



COVID-19 4/17 UPDATE

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Global

Total cases – 2,188,194

Total deaths – 147,632

United States

Positive tests – 672,293 (up 5% from prior day)

% Positive tests – 20%

Total # tests – 3,423,034 (up 5% from prior day)

Total deaths – 33,325 (up 5% from prior day)

Administration

- **President Trump** says some scientists think the virus may return in the fall, and “these guidelines will ensure our country is up and running so we can put it out quickly.”
 - Reopening plan will focus on sheltering highest risk individuals and establishing clear benchmarks on testing, Trump says at White House coronavirus briefing
 - Trump says Americans should continue to use vigorous hygiene, teleworking, sanitizing surfaces as weapons against virus spread
 - Encouraging states to work together to “harmonize” regional efforts
 - “Every state is very different” and states will be allowed to remain closed if needed, Trump says
 - Our experts say the curve has flattened and the peak in new cases is behind us,” President Trump says at White House coronavirus briefing.
- During his announcement about new guidelines from the federal government, **President Trump** made a complete reversal in course from remarks earlier this week where he suggested he had “absolute authority” to reopen the country. **Trump** suggested Thursday that governors will be empowered to make the decisions regarding stay-at-home orders and will be supported by the federal government.
 - [The plan](#) outlines the “proposed state or regional gating criteria” for each phase. It includes when to reopen restaurants, bars, gyms and public spaces and gives guidance for employers, as well as phasing in nonessential travel.
 - In the first phase of reopening, the document suggests schools that are currently closed should remain so. Large venues can operate under strict social distancing protocols. Gyms can open as long as they maintain social distancing guidelines, but bars should remain shuttered.



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- The new federal guidelines dictate when states should begin a phased reopening of certain businesses, including a sustained decrease in cases over a 14-day period and a return to pre-crisis conditions in hospitals.
- States should have the “ability to quickly set up safe and efficient screening and testing sites,” the guidelines read, and “quickly and independent supply sufficient Personal Protective Equipment” in hospitals.
- The phased approach encourages all individuals to continue good hygiene practices like washing hands and “strongly consider” using face coverings in public.
- The document encourages employers to enact social distancing, temperature checks, testing and sanitation practices.
- The **President** said that because states are all different, governors will make decisions based on individual needs.
 - "If they need to remain closed, we will allow them to do that. If they believe it is time to reopen, we will provide them the freedom and guidance to accomplish that task and very, very quickly depending on what they want to do," he said.
 - "Based on the latest data, our team of experts now agrees that we can begin the next front in our war which we are calling opening up America again. And that's what we are doing. We are opening up our country," Trump said.
- **President Trump** says sports arenas and restaurants will be packed again when the virus is gone but may reopen at first with empty seats separating audience members or diners.
 - Trump, at White House coronavirus briefing, says at first sports games will be for television, with teams playing without audiences
- **President Trump** said certain states that are not battling a coronavirus outbreak could open for business as soon as Friday if they meet the criteria laid out by the White House today.
 - “If you look at **Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota** – that’s a lot different than New York, it’s a lot different than New Jersey,” Trump said at the coronavirus task force briefing.
 - The President said the current **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** social distancing guidelines should remain in place unless a governor determines it has gone 14 days with a low-enough number of cases to satisfy the new reopening guidelines.
 - **Trump** said 29 states are “in that ballgame” of being able to consider reopening in the days ahead.



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- **Dr. Anthony Fauci**, the nation's top infectious disease specialist, said just because the country may start using the phased plan to slowly reopen the economy, "it's not game over."
 - He said at the daily coronavirus briefing that there are checks built in to each phase to ensure safety above everything else — even if that means things don't go completely back to "normal."
- As part of his unveiling of new reopening guidelines, **President Trump** is expected to announce Thursday a new effort to bolster **contact tracing** in states, according to a person familiar with the plans.
 - The effort will include the hiring of hundreds of staffers at the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** to perform tracing in states and helping states pay for new teams to contact people who have tested positive to see who they have interacted with.
 - The effort is meant to prevent new outbreaks in places as they begin to reopen. The new workers would supplement existing contact tracing efforts in state and local health departments.
- **Dr. Deborah Birx**, a HIV researcher and the White House coronavirus response coordinator, characterized the White House guidelines to reopen the country as "fairly strict."
 - "That's to give states really the time to really set up exactly how they're going to contact trace with the CDC in the background as supporting, I think those two pieces together, we really need to move forward over the next few weeks as the states move through, and really decrease the number of cases," Birx said on CNN's global coronavirus town hall.
 - Testing, contact tracing and surveillance will need to be done as a partnership between the states, local leaders and the federal government, Birx said.
- **President Donald Trump** seemed to suggest during today's press briefing that world leaders were not adequately warned about the severity of the coronavirus, saying he was "angry" because he and fellow G7 leaders were out of the loop.
 - Speaking about a meeting earlier Thursday with other G7 leaders, Trump said, "all of them and their countries have been devastated by this. Their economies have been devastated by this."
- People might soon be able to perform their own test swabs for Covid-19 at home with a newly designed, Q-tip-style swab, the **US Food and Drug Administration** said today.



