



COVID-19 4/9 UPDATE

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Global

Total cases – 1,506,936

Total deaths – 90,057

United States

Positive Tests – 432,596 (up 8% from prior day)

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

Total # Tests – 2,207,054 (up 7% from prior day)

Total deaths – 14,831 (up 15% from prior day)

Government

Earlier today, Senate Leader McConnell attempted to pass by UC a bill to add in additional \$251 billion to the SBA loan program. The motion failed after Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD) objected on behalf of Senate Democrats. This came after Leader Schumer and Speaker Pelosi presented a counter offer yesterday which included additional funding for state/municipalities as well as hospitals and the SNAP program. This offer was rejected by Senate Republicans. So, by the time McConnell offered the UC motion this morning the outcome was a foregone conclusion so the floor proceedings turned into a messaging exercise for both sides. Negotiations will now likely commence with the goal of producing a bipartisan compromise on a CARES 2.0 bill in the upcoming days/weeks.

Administration

- In his first tweet of the day Thursday, **President Trump** urged Americans to “keep going” with social distancing as a new model projects far fewer US deaths from Covid-19.
- **President Trump** is preparing to announce a second coronavirus task force solely focused on reopening the nation's economy, [multiple sources tell CNN](#).
 - Senior aides such as Treasury Secretary **Steven Mnuchin** and National Economic Council Director **Larry Kudlow** have been solely focused on the issue of restarting a wounded American economy for weeks, along with a coterie of aides.
 - But in recent days, inside and outside advisers have appealed to Trump to formally create a separate task force in order to streamline the process so it can focus primarily on reopening the economy. This task force would likely include senior staff from the Treasury Department, the National Economic Council, the Labor Department and the Department of Commerce.



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- **U.S. fatalities** from Covid-19 may be as low as 60,000 -- far fewer than earlier projections -- because of safety measures such as social distancing, the nation's top infectious disease expert said Thursday.
 - "The real data are telling us it is highly likely we are having a definite positive effect by the mitigation things that we're doing, this physical separation," Anthony Fauci, director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, told NBC in an [interview](#).
 - "I believe we are going to see a downturn in that, and it looks more like the 60,000, than the 100,000 to 200,000" projected fatalities, he said. "But having said that we better be careful that we don't say, 'OK, we're doing so well we could pull back.'"
- **Trump's top health advisers** are developing medical criteria for safely opening the U.S. economy in coming weeks if trends showing a crest in cases hold steady. **Deborah Birx**, the immunologist who coordinates the White House's coronavirus task force, met into the night yesterday with **Anthony Fauci**, the country's top infectious diseases expert, **CDC Director Robert Redfield**, and **FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn**. Absent from the meeting were economic and political advisers to the president.
- A **prestigious scientific panel** told the **White House** on Tuesday that it doesn't look coronavirus will go away once the weather warms up.
 - President Donald Trump has claimed that "when it gets a little warmer [the virus] miraculously goes away."
 - In their letter to the White House, members of a National Academy of Sciences committee said data is mixed on whether coronavirus spreads as easily in warm weather as it does in cold weather, but that it might not matter much given that so few people in the world are immune to coronavirus.
- **Deborah Birx**, the top public health official coordinating the White House's coronavirus task force, projected March 31 that as many as 240,000 Americans [could die](#) as a result of the coronavirus outbreak, even with another 30 days of the most stringent public health restrictions.
 - At Wednesday night's briefing of the task force, Birx said that two prominent models for the U.S. mortality for the Covid-19 pandemic -- from Covid Act Now and the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington -- had been yielding decreased fatality projections based on what Americans are doing to mitigate the spread.



