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Global

Total cases – 2,531,804

Total deaths – 174,336

United States

Positive tests – 804,194 (5% increase from prior day)

% Positive tests – 20%

Total # tests – 4,035,860 (4% increase from prior day)

Total deaths – 43,200 (6% increase from prior day)

Government

A deal on the updated stimulus package is nearly final (see attached), and it is expected to be passed through the Senate at 4pm today. This is viewed as an interim package, setting up negotiations for a larger package early in May. The House is expected to vote on Thursday morning, and this is likely to be a recorded vote.

This package will include:

- \$310 billion for small business PPP loans
 - \$60 billion for small lenders
 - Split between lenders with less than \$10 billion in assets and those with between \$10 and \$50 billion in assets.
 - \$10 billion in admin costs
- \$75 billion for hospitals
- \$50 billion for EIDL program
- \$25 billion for testing and a national testing strategy
- \$10 billion for disaster grants + \$2.1 billion for admin costs

Administration

- **President Donald Trump** said he supports additional pandemic relief that would replenish a tapped-out small business aid program while providing money for coronavirus testing and overwhelmed hospitals.
 - “I urge the Senate and House to pass the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act with additional funding for PPP, Hospitals, and Testing,” Trump said in a tweet on Tuesday. “After I sign this Bill, we will begin discussions on the next Legislative Initiative with fiscal relief...”
 - Once the bill is signed discussions will begin on the “next Legislative Initiative with fiscal relief”: Trump



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- **Trump** said he'll sign an executive order temporarily suspending immigration into the U.S. as the country tries to contain the spread of the coronavirus. Trump made the announcement by tweet late last night, and did not offer specifics, such as the time frame or the scope of who would be affected. The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment. He tweeted that he made the decision, "in light of the attack from the Invisible Enemy, as well as the need to protect the jobs of our GREAT American Citizens."
- **Justice Dept's Office of Legal Counsel** has been given President Trump's executive order to halt legal immigration into the U.S. and is reviewing it for form and legality, according to a department official.
 - President Trump's plan to temporarily halt immigration in the U.S. will exempt foreign farm workers, Politico [reports](#), citing three industry sources familiar with the decision.
- **President Trump** said during Monday's White House press briefing that 50,000 to 60,000 people in the US are expected to die from coronavirus — far less than earlier [projections](#) made by the administration.
 - "Now we're going toward 50 — I'm hearing, or 60,000 people. One is too many. I always say it. One is too many, but we're going toward 50 or 60,000 people. That's at the lower — as you know the lower (end of the projections) was supposed to be 100,000 people," he said.
- **President Trump** said "we really don't need" the Defense Production Act to manufacture more supplies for coronavirus testing.
 - Trump was asked at Monday's White House briefing when the act will be invoked to compel a medical supplies company to make more testing swabs, and said, "We really don't need it...sometimes all they have to do is see it coming."
 - The President did not provide more clarity about when or whether the act would be invoked.
 - **Admiral Brett Giroir**, assistant secretary of health and the unofficial coronavirus task force testing czar, said there are two sides to the act — a "force" side and "a hand up" to companies.
- **Dr. Deborah Birx**, the White House coronavirus response coordinator, said that while governors have been asked to follow the federal guidelines around reopening state economies, each governor is able to "decide for themselves."
 - "We have asked every governor to follow the guidelines," Birx said, responding to a question from CNN's Kaitlan Collins about what she thought of South Carolina beginning to reopen without reaching federal guidelines.



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- Birx then added though that “each of the governors can decide for themselves whether they’ve reached specific guidelines.”
- **Treasury Dept** says social security recipients with children who do not file tax returns must submit information via the [IRS Non-Filers](#) tool in order to receive a \$500 per child payment.
 - “If the IRS does not receive this essential information by Wednesday, their payment will be \$1,200 and the \$500 per child will be paid to them with a return filing for tax year 2020,” Treasury Sec. Steven Mnuchin says in [release](#)
- The **federal government’s** temporary suspension of certain tariff payments is aimed at helping industries including retail that are facing liquidity issues due to the coronavirus crisis, **White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow** said. “In some cases the customs duties—the excise tax you pay on the import—will be lifted if there are hardship cases,” he said in an interview with Bloomberg TV. “In particular, there’s a lot of concern about retailers and related supply chains getting into the United States.”
 - The three-month deferral of payments, which was first debated inside the White House a month ago, only covers “most-favored” nation tariffs and doesn’t apply to any of Trump’s enforcement actions, like tariffs he’s imposed on roughly \$360 billion in Chinese goods or steel and aluminum imports from around the globe. Kudlow had previously said that a deferral for certain duty payments was ruled out because it was too difficult to administer
- **President Donald Trump** said he wants to add as much as 75 million barrels of oil to the nation’s Strategic Petroleum Reserve, taking advantage of record low prices for crude, and that he’ll consider blocking imports of crude from Saudi Arabia.
 - President Trump says the U.S. is trying to take away the liability from companies related to reopening during coronavirus.
- **President Trump** is instructing the Energy Secretary and Treasury Secretary to formulate a plan to make funds available for oil and gas companies, he says in [tweet](#).
 - U.S. will make funds available “so that these very important companies and jobs will be secured long into the future!,” says Trump
- The **White House** ordered federal agencies today to begin preparing to return workers to offices, telling them to align their re-opening plans with those of states and localities where they are based. “Agencies are encouraged to allow federal employees and contractors to return to the office in low-risk areas,” the memo from the Office of Management and Budget said. But the government was directed to continue to allow employees to work from home until state and local authorities begin reopening



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economies. Trump admin. issues guidelines to the heads of executive agencies on preparing to “ramp back up” govt operations to the maximum extent possible.