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- The **FDA** said it had worked with US Cotton to design the swabs, which are shorter than the swabs used by technicians, doctors or nurses to collect samples to test people for Covid-19 infection.
 - The swabs currently used are long and must be directed deep into the nose – a process that is uncomfortable and can make people sneeze potentially infectious particles
- **Dr. Deborah Birx** underscored that vulnerable populations need to continue to be monitored for potential coronavirus outbreaks as states prepare to reopen their economy.
 - “We want every state to have a plan for the health and safety of its workers in critical industries and protect the health and safety of those living in high-risk facilities,” she said.
 - Birx said the federal government will be conducting “sentinel surveillance throughout nursing homes, throughout inner-city federal clinics, throughout indigenous populations to really be able to find early alerts of asymptomatic individuals in the community and both for the syndromic cases.”
- The **Federal Aviation Administration** outlined how airlines could use “seat tracks to tie cargo down” but would need to figure out how to properly balance the weight on the aircraft, which they also must do when carrying passengers and luggage.
 - The airline would also need a plan to prevent fires, because passenger compartments typically do not have the smoke detection and fire suppression systems used for cargo compartments. One workaround, the FAA suggested: Stationing a single crewmember to monitor for potential fires.
- A **federal health official** tells **CNN** that teams from the **US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** are being sent to the eight states – **New Mexico, Wyoming, Idaho, Alaska, North Dakota, Kentucky, West Virginia** and **Ohio** — to bolster contact tracing efforts in order to help contain Covid-19.
 - The health official said the teams will be “testing new technologies,” including “having people do self-swabbing and evaluating how effective that is. They are also looking at some mobile technology to look at contact tracing.”
- In his call with **senators** on Thursday, **President Trump** heard a similar message he received a day earlier from business leaders: the country needs to dramatically increase its testing capabilities before states can reopen.
 - In the phone call with Democratic and Republican senators, Trump was told by some lawmakers that without the increased testing, asymptomatic people may



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- return to workplaces and unknowingly spread the virus, creating further contagion, according to people familiar with the call.
 - Trump countered by saying his administration had worked to scale up testing and repeated his dubious claim that the United States had tested more people than any other country.
 - He also pointed to a new test that people could administer themselves that uses saliva, a person familiar with the conversation said.
- **Secretary of State [Michael Pompeo](#)** is urging U.S. allies to re-examine the risks of using Huawei Technologies Co. telecommunications equipment in light of China's handling of the coronavirus pandemic.
 - "I am very confident that at this moment, this moment where the Chinese Communist Party failed to be transparent and open and handle data in an appropriate way, will cause many, many countries to rethink what they were doing with respect to their telecom architecture," Pompeo said Friday in an interview with Fox Business.
- The **National Institutes of Health, CDC, FDA** and other federal health agencies are partnering with pharmaceutical cos. to quicken coronavirus vaccine research and development.
 - The Accelerating Covid-19 Therapeutic Interventions and Vaccines partnership will develop a framework for prioritizing vaccine and drug candidates, NIH says in a [statement](#)
 - Drug cos. include AbbVie, AstraZeneca, Evotec, GlaxoSmithKline, Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer and Sanofi
- The **Trump administration** is seeking to curb costs and restrictions on **farmers** in need of migrant workers during coronavirus pandemic, Dow Jones [reports](#), citing people familiar with plans.
 - Cutting minimum wage for migrant farmworkers to \$8.34 an hour among steps considered by White House chief of staff [Mark Meadows](#) and Agriculture Sec. Sonny Perdue
 - President Trump, Perdue doing everything they can to ensure farmers have tools to carry out work, Ag. Dept. spokesperson said in statement: DJ
- An advisory panel for **U.S. Customs and Border Protection** is the latest group to ask Trump administration trade officials to delay the start date of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement to allow the auto and other industry groups more time to prepare for new rules. The Commercial Customs Advisory Committee says the coronavirus pandemic and



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the economic downturn make it difficult to meet these requirements before early next year.