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- Separately, **Fauci** told CBS on Thursday that he sees the U.S. making progress toward normalization in the near future, as the April 30 end of the currently mandated social-distancing period approaches.
 - “Hopefully, by the time we get to the summer, we will have taken many steps in that direction,” he said.
 - But **Fauci** cautioned that the virus has different progression rates in various parts of the U.S. that may necessitate a range of timetables.
 - **Fauci** was asked if he can envision a summer where Americans are returning to beaches, celebrations, and other normal seasonal activities.
 - “Yes,” he said, “if we do the things that we need to do to prevent the resurgence” and “identify, isolate, contact, trace,” to avoid future spikes.
- “We want to see cases start to come down for ideally 2 weeks,” **Surgeon Gen. Jerome Adams** says in Fox News interview Thursday in response to question about what U.S. wants to see before reopening economy.
 - **Adams** also says after two week decline in virus cases, U.S. must ensure to have public health infrastructure in place to follow up on positive tests and isolate case contacts
 - “Once we feel comfortable we can do that, we can start reopening in places that have flattened that curve and have a low lying level of cases, because we have confidence that one case wont turn into 10, 100, 1,000” Adams says
 - U.S. also must be sure rapid testing, surveillance testing and antibody testing available, Adams says
- **Secretary of State Mike Pompeo** said the State Department has repatriated over 50,000 citizens from around the globe since January 29 amid the coronavirus pandemic.
 - Pompeo said the State Department is working with “foreign governments, militaries, airport authorities, medical units, transportation companies, hotels, you name it ” to make sure Americans get back to their families.
 - ompeo said that there are still US citizens in places across the world, and that the State Department will continue to work on getting people back to the United States until people can travel on their own again.
- The **US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** (CDC) has deployed eight “community protection field teams,” a federal official involved in the day-to-day coronavirus response told CNN.



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- The teams are part of an initiative to work directly with state and local health departments to keep coronavirus cases contained where transmission rates are low.
- The eight teams are part of the CDC's Health Department Support team -- one of "at least two dozen" task forces established as part of CDC's coronavirus response, an official said. The teams were deployed separately over the last two weeks to states across the country "that have a low number of coronavirus cases," according to the two federal health officials.
- **U.S. adversaries** are seeking to take advantage of the coronavirus pandemic, **Defense Secretary Mark Esper** tells military in a "virtual town hall" online.
- U.S. will be announcing a **municipal funding facility** and a mainstream funding facility for organizations with up to 10,000 employees, Treasury Sec. Steven Mnuchin says at a briefing with House Democrats, according to a person familiar with the matter
- The **Federal Reserve** on Thursday announced another series of sweeping steps to provide as much as \$2.3 trillion in additional aid during the coronavirus pandemic, including starting programs to aid small and mid-sized businesses as well as state and local governments. Among the actions:
 - **A Municipal Liquidity Facility** will offer as much as \$500 billion in lending to states and municipalities, by directly purchasing that amount of short-term notes from states as well as large counties and cities
 - The **Main Street Lending Program** will "ensure credit flows to small and mid-sized businesses with the purchase of up to \$600 billion in loans"
 - Expanding the size and scope of the **Primary and Secondary Market Corporate Credit Facilities** and the Term Asset-Backed Securities Loan Facility to support as much as \$850 billion in credit
 - **Starting the Paycheck Protection Program Liquidity Facility**, "supplying liquidity to participating financial institutions through term financing backed by PPP loans to small businesses"
- **Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin** said he will provide preliminary details to airlines on how to access billions of dollars in loans and grants as they cope with a dramatic drop in revenue amid the coronavirus crisis.
 - In an interview with **CNBC**, **Mnuchin** said he will update President Donald Trump on Thursday on the Treasury Department's latest analysis on how to help airlines.



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- U.S. airlines' desperate bid for \$29 billion in government rescue cash is being frustrated by a lengthening process and demands that companies provide more detailed financial information, Bloomberg News [reported](#) Wednesday
- The **Trump administration's** ban on exports of some **personal protective equipment** (PPE) to fight the pandemic in the U.S. will take effect Friday and will stay in place for four months, according to the Federal Register, which published the rule today. The U.S. is following a number of other countries that have temporarily halted exports of critical PPE recently. Among them are China, a significant source of the materials, and the European Union.
- Millions of protective coverall suits will soon head to hospitals to shield workers from the virus, the **HHS** said today. The HHS announced a deal with **DuPont** for expedited delivery of 450,000 protective suits for health-care workers from its manufacturing site in Hanoi, Vietnam. DuPont's Tyvek suits create a barrier between its wearer and fine particles and chemicals. The department expects to receive a total of 2.25 million of the Tyvek suits over the next five weeks with an option to continue buying up to a total of 4.5 million suits
- The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** is changing its guidance for workers in critical industries, including food supply and health care, to say that the people exposed to the coronavirus should return to work if they don't have symptoms of the illness.
 - The CDC's guidance has been that workers exposed to someone who tested positive for the coronavirus should self-quarantine for 14 days. Now, the agency says those workers should return to work as long as they have no symptoms of the disease, wear a face mask, practice social distancing and monitor their body temperature for fever.
 - **Redfield** urged those workers not to remain at work if they feel sick, and to refrain from congregating in break rooms or crowded places.
- **Dept of Health and Human Services** announces \$646.7 million contract with Philips for 43,000 ventilators under the Defense Production Act.
 - Production schedule allows for delivery of 2,500 ventilators to the Strategic National Stockpile by the end of May 2020 and a total of 43,000 ventilators to be delivered by end of December 2020
 - "HHS will continue awarding contracts to companies for which it has invoked the DPA for ventilator production, while we explore every possible avenue to get supplies to the frontlines of this war on the virus," HHS Sec. Alex Azar says in statement



