



COVID-19 4/19 UPDATE

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Global

Total cases – 2,402,076

Total deaths – 165,106

United States

Positive tests – 759,118 (up 13% from Friday)

% Positive tests – 22%

Total # tests – 3,865,864 (up 13% from Friday)

Total deaths – 40,665 (up 22% from Friday)

Administration

- **President Trump** said on Friday he would back a deal in Congress that would couple money for hospitals with more emergency loans for small businesses, after days of deadlocked talks about whether to approve a clean influx of cash for the Paycheck Protection Program.
 - “Hospitals — hospitals have been decimated by this,” Trump said during the coronavirus task force briefing.
 - On adding payments to hospitals into a PPP boost – something Democrats have pushed, along with other items, to be included alongside money for small business loans – Trump said, “I’m with that all the way.”
 - “We could also add in to Phase four. Phase four would be hopefully infrastructure,” Trump said.
- **President Trump** addressed his recent tweets calling to “liberate” Virginia, Minnesota and Michigan — three political swing states that have Democratic governors.
 - He said the governors who are implementing federal guidelines for stay-at-home orders to deal with the coronavirus are being “too tough.”
 - On Virginia, he said, "What they've done is very powerful. You know you could get the same result with doing a little bit less."
 - He then went off on a tangent about the Second Amendment and claimed without proof that, "They want to take their guns away." Virginia has declared that gun stores are not essential businesses during the pandemic.
- **President Donald Trump** said Saturday he believes "some of the governors have gotten carried away" with social distancing measures, when asked about protests against social-distancing measures taking place across the nation.



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- He said that "a lot of people don't have to be told to do what they are doing," in following social distancing measures. His comments come as [protests against coronavirus-related restrictions](#) continue in various states across the country.
- **Dr. Deborah Birx** said during Friday's briefing that it's unclear whether the US currently has enough coronavirus testing capacity for phase two of the administration's guidelines for opening states.
 - "What we will be doing is monitoring how much we have to use in phase one to really help inform phase two," Birx said. "The really unknown in this, to be completely transparent, is asymptomatic and symptomatic spread."
- **Vice President Mike Pence** said the administration is going to continue to scale testing as needed, calling on states to manage testing.
- **President Donald Trump** said there's enough coronavirus testing capacity to put in place his plan to allow a phased reopening of the economy, even though some state officials and business leaders have raised alarms about shortages.
 - "We've already built sufficient testing capacity nationwide so states can begin their reopenings," the president said Friday at the White House.
- **Vice President Mike Pence** told reporters that the Trump administration will work with governors to ensure state labs are fully using their capacities.
- The new guidance **Trump** announced Thursday relies on governors to decide when their states are prepared to attempt to reopen businesses and schools, based on declining indicators of infections and health-system readiness. The plan was faulted by some Democrats and others because it does nothing to address a shortage of testing for the virus.
 - Business leaders and lawmakers told Trump in phone calls this week that the U.S. must increase its testing capacity before attempting to reopen the economy. Trump also tweeted on Friday that "the States have to step up their TESTING!"
 - The federal govt will help N.Y. and all other U.S. states get "even better on their testing," President Trump says in news briefing.
 - Trump says while his administration will help states with tests, governors are responsible for them
 - Also says he spoke with the president of Mexico and told him the U.S. would help with ventilators
- **President Donald Trump** announced a \$19 billion bailout package for farmers hurt financially by the coronavirus crisis.
 - The aid plan includes \$16 billion in direct payments to farmers to boost their incomes, along with \$3 billion in government purchases of meat, dairy products



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and other foods, the president said Friday at a White House briefing. The **Agriculture Department** will receive another \$14 billion in July for further assistance.

- The combination of direct payments to farmers and bulk government purchases of commodities parallels the approach the Trump administration followed in its \$28 billion agriculture trade bailout over the past two years. Farmers and rural communities are a critical part of Trump's political base as he seeks re-election.
- The commodities purchased will be distributed through food banks and other nutrition programs serving the poor, school children and the elderly.
- The **USDA** will make direct payments of \$5.1 billion to cattle producers, \$2.9 billion for dairy and \$1.6 billion for hogs, according to a statement from Senator [John Hoeven](#), chairman of the Senate Agriculture Appropriations subcommittee.
 - Another \$3.9 billion will go to producers of row crops such as soybeans, corn and cotton, while \$2.1 billion is earmarked for producers of specialty crops such as fruits and vegetables. And \$500 million will go for other crops, Hoeven said.
 - The Agriculture Department will begin the food purchases by buying \$100 million of fruits and vegetables per month, and \$100 million per month each of dairy and meat, the department said in a statement.
- **The Agriculture Department** will receive another \$14 billion in July for further assistance.
 - "This will help our farmers and our ranchers and it's money well deserved," Trump said.
 - The commodities purchased will be distributed through food banks and other nutrition programs serving the poor, school children and the elderly, Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said this week.
 - The closing of restaurants, school cafeterias and other commercial food service operations has upended the market for agricultural products, particularly dairy, meat and produce. The food-service industry is a disproportionate buyer of cheese, butter, meat, fresh fruits and vegetables. Farmers are dumping as much as 8% of their milk, according to the Dairy Farmers of America cooperative
- **Vice President Mike Pence** claimed Friday that there are enough tests for states looking to reopen under phase one guidelines.
 - "Our best scientists and health experts assess that states today have enough tests to implement the criteria of phase one if they choose to do so," Pence said.
 - He reiterated, "Let me say that again: Given the guidance in the President's new guidelines for opening up America again, states that meet the criteria for going



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into phase one and then are preparing the testing that is contemplated by going to phase one – our best scientists and health experts assess that today, we have a sufficient amount of testing to meet the requirements of phase one reopening if state governors choose to do that.”