- Read guidance from [here](#)
- The **Treasury Department** disbursed \$2.9 billion to passenger airlines in the first round of payroll assistance to an industry suffering financially from a pandemic-induced shutdown. The assistance that’s been handed out so far went to two “major” airlines and 54 smaller passenger carriers, the department said in a statement late yesterday. More payments will be sent out on a rolling basis, it said.
 - The **Treasury Department** didn’t say which carriers received the money yet. However, it said American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Southwest Airlines and United Airlines, have struck agreements for aid.
- **White House** and **Trump administration** officials plan to suspend or repeal federal regulations affecting small businesses and expand a program that mandates agencies to annul two regulations for every additional one they issue, [Washington Post reports](#), citing two unidentified people familiar
- The **Trump administration** declared yesterday the U.S. has enough laboratory testing capacity for states to begin reopening economies shuttered to fight the coronavirus outbreak, though governors say they still lack supplies such as swabs needed to diagnose sick people. Trump and U.S. governors have sparred for days over who is responsible for expanding testing for coronavirus infections, which public health experts say isn’t sufficient to begin relaxing the social-distancing practices adopted to curb the outbreak.
 - **Pence** also said the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will dispatch teams of 10-12 people to each state to help with “contact tracing” -- identifying people who have had contact with the infected and testing them for infection as well
- A substantial number of businesses may be barred from the \$2.3 trillion business-loan program created by Congress and operated by Treasury and the Federal Reserve. The latest economic relief law authorizes the Fed to extend low interest loans to a variety of businesses. But because of a wrinkle in the law, some businesses organized **as S corporations** may be excluded from accessing that assistance, highlighting the political tightrope the Trump administration and Congress have to walk in making aid accessible to large employers while ensuring those funds aren’t abused.
- The **Trump administration** is touting its blueprint to resume nonessential medical procedures and elective surgeries in regions where the coronavirus threat has subsided. The new guidelines issued yesterday by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



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allows communities that are in “Phase 1” of the Trump administration’s blueprint for re-opening the economy.

- The ban on elective procedures has hurt revenue and caused financial hardship at hospitals that are struggling to handle the outbreak. It’s also reduced patient volume at physician practices and ambulatory surgery centers, causing some to shut down or lay off staff. Many areas of the country are seeing fewer Covid-19 cases and low incidence of the disease, CMS Administrator Seema Verma said today in a telephone briefing with reporters. “So we’re providing a roadmap for providers to offer some forms of non-coronavirus related care to asymptomatic patients.”
- **President Trump’s trade adviser Peter Navarro** says the Defense Dept is finalizing negotiations under the Defense Production Act so that Maine-based Puritan Medical Products can make more nasal swabs.
 - Puritan would increase its production goal to 20 million swabs a month from 3 million, within 30 days of the contract award, Navarro says in statement
- **JPMorgan** is working with the **Treasury Dept** to adjust distribution qualifications in the next virus aid package, Fox Business [reports](#), citing sources inside JPMorgan.
 - The bank is working with Treasury to “end loopholes allowing major restaurant chains, hedge funds and profitable” businesses to get assistance ahead of “real businesses”: Fox
- Hundreds of **Iowa National Guard** personnel have been moved to federal full-time duty to help Iowa combat Covid-19 outbreaks at processing facilities operated by Tyson Foods and National Beef Packing, Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds [told](#) reporters.
 - Plants aren’t operating at full capacity due to worker absenteeism because of sickness and in-plant mitigation efforts that have slowed production, Reynolds (R) said
 - “At some point we’re going to have to be talking about euthanizing hogs, and we’re not that far from it. And that would be devastating, not only for the food supply but for the cost of food going forward”
 - State and federal government must support “this critical infrastructure and this critical workforce,” Reynolds said of the processing plants
- About **250 National Guard soldiers** and air men have been activated to federal duty
 - The federal government will reimburse the state for the cost of deploying as many as 1,000 National Guard personnel



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- They'll help populate "strike teams" that support testing for the virus and contact tracing of infected individuals, as well as transport supplies and tests to locations throughout the state
- **Dr. Anthony Fauci**, the nation's top infectious disease expert, urged caution about using coronavirus antibody tests.
 - Health officials have pointed to [antibody tests](#) as a way to help determine reopening communities since such tests can help identify who has been infected with the virus and subsequently developed antibodies that could help protect them from future infection.
 - But Fauci said during an appearance on "Good Morning America" today that more research is needed to determine whether someone who has recovered from Covid-19 really is protected against future infection, adding that "we still have a way to go" with antibody tests.
 - "The problem is that these are tests that need to be validated and calibrated, and many of the tests out there don't do that. So even though you hear about companies flooding the market with these antibody tests, a lot of them are not validated," Fauci told ABC's George Stephanopoulos.
- **Special adviser to the president Kevin Hassett** discussed the impact coronavirus has had on the economy this morning on Fox Business.
 - He was asked if he was expecting a recession this year. Hassett said it will depend on how each economic quarter responds.
 - "I think that it's quite likely that the second quarter is going to be one of the biggest negative numbers we've ever seen because we've basically stopped the economy. I think the question is what happens to the quarters around that," Hassett said.
- Several members of the **White House Coronavirus task force** talked to the nation's governors on the phone today about testing, the supply chain and contact tracing, according to a source familiar with the call.
 - The administration wants to get the states the resources they need to ramp up testing, the source said. The administration said "it's a partnership," the source said.
 - At the same time, White House aides are trying to figure out how to fix problems with the testing supply chain in order to get the needed elements to the states, a separate source familiar tells CNN.
 - They are also considering how to accelerate the production of testing supplies like they did with ventilators, the source said.



