



COVID-19 4/20 UPDATE

COVID-19 4/20 Update

Global

Total cases – 2,432,092

Total deaths – 166,794

United States

Positive tests – 761,991

% Positive tests – 20%

Total # tests – 3,893,815

Total deaths – 40,724

Administration

- **US President Donald Trump** on Sunday called people who are protesting their governors' social distancing measures "great people."
 - Trump said this despite the fact the states are following recommendations of federal health officials to institute the distancing guidelines.
- **United States President Donald Trump** has called the country's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's early work a "mess" -- but said things had improved.
 - "CDC had obsolete tests, old tests, broken tests and a mess," said Trump at a White House news briefing on Sunday.
 - He was responding to a question about failures in testing at the CDC.
- **President Donald Trump** admitted Sunday that he excluded Sen. Mitt Romney from the bipartisan congressional task force focused on reopening the country because he maintains a grudge against Romney who voted in favor of Trump's impeachment.
 - When asked at Sunday's coronavirus task force briefing if the decision to shut Romney out of the task force shows that he still holds a grudge against Romney, the only Republican senator left off the congressional task force, Trump said yes.
- Hospitals that want to move toward reopening for elective surgeries and other non-covid medical procedures still need to be able to handle potential surges from coronavirus infections, according to new guidelines announced Sunday by **Seema Verma, administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services**.
 - Verma said that since some hospitals said they have unused capacity, the new guidelines will be folded into phase one of reopening the US.
- **President Trump** announced Sunday that he will compel a US company to make swabs under the Defense Production Act.



COVID-19 4/20 UPDATE

- Two people familiar with the decision told CNN that company is Puritan Medical Products, which is based in Maine. It is known for making "flocked swabs," which it says are better at collecting specimens than other types.
 - **Trump** said the administration had experienced "difficulty" with the company, but did not elaborate further. Puritan did not immediately respond to CNN's request for comment.
- **Vice President Mike Pence** said Sunday that the White House task force overseeing the coronavirus pandemic believes several large metro areas continue to stabilize and see progress. He also said there are several cities the task force is watching.
 - "Areas that we continue to watch carefully on the task force include the Chicago metro area, Boston metro, and the Philadelphia metropolitan area," Pence said.
 - As for the areas that have made progress he listed several:
 - "The New York metro area, including New Jersey, New York, Long Island, Connecticut and Rhode Island all appear to be past their peak. The Detroit metro area also appears to be past its peak and is stable, New Orleans metro area actually is the most stable of all areas where we had a major metropolitan outbreak. The Denver metro area is stable," Pence said.
- **President Donald Trump** opened Sunday's coronavirus task force briefing by saying negotiations over adding hundreds of billions of dollars to the Paycheck Protection Program are continuing to make progress, and that a deal could be announced Monday. Trump said he thinks the sides are getting close to a deal.
 - "I would like to begin by saying we are continuing to negotiate with the Democrats to get our great workers and small businesses all over the country taken care of. I think we are getting close to a deal. It could happen. It could happen. A lot of good work has been going on and we could have an answer tomorrow and we are going to see what exactly does take place," Trump said.
 - The President also said there will additional aid in the package. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin told CNN's "State of the Union" earlier Sunday that \$75 billion will be included for hospitals.
- **Anthony Fauci**, the top infectious disease expert on the White House coronavirus task force, pushed back against protesters demonstrating against stay-at-home orders, saying the U.S. economy won't recover until the virus is "under control."
 - Fauci said his message to the protesters is that "this is something that is hurting from the standpoint of economics" but that re-opening too soon could cause even more harm. His comments on ABC's "Good Morning America" contrasted