- **Vice President Mike Pence** on Friday described how the federal government is working with states to respond to the coronavirus pandemic.
 - Pence said that a recent disaster declaration for American Samoa marked the first time in American history that all states and territories had been under a disaster declaration.
 - “We’re continuing to bring, at the President’s direction, full resources of the federal government to bear. Today, the President approved a major disaster declaration for American Samoa, and now all 50 states and all territories are under major disaster declarations for the first time in American history,” Pence said.
 - Pence also said there would be an additional call with governors on Monday on the topic of supplies.
 - “Today we issued a letter to our nation’s governors summarizing all the medical equipment and supplies that have been distributed to their state from FEMA between the first of this month and April 14 through Project Airbridge and through the commercial supply network,” Pence said.
- **President Trump** laid out the administration’s swab testing efforts during Friday’s briefing.
 - In the next few weeks, he said, the federal government will “be sending out 5.5 million testing swabs to the states.”
 - The swabs, he said, “can be done easily by the governors themselves. Mostly it’s cotton. It’s not a big deal, you can get cotton easily, but if they can’t get it, we will take care of it.”
 - 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 [FDA said Thursday](#).
- **Trump administration** temporarily postpones certain tariff payments for 90 days.
 - Deferral doesn’t apply to antidumping or countervailing duties, or so-called Section 201, Section 232 or Section 301 duties
 - As such, doesn’t apply to Trump’s duties on China, steel and aluminum or enforcement actions he took against Airbus and solar panels, among others
 - Treasury and Customs and Border Protection will be postponing those payments for three months and importers don’t have to pay interest during this period



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- **The White House** is helping provide data and feedback to the institute behind an influential coronavirus model, which currently predicts about 60,000 deaths in the United States by August.
 - Dr. Christopher Murray, director of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington, described the relationship Friday in a virtual press briefing.
 - Asked whether the White House had any input or influence on new tools from the model, Murray said, "We have very regular discussions with the task force at the White House."
 - Murray's institute on Friday released new projections saying that some states could begin reopening as early as May 4, so long as measures are in place to prevent a resurgence of the virus.
- **President Donald Trump** said Saturday that there "could be a difference" in how authorities enforce social distancing guidelines at mosques versus how they do at churches.
 - This was in a response to a question regarding a post by conservative author and political commentator Paul E. Sperry he retweeted today.
- **President Donald Trump** said the government will be providing assistance to 13,000 community health sites and mobile medical stations that will give testing in medically under-served regions with "many African American and Hispanic communities."
 - President Trump says that they are doing "big studies" on the racial disparities of the coronavirus, noting that "we don't like it" and it's "not right."
 - The President said the job the community health sites do "is incredible."
- **The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** released new details on community mitigation, as part of the White House Task Force's plan to "get and keep America open."
 - The guidelines, posted overnight Friday [on the CDC website](#), include actions "persons and communities can take to help slow the transmission of the virus."
 - New concepts include emphasizing personal responsibility and tailoring strategies to target specific populations.
 - "Mitigation strategies can be scaled up or down depending on the evolving local situation," the CDC said on its website. "When developing mitigation plans, communities should identify ways to ensure the safety and social well-being of groups that may be especially impacted by mitigation strategies, including individuals at increased risk for severe illness."



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- Regarding financial resources, the **CDC** said it has awarded nearly \$730 million in funding to carry out surveillance, epidemiology, laboratory capacity, infection control, mitigation, communications and other preparedness and response activities.
 - The CDC says it has "500 existing field staff embedded in state, tribal, local and territorial health agencies, most of whom have pivoted to support the COVID-19 response."
- **Community protection** teams are being sent to eight states to conduct contact tracing. The eight states include Alaska, Idaho, Kentucky, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, West Virginia, and Wyoming
- **Nursing homes** will have to report any coronavirus cases to patients and their family, Seema Verma, head of CMS, says at White House briefing.
 - FEMA is also working on plan to address nursing home supply needs, she says
- **President Trump** says **CMS** is finalizing guidelines to resume elective surgeries, postponed earlier due to coronavirus.
- **Vice President [Mike Pence](#)** will discuss shortcomings in U.S. testing for coronavirus infections with governors on Monday, President Donald Trump said.
 - **Trump** said his administration will share information with the governors ahead of the call, about testing capacity in their states that might not yet be utilized.
 - **Pence** will "review what more they could do, and do together, to develop locally tailored testing strategies," Trump said Sunday. The White House will "send them a full list of all large lab machinery in the states" and "the potential capacity of those machines if they're fully utilized."
 - He said some governors are relying their state laboratories and aren't turning to commercial and academic labs to expand testing.
- **President Trump** says he will use **Defense Production Act** to increase supply of swabs, telling reporters he is getting close to a deal that will have a manufacturer convert its plant to produce swabs used in coronavirus tests.
- **Defense Secretary Mark Esper** will extend the current Defense Department wide travel restrictions through June 30, a Pentagon official said Saturday.
 - The order will continue to stop the movement of most military forces and their families to new assignments around the world in order to get a better sense of testing forces for coronavirus.
 - In a telephone briefing with reporters, Matthew Donovan, under secretary of Defense for personnel and readiness, said the order will be effective on Monday. It was due to expire in May.