- The **U.S. Treasury Department** is in talks with some **airlines** about accepting their loyalty programs as collateral against government loans to help them weather the coronavirus crisis.
 - Other assets are also in play, including some international flight routes, planes, engines and spare parts, according to people familiar with the negotiations, who requested anonymity because the matter is private. Applications are due Friday for the \$25 billion loan program, the second round of U.S. funds made available to airlines. The people didn't name the airlines.
- The **Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act** is forecast to swell the U.S. federal budget deficit by \$1.6 trillion during this fiscal year, the **Congressional Budget Office** said Thursday
- **JetBlue Airways Corp. and Spirit Airlines Inc.** must continue flying to several dozen destinations they'd sought to shed as the Covid-19 outbreak devastates their business.
 - The **U.S. Department of Transportation** on Thursday said it was denying most requests from the two airlines for waivers to rules contained in bailout legislation requiring a minimum level of service for carriers that accept financial assistance.
 - Spirit was ordered to resume service to at least 23 locations within seven business days of it receiving the financial assistance, the DOT said in an order. It had suspended flights to 26 locations.
 - JetBlue asked to temporarily suspend service to 11 locations. DOT is requiring that it continue flying to nine of those locations, it said in the order.
- **Occupational Safety and Health Admin.** complaints were filed on behalf of workers deemed essential during the pandemic and tied to concerns about being exposed to the virus, Washington Post [reports](#), citing records obtained under a Freedom of Information request.
 - Complaints come from a variety of workplaces, incl. hospitals, construction cos., grocery stores, pharmacies: WaPo
 - Complaints included lack of masks, working in close quarters
- **DOT** has been working to ease the burden on drivers, taking action to ensure that drivers can get fed at truck stops and are able to continue driving if their commercial licenses or medical certificates expire while licensing facilities are shut down. "At the president's direction, we have reached out to the trucking industry on an



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unprecedented basis, listening to your concerns, providing regulatory relief,"
Transportation Secretary Chao said

- **FCC Chairman Ajit Pai** [is soliciting nominations](#) (through April 27) for the Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee's Disaster Response and Recovery Working Group to address deployment-related challenges during the health crisis.
- The coronavirus pandemic has sparked a massive increase in the number of cybercrime complaints flowing into the **FBI** these days, a bureau official said Thursday. The agency's [Internet Crime Complaint Center](#), which typically received 1,000 complaints per day before the pandemic, is now receiving 3,000 to 4,000 per day, according to Tonya Ugoretz, a deputy assistant director of the FBI's Cyber Division. "Not all of those are COVID-related," she said during an Aspen Institute webinar, "but a good number of those are."
- Certain jurisdictions in the US are "very close" to having testing capabilities in place in order to reopen, **Dr. Robert Redfield, director of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**, said during an appearance on NBC Friday morning.
 - "People have to look at what the real strategic role of testing is and at this point it's to make that rapid early diagnosis, which then you can affirm and then isolate and then do the contacts then test, figure out of the contacts who's infected, isolate those individuals then do their contacts — it's really the traditional public health approach for containment," Redfield said. "I think there's a number of jurisdictions that are very close to having that capability. We're going to work with them."
- **US Surgeon General Dr. Jerome Adams** said wearing a covering over your nose and mouth in public could be viewed as a "sign of respect" in an effort to not spread the coronavirus.
 - "I've really been in the thick of this whole mask discussion, and we know that wearing a cloth facial covering prevents you from spreading to other people," Adams told "Fox & Friends" this morning.
 - "And I do think it's a sign of respect, of appreciation for the fact that you could be asymptotically spreading to someone else," Adams said. "That's something that governors are going to consider as they look at how do we safely reopen."
- **President Donald J. Trump** Is Beginning the Next Phase In Our Fight Against Coronavirus: Guidelines for Opening Up America Again ([HERE](#))
- **President Donald J. Trump** Convenes Members of Congress to Serve on the Opening Up America Again Congressional Group ([HERE](#))