COVID-19 4/20 UPDATE

- with remarks made by President Donald Trump, who has encouraged the protests.
- "Unless we get the virus under control, the real recovery economically is not going to happen," Fauci said. "So what you do if you jump the gun and go into a situation where you have a big spike, you're going to set yourself back."
 - Fauci acknowledged it can be "painful" to carefully follow federal guidelines recommending a phased re-opening, but failing to do so is "going to backfire."
 - Widespread testing and contact tracing likely won't be in place until September, and definitely won't be there in May, **Former FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb** says on NBC.
 - At the same time, he says it's likely that some places with low rates of infection will be able to open at the beginning of May
 - Gottlieb is among experts advising White House on reopening the economy
 - **Vice President Mike Pence** will discuss shortcomings in U.S. testing for coronavirus infections with governors today, Trump said yesterday. 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 yesterday.
 - 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 on their state laboratories and aren't turning to commercial and academic labs to expand testing. Governors of both parties have complained they can't begin the White House's three-phase plan to reopen the U.S. economy without far more widespread testing for the virus. Several governors criticized Trump earlier yesterday for trying to cast the shortfall in testing as a problem for states to resolve.
 - The **U.S.** will allow importers and manufacturers to defer payments on many imported goods for 90 days, a move aimed at freeing up cash for pandemic-hit businesses that's limited in scope to avoid stemming ongoing punitive measures that are a centerpiece of Trump's trade strategy. "This will protect American jobs and help these businesses get through this time," Mnuchin said in a statement. The deferral doesn't apply to anti-dumping or countervailing duties, or so-called Section 201, Section 232 or Section 301 duties. As such, it won't ease Trump's duties on China, steel and aluminum, or enforcement actions he took against Airbus



COVID-19 4/20 UPDATE

- **Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan and U.S. President Donald Trump** agreed to maintain cooperation against threat to economies from COVID-19 pandemic, the Turkish president's office said on Sunday.
 - Two leaders discussed regional and bilateral developments over the phone
- **U.S. President Donald Trump** spoke with **Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte** and "offered additional assistance to the Philippines as it continues to battle the COVID-19 pandemic," the White House says in a statement reading out the call.
 - "The two leaders also discussed how the United States and the Philippines can continue building upon the strong and enduring economic, cultural, and security ties binding the two nations"
- **Six Native American tribes** [sued the Trump administration on Friday](#) over plans to give for-profit Alaska Native corporations access to an \$8 billion coronavirus aid fund earmarked for tribal governments. The lawsuit [comes amid scrutiny](#) over the role of Assistant Interior Secretary for Indian Affairs Tara Sweeney in deciding how to distribute the aid to tribes.
- The **FAA** said in a letter to pilots' union ALPA that it was planning to release updated guidance along with the CDC for dealing with coronavirus concerns among pilots, the latest in an ongoing back-and-forth between the agency and the union. [Reuters first reported on the letter](#), which says that the FAA "will determine if additional actions are necessary or feasible to motivate compliance."
 - The response doesn't meet the demands of ALPA, which has been [calling for the guidance to be made mandatory](#) and alleging that airlines have not been following it in regards to cleaning, sanitization and crew notification.
- Delays on weapons programs to cost "billions and billions," **Ellen Lord**, undersecretary of defense acquisition and sustainment, says in press briefing, without explaining why.
 - Defense companies asked to "ensure that they are flowing down funds" from accelerated Pentagon "progress payments" to share with subcontractors. Says industry groups have been asked "to track that for us"
 - Lord says Defense Department sees impact of pandemic on aviation, shipbuilding and small space launches
- **White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow** says while President Trump has an "aspirational goal" to reopen the U.S. economy by May 1, he wants to do so only "provided it is safe."
 - "In the next couple of weeks" you'll see a lot of progress at the state level in terms of lower incidents and rates of infection, Kudlow says on Bloomberg Television