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- **Dr. Anthony Fauci**, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said there will be no real economic recovery if the US doesn't get coronavirus "under control."
 - Appearing on "Good Morning America," Fauci was asked about the [protests that have erupted across the country](#) over shelter-in-place orders.
- The **Department of Homeland Security** will extend travel restrictions with US, Mexico, and Canada an additional 30 days.
 - Acting Secretary Chad Wolf announced the extension today, saying the decision was made in "close collaboration" between leaders in the US, Mexico, and Canada.
 - "As President Trump stated last week, border control, travel restrictions and other limitations remain critical to slowing the spread and allowing the phased opening of the country," he said.
- More than 40 states are now paying additional \$600 a week in enhanced unemployment benefits on top of usual payments, **Labor Sec. Eugene Scalia** tells [Dow Jones](#).
- **U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM)** is working with the tech companies, including Apple and Microsoft, to help with the coronavirus response, according to a [press release](#). Apple, for example, worked with military planners and healthcare providers designing apps and systems for government-issued smart phones and tablets to help personnel organize complex operations.
 - "We are using new technologies and data-oriented approaches to communicate with our forces, track in real time the medical situation across the country, maintain an enhanced logistics picture, monitor the health of the force, and make rapid operational and strategic decisions on mission assurance," said Maj. Gen. Angela Cadwell, director of the USNORTHCOM Cyberspace Operations Directorate. "We are leveraging technology like never before to support FEMA, HHS and our state and local partners."
- The **US Food and Drug Administration** has issued an emergency use authorization for a new coronavirus diagnostic test that allows for patients to collect their own samples at home and then mail those samples to a lab for testing, the administration announced today.
 - The emergency use authorization was reissued to LabCorp, which intends to make its Pixel by LabCorp Covid-19 test home collection kits available to consumers in most states, with a doctor's order, in the coming weeks, according to the FDA.



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- **USDA** approved **Arizona** and **Illinois** to operate the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer program, which helps feed children who qualify for free or reduced-price school meals when their schools are closed because of the pandemic. Massachusetts, Michigan, North Carolina and Rhode Island have already been approved
- Following **EPA's** move to relax [enforcement of some pollution rules](#) last month, the agency signaled it is also easing requirements for companies that cannot meet the emissions monitoring and reporting deadlines for several key air pollution programs during the pandemic. That's from an [interim final rule signed on Friday](#) that applies to plants subject to EPA trading programs for pollutants like nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide but which might miss monitoring, testing or reporting deadlines because of the virus,
- **President Trump** and **U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson** spoke Tuesday and discussed their shared commitment to reaching a free trade deal between the two nations, White House says in readout of the conversation.
 - The leaders also discussed the pandemic and reaffirmed their cooperation, through G7 and G20, to “reopen global economies and ensure medical care and supplies reach all those in need”: White House
- A lending program for businesses and other coronavirus stimulus aid are being examined as a means of helping the U.S. oil industry, **Energy Secretary Dan Brouillette** said Tuesday.
 - Brouillette, speaking on Bloomberg Television, said he is working with Treasury Secretary Mnuchin to ensure oil and gas industry can access stimulus programs such as the Main Street lending program and the Federal Reserve facility
 - “We are taking very aggressive but appropriate steps to help the industry and the economy,” Brouillette said
- On April 18, 2020, **President Donald J. Trump** signed an Executive Order authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to provide relief to certain U.S. businesses, including critical supply chains for U.S. manufacturers, during the COVID-19 pandemic. ([HERE](#))
- The **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)** today announced it is awarding \$1.5 million in [Partnership and Special Enforcement Effort funds to HUD Fair Housing Assistance Program \(FHAP\) agencies to support COVID-19 education activities](#). The funds are being provided through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) of 2020, which President Trump signed into law to provide federal agencies with the resources needed to combat COVID-19. ([HERE](#))
- **FEMA** and **HHS** are collecting and sharing best practices and lessons learned from the whole-of-America response to the coronavirus pandemic. The best practices are



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intended to help medical practitioners, emergency managers and other critical stakeholders learn from each other's approaches and apply solutions to current response and recovery operations. ([HERE](#))

