yet, "there's no doubt what we've seen over the last several days is a flattening out," Fauci said.
  - "Even when you get to New York, it's actually starting to come down regarding admissions, hospitalizations, needs for intensive care and intubation," Fauci told NBC.
- **Dr. Anthony Fauci**, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, says experts "don't have all the answers" when it comes to antibodies.
  - In an interview on the "Today" show, Fauci was asked to comment on a report out of South Korea's CDC that found coronavirus had been reactivated in a number of patients thought to have recovered.
  - "We don't know how common that is," Fauci said. "It's likely an uncommon event and won't have a public health impact."



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- "The things that we don't know is that -- in general with viruses we deal with all the time -- when you develop an antibody after infection, it almost invariably means you're protected. We don't absolutely know that for sure yet," Fauci said.
- **Dr. Anthony Fauci**, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said Wednesday that "there is going to be a great deal of variability" when thinking about relaxing social distancing guidelines.
  - Fauci was asked about President Trump's remarks about the possibility that some states could lift stay-at-home orders before May 1.
  - "I'm certain, though even though I haven't discussed this with him, that he's talking about some of the states that have a very low level now, particularly those states with a low density of population and a lot of geographic lands," Fauci told NBC.
- **US President Donald Trump's name** will appear on [checks sent to millions of Americans](#) to combat the economic effects of the coronavirus in a last-minute Treasury Department order, a senior administration official confirmed to CNN on Tuesday.
  - The decision to add Trump's name will not result in a delay for Americans receiving those checks, the senior administration official said.
  - The [Washington Post](#) was first to report on the news Tuesday.
- The **Trump administration** would like to make purchases of milk and meat products as part of a \$15.5 billion initial aid package to farmers rattled by the coronavirus, said Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue.
  - In a Fox Business interview Wednesday, Perdue said he also wants to include direct financial assistance to farmers in the bailout, which may be announced as soon as this week.
  - "We want to purchase as much of this milk, or other protein products, hams and pork products, and move them into where they can be utilized in our food banks, or possibly even into international humanitarian aid," Perdue said.
- **Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin** has forged a crisis partnership with Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell, giving the central bank a bigger role in U.S. fiscal policy and blurring the lines between the agencies as they unleash \$4.5 trillion in stimulus to combat the coronavirus.
- **Mnuchin and Fed Chairman Jerome Powell** work together on the coronavirus rescue "round the clock," according to the Treasury secretary. Already, the 106-year-old central bank is lending directly to main street businesses for the first time since the Great Depression.



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- **IRS** guidance for property owners with federally backed mortgages brings the relief the real estate industry was hoping for. In a new procedure, officials responded swiftly to requests for the government to ensure that the virus stimulus law allowing property owners to postpone payments on federally backed mortgages wouldn't threaten the tax-advantaged status of investment vehicles called REMICs (real estate mortgage investment conduits)
- **The Trump administration** will allow loggers to extend tree-cutting contracts in national forests to support the timber industry during the pandemic and to help national forests create new jobs after the crisis ends. "Having numerous economically viable timber purchasers is also essential as employment and the national economy recovers," the U.S. Forest Service said in a Federal Register notice to be published tomorrow
- **The White House** is easing its ban on exports of personal protective equipment (PPE), with the list of exemptions mounting after lawyers laid out the shortcomings of the rules, people familiar with the situation said. Exports to Canada, Mexico and U.S. entities such as military bases abroad are among those exemptions, according to an internal U.S. Customs and Border Protection memo obtained by Bloomberg News. It also singles out shipments by 3M, which Trump had initially blocked from sending N95 masks to Canada and Latin America. He reversed course last week after reaching a deal with the firm.
- **Education Secretary Betsy DeVos** opened almost \$3 billion in education block grants for applications from governors leading states that have shuttered classrooms in response to the coronavirus pandemic.
  - **DeVos** said governors would have significant discretion to decide how the money is used but urged them to focus on continuing education already under way.
- **Justice Dept** files [statement of interest](#) in support of a church in Mississippi after congregants were fined by the City of Greenville for attending a parking lot service where attendees listened to the pastor over their car radios.
  - Greenville fined congregants \$500 per person "while permitting citizens to attend nearby drive-in restaurants," Attorney General William Barr says in statement
- The **Federal Aviation Administration** provided a list of the hundreds of grants, and Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao said the money is being sent as soon as possible to help the industry that has seen a reduction of more than 95% of airline passengers.