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- Partnerships subject to a new centralized auditing regime can more easily access tax benefits in the latest Covid-19 response package, under new **IRS** guidance.
 - [Revenue Procedure 2020-23](#) allows partnerships to file amended returns to get newly available tax breaks in years for which they already filed, such as 2018 and 2019. Under tax code [Section 6031](#), partnerships subject to this auditing regime are barred from amending the form given to their partners after it's due, unless the Treasury Department allows, or the partnership's representative files an Administrative Adjustment Request.
- The **U.S. Department of Agriculture** will investigate a surge in meatpackers' margins for beef during the coronavirus outbreak that has stirred [accusations](#) of market manipulation from some cattle producers.
 - U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue announced the probe in a Twitter post Wednesday after demands for an inquiry by members of Congress from cattle-producing regions.
- **U.S. Treasury Dept** will continue the international flow of humanitarian aid to areas hit by the coronavirus, including Iran, Venezuela, Syria, and North Korea, according to an emailed [statement](#).
- The **Federal Reserve** and other regulators are planning to grant a sweeping capital break for banks providing loans to small businesses as part of the government's response to the coronavirus-fueled economic crisis.
 - A rapidly written rule acknowledges that lending through what's known as the Paycheck Protection Program doesn't pose a risk for U.S. banks, according to documents posted on the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.'s website. As a result, regulators won't make lenders maintain capital buffers as a protection against loans going bad, the documents show.
 - Such loans will be backed by a recently announced Fed lending facility, and the rule's text says the regulators would agree to "allow banking organizations to neutralize the regulatory capital effects of participating in the facility." It's not clear from the FDIC documents whether all the agencies involved have signed-off on the relief yet. In addition to the FDIC and Fed, the other regulator involved is the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency.
 - An FDIC spokeswoman confirmed that the agency has approved the rule, which hasn't been formally announced. Spokesmen for the Fed and OCC declined to comment.



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- The **Interior Department** on Wednesday opened 2.3 million acres of land for hunting, fishing and other recreation activities — the largest expansion in U.S. Fish and Wildlife history. Interior Secretary David Bernhardt said allowing the access will help with people's mental health and wellness during the pandemic.
- Due to the extraordinary disruptions from the coronavirus, the **Federal Reserve Board** on Wednesday announced that it will temporarily and narrowly modify the growth restriction on Wells Fargo so that it can provide additional support to small businesses. The change will only allow the firm to make additional small business loans as part of the Paycheck Protection Program, or PPP, and the Federal Reserve's forthcoming Main Street Lending Program. [\(HERE\)](#)
- This week, **HHS** announced the first contract for ventilator production rated under the Defense Production Act, to **General Motors**. GM's contract, at a total contract price of \$489.4 million, is for 30,000 ventilators to be delivered to the Strategic National Stockpile by the end of August 2020, with a production schedule allowing for the delivery of 6,132 ventilators by June 1, 2020. [\(HERE\)](#)
- **HHS** announced the second contract for ventilator production rated under the Defense Production Act (DPA), to **Philips**. Philips's contract, at a total contract price of \$646.7 million, is for a production schedule allowing for the delivery of 2,500 ventilators to the Strategic National Stockpile by the end of May 2020 and a total of 43,000 ventilators to be delivered by the end of December 2020. [\(HERE\)](#)
- Today, **IHS** is announcing its expansion of telehealth across IHS federal facilities. Telehealth services means patients can stay home and reduce their risk of infection and also keep healthcare workers and others in waiting rooms and emergency departments safe from COVID-19. [\(HERE\)](#)
- Today, the **Office for Civil Rights at HHS** is announcing that it has resolved a compliance review of the State of Alabama after the state removed ventilator rationing guidelines that allegedly discriminated on the basis of disability and age. [\(HERE\)](#)
- The **Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health** issued new guidance under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act authorizing licensed pharmacists to order and administer COVID-19 tests that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has authorized. [\(HERE\)](#)
- **HHS** today announced an agreement with DuPont to expedite the delivery of critical personal protective equipment needed for frontline U.S. healthcare workers responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. DuPont will deliver 450,000 TYVEK® suits to the United States from its Hanoi, Vietnam manufacturing facility this week. HHS anticipates