- **HHS** is announcing an ongoing partnership with Oracle, including Oracle's donation to HHS of the Therapeutic Learning System, an online platform designed to collect real-time medical data related to COVID-19. ([HERE](#))
- The **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration** has expedited its process to today release emergency grants to strengthen access to treatments for substance use disorders and serious mental illnesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. ([HERE](#))
- To ensure continuity of operations of essential functions, **CDC** advises that critical infrastructure workers may be permitted to continue work following potential exposure to COVID-19, provided they remain asymptomatic and additional precautions are implemented to protect them and the community. ([HERE](#))
- **Secretary Perdue** today announced **Arizona** and **Illinois** 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](#))
- The **Department of Justice** announced today that it will not challenge collaborative efforts of AmerisourceBergen Corporation (AmerisourceBergen) to identify global supply opportunities, ensure product quality, and facilitate product distribution of medications and other healthcare supplies to treat COVID-19 patients. ([HERE](#))
- Effective today, **Secretary Esper** approved an extension to the stop move order through June 30 to aid in the further prevention of the spread of COVID-19. ([HERE](#))

Capitol Hill

- **House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer** tells House members that if Senate passes small business aid package Tuesday, "the House could meet as early as Thursday" to consider it.
 - Hoyer says it will likely be a recorded vote as they do not expect House Republicans to allow a voice vote
 - Hoyer also says House is expected to vote on a rule change relating to proxy voting.
- **Senate Majority Leader McConnell** released a statement saying:
 - "I welcome this bipartisan agreement and hope the Senate will quickly pass it once members have reviewed the final text,"



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- “This bipartisan agreement will provide more than \$320 billion in additional funding for the Paycheck Protection Program,” and includes a “special focus on community banks and credit unions”
- **Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer** said Tuesday congressional leaders and the Trump administration reached a tentative deal on an emergency economic rescue package that will replenish a tapped-out small business aid program and provide money for coronavirus testing and overwhelmed hospitals.
 - “We do have a deal, and I believe we will pass it this afternoon at 4 p.m.,” Schumer told CNN. “They are still dotting the i’s and crossing the t’s but every major issue was resolved.”
 - Unanimous consent would be required for the **Senate** to pass the bill during a pro forma session allowing most members to avoid traveling to Washington.
- The package will include:
 - \$310 billion for small business PPP loans
 - \$60 billion for small lenders
 - Split between lenders with less than \$10 billion in assets and those with between \$10 and \$50 billion in assets.
 - \$10 billion in admin costs
 - \$75 billion for hospitals
 - \$50 billion for EIDL program
 - \$25 billion for testing and a “national testing strategy”
 - \$10 billion for Disaster Grants + \$2.1 billion for administrative costs
- **Sens. John Barrasso** (R-Wyo.) and **Tina Smith** (D-Minn.) want to add to the next coronavirus legislation, which could clear Congress this week, language to clarify that small, county-and locally owned hospitals can apply for loans through the Business Administration Paycheck Protection Program, which has provided hundreds of billions of dollars of federally guaranteed loans to employers in recent weeks.
 - The move would provide crucial aid to health-care facilities running out of money as they can’t operate normally out of concern for spreading the coronavirus to their patients, Smith said.
- **Sen. Ron Wyden**, the top Democrat on the Senate Finance Cmte, sent a letter to the Treasury Dept to ask for information on how the decision was made to put President Trump’s signature on the \$1,200 payments being mailed to millions of Americans.
 - “I request details about how you made this decision to benefit the president politically, which may delay delivery of critical funds to millions of Americans



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struggling to pay the rent and put food on the table,” the Oregon Democrat Wyden said in a letter to Treasury Sec. Steven Mnuchin Tuesday

- The **House** will vote this week on a rule change to let members cast future votes by proxy for colleagues who don't travel to Washington because of coronavirus-related concerns. **Hoyer** said in a statement to representatives released last night the chamber was “expected to vote on a rule change related to remote voting by proxy.”
- **Sens. Martha McSally** (R-Ariz.) and **Marsha Blackburn** (R-Tenn.) unveiled a bill today that would allow Americans to sue China in U.S. courts for compensation over the spread of the coronavirus. The measure would “ensure the Chinese Communist Party faces consequences for its role” in the pandemic, the two senators [wrote in a statement](#). **Rep. Lance Gooden** (R-Texas) is leading a companion bill from the House side. China has been slammed by the U.S. and other countries for downplaying the severity of the coronavirus outbreak in its country before the disease rapidly spread to the rest of the world. [Read the bill here](#).
 - **Sen. Josh Hawley** (R-Mo.) last week [introduced](#) similar legislation that would make Beijing liable for civil claims in U.S. courts for withholding information on the outbreak. Hawley said in a statement that his bill would “empower Americans and other victims” to recover damages
- **GOP Rep. Doug Collins** calls on the Agriculture Dept to reconsider allowing the import of citrus from China.
 - “The Chinese government cannot be trusted to act in the best interest of public health,” Collins says in [letter](#) to Agriculture Undersecretary Greg Ibach, citing concerns about the country's handling of the coronavirus pandemic
- **Democratic senators** urge Vice President [Mike Pence](#) and the Trump admin. to work to ensure the safety of the nation's food supply and to protect essential workers in the food supply chain.
 - “Breakdowns in the food supply chain could have significant economic impacts for both consumers and agricultural producers,” group, which comprises 36 senators led by [Debbie Stabenow](#), say in [letter](#)
 - Lawmakers cite reports of essential workers in meatpacking plants, processing facilities, farms and grocery stores falling ill from Covid-19 and workers feeling pressured to go to work when feeling
- **House Speaker Nancy Pelosi** told Democrats on a conference call today that the House may try to hold cmtte meetings next week, according to a lawmaker who was on the call.
- It's uncertain which cmttes may meet next week but the appropriations panel is likely to be one of them: lawmaker