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- “This \$10 billion in emergency resources will help fund the continued operations of our nation’s airports during this crisis and save workers’ jobs,” Chao said in a statement.
- The money can be used for payroll, utilities, debt payments and capital expenditures. The normal process that requires airports to spend a portion of their own money on projects funded under such grants is being waived so that the funds can go directly to helping airports, the Transportation Department said.
- **Atlanta’s Hartsfield-Jackson International**, the biggest U.S. airport, will get the largest grant at \$338.5 million.
- The **deputy attorney general** told **Justice Department** employees to wear face coverings in common areas at agency buildings in a memo to staff on Tuesday.
  - The memo follows and notes country-wide guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that face coverings should be worn in public settings. The guidance also comes as many Justice Department employees continue to stay out of the office and work from home.
  - Employees who work out of a government building are told they may remove the covering in a private office, cubicle or workspace where at least six feet of social distancing can be maintained from others.
- **Dr. Anthony Fauci**, the country's top medical expert on the coronavirus pandemic and a member of President Trump's coronavirus task force, said there is a way for sports to return.
  - He suggested no fans and weekly testing.
- A critical piece of personal protective equipment, the N95 respirator, can be safely cleaned and re-used, according to a study published Wednesday by scientists at the **National Institutes of Health**.
  - The respirators are designed for single-use, but according to the NIH study, they could potentially be used up to three times if they’re properly decontaminated in between uses.
- **SBA** and **Treasury** have posted new documents to their respective PPP websites:
  - The [Interim Final Rule](#) announcing Additional Eligibility Criteria and Requirements for Certain Pledges of Loans for the Paycheck Protection Program. This information is being posted in advance of publication in the Federal Register. The official version will appear in the Federal Register.
  - [Paycheck Protection Program Loans: Frequently Asked Questions](#) (Updated)



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- This interim final rule supplements the First PPP Interim Final Rule with guidance for individuals with self-employment income who file a Form 1040, Schedule C. This rule also addresses eligibility issues for certain business concerns and requirements for certain pledges of PPP loans. This interim final rule supplements SBA's implementation of sections 1102 and 1106 of the Act and requests public comment. ([HERE](#))
- Consistent with direction from **G7 Leaders, Finance Ministers** and **Central Bank Governors** met virtually on April 14 to reaffirm our close coordination to fight the pandemic and mitigate its impacts, including by enacting wide-ranging health, economic, and financial stability measures in our respective countries. ([HERE](#))
- **U.S. Department of Labor** announces \$91.8 Million funding opportunity to assist America's migrant and seasonal Farmworkers ([HERE](#))
- The Administration for Children and Families to release funding to support the Child Care and Development Block Grant ([HERE](#))
- The **Department of Homeland Security** and **FEMA** are announcing the funding notice for an additional \$100 million in supplemental Emergency Management Performance Grant Program funds. The money is available to all 50 states and six territories as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. All applications must be submitted by April 28. ([HERE](#))
- The **FDA** and **Federal Trade Commission (FTC)** issued warning letters to three sellers of fraudulent COVID-19 products, as part of the agency's effort to protect both people and pets. With these warning letters, the FDA is exercising its authority to protect consumers from companies selling unapproved products with false or misleading claims during the COVID-19 pandemic. There are currently no FDA-approved products to prevent or treat COVID-19. ([HERE](#))
- EPA continues efforts to increase the availability of disinfectant products for use against coronavirus ([HERE](#))
- IRS, security summit partners warn tax professionals on scams, urge additional security measures to protect taxpayer data. ([HERE](#))
- In order to protect the American people, the **Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM)** Board of Directors today unanimously approved new temporary measures to help ensure the United States has medical supplies and equipment that are in short supply and necessary to combat and prevent the spread of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic in the United States. This action took place during an open board meeting with the public via teleconference. ([HERE](#))