COVID-19 4/20 UPDATE

- The numbers are improving, let us hope the numbers continue to improve, Kudlow says
- Trump is simply telling governors not to be “onerous” with regulations: Kudlow
- Kudlow says talks on more stimulus money are progressing nicely, and that they’re very constructive, bipartisan
- **3M Co., Honeywell International Inc.** and a unit of **Owens & Minor Inc.** have received **Pentagon** contracts to make 39 million N95 face masks for medical workers under the **Defense Production Act**.
 - The military’s first use of the Defense Production Act in the coronavirus crisis was announced April 11 -- \$133 million in contracts for the masks. In a briefing Monday, Ellen Lord, the Pentagon’s top weapons buyer, identified the three companies and said they would be producing a total of 13 million masks a month for three months.
 - “This will help ensure our government has the industrial capacity to meet the nation’s needs,” Lord said. “The objective is to eliminate reliance on the foreign supply chain.”
 - Under the contracts 3M will receive \$76 million; Halyard, the Owens & Minor unit, will get \$29 million; and Honeywell will receive \$27.4 million.
- **The Labor Department** on Friday clarified major pieces of its guidance for the new Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program and said it would issue further follow-up instructions, following criticism the guidelines could leave out workers who should be eligible. [Democrats](#) and [labor groups](#) have pressed for more details regarding guidance documents issued by DOL meant to help states implement the program, which extends unemployment payments to gig workers and others who ordinarily would be ineligible for unemployment insurance.
 - Specifically, [Democrats requested that DOL clear up confusion](#) surrounding the eligibility of gig workers. In guidance issued by DOL earlier this month, that agency said [Uber and Lyft drivers "may not be eligible" for benefits if they claim they're "unable to reach" their place of employment](#), because app-based drivers don't have a place of employment. However, DOL Deputy Assistant Secretary Joe Wheeler affirmed in a letter to lawmakers Friday that independent contractors who experience a "significant diminution" of work are eligible for the aid.
- A group of **17 national trade associations** [have asked](#) **President Donald Trump** to delay plans to suspend duty-free treatment for certain products from Thailand beginning on Saturday. Those include goods that could help contain Covid-19, including specialized



COVID-19 4/20 UPDATE

laundry equipment used by hospitals, single-use footwear covers and components used to make medical equipment.

Capitol Hill

- **Democrats** and the **Trump administration** are near an agreement on a deal as large as \$500 billion to fund a tapped-out small business aid program and provide money for coronavirus testing and overwhelmed hospitals.
 - **Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin** and **Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.)** said yesterday the two sides were close to a deal, though various details remained to be worked out and the entire package still has to be translated into text for legislation.
- **Mnuchin** said on CNN's "State of the Union" he's hopeful the deal can be passed in the Senate today and the House tomorrow. That timetable appeared to be unrealistic.
- While the **Senate** has a pro forma session scheduled today, leaders of both parties first would have to ensure no senator would object to the agreement in order to pass it by unanimous consent. That typically would require circulating legislative text.
 - The Senate's next scheduled session is set for Thursday. Senate Republicans are reviewing the deal.
- **House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Md.)** notified lawmakers yesterday the chamber could meet as soon as **Wednesday** to consider the legislation. Because an objection to unanimous consent is likely, Hoyer said the House would probably have to convene for a recorded vote.
- **House Republicans** were told during a conference call yesterday to expect to vote on the package **Wednesday** in Washington, and the Senate likely will act before that.
- **Mnuchin** briefed **House Republicans** on the outline of the deal. Discussions are focused on adding an additional \$310 billion to the Paycheck Protection Program, or PPP, designed to help small businesses keep workers on their payrolls as much of the country remains under stay-at-home orders, according to two people familiar with the matter.
 - A separate Economic Injury Disaster Loan program, or EIDL, that provides financing and advances as grants of as much as \$10,000 for businesses, would get \$50 billion to \$60 billion more, the people said.
 - Both those measure have wide bipartisan support.
 - The deal will include \$75 billion of the \$100 billion Democrats demanded for hospitals, with a significant portion aimed at rural hospitals, and \$25 billion for virus testing