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- **US President Donald Trump** suggested Friday that the nation’s schools could open “sooner rather than later” — at the same time as many of state governors have cancelled schools for the rest of the academic year.
 - “I think the schools are going to be open soon, I think lot of governors are already talking about schools being opened. And we do have to take care of our seniors, because we've learned a lot about the disease. We’ve learned a lot about this plague, we have to take care of our seniors. We’re going to take care of a lot of people,” Trump said at Friday’s White House press briefing in response to a question about schools and childcare.
- **US President Donald Trump** wants to open America back up in stages after the deadly coronavirus epidemic.
 - The plan isn't mandatory but rather a recommendation to state governors, who will be given the final responsibility for deciding when to end their [widespread shelter-at-home orders](#).
 - Under the plan, states which meet specific criteria — such as a drop in cases over a 14-day period — will proceed to phase 1 reopening.
 - During phase one, only vulnerable individuals are recommended to shelter in place. Employees are recommended to return to work "in phases," with teleworking maintained where possible. Gyms and some public spaces like movie theaters can reopen, while bars and schools should stay closed.
 - If there is no evidence of a rebound in cases, under phase 2 reopening, non-essential travel can resume and schools can reopen, while bars are allowed to operate at reduced capacity.
 - Finally, if the positive trend continues, under phase 3 reopening, almost all activities return to normal — although vulnerable individuals are recommended to continue some social distancing. Visits to senior care facilities and hospitals can resume.
 - Read the [full plan here](#).
- **Dr. Deborah Birx** said during Friday’s briefing that it’s unclear whether the US has enough coronavirus testing capacity for phase two of the administration’s guidelines for opening states.
 - “What we will be doing is monitoring how much we have to use in phase one to really help inform phase two,” Birx said. “The really unknown in this, to be completely transparent, is asymptomatic and symptomatic spread.”
- **US Vice President Mike Pence** said the administration is going to continue to scale testing as needed, calling on states to manage testing.



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- During an interview with Fox News Sunday, Vice President Mike Pence defended President Trump's coronavirus response saying he believed there would soon be enough testing to reopen the country.
- When asked to give his opinion of the protestors and Trump's "LIBERATE" tweets, Pence said "the American people know that no one in America wants to reopen this country more than Donald Trump" and that the President is going to continue to "encourage governors safely and responsibly let America go back to work."
- On testing, the vice president said the administration believes that "once we activate all the labs that can do coronavirus testing," it will be sufficient for any state in America to move into phase one.
- **President Donald Trump** raised the prospect that China deliberately caused the Covid-19 outbreak that's killed over 38,000 Americans and said there should be consequences if the country is found to be "knowingly responsible."
 - "Let's see what happens with their investigation. But we're doing investigations also," Trump said at a White House news conference on Saturday. "If it was a mistake, a mistake is a mistake. But if they were knowingly responsible, yeah, then there should be consequences."
- **President Donald Trump** said that the stock market's recent upward trajectory shows that traders think his administration's response to the coronavirus outbreak has been a success.
 - "The market is actually brilliant," Trump said at a White House news conference on Saturday. "They're viewing it like we've done a good job. They view it that way."
 - President Donald Trump said signs keep showing the coronavirus has passed its peak, noting the U.S has "produced better health outcomes" than most other counties.
- **Trump** said the mortality rate is lower than for much of Western Europe except for Germany. He said Spain -- which has more than 20,000 fatalities --- has a mortality rate four times higher than the U.S., which has more than 37,000 deaths.
- **Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, Texas** and **Vermont** have taken "concrete steps" to reopen their economies, the president said at his daily White House briefing.
- Community-level data will be key to showing Americans the progress made to reopen, Dr. **Deborah Birx**, a member of the White House task force, said on CBS's "Face the Nation." Birx touted the Florida Department of Health website, which shows data by Zip code.



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- “We have to really get them information in a much more granular way than a national way or even a state way,” she said. “It needs to be down to the communities so the communities can see what happens in their communities and make decisions with the local and health officials and the state officials.”
- **The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)** released [version 3.0 of the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers guidance](#) to help state and local jurisdictions and the private sector identify and manage their essential workforce while responding to COVID-19. CISA’s original guidance was released on March 19, 2020 and version 2.0 was subsequently released on March 28, 2020.
 - Version 3.0 of the guidance clarifies and expands critical infrastructure workers in several categories and provides additional information as considerations for both government and business. Several updates were made to the Healthcare/Public Health category, clarifying worker categories related to health care, public and environmental health, emergency medical services, and aligning related job functions. In all worker categories, references to “employees” or “contractors” were changed to “workers.”
- **Canada** and the **U.S.** will extend the closure of their shared border to non-essential travel for another 30 days, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said.
 - Both countries agreed to close the border to most travelers in March. Trudeau said the extension has the same terms as before and allows essential goods and services to move between the countries.
- The **U.S. central bank** said it will disclose information regarding borrowers who seek emergency aid through its forthcoming corporate credit facilities.
 - “The Federal Reserve will publicly disclose information regarding the CCFs during the operation of the facilities, including information regarding participants, transaction amounts, costs, revenues and other fees,” according to a frequently-asked-questions [page](#) posted Friday on the New York Fed’s website.
- The **Federal Reserve** Friday temporarily modified its rules allowing certain bank directors and shareholders to apply for loans from the Small Business Administration’s Paycheck Protection Program for their small businesses.
 - Existing rules had prevented some small business owners from accessing PPP loans, especially in rural areas, the Fed said in a statement
 - Banks disbursing PPP loans remain prohibited from granting any favoritism to companies owned by directors or shareholders
 - Fed’s Board of Governors approved the step, 5-0