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- The **Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM)** recently extended relief measures for U.S. exporters and financial institutions affected by the COVID-19 pandemic through May 31, 2020. [Initial relief measures](#), which include waivers, deadline extensions, streamlined processing, and flexibility, were announced on March 12 for an initial period of 30 days. ([HERE](#))
- The **federal banking agencies** today issued an interim final rule to temporarily defer real estate-related appraisals and evaluations under the agencies' interagency appraisal regulations. The Federal Reserve Board, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency are providing this temporary relief to allow regulated institutions to extend financing to creditworthy households and businesses quickly in the wake of the national emergency declared in connection with COVID-19. ([HERE](#))

### **Capitol Hill**

- “The only way we can get our economy back up and running is by addressing the health crisis” and that requires “comprehensive, widespread, sophisticated testing,” **Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer** says on conference call with reporters.
  - Democrats say they are calling for \$30b in emergency funding to vastly expand testing systems and urge the administration to put a national testing plan in place
  - “The administration is at best scatter shot and at worst chaotic when it comes to testing,” Schumer says
  - Schumer says Democrats would like to see the testing plan and funding included in a phase-four virus relief bill
  - Schumer also says after speaking with Treasury Sec. Steven Mnuchin this morning, he sees no reason they can’t come to an agreement on a bill to boost funding for the small business loan program, adding Democrats just want funding for those who are “under-banked and under served”
- **Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer** spoke with Treasury Sec. Steven Mnuchin this morning about an interim virus relief measure, and Democratic staff from the House and Senate will meet with Treasury today, according to a spokesman for Schumer.
- Despite the looming shortfall in the PPP program, there’s no sign of negotiations between the White House and congressional leaders to break a deadlock on how to proceed. **House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.)** on Twitter today urged his followers to push **House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.)** to support the added funding for small business and drop additional demands.



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- **Pelosi** and **Senate Democratic leaders** back the small business program funding, but want changes to make sure the pool of lenders extends well beyond large banks. They also want an additional \$250 billion in new funds for state and local governments as well as for hospitals in whatever Congress does next.
- Four House members are urging President Donald Trump to direct federal agencies to focus their advertising dollars to local media. The letter, by **Reps. Debbie Dingell (D-Mich.), Fred Upton (R-Mich.), Bill Flores (R-Texas), and Marc Veasey (D-Texas)**, comes after [19 senators asked](#) Trump and congressional leaders last week to include support for local journalism in future coronavirus relief packages.
- **Sens. Mark Warner** and **Tim Kaine** are asking USDA to let Virginia join a handful of states where Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program participants can use their benefits to buy groceries online. [In a letter to the department](#), the Democrats said the pandemic is the perfect time to expand the pilot program, created by the 2014 farm bill, to help low-income families stay fed while staying home.
  - The pilot program designated eight states to test online SNAP purchases through designated retailers like Amazon and Walmart. But amid the coronavirus outbreak, other states have been asking USDA to join the program, and the department has already signed off on several requests.
- **House Ag Chairman Collin Peterson** wants USDA to move faster to get farm products to food banks. Food waste continues to be a widespread problem, while food banks face surging demand. [Read the Minnesota Democrat's letter to the department](#).
- The **House Committee on Education and Labor** has asked the Government Accountability Office to review how the White house is providing emergency aid to college students under the stimulus signed last month, an aide on the panel said. And the watchdog agency has separately begun a review of how both universities and students are being affected by the outbreak. The stimulus included \$6 billion in relief to students whose campuses closed due to the virus and who face challenges securing housing, medical care, and food
- **Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.)** and **Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.)** urged the Federal Emergency Management Agency in a letter today to approve funeral and burial aid for New Yorkers who have lost loved ones to the coronavirus. Special funds would help “households cover unexpected and uninsured expenses associated with the death of an immediate family member,” the two lawmakers said in the letter to Administrator Peter Gaynor,