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receiving 2.25 million TYVEK suits over the next five weeks with an option to continue purchasing up to a total of 4.5 million TYVEK suits. [\(HERE\)](#)

- Today, **HHS**, through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), awarded more than \$1.3 billion to 1,387 health centers as part of a historic U.S. response to the Coronavirus pandemic. HRSA-funded health centers may use the awards to help communities across the country detect coronavirus; prevent, diagnose, and treat COVID-19; and maintain or increase health capacity and staffing levels to address this public health emergency. [\(HERE\)](#)
- **CMS** has delivered near \$34 billion in the past week to the healthcare providers on the frontlines battling (COVID-19). The funds have been provided through the expansion of the Accelerated and Advance Payment Program to ensure providers and suppliers have the resources needed to combat the pandemic. [\(HERE\)](#)
- **CMS** has issued a new wave of infection control guidance based on **CDC** guidelines, which will help ensure infection control in the context of patient triage, screening and treatment, the use of alternate testing and treatment sites and telehealth, drive-through screenings, limiting visitations, cleaning and disinfection guidelines, staffing, and more. [\(HERE\)](#)
- **FDA** has released an FAQ fact sheet regarding the use of Chloroquine Phosphate and Hydroxychloroquine Sulfate. [\(HERE\)](#)
- **Secretary Perdue** announced approval for Arizona and California's request to provide online purchasing of food to SNAP Households in the States of Arizona and California. This approval will allow the States to expedite the implementation of online purchasing with currently authorized SNAP online retailers with a target start date later this month.
- As of April 6, 2020 all 50 states, the District of Columbia, five territories and 23 tribes are working directly with **FEMA** under the nationwide emergency declaration for COVID-19, and Stafford Act major disasters have been declared in more than 39 states and territories. Among other things, the Stafford Act authorizes FEMA to coordinate all disaster relief assistance provided by Federal agencies, private organizations, and State and local governments. [\(HERE\)](#)
- **FEMA** and **CBP** are working together to prevent domestic brokers, distributors, and other intermediaries from diverting these critical medical resources overseas. To accomplish this, CBP will detain shipments of the PPE specified in the President's Memorandum while FEMA determines whether to return the PPE for use within the United States; to purchase the PPE on behalf of the United States; or, allow it to be exported. [\(HERE\)](#)



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- **The FEMA COVID-19 Supply Chain Task Force** continues to execute a strategy maximizing the availability of critical protective and lifesaving resources through FEMA for a whole-of-America response. Efforts to date have focused on reducing the medical supply chain capacity gap to both satisfy and relieve demand pressure on medical supply capacity. [\(HERE\)](#)
- **OSHA** reminded employers that it is illegal to retaliate against workers because they report unsafe and unhealthful working conditions during the coronavirus pandemic. Acts of retaliation can include terminations, demotions, denials of overtime or promotion, or reductions in pay or hours. [\(HERE\)](#)
- **DOE** announced a plan to provide up to \$30 million for advanced research in machine learning and artificial intelligence for both scientific investigation and the management of complex systems. [\(HERE\)](#)