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- Members have yet to be given specific guidance as to how Congress will fulfill its core duties,” House Republican Leader [Kevin McCarthy](#) says in [letter](#) to Speaker Nancy Pelosi.
 - McCarthy asks for details about how committees will conduct business and a rule change to allow voting by proxy
- **Senate Democrats** are urging the Trump admin. to develop a plan that would expand contact tracing as part of the effort toward reopening the economy.
 - “We must radically expand testing and our public health system must be prepared to dramatically scale up contact tracing efforts,” 11 lawmakers write in [letter](#) to Vice President [Mike Pence](#), HHS Sec. Alex Azar and CDC Director Robert Redfield
 - Lawmakers ask HHS Dept to explain its strategy to support states and localities in recruiting and training a sufficient number of qualified contact tracers and to respond to their request by April 30
- **House Homeland Security Chairman [Bennie Thompson](#)** (D-Miss.) will host a conversation at 2 p.m. today with former Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson on the coronavirus and homeland security. The YouTube [livestream](#) will be moderated by CNN political analyst April Ryan.
- **A bipartisan group of House members** is asking the Chinese government to work with the State Department and other U.S. agencies to find a more targeted approach for its new quality assurance requirements that are delaying exports of badly needed medical supplies.
 - "We are aware of several reputable American firms, including developers of COVID-19 tests, that have been forced to halt shipments of critical medical products from China to the United States because of this new notification," reads a [letter](#) sent to Chinese Ambassador Cui Tiankai on Monday. A dozen senators from both sides made [a similar appeal](#) to Cui on Friday.
 - The lawmakers want China to exempt from the requirements any products that can already be lawfully distributed in the United States, automatically give those products the necessary certifications and expedite the review process for those products.
- **Sens. Tom Carper** (D-Del.) and **Pat Toomey** (R-Pa.) are urging U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer to suspend the Section 301 tariffs on Chinese products identified as necessary inputs for the production of medical supplies and equipment.
 - In a letter to Lighthizer, the bipartisan pair of senators said companies should be able to access all necessary materials to manufacture critical medical supplies,



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particularly with the shortage of health care equipment during the Covid-19 pandemic.

- **House Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer** (MD) [sent the following letter](#) to the Chairs of the Committee on House Administration and the Committee on Rules, Rep. Lofgren and Rep. McGovern, respectively, urging them to consider a set of recommendations to enable remote voting and committee work, and that also prepare Congress to work remotely even when back in Washington to comply with social distancing guidelines.
 - “As you know, I have already indicated my clear preference for voting by the use of video-conferencing technology that millions of Americans now use to conduct business,” Leader Hoyer wrote. “These systems allow one to see and identify the person who is speaking and hear what is being said with little doubt about the identity of the participant. Used for the purposes of Floor and committee business, there would be little doubt who voted aye or nay. As, invariably, such action is performed in public and is public record, the issue of security appears to be minimal. While any distance-voting is less optimal than in-person voting or debating in committee or on the Floor of the House, the sound and image of the Member doing so virtually is far superior to the utilization of proxies.”
- **Senate Democrats** are warning about the lack of protective gear for farm laborers, grocery store workers and other essential employees in the food supply chain. They're calling for "aggressive action" by the Trump administration to address the shortfalls, especially as meatpacking plants and other food and ag facilities become hotspots for infection.
- **Nine Democratic senators** urged Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell to consider the long-term risks of purchasing corporate debt from oil and gas companies through new emergency programs created as part of the coronavirus economic stimulus
- **Democratic Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Sherrod Brown** announce proposals to provide relief to consumers amid the coronavirus pandemic.
 - Lawmakers proposals include allowing consumers to put a pause on all debt payments and ensuring they “don’t take an unfair hit” to their credit during the pandemic, Warren and Brown say in statement
 - Congress also needs to use its oversight tools to hold the CFPB accountable, Warren and Brown say
- **House Democrats** are taking another shot at forcing the Labor Department to require companies to take specific steps to protect workers still on the job during the coronavirus pandemic.



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- “Over the past few months, we have seen the tragic consequences of the Department of Labor’s failure to take urgent action to protect frontline health care workers and other essential employees,” House Education and Labor Committee Chairman Bobby Scott (D-Va.) said Tuesday, in a statement announcing the bill.
- The [legislation](#) (H.R. 6559) would require the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to issue an Emergency Temporary Standard within seven days of the bill’s enactment. That standard—the details of which would be left to OSHA to develop—would force hospitals, grocery stores, warehouses, and other businesses to take various actions designed to protect workers.

State/Local

- **Alabama's** stay-at-home order will remain in effect until April 30, Gov. Kay Ivey said at a news conference today.
 - Last week Ivey announced the creation of a coronavirus task force that would begin listening to all recommendations and will put together a timeline for reopening based on facts and data.
- The chief judge presiding over federal courts in the **Southern District of New York** has suspended all jury trials until further notice of the court “because of constantly changing circumstances” of the coronavirus pandemic.
 - The indefinite postponement followed a decision Judge Colleen McMahon made late last month when she postponed all jury trials until June 1.
- All public and private schools in **Massachusetts** will remain closed through the end of the academic year, Gov. Charlie Baker said at a news conference.
 - It was a "big decision," he said today, adding that it is "the right thing to do considering the facts on the ground associated with the Covid-19 pandemic."
- **New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo** said some elective medical treatments will be allowed to resume in some parts of the state.
 - The Florida governor’s task force team focused on reopening the state is discussing how to reopen the tourism industry this morning. Gov. Ron DeSantis called into the conference call to tell task force members to focus on minimizing risk.
 - These procedures will only be allowed to resume in areas "without a Covid issue," Cuomo said, adding that New York City, Westchester County and other hard-hit areas will continue to cancel elective procedures.