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- Child care industry in the U.S. needs a \$50b bailout so that when the time comes for parents to resume work, their children can be looked after at daycare centers, **Democratic Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Tina Smith** say.
  - So far Congress has only given \$3.5b in emergency funding to the industry, they say in a [statement](#)
  - Funding is also necessary so emergency and frontline workers can use child care, the senators say
- Republicans are ratcheting up efforts to paint China as the villain in the coronavirus pandemic, seeking to shift blame as President Donald Trump faces increased criticism of his handling of a crisis that has shuttered the U.S. economy.
  - **Senator Josh Hawley**, a Missouri Republican, introduced a bill that would make the Chinese government liable for civil claims in U.S. courts if it's found to have withheld information related to the virus.
- The top **House Transportation and Infrastructure Cmte Republican** introduced a bill aimed at speeding up broadband capability in rural areas.
  - **Rep. Sam Graves**, the panel's ranking Republican, and **Rep. John Katko**, top GOP member on the Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management subcmte, unveiled the measure, H.R. 6491, on Tuesday
  - Bill would clarify that distressed communities that form public-private partnerships are eligible for Economic Development Administration grants to support broadband projects
  - Republicans hope to get bipartisan support for the bill, a GOP panel spokesperson says
- **Sen. Richard Blumenthal** (D-Conn.), along with 27 other senators, sent a [letter](#) to House and Senate leadership asking them to commit at least \$1 billion in funding in the next coronavirus economic stimulus package to support the Lifeline program, which provides basic internet and phone services for low-income Americans. Blumenthal and three other senators had previously [written](#) FCC Chairman Ajit Pai calling on the agency to ensure no one loses access to Lifeline during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- **Six Democratic senators, including Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand** (N.Y.), sent a [letter](#) to the CEOs of Amazon and Walmart this week calling on them to eliminate delivery fees and minimum order requirements for customers using SNAP benefits. "The SNAP program provides a critical lifeline for food insecure families, and while Walmart and Amazon have taken the first step in allowing families who rely on SNAP to use their grocery delivery services, it's crucial that they remove additional financial barriers," Gillibrand said in an accompanying statement.



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- **Democratic Sens. Mazie Hirono (Hawaii), Cory Booker (N.J.) and Maggie Hassan (N.H.)** sent letters to eight domain name registrars and hosting sites calling on them to do more to combat scams and misinformation online during the Covid-19 pandemic. They wrote to leadership of GoDaddy, Dynadot, Donuts Inc., Namecheap Inc., Web.com, Endurance International Group, InMotion Hosting, and DreamHost asking them to describe the actions they're taking to stop cybercriminals online. The [letter](#) to GoDaddy raises the same questions as those sent to the seven other domain name companies, including how many domain name applications they have received since the start of 2020 that have to do with the coronavirus and how many of them were registered.
- **Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.)** sent a [letter](#) to the FCC yesterday commending a new proposed rule that would clear regulatory barriers to use television white space to provide broadband to rural parts of America. "This digital divide impacts nearly every aspect of life for Virginians living without access to broadband, as broadband has become a precondition to meaningful participation in the digital economy," he wrote.
  - Separately, the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights sent a [letter](#) yesterday to House and Senate leadership to include a low-income broadband benefit as part of the fourth coronavirus economic stimulus package.

### *State/Local*

- **Mayor Muriel Bowser** announced Wednesday morning the extension of the District's public health emergency until May 15.
  - **Bowser** says the Washington, DC, government will provide more details on the future of schools and government employees on April 17.
- **New York Attorney General Tish James** [sued the Labor Department Tuesday](#), alleging its guidance governing emergency family leave and paid sick leave could have "devastating consequences for New York and its residents," your host Eleanor reports. The [final rule](#), published earlier this month, implements the paid family and sick leave requirements for small businesses mandated by [the second coronavirus relief package signed into law last month](#).
  - **DOL's guidance** placed certain restrictions on who can access the temporary program, including [a requirement that workers first receive a diagnosis](#) of Covid-19 or are told by a health care provider to self-quarantine. [James' suit](#) alleges that the rule "conflicts with the plain language and purpose of" the new law and imposes "broad, unauthorized exclusions."
- **New York, Connecticut and Vermont** [asked](#) the Supreme Court on Monday to put a major Trump administration effort to limit legal immigration on hold during the



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pandemic. The crisis has [intensified criticism](#) of Trump's "public charge" rule, which makes it more difficult for immigrants who use government assistance programs like Medicaid to obtain a green card. This is no time, these states say, to shoo immigrants away from getting tested and treated for Covid-19. "The catastrophic Covid-19 pandemic has drastically altered the nature and magnitude of the irreparable harms faced by plaintiffs, their residents, and the nation," the plaintiffs argued in their petition.