Capitol Hill

- **Senate Democrats** blocked **Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's** attempt to quickly pass a \$250 billion boost in aid to small businesses suffering revenue losses in the pandemic, likely delaying any action until leaders of both parties find a compromise.
 - McConnell had sought unanimous consent in the Senate Thursday for the small business aid requested by Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin.
 - **Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer** and **House Speaker Nancy Pelosi** are seeking twice as much help for the slumping economy, including more federal aid for state and local governments and added funding for hospitals struggling to treat a crush of coronavirus patients.
- **Democratic Senator Ben Cardin**, a co-sponsor of the small business Paycheck Protection Program, objected to the majority leader's proposal, calling it "a political stunt." Cardin said the PPP hasn't run out of money but other programs have, and he said the PPP process needs to be streamlined to make it easier for small businesses trying to get loans.
- There have been no negotiations between **Republican** and **Democratic** leaders on a compromise and Pelosi has signaled she had no intention of bringing McConnell's proposal to the House.
- **Pelosi** and **Schumer** on Wednesday proposed adding \$100 billion for hospitals and \$150 billion for state and local governments to Mnuchin's request. They also want half of the additional small business aid -- or \$125 billion -- channeled through community-based



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and other financial institutions that serve companies owned by farmers, families, women, minorities and veterans.

- **Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell** pressed ahead with his plan for a quick vote Thursday on a \$250 billion boost in a small business aid program, putting him at odds with the two top Democrats in Congress who want to double the size of an interim stimulus package.
 - **McConnell** has offered an amendment to the record \$2.2 trillion pandemic response package to boost the total available to the Paycheck Protection Program for small businesses to \$600 billion.
- **Schumer** and **Mnuchin** spoke Wednesday about the more expansive Democratic plan, according to the minority leader's spokesman. A White House official said the administration opposes the Schumer-Pelosi proposal.
- In a conference call with **House Democrats** Wednesday, **Pelosi** said leaders were still trying to work out what might be possible to pass in both chambers on an expedited basis.
- Even if the two **Democratic** leaders are willing to drop their demands for a bigger aid package until later and focus on the small business program, the House may be challenged to get it passed on a voice vote by the end of the week.
 - **Representative Thomas Massie**, a Kentucky Republican who two weeks ago forced House lawmakers to return to Washington to vote on the \$2.2 trillion stimulus, indicated Wednesday on Fox Business News that he could do it again.
 - **Massie** said lawmakers should be on the record with their votes, and said Pelosi should consider changing House rules to allow remote voting. She has opposed such a change.
- Under the **Democrats' proposal Wednesday**, half of the small business assistance -- or \$125 billion -- would be channeled through community-based financial institutions that serve companies owned by farmers, families, women, minorities and veterans.
- A group of **House Democrats** is mounting an effort to pressure chamber leadership to include more than \$15 billion for workforce development and retraining efforts in the next large-scale coronavirus-relief bill. **Reps. Suzanne Bonamici (D-Ore.) and Andy Levin (D-Mich.)** argue that a much larger investment is needed to meet the growing demand for job-training and re-skilling programs.
 - "We need to invest billions, not millions in our workers and workforce system," the lawmakers wrote [in a letter](#) to House Democrats. Another 49 members have



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- signed on to the letter, which Bonamici and Levin plan to submit to House leadership Thursday.
- **Bonamici and Levin's** call to expand Congress's commitment to workforce development mirrors a [request](#) that the National Skills Coalition, a group that promotes workforce education, and 38 other job-training and education organizations sent to House leadership last week. The groups said there's precedent for spending roughly \$15 billion on workforce development, and pointed out the U.S. invests 25% less in these programs today than it did before the Great Recession.
 - **Sens. Jeanne Shaheen and Bill Cassidy**, along with a bipartisan group of ~32 other senators, are urging CMS to waive or modify interest rates for health-care providers seeking financial aid amid the pandemic through Medicare's Accelerated and Advance Payments Program.
 - "Hospitals, physicians and other health-care providers have significant concerns about the 10.25 percent interest rate," senators write in letter Wednesday to the heads of HHS and CMS
 - Link to [letter](#)
 - **Republican lawmakers** call on Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman to restore stability to oil markets, according to joint [letter](#) on Wednesday.
 - **House Republican Whip Steve Scalise** and other House representatives express concern about Saudi actions to "artificially distort" global oil market
 - **Congress** must start looking at potential cuts to mandatory programs including Social Security and Medicare to help pay for the rising debt the nation is taking on as it responds to the coronavirus, **Sen. Kevin Cramer** (R-N.D.) said. Cramer told CNBC that the crisis is adding to urgency for Congress to look at the mandatory side of the budget for savings to reduce rising debt. "We just have to be willing to bite that bullet and have the adult conversation that a lot of us have been trying to have for a long time."
 - **Sen. Rick Scott** (R-Fla.) said in a statement that Congress "should clarify that only small businesses that have seen a substantial reduction in their revenue" may qualify for the stimulus loans. The text in the latest stimulus legislation is "worded vaguely enough that companies that are not being harmed at all" by the outbreak "have the ability to receive taxpayer-funded loans that can be forgiven," [Scott said](#).
 - **Senate Finance Committee ranking member** Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) and Ben Cardin (D-Md.) said small businesses that allow workers to share in company ownership should also be eligible for rescue loans under the Paycheck Protection Program. They urged SBA