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- **President Donald J. Trump** Announces Guidelines for Opening Up America Again ([HERE](#))
- **The Office for Civil Rights (OCR)** at the U.S Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is announcing that it has resolved a complaint filed against the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PDH) after PDH revised its Interim Pennsylvania Crisis Standards of Care for Pandemic Guidelines to ensure that persons will not be discriminated against based on disability if providers in the state were to begin triaging life-saving health care services. This is the second enforcement action OCR has taken since OCR [issued a Bulletin](#) reminding covered entities of the continued applicability of civil rights laws during the COVID-19 public health emergency. ([HERE](#))
- The **U.S. Food and Drug Administration** has been working with partners across the U.S. government, academia and industry to expedite the development and availability of critical medical products to treat this novel virus. Today, we are providing an update on one potential treatment called convalescent plasma and encouraging those who have recovered from COVID-19 to donate plasma to help others fight this disease. ([HERE](#))
- The **U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)** has issued an alert listing safety tips employers can follow to help protect manufacturing workers from exposure to coronavirus. ([HERE](#))
- The **U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response (CESER)** has been closely monitoring the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) since January 31. This FAQ was last updated on April 16 2020. ([HERE](#))
- **Department of State** held a briefing on State Department's unprecedented effort to bring Americans home during the COVID-19 pandemic. ([HERE](#))
- In collaboration with U.S. departments and agencies, the **Department of State** is releasing the U.S. Government Action Plan to Support the International Response to COVID-19. ([HERE](#))
- **Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Matthew Donovan** signed a department-wide authorization for service members to accrue and retain an additional leave balance of up to 120 days. The department's actions to stem the spread of COVID-19 has significantly limited the ability of service members to take leave during this national emergency, and we know that leave is vital to the health and welfare of our force. ([HERE](#))

Capitol Hill

- **Vice President Mike Pence** plans a 1pm call with Senate Democrats on coronavirus response, according to the White House.



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- **Democrats'** talks with **Mnuchin** have been "productive," and will continue this weekend, **Schumer** says in MSNBC interview
- **House Speaker Nancy Pelosi** said Thursday that negotiations continue over how to extend funding for the small business relief program that has now run dry, reiterating Democratic demands for additional funding for state and local governments and hospitals.
 - Republicans have advocated for a clean increase in program funding, saying other concerns can be addressed in a later bill.
- The head of the **Senate panel** overseeing **Federal Reserve and Treasury Department** efforts to boost the U.S. economy urged the agencies to provide "quick" guidance to the market on the terms and eligibility for federal pandemic relief. **Senate Banking Chairman Mike Crapo (R-Idaho)** also reminded the two agencies in a letter released yesterday of the disclosure requirements under the stimulus enacted last month that empowered them to disburse billions of dollars into the U.S. economy reeling under the coronavirus
- **Close to 30 House Democrats**, led by Reps. **Jamie Raskin (Md.)**, **Jim McGovern (Mass.)** and **Ilhan Omar (M.N.)**, [called on FERC Chairman Neil Chatterjee](#) to impose a moratorium on approvals of new natural gas pipeline projects and LNG export facilities during the coronavirus pandemic. The lawmakers point to recent moves [by EPA](#) and [FERC](#) to delay enforcement during the pandemic, which they say could increase the risk of pipeline construction accidents and environmental degradation.
- **House Speaker Nancy Pelosi** and **Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell** are exchanging names of candidates to lead a new commission to police about \$500 billion of loans, loan guarantees and investments for coronavirus-affected industries, including airlines.
 - Pelosi told reporters Thursday that the two leaders, who will jointly select the chairperson of the panel, are submitting names to each other. But she didn't identify the candidates or give any hint on her preferences. She also declined to say who she would appoint to the five-person panel, where four of five seats remain vacant.
- **Republican members of the House Foreign Affairs Cmte** say they support President Trump withholding World Health Organization funds until Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus resigns.
 - Rep. Michael McCaul and GOP members say in [letter](#) to Trump they have "lost faith" in Tedros' ability to lead the WHO and "recommend that you condition any



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future Fiscal Year 2020 voluntary contributions to the WHO on the resignation of Director-General Tedros”