- "By September, then we are hopeful we could be back to something more like normal, but the way we get there is with that smart, cautious approach," **NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio** says in Fox interview.
  - Separately, White House aide Kellyanne Conway says in Fox interview that she is doubtful New York reopens anytime soon, though other parts may be ready as the White House prepares to issue guidance on how to begin reopening parts of the country
- The **New York Federal Reserve's** index that measures general businesses conditions plummeted 57 points to -78.2 in April. That's the lowest level on record in the history of the Empire State Manufacturing Survey.
- **New York City Bill de Blasio** said social distancing restrictions are still necessary to contain the spread of coronavirus in the city and that everyday New Yorkers are key to making sure the virus doesn't accelerate again.
  - "One false move, take our foot off the gas, we will regret it. We've got one chance ... to contain this thing and then we can do a proper smart restart, and we do it too soon, I guarantee we'll regret it," he told CNN.
  - **De Blasio** also said that the federal government has still not provided enough testing kits.
- **New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo** said he is issuing an executive order that all people in the state must wear a mask or mouth and nose covering in public, whenever they are in a situation where they cannot maintain social distancing of 6 feet or less.
- **New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo** announced that the state's Health Department has developed its own coronavirus antibody test.
  - "New York state Department of Health developed their own antibody tests, and that test is going to be very important, and it's in our control, because we'd actually do those tests. We don't need a private lab. We don't need anybody else. With those tests, it will go to about 2,000-per-day capacity, and that is a finger prick test, so it's not terribly invasive," Cuomo said today during a news conference.



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- **Cuomo** added that the state is pursuing Food and Drug Administration approval that "could get us to 100,000 people per day. To give you an idea, that's then 500,000 a week."
- Hospitalizations, ICU admissions and intubations across New York are down, **Gov. Andrew Cuomo** said Tuesday.
- **New York City's MTA** is partnering with **Northwell Health**, a large private healthcare provider in New York, to prioritize Covid-19 testing for frontline workers who run the city's public transportation system, the two entities announced Wednesday.
  - The testing would be made available at Northwell Health's 52 urgent care locations in the New York City area and would be prioritized for symptomatic workers.
- **New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio** announced a \$170 million initiative to battle food insecurity, an existing problem in the city amplified by economic woes due to the coronavirus pandemic.
  - "People are literally asking 'where's my next meal coming from?' That's something painful to consider in the greatest city in the world but it's what's happening," he said Wednesday, noting, "somewhere in the neighborhood of a half million New Yorkers have lost their livelihood in just the last few weeks."
- **Alaska Gov. Mike Dunleavy** said elective medical procedures would be allowed again soon, as a first step towards reopening the economy in the wake of coronavirus.
  - "We feel we're at the point now that we're getting a handle on the (supply of personal protective equipment)," Dunleavy said in a Tuesday evening news conference. "We came to the conclusion that society is better off if we open up this sector sooner than later."
  - Once it is lifted, the restriction on elective procedures could be put back into place if medics find that it is compromising their ability to treat Covid-19 cases, Dunleavy said. "We may be back here in four or five days and say there was an outbreak here or an issue there that will now make it necessary for us to throttle back," he said.
- **Utah's Republican Gov. Gary Herbert** said policies to reopen states will be put in place mainly by the states and governors, and not the federal government, at a news conference Tuesday.
  - "I'm a 10th amendment guy and power is not given to the federal government under our constitution; it remains with the states and the people," he said.
- A spa, a beauty parlor and a vape shop are among 10 businesses that **Los Angeles** has filed prosecutions against for failing to comply with the safer at home order after being



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warned, Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer announced in a news conference Tuesday.