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- The Fed's Paycheck Protection Program Liquidity Facility opened April 16 to help speed the distribution of PPP loans
- Over 1.6 million **small businesses** were approved for funding before the money ran out yesterday, and almost three-quarters of the applications were for loans of \$150,000 or less, according to a [new report](#). The Small Business Administration processed applications from all 50 states and territories totaling \$342.3 billion out of the \$349 billion program before the SBA [stopped](#) accepting applications, the report released today shows
- The **Treasury Department** will automatically send \$1,200 stimulus payments to veterans receiving compensation and pension benefit payments, reversing an earlier announcement that they would have to submit their bank account information to the Internal Revenue Service.
 - "Economic Impact Payments will be issued automatically to our Veterans and their families who did not file tax returns for 2018 or 2019," Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin says in [statement](#)
 - Some people with children, or others who don't file tax returns, will need to [submit](#) their bank account or address information to the IRS to receive their money
- **Veterans Affairs Sec. Robert Wilkie** says dept doesn't have optimal amounts of protective equipment for hospital workers treating coronavirus patients as it competes for supplies, Wall Street Journal [reports](#), citing interview with Wilkie.
 - "We don't have the supplies that we would have in an optimal situation, we have the supplies that we need as the CDC prescribes," Wilkie tells WSJ
- On Friday, the **National Institutes of Health and the Foundation for NIH** announced plans underway to launch a public-private partnership, known as the Accelerating COVID-19 Therapeutic Interventions and Vaccines (ACTIV) partnership, with more than a dozen biopharmaceutical companies, HHS's Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration, and the European Medicines Agency, to develop a national strategy for a coordinated research response to the COVID-19 pandemic. [HERE](#))
- The **CDC** has developed a new laboratory test to assist with efforts to determine how much of the US population has been exposed to COVID-19. The serology test looks for the presence of antibodies, which are specific proteins made in response to infections. Antibodies can be found in the blood and in other tissues of those who are tested after infection. The antibodies detected by this test indicate that a person had an immune



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response to SARS-CoV-2, whether symptoms developed from infection or the infection was asymptomatic. ([HERE](#))

- **The National Institutes of Health and the Foundation for the NIH (FNIH) are** bringing together more than a dozen leading biopharmaceutical companies, the Health and Human Services Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the European Medicines Agency to develop an international strategy for a coordinated research response to the COVID-19 pandemic. ([HERE](#))
- **The U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin and Small Business Administration (SBA) Administrator Jovita Carranza** issued a statement regarding the success of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). ([HERE](#))
- The [U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs](#) (VA) announced today it is working directly with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and U.S. Treasury Department to ensure delivery of 'Economic Impact Payments' to Veterans and survivors who receive Compensation and Pension (C&P) benefit payments from VA without additional paperwork or IRS filings. ([HERE](#))
- **FCC COVID-19** telehealth program will provide \$200 million in funding. The program will help health care providers provide connected care services to patients at their homes or mobile locations in response to the novel Coronavirus 2019 disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The Program will provide immediate support to eligible health care providers responding to the COVID-19 pandemic by fully funding their telecommunications services, information services, and devices necessary to provide critical connected care services until the program's funds have been expended or the COVID-19 pandemic has ended. ([HERE](#))
- **U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue** today announced the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP). This new U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program will take several actions to assist farmers, ranchers, and consumers in response to the COVID-19 national emergency. President Trump directed USDA to craft this \$19 billion immediate relief program to provide critical support to our farmers and ranchers, maintain the integrity of our food supply chain, and ensure every American continues to receive and have access to the food they need. ([HERE](#))
- **U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue** today announced North Carolina and Massachusetts have been approved to operate Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT), a new program authorized by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), signed by President Trump, which provides assistance to families of children eligible for free or reduced-price meals dealing with school closures. ([HERE](#))



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- **U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue** today announced approval of the District of Columbia (DC) and North Carolina's requests to provide online purchasing of food to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Households. This approval will allow the State and Federal District to expedite the implementation of online purchasing with currently authorized SNAP online retailers with a target start date to be announced at a later time. ([HERE](#))
- The **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** is updating its coronavirus website to include new resources for state, local, and tribal agencies and intergovernmental associations. These resources will help EPA and its partners continue to provide the environmental protection the nation depends on without interruption during the coronavirus public health emergency. ([HERE](#))
- The **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's** Mountains and Plains regional office announced that it has transferred more than 1,000 N-95 face masks to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); as it assesses its supply of personal protective equipment in hopes of donating additional PPE to state and local agencies battling COVID-19. The Agency maintains a range of PPE for mission-critical work such as responding to emergencies; including chemical, oil, radiological and biological incidents. ([HERE](#))
- **The United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida** has entered a temporary injunction halting the sale of an unapproved, unproven, and potentially dangerous coronavirus (COVID-19) treatment product, the Department of Justice announced today. ([HERE](#))
- Since a national emergency was declared as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the **DLA** has provided almost 50,000 excess items – \$2 million worth – such as personal protective equipment, beds, cots, ventilators and pouches for bio-hazard and human remains. Lists of available excess medical equipment are being provided to the DLA Headquarters COVID-19 Task Force, which works with military commands, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to determine where the items should go. ([HERE](#))

Capitol Hill

- The **House** could meet as early as Wednesday at 10am to consider legislation to expand paycheck protection program, according to House Majority Leader [Steny Hoyer](#).
 - A recorded vote on the interim legislation is likely in the House this week, Hoyer also says