- Food service distributors such as **US Foods** and **Gordon Food Service** delivering critical supplies during the coronavirus pandemic should get priority for federal loan applications, **a bipartisan group of 33 lawmakers** said in a [letter](#) to Trump. The Treasury Department manages \$500 billion in emergency relief for “severely distressed” industries under the third Covid-19 stimulus package. Lawmakers said the department should weigh difficulties food service distributors face as they adjust to shifting markets
- The **House** will consider letting many members avoid traveling to Washington during the pandemic by arranging for other members to vote for them by proxy. **House Rules Chairman [Jim McGovern \(D-Mass.\)](#)** proposed this low-tech approach to address worries over health and travel raised by dozens of lawmakers during a call with Democrats yesterday. “A member casting a vote on behalf of another member would be required to have exact direction from that member on how to vote and would have to follow that direction,” McGovern said.
 - Pelosi has given her blessing to the idea, according to her office. McGovern, in his statement, underscored the notion would be only a temporary alternative. The House isn’t scheduled to be back in session until May 4, and both McGovern and Pelosi indicated that absent a unanimous consent agreement, a rule change to allow proxy voting would itself require a vote
- **House Financial Services Cmte Chair Maxine Waters** highlights issues including the Fed’s “narrow design of the Municipal Liquidity Facility; exclusion of lenders and organizations looking to participate in the Main Street Lending Program,” and limits to certain lenders who wish to access the small business loan facility.
 - “I urge the Federal Reserve to address these issues as quickly as possible,” Waters says in [letter](#) to Fed Chair Jerome Powell, saying she expects a written response by April 24
- **Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska)** called on the FCC to delay rule-making on opening up 6 GHz spectrum to Wi-Fi devices until after the virus passes. In a letter to FCC Chairman Ajit Pai, Murkowski said a forthcoming FCC rule is “neither timely nor necessary” as utilities and emergency workers are dealing with the coronavirus response. Murkowski said 6 GHz has been an essential tool for utilities and emergency responders to provide high-speed communications for decades. “Allowing unlicensed devices to occupy the same band as mission-critical utility and emergency response communications could cause harmful interference that is detrimental to network reliability,” Murkowski said



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- **Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.)** sent a [letter](#) yesterday calling on the FCC to take quick action to ensure people across the country have access to broadband internet as more people move to telework, telehealth, and online learning due to the coronavirus. He said the FCC has cited more than 20 million Americans don't have access to meaningful broadband service. "While a number of preexisting broadband programs, such as the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, will help close the broadband gap in the long-term, I encourage you to take action that can enable expanded coverage now," he wrote. He called for the FCC to make it easier for wireless providers to increase existing signal contours.
- **Sens. Jeanne Shaheen and Maggie Hassan**, both Democrats from New Hampshire, are pressing the Veterans Affairs Department to strengthen veterans' access to telehealth in the state amid the pandemic. The last relief package ([Public Law 116-136](#)) included \$2.15 billion for that purpose, and the lawmakers want to know what action the department is undertaking to comply with the law's requirements
- **A group of Senate Democrats** are [introducing legislation](#) that would reimburse Americans stranded overseas amid the coronavirus for the sometimes-costly flights home. The bill, led by **Sen. Richard Blumenthal**, would compel the State Department to cancel the promissory notes which U.S. citizens had to sign to get on government-organized flights home, and would also require commercial airlines to give cash reimbursements to Americans for any international flight to the United States canceled or delayed more than 24 hours as a result of Covid-19.
- Airlines in the U.S. that have halted flights are holding more than \$10 billion in customer money while offering credits for future travel instead of cash refunds, **a group of senators** charged Friday.
 - The lawmakers chided carriers for inconsistent policies on which customers can receive refunds and the length of time they can claim lost fares, and for "obfuscating" the rules to minimize how much they must pay. Airlines should be repaying people to help the struggling economy, they said.
 - "The ongoing pandemic is placing enormous financial strain on millions of Americans," **Democratic senators Edward Markey and Elizabeth Warren** of Massachusetts and **Richard Blumenthal** of Connecticut said in a press release.
 - "In light of this pressing need, and the unprecedented multibillion-dollar bailout that the airline industry just received from Congress, we are absolutely outraged that so few airlines are willing to offer real cash refunds to consumers who must cancel their tickets," they said.