- This is in addition to four prosecutions filed previously and there are more filings yet to come, Feuer said.
  - Feuer also announced that his office has successfully defended the safer at home order against a push to block enforcement of the order regarding gun shops.
- **Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis** announced Tuesday that the state will have access to 1 million N95 masks.
  - "Today, in consultation from the White House, we have received or will receive a total of 1 million N95 masks, those are probably the most sought after piece of PPE right now, there's obviously been a worldwide run on that. Working with the White House, they've earmarked us a million," DeSantis said at a news conference Tuesday.
- **Honolulu** will require people to wear facial coverings when visiting essential businesses from Monday.
  - Mayor Kirk Caldwell said the new requirement applies to businesses like grocery stores. People will not be required to have a commercially-produced mask, he said.
- **Nebraska Crossing Outlets** says it will fully open its doors on April 24 for brick and mortar shopping.
  - The outlets will allow its more than 80 tenants to invite customers to shop in what it called a "soft opening."
  - Nebraska Crossing Outlets, near Omaha, would become one of the first malls to fully open back up across the country.
  - Owner and developer Rod Yates told CNN his tenants, which include several global retail brands, asked to use his outdoor outlet as a case study to see what best practices are necessary to start opening storefronts across the country and globe
- **San Francisco Pride** has decided to cancel its parade and celebration this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, the organization announced in a statement today.
  - "Uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic has intensified in recent weeks, and the organization has concluded that the risks to public health of a large-scale gathering such as Pride preclude this year's production of the annual event," the statement said.



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- **New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell** said today that she doesn't believe the city's biggest events — French Quarter Festival, JazzFest and Essence Festival — should be held in 2020, but instead push to 2021.
  - All three events had been postponed in light of the coronavirus pandemic.
- **Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont** said that he and a number of his gubernatorial counterparts think President Trump is off-base with his desire to reopen the nation's economy by May 1.
  - "President Trump has put out the date of May 1, which I think most of the governors think is a very premature," Lamont said at a news conference. "I just showed you that hospitalizations are going up and infections are going up, and this is no time to take our eye off the ball."
- **Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves** announced Tuesday schools will remain closed through the end of the school year.
  - "I know how hard teachers, students, all staff, and parents have been working during this dangerous time," he said at a news conference. "You have my deep respect and sincere admiration. It has been so encouraging to see the efforts of our education community to protect the people of Mississippi while ensuring learning takes place."
- **New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu** signed an executive order that will provide a \$300 a week stipend to frontline health care workers, specifically at long-term care facilities.
  - The money for the program will come out of the state fund originally but will be backfilled by federal dollars, according to Sununu.
  - The money will go to health care providers, but 100% of the money has to be given to frontline workers. The program is designed to try to retain workers in this area and so these older populations have continuity of care.
- **Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards** announced today that he has signed a proclamation moving the state's elections due to coronavirus concerns.
  - The June 20 presidential primary election will be moved to July 1 and the July 25 election is being moved to Aug. 15.
- **Maine Gov. Janet Mills** has extended the state's "State of Civil Emergency" until May 15.
- **California Gov. Gavin Newsom** just unveiled six key indicators the state will use when "thinking for when and how to modify the stay-at-home and other orders during the COVID-19 pandemic. The framework outlined by the governor focuses on six prongs:
  - Expanded testing, and tracking infected individuals (quarantine, isolation)
  - Protect vulnerable communities



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- Address hospital needs (personal protective equipment, ICU beds, ventilators)
- Engage academia and technology
- “Redraw floor plans” as they pertain to physical distancing in businesses, school sites, public and private business
- Reinstate vigorous controls with the ability to toggle back and forth as needed
- **Idaho's Gov. Brad Little** on Wednesday extended the statewide stay-at-home order until April 30.
  - Little, speaking at a virtual press conference, said Idaho has at least 1,464 confirmed cases of novel coronavirus and 39 deaths.
  - He went on to say that since the stay-at-home order was issued, the state has been "flattening the curve."