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- **Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin** said he thinks Congress will come to an agreement on a new emergency funding bill that would give money to small businesses and disaster loan programs.
 - "I'm hopeful that we can reach an agreement that the senate can pass this tomorrow, and that the House can take it up on Tuesday. Wednesday we would be back up and running," Mnuchin told CNN earlier today. "I think we're very close to a deal today. I'm hopeful that we can get that done."
 - **Mnuchin** said he believes another small business package could allocate \$300 billion for the Paycheck Protection Program, \$50 billion appropriated for disaster loans, \$75 billion for hospitals and \$25 billion to invest in testing.
- **President Donald Trump** signaled a possible compromise in the deadlock over additional aid for a staggered U.S. economy as the two top congressional Democrats and the administration pushed negotiations into the weekend.
 - Trump's blessing for aid to hospitals removes one sticking point in talks among **House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin** and their staffs on replenishing the tapped-out Paycheck Protection Program for small businesses. They have been discussing providing \$75 billion for beleaguered medical facilities, according to a Democratic aide.
 - **House GOP leader Kevin McCarthy** said earlier Friday he also could accept the hospital aid in a deal, a day after saying Republicans shouldn't offer Democrats a "fig leaf" of a compromise until they agree to give the small business program, which ran out of money on Thursday, an infusion of \$250 billion.
- **Democratic Senator Bob Menendez** of New Jersey and **Republican Senator Bill Cassidy** of Louisiana are proposing a \$500 billion fund for state and local governments to be in the next rescue package. The money would be divided into three tranches and distributed according to formulas that reflect population, infection rates and revenue loss to help states hardest hit by the outbreak.
- **Menendez** and other **Democrats** are also pushing for the Fed to do more for state and local governments. They're advocating for a permanent change to the Federal Reserve Act that would allow the Fed to purchase municipal debt on the open market under "unusual and exigent circumstances."
- **Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell** announces **Sen. Pat Toomey** will be his pick for a five-member commission to oversee coronavirus rescue loans.



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- **House Speaker Nancy Pelosi** announces appointment of **Democratic Rep. Donna Shalala** to serve on a five-member commission intended to police about \$500 billion in coronavirus rescue loans made to industries.
- **Rep. French Hill (R-Ark.)**, who started serving in the House in 2015, was announced as House GOP leader McCarthy's choice, becoming the second person named to the board. McCarthy cited Hill's background in the Treasury and as a private banker, which "provides important expertise."
- The **Congressional Hispanic Caucus** on Friday called on the Trump administration to end its practice of swiftly removing migrant children arrested on the southern border, according to a letter to the Department of Homeland Security and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
 - Last month, the administration invoked public health law to begin suspending entry of all migrants "seeking to enter the US without proper travel documentation" for both the northern and southern border, citing the coronavirus pandemic. As of April 9, around 300 children who arrived alone to the border have been expelled — a break from longstanding practice of referring unaccompanied children to the care of the US Health and Human Services Department.
 - "The expulsion of unaccompanied children, including to Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador (also known as Northern Triangle countries), threatens to return children to countries plagued by insecurity, violence, and widespread criminal or gang activity without government protection," the letter reads.

State/Local

- Everyone in **San Francisco** will be required to wear face coverings in public and at work, Mayor London Breed announced at a news conference Friday.
 - The health order will go into effect at midnight but will not be enforced until April 22 to allow time for people to access face coverings, Breed said
 - Breed said health officials plan to distribute face coverings to vulnerable populations throughout the city and county of San Francisco.
 - Face covering requirements have already been announced in **Sonoma County, California**. Several other **Bay Area** jurisdictions will announce similar orders Friday, Public Health Director Grant Colfax said at the news conference.
- **California Governor Gavin Newsom** assembled an economic recovery task force that includes top executives from some of the state's largest companies -- including **Walt Disney Co.'s Bob Iger** and **Apple Inc.'s Tim Cook** -- as well as labor leaders, social justice



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advocates and all four living former governors of the Golden State, both Republican and Democrat.

- Former **Democratic presidential candidate Tom Steyer** will co-chair the 80-member group, along with Newsom's chief of staff, Ann O'Leary. Former governors Jerry Brown, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Gray Davis and [Pete Wilson](#) have joined, as has Janet Yellen, former chairwoman of the Federal Reserve.
- Hundreds of protesters gathered Friday in **Huntington Beach**, a coastal community in **California**, to demand the reopening of the state's economy, according to the event's Facebook page.
 - Many protesters ignored the state's social distancing guidelines as they hugged and took selfies in an effort to show their opposition to the state's stay-at-home orders.
 - A large number of people in the crowd waved "Trump 2020" flags and other signage in support for the President's campaign.
- **Hawaii Gov. David Ige** ordered all state-owned beaches closed Friday as part of the effort to combat coronavirus.
 - Residents will still be allowed to swim and surf with social distancing, but cannot sunbathe, picnic, or play games on the sand.
 - Ige's order also said recreational boating is limited to two people per boat, and that watercraft should maintain a distance of at least 20 feet. Hiking and fishing trips also are limited to two people at a time, except for relatives who live together.
 - The new rules are in effect until April 30.
- **Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz** said he tried to speak with President Trump after the President tweeted "LIBERATE MINNESOTA" on Friday but he didn't get a call in return.
 - Speaking at a news conference Friday, Walz said he called to ask, "What are we doing differently about moving towards getting as many people back into the workforce without compromising the health of Minnesotans or the providers?"
- **Montana Gov. Steve Bullock** said there is no way his state could meet the standards set to reopen.
 - "Even the gating criteria (of two straight weeks with new cases slowing down) that the President put out yesterday — we haven't met those criteria," Bullock said at a news conference Friday.
 - During the news conference, Bullock focused on the phased-in plan released by the President's task force.