COVID-19 4/20 UPDATE

- If **Senate** can pass relief loans legislation today and **House** acts on Wednesday “we should have another \$300b in funds” for paycheck protection program this week, **Republican Sen. Marco Rubio** says in a [tweet](#).
 - “Let’s not waste the next 3 days,” he says
 - Rubio also says he will ask SBA “to allow lenders to begin processing loans ‘Subject To Funding’ to avoid overwhelming the system again
- **Democratic Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand** of New York and **Reps. Rosa DeLauro** of Connecticut and **Ayanna Pressley** of Massachusetts hosted a press call Friday in which they said [S. 3513](#), known as the PAID Leave Act, should be included in the fourth package. That bill would guarantee employees and independent contractors up to 14 emergency paid sick days and 12 weeks' emergency paid family and medical leave. "We believe that [the fourth package] will start in the House," Gillibrand said, "and we can actually put our full paid leave bill in that bill, along with two weeks of sick days for all workers."
- **Sens. Tammy Duckworth** (D-Ill.) and **Rob Portman** (R-Ohio) sent a [letter](#) to the **Federal Communication Commission Chairman Ajit Pai** to encourage telecommunications providers serving law enforcement facilities allowing free phone calls and video visitations during the coronavirus pandemic.
- The **Congressional Progressive Caucus** is holding a remote hearing on [Facebook Live](#) on Thursday focused on preventing layoffs during the coronavirus pandemic. It will be chaired by caucus co-chairs Reps. [Mark Pocan](#) (D-Wis.) and [Pramila Jayapal](#) (D-Wash.), will examine efforts to expand the workshare program, where employees work reduced hours while still being able to collect unemployment insurance. They will also discuss legislation on a national paycheck guarantee. Other participants in the virtual event include: Sharon Block, executive director of the Labor and Worklife Program at Harvard Law School; Amanda Ballantyne, director of The Main Street Alliance; Josh Bivens, director of research at the Economic Policy Institute; and Owen Herrstadt, chief of staff to the International President of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
- **Senate Energy ranking member Joe Manchin** (D-W.Va.) led [a Democratic letter](#) to Trump on Friday calling for the Mine Safety and Health Administration to implement emergency standards to protect coal miners who are working during the pandemic, which the Democrats argue "would ensure that the highest level of precautionary measures were in place at every mine."



COVID-19 4/20 UPDATE

- **Rep. [Andy Levin \(D-Mich.\)](#)** and more than 150 Democrats will send a [letter](#) for funding to enable the NLRB to hold union elections electronically in the next coronavirus stimulus bill.
 - The NLRB this month lifted a temporary halt on union elections, leaving it to regional administrators to decide whether they could be conducted via mail.

State/Local

- About 12,000 coronavirus testing kits distributed by the **Washington Department of Health** have been recalled because of possible contamination, according to a news release from the health department.
 - Friday, **University of Washington Medicine** notified the state health department that there may have been a quality control issue after a small number of vials of viral transport media (VTM) fluid appeared to have an unusual color, according to the release.
- **Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker** said that while the state has machines to complete coronavirus testing, it doesn't have all of the resources needed to analyze all tests on a larger scale.
 - Testing kits are available and machines are available, but there are key components needed to analyze all collected samples, Pritzker said.
- **New York Mayor Bill de Blasio** called on the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to work better with the New York Police Department on social distancing and monitoring the number of people that can be on each car.
 - His comments Sunday came after he was asked about some city council members urging the governor to shut down the subways to help stop the spread of the coronavirus.
 - The mayor also said he doesn't know another way people could get around if trains were shut down.

International

- **Chile** is set to become the first country to issue "immunity cards" to those who recover from the virus, allowing them to go back to work. But the [World Health Organization](#) says there's no evidence that antibody tests can determine immunity.
- After some controversy, [sex workers in Japan](#) are now eligible to apply for financial aid from the government, under certain conditions — a move some activists have hailed as a sign of progress for an industry that has long suffered social stigma.