### *International*

- The **group of 20 major world economies** agreed on debt-relief procedures for the poorest nations hit by the coronavirus pandemic starting immediately, the G20 said in a statement on Wednesday.
  - The procedures are to last for one year, the statement said.
- **President Trump** and **French President Emmanuel Macron** discussed in a call efforts to defeat the coronavirus “and reopen world economies,” White House spokesman Judd Deere says in statement.
  - Leaders also discussed the upcoming teleconference with G7 leaders, [scheduled for Thursday](#), as well as regional and bilateral issues
- **UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres** says it’s “not the time to reduce the resources for the operations of the World Health Organization or any other humanitarian organization in the fight against the virus.”
  - Statement doesn’t directly mention Donald Trump’s name, though comes within hours of the U.S. president saying he [would temporarily halt funding to the WHO](#)
- **Canada’s** GDP fell approximately 9% in March, according to Statistics Canada, the national statistical office that provides key information on the economy, society and environment, published Tuesday morning.
- **Switzerland** faces shortages of medicine for coronavirus patients in intensive care unit, the country's health ministry admitted Tuesday, calling the situation "tense."
  - Patrick Mathys, the head of the Swiss federal health ministry resolution team, told reporters in a press conference "there are real bottlenecks for essential medicines in intensive care" adding that "there has been some easing of the situation, but in the long term it's a huge problem."



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- **Finland** will lift restrictions on movement in its capital Helsinki and the surrounding region, Uusimaa, later on Wednesday, the government has announced.
  - The government said the legal grounds for continuing to restrict movement "are no longer considered to exist."
- The **Czech government** has announced a further easing of the containment measures it put in place to stop the spread of coronavirus.
  - Final year university students can return to class next week, and primary schools may reopen at the end of May, the government announced on Tuesday evening.
  - Starting in June, secondary and high schools can open for one-on-one teacher-pupil consultations. Students will also be allowed to take high school graduation exams and high school entry exams, but schools are not expected to fully reopen until September.
  - Next week, the government will allow some businesses, including farmers' markets and car dealerships, to reopen.
  - Weddings can also take place from next week, provided that fewer than 10 people attend.
  - Restaurants, pubs and wine shops offering goods for immediate consumption can open at the end of May, if they have an outdoor patio or takeout options.
  - Museums, galleries and zoos can also open their outdoor installations at the end of May.
  - In June, retail shops, hotels and other accommodation services will be allowed to reopen
- The **EU's** new long-term budget will need to be a "strong" response to the coronavirus crisis, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen says.
  - "I've often said in the past that Europe needs a new Marshall Plan," she said, referring to the multi-billion dollar American stimulus package to rebuild Europe after World War II. "We'll need massive public and private investment to revive the economy, reconstruct it and to create new jobs."
  - "The key to this is a strong new EU budget. The budget has the advantage that it enjoys the confidence, the trust of all member states."
- The mayor of **Moscow** has admitted that the rollout of a new digital tracking system to enforce its coronavirus lockdown has caused crowding on public transportation, after images surfaced on Russian social media of large lines forming outside subway entrances as police checked passes.



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- “This morning, due to verification activities conducted by the GUVD [police], queues formed in the metro, something very critical in the current situation,” Sergey Sobyenin said in a statement on Twitter on Wednesday.
- The new system officially went into operation Wednesday, [requiring Muscovites and residents of the Moscow region to download a QR code](#) so they can move around the Russian capital.
- **New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern** has announced today that she, along with government ministers, will take a 20% pay cut for the next six months.
  - The pay cut will help save money at a time when economies around the world are being heavily affected by the coronavirus pandemic.
- **The Spanish government** will distribute more than 2 million masks to workers in the transportation industry, the Ministry for Transport said in a statement.
  - With this new shipment, the government will have distributed 3.3 million masks for workers in this area.
- **The French government** announced it will pay health workers a bonus of up to 1500 euros, roughly \$1,634, for treating Covid-19 patients.
  - Hospital staff will receive 500 euros (US\$ 544) and those working directly in coronavirus impacted areas will get 1,500 euros (US\$ 1,634), French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe said Wednesday following a cabinet meeting.
  - Medical staff working overtime will be compensated an extra 50% on top of their already elevated overtime pay.