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- **NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio** says President Trump is projecting “false optimism” when talking about reopening the U.S. economy.
 - Coronavirus is the kind of enemy you should never “take for granted” and U.S. only has one chance to restart the economy, and has to do it in the right way, de Blasio tells CNN
 - Says Trump should focus on testing and stimulus, adding that NYC needs funding after it lost about \$7b of revenue due to the virus
 - “You have people in Washington acting like it’s all over,” the mayor said. “It’s not over.”
- **Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Gimenez** has not made an announcement on how and when the county will reopen; but he made one thing clear during a virtual town hall Monday: opening beaches is not in the works.
 - Gimenez announced that his decision to reopen the county will be guided by the advice of medical experts. When the time comes, it will require social distancing, face coverings and groups of more than 10 people will not be allowed to convene.
 - During the virtual town hall, the mayor heard recommendations from members of his work group teams on reopening parks, waterways, golf courses and beaches.
 - They recommended that beaches in Miami-Dade not reopen at this time. If and when beaches reopen, the mayor’s team recommended that all beaches in Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach and Monroe counties coordinate reopening at the same time. Reopening should start during a weekday to ease into the weekend, per the recommendations.
- **Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb** has extended the state’s stay-at-home order through May 1 to contain the spread of Covid-19.
 - However, some businesses, such as nurseries, garden centers, and pet grooming, will be allowed to reopen.
- **Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms** told CNN that she is exploring legal options for the city after Gov. Brian Kemp authorized the reopening of business across the state.
- **California** will send approximately 70,000 laptops and tablets to students in the next week in an effort to close the technology gap that is creating an obstacle in distance learning.
 - Gov. Gavin Newsom detailed the tech boost, which provides Apple iPads, Google Chromebooks, along with Microsoft Surface Pros and Lenovo devices, to students. He said the need is quadruple what’s currently being done.



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- Seven buses will also be converted into mobile hotspots as part of a pilot program, Newsom said. If successful, the buses will be rolled out statewide.
- **West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice** has issued an executive order that will allow hospitals to begin providing general and elective surgeries.
 - Hospitals can submit plans to expand general care starting on April 27, in what the governor said is part of early steps to reopen the economy.
 - On nursing homes: During his briefing Monday, Justice also said he's directed the National Guard to test all 28,000 nursing home residents by the end of the week. At least 22,000 nursing home residents have already been tested.
- **Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine** spoke today about plans for businesses to reopen in the state saying, "if we expect anybody to go there, there's got to be some sense of safety."
 - According to DeWine, Ohio is working with their business advisory group and different industries and retail establishments to make sure that when the order to reopen takes place, an assurance can be made to people that businesses have been made as safe as possible.
- **Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine** announced today that for the remainder of this school year, K-12 students will continue learning remotely.
- **New York City** has canceled all non-essential permitted events in June, Mayor Bill de Blasio announced in a press conference this morning. This includes:
 - Parades
 - Concerts
 - Rallies
 - Large gatherings
- **Florida representatives** are calling on Gov. Ron DeSantis to expand testing for Covid-19 cases before reopening the economy.
 - During a press call, state Rep. Donna Shalala said paying attention to the public health experts and a strong testing regime is Florida's first line of defense against coronavirus. Those steps are vital to getting the economy up and running again.
 - "Gov. DeSantis can not be weak. He has to be a leader, and that means he has to lay out very strong procedures and you can not open up the beaches. Opening up the beaches is the most dangerous thing you can do." Shalala said.
- **New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo** said the state is setting up a program with New York City Housing Authority to provide onsite health service and testing in the city's public housing.
 - "High concentration of people in one place, many people in the small lobby, many people in an elevator, many people in the hallways. Higher number of



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- people in the apartment, just a higher occupancy, That's where the virus spreads," Cuomo said.
- Cuomo also said the state is working to distribute 500,000 masks and 10,000 gallons of hand sanitizer to New York City's public housing communities. That's one mask for every public housing resident, according to Cuomo.
 - **New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo** proposed hazard pay for frontline workers to be included in the federal stimulus plan for businesses.
 - He also pointed to the fact that 41% of frontline workers are people of color.
 - He added that the infection rate among African-Americans and brown people is higher because they're a large part of the essential workforce.
 - **Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp** announced today the incremental reopening of certain business this week. Here are some businesses that can reopen as early as Friday:
 - Gyms and fitness centers
 - Bowling alleys
 - Body art studios
 - Barbers and hair and nail salons
 - Estheticians
 - Theaters and restaurants can open on April 27. Bars, night clubs and music venues will remain closed for now.
 - No local ordinance can restrict the openings, which will be implemented statewide. All businesses that reopen must follow social distancing guidelines and screen employees for illness, the governor said.
 - **South Carolina Gov. McMaster** said he wants to “slingshot back around the competition” to get back to business so he's allowing some stores to reopen today.
 - Retail, department and sporting goods stores, as well as flea markets, will be allowed to open at 5 p.m. today at 20% capacity, or five people per 1,000 square feet.
 - Speaking at a news conference, he said he'd like to “stomp on the gas” and accelerate as fast and as safely as they can. McMaster announced a group called “Accelerate SC” with 29 participants across various industries.
 - Beaches will be reopened beginning at noon Tuesday.
 - **Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer** announced she will be taking a 10% pay cut to her salary during the Covid-19 pandemic.
 - Speaking at a news conference, she said she asked her senior executive staff to also take a 5% cut.