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- **Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards** said the state is not ready for a Phase 1 reopening and that there is still "work to do."
 - Edwards, speaking at a news conference Friday, said the state has not reached the threshold that must be passed to get to the Phase 1 reopening — including not having 14 days where the number of cases, tests and deaths are moving in the right direction.
- **Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont** has moved the state's 2020 presidential primary election to August 11 due to the coronavirus pandemic.
 - "To protect the health and safety of voters, poll workers, and the most vulnerable populations, it just makes most sense to extend the date out to August," Lamont said in a statement.
- **Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont** responded Friday to President Trump's tweet about states needing to do more testing.
 - "I could help Connecticut navigate through this Covid crisis or I could respond to every one of the President's tweets," Lamont said.
 - He went on to say the federal government should help states with testing, but added that he's taking it upon himself to make sure his state has everything it needs to make it happen.
- **North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper** said Friday there is a global supply chain breakdown, and governors need more help from the federal government.
 - He went on to say they specifically need assistance with testing supplies and personal protective equipment.
 - Cooper said he wants to ease restrictions, but public safety has to come first.
 - The governor also announced a new partnership with three state universities: University of North Carolina, East Carolina University and Duke University.
- **Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker** said in-person classes will remain closed through the end of the academic year.
 - However, the governor reiterated distance learning will continue.
- **New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy** said he believes that students will wear masks when school schools reopen in the state.
 - "I would bet the answer is yes, kids will be in masks when we return to school," Murphy said when asked about masks at a news conference.
 - Schools will remain closed through the rest of the academic year, Maryland State Superintendent of Schools Karen Salmon announced at a news conference Friday.



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- “After extensive consultation with the State Board of Education and leading public health experts in the state. I am extending the closure of schools, through May 15,” Salmon said.
 - Plans for the summer and beyond are still being assessed.
- **Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf** addressed residents and asked them to "stay the course," when it comes to reopening the state. The state still ranks fifth in Covid-19 cases, the governor said.
 - Wolf says his office will work every day to make sure residents get whatever they need.
 - He went on to say we need to make smart data-driven decisions before reopening Pennsylvania.
- **West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice** issued an executive order requiring every single resident and staffers at a long-term living facilities to be tested for coronavirus, he said in a news conference.
 - The governor also filed an order effective today, requiring laboratories to provide immediate real-time electronic reports of both positive and negative Covid-19 tests to the Department of Health and Human Resources.
- **Texas Gov. Greg Abbott** said that he is signing a new executive order today that outlines "how we go about opening Texas economy" at a news conference today.
 - State parks will reopen on April 20 but visitors will be required to observe social distancing, wear masks and gather in groups of no more than five, Abbott said.
 - Starting on April 22, current medical restrictions for surgery will be loosened, Abbott said. Procedures that do not "deplete the hospital capacity or the PPE needed to cope with Covid-19" will be permitted, a statement from the governor's office said.
 - On April 24, retail stores in Texas should be able to operate "to-go," Abbott said.
 - Under this model, reopened businesses are "required to deliver items to customer's cars, homes, or other locations to minimize contact," the statement said.
 - However, despite some loosening of restrictions, Abbott also announced that schools —including public, private, and higher education institutions — will remain closed for rest of the school year.
- **Boston** is using brochures, phone calls and trucks with speakers to broadcast crucial information to residents in the hardest hit areas, the city's Mayor Marty Walsh said Friday.



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- The messages are being broadcast and printed in several languages including English, Spanish, Creole and Vietnamese, Walsh said at a news conference.
 - The city is also contacting seniors twice a week by phone to make sure they have the information they need, he said.
- Schools in **Iowa** will remain closed through the rest of the school year due to the coronavirus pandemic, Gov. Kim Reynolds announced at a news conference in Johnston on Friday.
 - "We still haven't actually peaked at this point. And we just don't have the data that I think that we need to start to have the conversation about opening them up so you know we just we made the decision yesterday," Reynolds said.
- **Vermont Gov. Phil Scott** outlined a five-point plan to reopen the state while continuing to fight the spread of coronavirus during a news conference Friday.
 - Part of that plan includes certain businesses such as construction, home appraisers, property management and municipal clerks returning to work starting April 20 with social distancing measures in place. These businesses will be allowed a maximum of two workers per location. The workers must wear cloth masks and maintain 6 feet of distance, Scott said.
 - On May 1, farmers markets will be able to operate with strict social distancing guidelines in place, Scott said.
- The governors of **New York, New Jersey and Connecticut** announced Saturday that marinas, boatyards and marine manufacturers "will be allowed open for personal use as long as strict social distancing and sanitization protocols are followed," according to a release from New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy.
 - The states are aligning their policies for marinas and boatyards, noting that chartered watercraft services or rentals will not be allowed and restaurant activity at these sites must be limited to take-out or delivery only.
- **Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson** said he's issued an executive order to create a task force to develop industry-specific plans for the proposed phased reopening of the state's economy beginning May 4.
 - Hutchinson says the task force will develop plans that will allow businesses some degree of operation, but maintain public health requirements.
 - "You can open up a restaurant on May 4, but if the public does not have confidence that they're going to be safe, they're not going to go," Gov. Hutchinson said. "They're going to self-select their way out of it."
 - The group will be chaired by businessman Steuart Walton and the governor said he hopes for faith-based organizations to take part as well.



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- **Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis** announced that K-12 schools will continue with distance learning for the duration of the school year, saying "it's not the ideal situation" at a press conference Saturday afternoon.
 - "We've got pretty good momentum for distance learning, it's obviously not the ideal situation, but given where we are in the school year, we felt that that was the best, best decision to go forward," DeSantis said.
- **California Gov. Gavin Newsom** said in a press conference on Saturday that the state has secured 10,974 hotel rooms and 5,025 rooms from Motel 6 in 19 counties for homeless residents during the coronavirus pandemic.
- **Oregon Gov. Kate Brown** issued an executive order Friday preventing creditors or debt collectors from garnishing federal CARES Act recovery rebate payments, a news release from her office said.
 - The order ensures that recovery checks go towards the essentials that people need rather than to collection agencies.
- **New York Attorney General Letitia James** issued official guidance to state banking institutions creditors and debt collectors making clear that financial relief provided by stimulus payments under the CARES act are exempt from garnishment under the state law.
 - A release from the AG says these emergency stimulus payments were not designated as exempt from garnishment, allowing debt collectors to potentially benefit before consumers.
- People in **New York** can now get married remotely over video due to the coronavirus pandemic.
 - "We are today signing an executive order allowing people to get their marriage licenses remotely and also allowing clerks to perform ceremonies over video," Melissa DeRosa, the secretary to New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, said at a news conference today.
- **New York state** will undertake the "most aggressive" statewide antibody testing survey in the nation over the next week, according to Gov. Andrew Cuomo.
 - Cuomo said they will sample thousands of people across the state to find out if they have antibodies.
 - "That will tell us for the first time what percent of the population actually has had the coronavirus and is now at least short term immune to the virus," he said.