### **Other**

- **The Business Roundtable**, a lobbying group representing chief executives of major companies, urged the White House to follow a strategy of reopening the economy from the coronavirus pandemic that is “guided by public health officials.”
  - The group’s president, Joshua Bolten, wrote in [letter](#) to the White House on Tuesday that the administration should make public safety a priority, emphasizing the need for federal guidelines and coordination between states.
  - “Protecting the lives of Americans must remain the country’s paramount interest,” said Bolten, a former chief of staff to President George W. Bush. “Americans need to know that policy makers and employers are prioritizing their safety.”
  - The business group pressed its message after President Donald Trump -- who has favored his economic advisers’ views over those of public health officials -- on



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Monday asserted his “total” power over when to restart the economy over that of state governors.

- A federal judge has postponed the criminal trial of **associates of Rudy Giuliani** until February 1, granting a four-month delay over coronavirus concerns.
  - Prosecutors asked the federal judge Tuesday to postpone the trial of Lev Parnas and Igor Fruman amid the coronavirus pandemic “given the considerable uncertainty surrounding any timeline for a relaxation or removal of those restrictions.”
- **Hog producers** reeling from the coronavirus pandemic’s financial impact are now turning to the federal government for aid, as the industry’s trade organization projects \$5 billion in industry losses for the rest of 2020. “We are taking on water fast,” said National Pork Producers Council President Howard Roth. “Immediate action is imperative, or a lot of hog farms will go under.” The industry is urging Congress to include more of its producers in Small Business Administration emergency aid by boosting the employee cap for eligible businesses to 1,500 from 500
- **Financial technology** firms **PayPal**, **Square**, and **Intuit**, after winning approval to participate in the loans distribution effort, are starting to lend to small businesses that couldn’t get access to coronavirus relief funds through the biggest banks. Fintechs had been pushing to provide emergency loans to small businesses since mid-March.
- **College groups** are seeking clarity on whether higher-education institutions qualify for a federal lending program designed to soften the economic blow of the coronavirus pandemic.
  - The Federal Reserve’s “Main Street” lending program will provide \$600 billion to small- and mid-sized businesses. But [details about the program](#) that the Federal Reserve and Treasury Department released suggest that nonprofits and colleges may not qualify.
  - Higher-education lobbying groups say they will urge that colleges be deemed eligible for the program as they look for any tools available to keep vulnerable institutions open in the face of huge losses from the pandemic.
- **Airline pilots** who take either of the two drugs President Donald Trump has touted for use against Covid-19 are disqualified from flying, U.S. aviation regulators are warning
- **Amazon** says it may suspend all of its distribution activity in France after a court ruled Tuesday it had to stop all non-essential activities due to the coronavirus outbreak.
  - In a statement on Wednesday, the company said it is “perplexed” by the court ruling.



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- “Our interpretation of the ruling suggests we might have to suspend the activities of our in-country fulfillment network in France. We’re working rapidly to understand the judgement and evaluate our options, and we expect to appeal,” Amazon said in the statement.
- **American Medical Association President Dr. Patrice Harris** said now is not the time to cut funding to the World Health Organization, after President Trump announced Tuesday he is halting funding to the organization while a review is conducted.
- **Cycling’s most famous race, the Tour de France**, has been postponed until late August due to the coronavirus pandemic, the International Cycling Union (UCI) said on Wednesday.
  - It will now run from Saturday August 29 to Sunday September 20.
- **Dyson** is gearing up for full-scale production of ventilators to help with the coronavirus pandemic.
  - The company has confirmed that its production lines based at the Hullavington Airfield in England are now in the process of manufacturing ventilator units in preparation for final regulatory approval.
- **General Motors** is ready to ship its first production of ventilators starting today, the company said in a statement.
  - “Everyone wants to help turn the tide and save lives. It is inspiring and humbling to see the passion and commitment people have put into this work,” GM CEO Mary Barra said in a statement.
- **Abbott Laboratories** announced the release of an antibody test Wednesday that could detect if people have been infected with the novel coronavirus and recovered.
  - The test could help individuals determine if they had Covid-19 in the past, and could more broadly help determine how widespread the infection is in the United States.
  - While the test has not been authorized by the US Food and Drug Administration, Abbott is legally allowed to distribute it under regulatory flexibilities issued by the agency.
  - Abbott, which said it is shipping 1 million of the tests to customers immediately, plans to produce and ship up to 20 million tests by the end of June.