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State/Local

- The governors of **Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, and Kentucky** have announced that they will work in close coordination to reopen the Midwest region economy in the wake of the pandemic, according to a statement from Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer on behalf of all the participating governors. The governors said they will focus on least four factors when determining when best to reopen the economy:
 - Sustained control of the rate of new infections and hospitalizations.
 - Enhanced ability to test and trace.
 - Sufficient health care capacity to handle resurgence.
 - Best practices for social distancing in the workplace.
- **New Jersey** will keep public schools closed until at least May 15, Gov. Phil Murphy announced at a news conference today.
- **South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster** has proposed the state legislature come back in late June, since coronavirus is expected to peak in mid-May.
- **New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio** announced Thursday a new program that will provide emergency monetary relief for up to 20,000 “immigrant workers and their families, who have largely been excluded from federal COVID-19 relief programs.”
- **New York City** is partnering with the Open Society Foundations to establish the \$20 million fund, according to a statement from de Blasio’s office.
- All public and private schools in **New Hampshire** will remain closed for the rest of the school year and students will continue remote learning, New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu said at a news conference on Thursday.
- **New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham** said she will evaluate the Trump administration’s “Opening Up America Again” guidelines, but made it clear she is not ready to lift restrictions anytime soon.
 - “We appreciate their suggestions, and we will evaluate them thoroughly,” said the Democratic governor, “but the plain overriding fact is we cannot put the cart before the horse.”
 - Grisham noted in a statement that Thursday had the highest daily number of coronavirus deaths New Mexico has recorded during the epidemic
- **Missouri’s** stay-at-home order will be extended through May 3, according to an announcement Thursday from the governor’s office.
 - “Missouri is incredibly diverse, and our reopening efforts will be careful, deliberate, and done in phases,” Gov. Mike Parson said in a statement.
- **Illinois** Gov. J.B. Pritzker announced Thursday the state’s recommended testing criteria to include all those who are experiencing symptoms of Covid-19.



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- He said no note from a doctor will be required.
 - This new guidance will apply to state-run drive-through testing centers, Pritzker said, and will be offered to medical providers across the state.
- **Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez** has convened a team of health experts to determine a set of conditions that need to be met to ease certain restrictions for parks and open spaces, according to a video message he posted.
- **California** will be offering two weeks of supplemental paid sick leave for people in the food industry who have contracted Covid-19 or have been exposed to it, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced today.
 - "We don't want you going to work if you're sick," Newsom said.
 - "We want to make sure that you know that if you're sick, it's okay to acknowledge it and it's okay to let your employer know and still know that you're going to get a supplemental paycheck for a minimum of two weeks," he added.
- **Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers** has extended the state's stay-at-home order to May 26, according to a statement from his office.
 - The extension also loosens some restrictions on businesses.
 - Golf courses will be allowed to reopen and public libraries and arts and crafts stores may offer curbside pickup, the announcement said.
 - However, the statement also notes that public and private K-12 schools will remain closed for the remainder of the school year.
- **Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf** said Thursday he'll veto legislation that seeks to overrule his stay-at-home order.
 - Wolf said he will veto legislation ([SB 613](#)) that would have the state use the federal guidelines for what can stay open during the coronavirus pandemic, which are looser in some areas than the state order. He also said he'd veto a bill ([SB 327](#)) that would give county governments the option to open some businesses if it was sent to his desk.
 - "It's not the time to take our feet off the brakes," he said at a press briefing. "I have been considering when we end this phase from the time I put it into place."
 - Wolf said the state is opening 49 publicly-run liquor stores to help with online sales.
- **New York Governor Andrew Cuomo** extended the statewide lockdown to May 15, citing progress made in limiting the spread of the coronavirus.



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- Cuomo also ordered masks to be worn by riders on public transit or in for-hire vehicles, such as Uber and Lyft. In addition, operators of public systems, private carriers and for-hire services must always wear masks.
- **Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis** says his state is almost "neck and neck" with California in terms of Covid-19 testing.
 - At today's press conference in Fort Lauderdale, DeSantis announced the opening of two walk-up testing centers in Broward County.
 - The sites will be operated with the help of the National Guard, the Florida Department of Health and Broward Sheriff's Office and will only test those with symptoms. DeSantis said these testing sites will help the underserved communities who might not have access to drive-thru locations.
- **Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves** announced that he will be extending the state's shelter-in-place order an additional week to continue flattening the curve of coronavirus cases.
 - The state's current stay-at-home order was set to expire on Monday but will now go through April 27, Reeves said during a news conference Friday morning.
- All events in **New York City** will be canceled for the month of May, Mayor Bill de Blasio said in a Friday morning news conference.
 - The mayor said his office will not issue any permits. Events like the Brooklyn half marathon will be canceled, de Blasio said.
 - The mayor said his office is currently talking to event planners for the month of June.
- **Vermont Governor Phil Scott**, a Republican, will allow some low-density, low-risk work activities to resume on Monday, WPTZ reporter Stewart Ledbetter says in tweet, citing the governor's press conference.
 - Examples include property management, municipal clerks, some professional services with no more than two people in the same location