International



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- The **Spanish government** is planning to exit the current lockdown measures to resume regular activity in two stages; the summer and then the end of the year, the country's labor and social economy minister said Friday.
- **Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau** says his government and the Trump administration are "aligned" and that the US-Canada border will remain closed to all but essential travel for weeks to come.
 - "As I have said we do not feel that opening the border anytime soon is likely. My responsibility is to ensure the protection and safety of Canadians, that is what we will continue to do. The conversations with the Americans have been extremely aligned and extremely productive," Trudeau said Friday during a press briefing.
- **Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu** announced plans to begin gradually easing the restrictions to combat the spread of Covid-19 beginning Sunday, with the goal of increasing the number of employees allowed in any workplace from 15% to 30%.
 - The updated guidelines still need government approval, which is expected late Saturday night. The reduced restrictions will be evaluated for two weeks before any further decisions are made, Netanyahu said.
 - Industrial and high-tech workplaces, as well as certain stores, will be allowed to reopen under health and social distancing restrictions. Employers must check the temperature of their workers upon arrival and limit the number of people in a room; maintaining at least 2 meters (6 feet) between each person.
- **Turkey** extended quarantine measures in major cities for another 15 days as the spread of the coronavirus shows signs of slowing. The rules announced earlier this month apply to Istanbul, which has the bulk of reported cases, and 30 other cities.
- **South Africa** will gradually ease regulations in various sectors to restart activity after the five-week national lockdown ends, and will work on fast-tracking some structural reforms to help the recovery.
 - A group led by President Cyril Ramaphosa on Saturday "agreed on the need for a risk-adjusted approach" to the resumption of economic activity. The nation is on day 23 of the shutdown. While the restrictions halted all activity except essential services, the government this week said mines can resume work at 50% capacity.
- **Denmark** extended aid programs to businesses and workers by a month, to July 8, and added new measures to increase spending by about 100 billion kroner (\$15 billion), according to a statement.

- The government said companies that pay dividends, buy back shares or are registered in tax havens won't be eligible for the programs, which now amount to 400 billion kroner with loans and guarantees
- The **UK** government has advised that some items of personal protective equipment may need to be reused due to "acute" shortages across the National Health Service.
 - "The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has reviewed the options outlined in this document. Where there are acute shortages of PPE, and where it is safe to do so, it approves the sessional and reuse of PPE," Public Health England said in a statement Friday.
- The **British Government** is reviewing its guidance on wearing masks for the general public, the UK's chief scientific adviser said at a briefing on Friday.
 - "The evidence is quite variable around masks. It's not easy to really get a firm position on some of it, and there aren't very good trials of masks," Patrick Vallance said, adding that the government was currently following World Health Organization guidelines by not recommending the usage of face masks by the general public.
- The **British government** has set up a **novel coronavirus vaccine task force**, the UK Secretary of State for Business, Alok Sharma, announced at a daily briefing on Friday.
 - "I can announce today that the government has set up a vaccines task force to coordinate the efforts of government, academia and industry towards a single goal: to accelerate the development of a coronavirus vaccine," Sharma said. "This task force is up and running, and aims to ensure that a vaccine is made available to the public as quickly as possible."
 - The task force will work to support "progress across all stages of vaccine development and at pace."
- **Iran** lifted coronavirus restrictions Saturday in the capital, Tehran, for low-risk businesses such as clothing stores and book shops.
 - Restrictions in other provinces were lifted on April 11.
 - High-risk businesses, such as gyms, movie theaters and shopping malls, will remain closed, authorities said.
- **Canada's Minister of Transport Marc Garneau** announced new measures Friday requiring all airline passengers in the country to have a non-medical mask or face covering over their mouth and nose during travel from Monday.
 - Travelers will be asked to cover their mouth and nose at Canadian airport screening checkpoints, as well as when they cannot physically distance from

- others, when directed by airline employees, and when directed by public health officials, according to a release from Transport Canada.
- Passengers who fail to show that they have a face covering during the boarding process will not be allowed to fly.
 - **Senior U.K. government ministers** have drawn up a three-phase plan that would allow schools to reopen as early as May 11, the Sunday Times reported.
 - The proposal, to be presented to Prime Minister Boris Johnson when he returns to work, also envisages reopening clothing stores and garden centers, and the resumption of full bus and rail services.
 - A second phase, beginning in late May or early June, would see more businesses reopen, while pubs and stadium events wouldn't be allowed until at least July.
 - Health ministers from the **Group of 20** leading economies said Covid-19 "has highlighted systemic weaknesses" in health readiness worldwide. The officials commented in a [communiqué](#) issued from Riyadh after a teleconference hosted by Saudi Arabia.
 - Ministers "addressed the need to improve the effectiveness of global health systems by sharing knowledge and closing the gap in response capabilities and readiness," they said.
 - Not mentioned was the World Health Organization, less than a week after President Donald Trump said he's temporarily halting U.S funding for the Geneva-based agency.
 - Social restrictions imposed to curb the virus must be eased in phases and don't spell the end of the epidemic, **World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus** said.
 - "It's just the beginning of the next phase," he said at a virtual meeting of G-20 health ministers. WHO will publish its second response plan with an estimate of resources required for the next phase.
 - **France** within two weeks will unveil a plan to begin lifting restrictions on travel and business that aimed to curb the coronavirus, Prime Minister Edouard Philippe said without giving specifics.
 - After May 11, when the lockdown starts to lift, "our lives won't be exactly the same as before," Philippe warned in a [televised](#) press conference. "Not right away, and probably not before long."
 - The lockdown, in place since March 17, could lead Europe's third-biggest economy to contract by about 10% this year, Philippe said.
 - **Zimbabwe President Emmerson Mnangagwa** extended a national lockdown by 14 days, to May 3, citing the risk of infections rising from the current 25 confirmed cases. Still,