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- **Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker** told reporters that as he considers changes to the statewide stay-at-home order scheduled to expire at the end of the month, he could consider different guidelines for reopening certain parts of the state.
 - “There's a lot of distance, as you can imagine, between people's homes in rural areas of Illinois. And so the idea of people going outside and wearing a mask on a property of theirs that might be 100 acres, or 10 acres, is much different than the prospect of somebody you know on the north side or the west side of Chicago,” he said.
 - But Pritzker said the decision on how and when to open what is not simple.
- **Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis** has admitted publicly, several times, that the unemployment system in his state has been “overwhelmed” by the coronavirus pandemic.
 - Today, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) published a [report](#) showing only 6.2% of the more than 649,000 people who have submitted unemployment claims have been paid.
 - According to the Florida DEO, the 6.2% equates to 40,193 people, who have been paid nearly \$60 million dollars in claims.
- **North Carolina** has not yet meet the threshold to begin reopening the state, Gov. Roy Cooper said at a news conference.
 - Cooper said a task force will lay out guidelines this week on the state’s goals to reopen. The state, he said, has not seen a 14-day decline in cases, as recommended in the White House’s guidance for reopening

International

- **Chile** will begin issuing digital immunity cards this week to people who have recovered from coronavirus, according to an announcement from health officials on Monday.
 - The so-called “Covid cards” will be issued to people who tested positive for the virus and have shown signs of recovery after a 14-day quarantine.
 - The program, which had been announced by the Chilean Health Minister last week, was scheduled to launch Monday but has now been postponed for the next “coming days,” according to the country’s Public Health Undersecretary Paula Daza.
- **France** is asking Apple to remove a technical obstacle that it says is delaying a government contact-tracing application designed to contain the coronavirus spread.
 - Apple’s operating system prevents contact-tracing apps using its Bluetooth technology from running constantly in the background if that data is going to be moved off of the device, a limit designed to protect users’ privacy. That

limitation is standing in the way of the type of app that France wants to build, Digital Minister Cedric O said.

- The government aims to deploy its app by May 11, which is when France wants to begin to lift restrictions on movement that were imposed in mid-March. Contact-tracing apps are a tool health services can use to more accurately determine who infected people have come into contact with and governments can deploy to help make decisions about how quickly to reopen schools and businesses
- The **San Fermin fiesta, Spain's** iconic running of the bulls festival in Pamplona every July, has been canceled this year as a result of the pandemic, the city's acting mayor Ana Elizalde announced.
 - This will be only the fifth time in the history of the festival that the celebrations have been canceled.
- After six weeks in lockdown, children under 14 in **Spain** will be allowed to accompany one adult on trips to places like supermarkets, pharmacies and banks starting Monday, according to a new decree announced by the Spanish government today.
 - "The government is aware that this is only a partial relief from this confinement, but we would like to stress that our priority is to avoid a hypothetical regression in the fight against the virus," said Spanish government spokesperson and finance minister María Jesús Montero.
- **Vietnam** will restart domestic flights on Thursday as the country sets to ease restrictions, according to the country's Civil Aviation Authority.
- **Ghana** has partially lifted a three-week lockdown in two cities, citing improved coronavirus testing and the "severe" impact of the restrictions on the poor and vulnerable in the West African nation.
- **Singapore** will extend what the government is calling "circuit-breaker" coronavirus restrictions until June 1, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong announced on Tuesday, as cases in Singapore continue to climb.
 - In a televised speech, Lee said Singapore will "extend the circuit breaker for four more weeks beyond the fourth of May until June 1 and provided we have brought community numbers down, we can make further adjustments and consider easing some measures."
 - Lee also announced new tighter measures -- a package of restrictions and new rules, combined with harsh punishments, designed to stop the new wave of cases -- saying more workplaces will be closed "so that only the most essential services will remain open."