COVID-19 4/20 UPDATE

- **The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan**, says there is increasing evidence that people from ethnic minority backgrounds in Britain are being "disproportionately affected" by Covid-19, saying it should act as a "wake up call" for fundamental change.
 - In an opinion piece published in the [Guardian](#) newspaper on Monday, Khan points to a study showing that a third of those critically ill in hospital from coronavirus are from black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities, even though people from those groups make up just 14 percent of the population as a whole.
- The southern **German state of Bavaria** is to make it compulsory to wear masks in all shops and on public transport, Prime Minister Markus Söder announced Monday.
 - Speaking in Bavaria's state parliament, Söder said it would introduce "oral and nose protection obligation" from next week, adding that "some people also call it a mask obligation."
 - Söder said mouth and nose protection would play a "very central role" in containing the further spread of the coronavirus.
 - Bavaria is the first state in western Germany to introduce such regulations, Söder said.
 - The eastern state of Saxony introduced mandatory mouth and nose protection last week. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, also in the former east, has also introduced mask regulations, which will apply from April 27 -- as in Bavaria.
- A handful of **Indian** states and union territories have begun to ease lockdown restrictions in line with guidelines issued by the country's Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA):
 - In a televised address on April 14, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** extended the nationwide lockdown till May 3, but announced a conditional relaxing of restrictions in parts of the country with low or zero levels of coronavirus cases.
- **Germany** started to ease its lockdown restrictions on Monday, allowing businesses and shops to reopen as the country takes small steps back to normalcy.
 - Shops up to 800 square meters in size can reopen, so long as they have hygiene and social distancing measures in place.
 - Bookshops, car dealerships and bike stores are also allowed to reopen regardless of their size. In some regions of Germany, zoos are reopening. The reopening of shops and businesses varies from state to state.
- **New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern** announced the country would stay under its toughest lockdown measures for five more days, before the restrictions are eased slightly next week.



COVID-19 4/20 UPDATE

- Some beaches are reopening in **Sydney** -- but beachgoers will still be restricted to exercising, and won't be allowed to sunbathe. Meanwhile, students are back at school today in the country's vast and sparsely populated **Northern Territory in Australia**.
- **India** has reintroduced a ban on the delivery of non-essential items by e-commerce companies -- reversing an earlier decision to lift the restriction.
 - In an order issued Sunday, the Ministry of Home Affairs said companies such as Amazon and Flipkart wouldn't be allowed to deliver non-essential items until May 3.
 - That reverses an earlier relaxation of lockdown restrictions introduced last week -- when the government said e-commerce companies could start delivering non-essential items.
- Over 140,000 **British firms** applied for government financial support on the first day the program was open, **UK Chancellor Rishi Sunak** said Monday.
 - The job retention "grants they will receive will help pay wages of more than a million people," Sunak said at the government's daily press briefing.

Other

- **Shake Shack** is returning a \$10 million loan it received from the US government under an emergency program that was [touted as a way to help small businesses](#) pay workers and keep their operations running during the coronavirus crisis.
 - The burger chain was awarded the loan as part of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). The \$349 billion stimulus package, overseen by the Small Business Administration (SBA), [ran out of funding last week](#).
 - Shake Shack CEO Randy Garutti and chairman Danny Meyer revealed their decision to give back the funding in an [open letter Monday](#), saying that the NYSE-listed company no longer needs the money because they are "fortunate to now have access to capital that others do not."
- **A trade group of some of the biggest mortgage lenders**, including **Wells Fargo & Co.** and **Quicken Loans Inc.**, says there is an "urgent need" for the U.S. government to provide liquidity for loan servicing companies in the wake of stimulus legislation that encourages companies to let borrowers postpone monthly payments.
 - Economic fallout from the coronavirus pandemic is reducing credit access for nonbank mortgage servicers and hurting new lending, the Housing Policy Council, led by former Federal Housing Finance Agency Director Ed DeMarco, says in a report released Monday,



COVID-19 4/20 UPDATE

- The Federal Reserve could help by setting up a mortgage facility to support liquidity for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac-backed mortgages, the group says
- Requests to postpone payments on recently completed mortgages or refinances are causing “significant market distress,” according to the report, because government insurance may be denied or Fannie and Freddie may not accept loans that are in forbearance
- **Wells Fargo & Co., Bank of America Corp., JPMorgan Chase & Co. and US Bancorp** were sued by small businesses that accused the lenders of prioritizing large loans distributed as part of the virus rescue package, shutting out the smallest firms that sought money.