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the mining sector will be allowed to scale up operations and manufacturing can partially re-start during the extension

Other

- **Comic Con International** has canceled its premiere event in San Diego due to the coronavirus pandemic, according to a post on the event's official website.
 - Organizers initially held out on cancellation with hopes that the July event could still go on.
 - Passholders will have the option of being refunded, or using their badges for admission to next year's event, scheduled for July 22-25.
- **Bloomberg Philanthropies** has donated \$8 million to the World Health Organization's Covid-19 Solidarity Response Fund.
 - The money will go towards providing healthcare workers with protective equipment and getting them the necessary information and training to detect and treat patients, according to a statement from Bloomberg Philanthropies, the vehicle for former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg's charitable enterprises.
- The **U.S. cotton industry**, which produces much of the world's cotton exports, needs help from the Department of Agriculture to offset plummeting prices and rising costs during the coronavirus crisis, senators say. Cotton producers are seeing orders by textile mills plunge "as much as 90% in the last month" while retailers remain closed because of the outbreak, said 21 lawmakers in a letter to Secretary Sonny Perdue. USDA received \$9.5 billion in emergency funds for agricultural producers affected by the virus under the latest stimulus measure. Cotton producers are among those eligible for aid.
- **Wynn Resorts Ltd. Chief Executive Officer Matt Maddox** is calling for parts of Nevada's economy to start reopening in early May, followed by the Las Vegas Strip in the middle or later part of the month.
 - Maddox, in an [opinion piece](#) published by the Nevada Independent, outlined safeguards such as reduced hotel occupancy, physical distancing measures, temperature checks and no large gatherings. He also proposed keeping hospitalizations and deaths relative to the population below the U.S. average.
 - The casino operator was the first in the state to shut down operations and is paying staff for 60 days through May 15
- **Live Nation**, one of the nation's top concert promoters, is unveiling its plan to accommodate fans with tickets to canceled and postponed shows.



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- Venues hosting concerts will offer fans 150% of their ticket value as "concert cash," and those going to postponed shows will get "concert cash" once they attend.
 - The program is also offering an option to donate tickets to health care workers.
- The **NBA** and the **National Basketball Players Association** have announced that the players will see a partial pay cut in the event that remaining games in the 2019-2020 season are canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic.
 - The gradual reduction in pay, 25% of salaries, is to avoid a large one-time cut should games need to be canceled.
 - The NBA suspended the current season on March 11
- **Celebrity chef Wolfgang Puck** said more coronavirus testing is needed to get customers back into restaurants and halt the restaurant industry's financial bleeding.
 - "There has to be more testing," Puck told CNN's Anderson Cooper. "And I don't understand — we have the smartest people in this country, we have the best doctors. ... I think we really have to look and get somehow, some testing going sooner rather than later."
 - Puck said he'd love to open his restaurants again, but he predicts that even if he could, not many people would feel safe going out to eat in large groups yet. He said he is most worried about the future of small mom-and-pop restaurants.
- More than 1,900 **Trump Organization** employees around the US have been furloughed due to the coronavirus outbreak, according to public documents.
 - Trump properties in Virginia, Nevada, Washington, DC, Illinois and New York have furloughed over 1,200 employees combined. In addition, 713 workers were furloughed at two properties in Florida.
 - The organization said the furloughs are of non-essential employees.
- **Italian sports car maker Ferrari** has announced that it will produce respirator valves and fittings for protective face masks as part of its efforts to support the national response to the coronavirus pandemic, according to a statement today.
 - "Ferrari has started to produce respirator valves and fittings for protective masks at its Maranello plant as one of its initiatives in support of health workers treating coronavirus patients," the company said.
- From next week, **Walmart** – the largest retailer in the US – will require all of its workers to wear face coverings.
 - In a message from the CEOs of Walmart and its Sam's Club wholesale stores, the company said, "We will begin requiring that associates wear masks or other face



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- coverings at work. This includes our stores, clubs, distribution and fulfillment centers, as well as in our corporate offices.”
- The statement says customers will also be encouraged to cover their faces, although it will not be mandatory.
 - Walmart says it will provide all employees with a face covering, or they can provide their own. The new policy goes into effect Monday.
 - More than a dozen publicly traded companies with revenue of more than \$100 million, including **Shake Shack Inc., Potbelly Corp. and a Tex-Mex restaurant chain** with more than 10,000 employees, received loans through a massive relief program aimed at small businesses.
 - With a \$349 billion lending package for small business owners now [exhausted](#), a review of regulatory filings shows that restaurant chains and companies in industries ranging from mining to manufacturing to cruise travel received large amounts, while much smaller businesses like neighborhood eateries and hair salons were locked out.
 - **Delta Air Lines Inc.** won approval to stop flying to destinations on some dates this summer as the Covid-19 outbreak devastates its business.
 - The **Department of Transportation** on Saturday afternoon [said it was granting](#) parts of the airline’s request to waive the rules in coronavirus stimulus legislation that require a minimum level of service for carriers that accept financial assistance.
 - **Delta** had asked for flexibility for its summer service to spots in Alaska, Massachusetts, Montana, Wyoming and the Virgin Islands.