- Under the new tightened measures, social gatherings will still be banned and schools will stay closed, whilst more non-essential services will be closed to prevent community spread of the virus. Minister Lawrence Wong, the Co-Chair of the Multi-Ministry Task Force, warned that the tightened measures may result in a "degradation of services" but hoped that "everyone understands why we need to make this important move."
- **Germany's** iconic Oktoberfest event -- the world's largest beer festival -- will be canceled this year due to the pandemic, Bavarian Minister-President Markus Soeder said.
- **Hong Kong** is extending social distancing measures and closures for another 14 days, with city leaders warning that it's too soon to relax the rules.
 - The city reported no new cases yesterday, a promising sign that its outbreak may be slowing after a second wave saw cases spike in March. But Chief Executive Carrie Lam warned at a briefing that Hong Kong couldn't let its guard down and risk having containment measures be in vain.
- In **Colombia**, the nationwide lockdown will be extended through May 10, though essential services and businesses will remain open.
- The leaders of the **World Health Organization** and **World Trade Organization** [made a joint appeal](#) on Monday calling on countries to ensure the normal cross-border flow of vital medical supplies during the coronavirus crisis.
 - "Governments need to avoid measures that can disrupt supply chains and negatively impact the poorest and most vulnerable, notably in developing and least developed countries that are typically reliant on imports of medicines and medical equipment," the statement said.
- The **Netherlands** will extend its lockdown for most businesses until May 20 and ban large events until September 1, Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said during a news conference on Tuesday.
 - "As much as I understand that impatience is creeping in, we know that a rapid easing could lead to the virus immediately getting the chance to peak again," Rutte said.
 - The uncertainty is still "too large" for businesses that require close contact, like barbers and nail salons, he said.
 - Primary students will begin attending school in a staggered fashion starting May 11.

Other



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- The \$310 billion in new funding for the **Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program** is only projected to last few days as businesses rush in for funds, according to a banking industry source.
 - “Two-10 days, but our guess is on the lower end of that timeline,” the source said.
- **Air Canada** will suspend flights to the United States until May 22.
 - According to a [statement](#) on Tuesday, Air Canada made the decision “as a result of the agreement between the governments of Canada and the United States to extend border restrictions by an additional 30 days.”
- **Facebook** will remove some posts on protests being organized in California, New Jersey and Nebraska against stay-at-home orders meant to slow the spread of the coronavirus, after consulting with officials in those states, a company spokesperson told CNN Monday.
- **Facebook COO** Sheryl Sandberg tells CNN’s Poppy Harlow that her staff, including contractors, will get paid regardless of whether they are able to work or not during the coronavirus pandemic.
 - “We have a responsibility to slow the spread and our jobs can be done at home,” she said.
 - Sandberg added that all Facebook offices will be closed until “at least the end of May and possibly longer.”
- An **industry group representing more than 380,000 restaurants** sent a letter to congressional leaders on Monday asking for a comprehensive grant program of \$240 billion. According to the letter from the National Restaurant Association, the money would go towards:
 - Supporting operating expenses
 - Debt obligations
 - Rehiring and retraining employees
 - Providing a lifeline to reopen and readjust to new standards of increased distancing and safety standards
- **Colleges** that will distribute billions in aid dollars to students whose campuses closed because of the coronavirus are asking the Education Department whether **undocumented students** may qualify. The pandemic has forced colleges across the country to shutter their doors, creating sudden challenges for many students who need housing, food, and health care. Lawmakers last month provided \$6.3 billion for direct assistance to students in the last stimulus package



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- **College groups** urged top lawmakers on Monday to extend through 2021 new benefits for student borrowers created in response to the coronavirus pandemic.
 - They also called for lowering interest rates for new student borrowers so they aren't deterred from entering college. And those groups said lawmakers should restore bankruptcy protections for debtors and make sure those pursuing federal loan forgiveness aren't hit with tax bills.
- The **Republican National Committee**, the **Trump campaign** and the **host committee** are moving "full steam ahead" in planning the GOP convention later this summer, but will determine in late June or early July if contingencies need to be made, GOP Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel said Monday.
- **A group representing tens of thousands of laboratory workers** is urging the White House coronavirus task force to address the "critical needs of America's clinical laboratories," namely the lack of testing supplies and protective equipment at labs across the country, saying "significant barriers" remain that limit labs' abilities to meet demand.
 - "At this point, the biggest barrier to testing is not capacity, but access to vital supplies," wrote Carmen Wiley, the president of the American Association for Clinical Chemistry in an April 16 letter to Dr. Deborah Birx, who sits on the White House coronavirus task force.
 - The letter stated that nasal swabs for specimen collection as well as other test components remain in short supply.
- The US needs to conduct at least **500,000 tests for Covid-19 every day** to be able to successfully open the economy and stay open, according to three **Harvard researchers**.
 - Currently, about 150,000 tests per day are completed, and about 20% of those tests have been positive. More testing is necessary to be able to capture who is infected and might put others at risk, researchers said.
 - The current percentage of tests that are positive in the US is too high, the researchers said. The World Health Organization has suggested that an adequate test positive rate should be between 3 and 12%, while the US rate is around 20%.
 - To achieve a 10% test positivity rate by May 1, about 580,000 people per day would need to be tested, research shows. If, instead, contact tracing is considered and an estimated 10 contacts are tested for each estimated positive case by May 1, about 535,000 tests would need to be conducted per day.
- Most U.S. **small businesses** that applied for two federal coronavirus relief programs haven't received any money yet, with most still planning to apply when funds ran out



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last week, a new survey shows. Only around 20% of small businesses that applied for a loan under the Paycheck Protection Program had money deposited in their account as of April 17, according to a survey that the National Federation of Independent Business conducted of its members. Few members received money under the Economic Injury Disaster Loan initiative, a virus aid program that's separate from PPP, the survey showed.

- The 51st edition of the **World Series of Poker (WSOP)** has been postponed because of the Covid-19 pandemic, it was announced on the organization's website Monday.
 - The WSOP was scheduled to begin May 26 from the Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas. It is now targeted for the fall, with exact dates and events to be determined.