International

- **Russian and French leaders Vladimir Putin and Emmanuel Macron** talked by phone about a possible videocall among the leaders of permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, Kremlin says in emailed statement.
 - Putin, Macron also discussed coronavirus pandemic, bilateral ties and Ukraine conflict
- **Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe** told media in a Friday press conference that the WHO has issues and Japan will review its financial contributions after the pandemic is over.



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- "We must support WHO firmly now. However, it is true that there are problems and issues. I think it is necessary to look into it once the coronavirus outbreak has ceased," Abe said.
- Abe says the WHO takes a political stance and that Japan has been requesting for Taiwan to become a member for several years. China considers Taiwan a renegade province and objects to its inclusion as an equal by international organizations.
- The **Mayor of London Sadiq Khan** called for masks to be worn on public transport and in shops, in a Friday interview with the BBC.
 - Khan said the UK is an "outlier" for not recommending masks and called for non-medical facial coverings such as bandanas, scarfs and reusable masks to be worn in public places.
 - "I'm lobbying our government's experts and our government to change the advice," Khan said. "If you really can't stay at home, if you really have to use public transport and you can't keep your social distance, then wear a non-medical facial covering."
 - The **UK government guidelines** on social distancing do not mention masks or facial coverings. In a Downing Street press conference on April 3, the Deputy Chief Medical Officer Jonathan Van-Tam said there is "no evidence that general wearing of facemasks by the public who are well effects the spread of the disease in our society."
- The **Portuguese government** has extended a state of emergency over Covid-19 until May 2, when it will then ease some of the restrictions in place.
- The **Swiss government** has said it will ease some of the emergency measures imposed five weeks ago, since the number of Covid-19 cases is slowing down.
 - "Five weeks after announcing the restriction measures, the government has decided which measures to remove. The measures we took allowed us to slow down the epidemic, today, the epidemic situation allows us to start to look at the next steps," Alain Berset, the head of Internal Affairs, said at a news conference on Thursday.
- The **Spanish government** announced they are putting in place a so-called "minimum vital income" program starting in May to help more than a million households, according to a government statement Thursday.
 - The program will be permanent, not temporary as originally envisioned, to help the hardest-hit families through the coronavirus economic crisis. The plan is

designed to help those not eligible for other forms of aid, such as unemployment benefits.

- **EU trade chief Phil Hogan** on Thursday urged European trade ministers to temporarily suspend tariffs on medical equipment. It builds on the European Commission's move earlier this month to encourage member countries to temporarily waive custom duties on the import of medical devices and protective equipment from third countries.
 - In the longer term, Hogan proposed launching talks on a plurilateral agreement that could include the "possible permanent liberalisation of tariffs on medical equipment and help to ensure that global supply chains can operate freely in this critical sector."
 - China's export restrictions have created a bottleneck for medical supplies bound for the United States, [The Wall Street Journal reports](#).
- **Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido** announced on Thursday that his office will pay health workers \$100 per month for the next three months as a measure to help them fight the Covid-19 pandemic.

Private Sector

- **Facebook** is canceling all of its planned physical events with 50 or more people through June 2021 due to concerns about the coronavirus pandemic.
 - Some of those events will be held virtually instead, CEO Mark Zuckerberg wrote in a post on his [Facebook page](#) on Thursday.
 - **Zuckerberg** also said the "vast majority" of **Facebook** employees will work from home through at least the end of next month. The company is extending its policy of no business travel through at least June.
 - **Zuckerberg** also said employees who feel they can't return to the office for reasons such as lack of childcare can work remotely through at least the summer.
- The **federal Bureau of Prisons** has notified **Michael Cohen**, President Donald Trump's former personal attorney, that he will be released early from prison due to the coronavirus pandemic, according to people familiar with the matter and his lawyer.
- **Boeing** says it will restart its assembly plants making commercial airplanes in Washington state next week.
 - The company closed the facilities in late March and arranged cleanings after it said "around 100" contracted the coronavirus.
 - "Colleagues returning to work will see a wide range of safety measures in place, including operating practices to enable physical distancing such as staggered



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shift times, spread-out work areas and visual controls, voluntary body temperature screenings, and of course constant visible reminders to wash hands and monitor our personal well-being," CEO Dave Calhoun wrote in a message to employees.

- **Colin Kaepernick** announced his contribution of \$100,000 on Thursday to his Covid-19 relief fund to directly impact black and brown communities affected by the pandemic.
 - "[Know Your Rights Camp COVID-19 Relief Fund](#)" was launched as part of Kaepernick's Know Your Rights campaign.
 - "We've launched the Know Your Rights Camp COVID-19 Relief Fund to directly impact the disproportionate effect coronavirus is having on our communities," Kaepernick said in the [campaign's video](#).
- **Moderna** said the U.S. government has agreed to pay as much as \$483 million for the company to develop and test its Covid-19 vaccine now in an initial clinical trial. Under the agreement, the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, would fund development of the vaccine mRNA-1273 up through approval by U.S. regulators, as well as efforts to scale up manufacturing, Moderna said in a press release
- The **Apple Garosugil** store in the South Korean capital Seoul will reopen tomorrow at midday local time, as the country continues to make progress in stopping the spread of coronavirus. The Seoul location will be Apple's first store outside of China to reopen amid the pandemic. South Korea reported 22 new coronavirus cases today
- **Cathay Pacific Airways** is laying off hundreds of cabin crew in the United States, as demand collapses because of the coronavirus pandemic.
 - The Hong Kong carrier said Friday that it is shutting down cabin crew bases in New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles, effectively laying off 286 staff.
- **Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos** said the online retail giant is developing Covid-19 testing capabilities as a first step toward a system of regular checks on its employees globally. In an annual letter to shareholders, the billionaire founder outlined other steps the company has taken to curb the coronavirus, from shutting down non-essential services like Amazon Books to overhauling processes at Whole Foods. The next step was regular testing for all staff -- including those who showed no symptoms, he said. Bezos said his company had assembled a team comprising scientists, managers and software engineers to build internal testing capacity, and hoped to build its first testing lab soon
- **BP Plc** will give Covid-19 researchers access to the supercomputer it uses to process geological data. The London-based oil giant is pooling resources and expertise with

companies including Microsoft Corp., Amazon.com Inc. and Alphabet Inc., aiming to “significantly advance the pace of scientific discovery in the fight to stop the virus.”

- **Google** extends family leave during pandemic: "The tech giant is giving up to 14 weeks of paid leave, or 28 weeks of half-time leave, to parents and caregivers juggling family and work," [CNET reports](#)
- [The next coronavirus legislative package should include funding to boost cybersecurity for the remote workforce](#), such as money for training IT executives and upgrades for VPNs, a **coalition of tech groups** said in a list of principles released Thursday. The groups — the **Information Technology Industry Council**, **Alliance for Digital Innovation**, the **Computing Technology Industry Association**, the **Center for Procurement Advocacy**, **Internet Association** and the **Cybersecurity Coalition** — sent their ideas to congressional leaders and the Office of Management and Budget.
- **IPC**, a trade association representing the electronics industry, is asking the leaders of the U.S., Canada and Mexico to coordinate to keep supply chains flowing as the industry ramps up production of medical equipment.
 - "We ask that you leverage the interconnected North American electronics supply chain by coordinating, to the greatest degree possible, manufacturing and economic policies, including operational restrictions, incentives, and production goals," the organization [wrote in a letter](#). "Such coordination is especially important for the electronics industry, which relies on cross-border flows of intermediate inputs."
- The **Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA)** says the US needs to ramp up effective and proactive testing before the country can reopen.
 - Dr. John Lynch, IDSA board member and associate medical director at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, said the US needs broad and easy access to testing.
 - “We need to find a way to have testing accessible in a public health forum — an approach where it's widely, easily accessible, it is agnostic to your insurance status, and it is ahead — it is aggressive, it is out in front, where there are potentially no cases," Lynch said. "We have to recognize this virus is not going anywhere. There is a distinct risk that we will just bump straight back up and we'll see a brisk increase in the number of infections. As we relax these, we have to be able to respond to that."