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Administrator Jovita Carranza to act fast in resolving uncertainties surrounding the loans and stock ownership plans. [Read the letter here.](#)

- **A bipartisan Senate group led by Mark Warner (D-Va.) and Mike Rounds (R-S.D.)** today urged Mnuchin to use funds included in the last stimulus package to address liquidity shortfalls facing mortgage servicers. “We’re calling for immediate action to avoid an impending crisis in the mortgage servicing sector, that could further threaten the mortgage market,” the lawmakers said in the letter addressed to Mnuchin in his capacity as chairman of the Financial Stability Oversight Council.
- **Chairman of Senate Armed Services Committee** says he’s committed to writing FY21 defense authorization bill by end of May, but the timeline could slip because of the coronavirus pandemic.
- **Sens. Elizabeth Warren (Mass.), Dick Durbin (Ill.), and other Senate Democrats** are pressuring Education Secretary Betsy DeVos to deny emergency stimulus money to for-profit colleges. At the very least, they said her department should restrict how those colleges use the aid if DeVos deems them eligible. For-profit colleges receiving money from the stimulus should be barred from using it for executive compensation as well, the Democrats said in a letter this week
- **Republican Senator Chuck Grassley** and other senators write to President Trump asking for “a detailed written explanation for his decision to remove an inspector general.”
 - Co-signers of letter incl. Sens. Gary Peters, Susan Collins, Mark Warner, Mitt Romney, Ron Wyden, Dianne Feinstein and Jon Tester
 - Link to [letter](#)
- **Illinois' senators** are concerned that unclear directions from the Treasury Department could lead to delays in consideration of airlines' and contractors' applications for payroll-support grants. In a letter to Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin on Wednesday, **Dick Durbin** and **Tammy Duckworth** said [Treasury was late to telling airlines and contractors that separate applications were needed for subsidiaries.](#)
- **The top Republican and Democrat on the House Foreign Relations Committee** wrote to **Delta Air Lines, United and American** [asking them](#) to “participate to the fullest extent possible in additional repatriation efforts which the State Department is organizing.”
- A group of **Republican** senators want to make sure the bailout program administered by BlackRock on behalf of the federal government won’t leave fossil-fuel companies behind.
- The **House Oversight and Reform Committee** released a report yesterday saying the federal government failed to distribute enough personal protective gear and other



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medical supplies to states. The Trump administration is leaving states “to fend for themselves, to scour the open market for these scarce supplies, and to compete with each other,” **Oversight Chairwoman Carolyn Maloney** (D-N.Y.) said in a statement

- Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee Chairman **Lamar Alexander** (R-Tenn.) and Senate Appropriations HHS Subcommittee Chairman **Roy Blunt** (R-Mo.) urged **Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar** in a letter to affirm that Americans who have recovered from Covid-19 can get free antibody testing, which they say would help restart the U.S. economy sooner
- **More than 60 lawmakers**, including Sens. [Cory Booker](#) (D-N.J.) and [Lindsey Graham](#) (R-S.C.) called for a “permanent global ban” of live wildlife markets and the international trade of live wildlife, which is thought to have sparked the spread of coronavirus, in a [letter](#) to the World Health Organization yesterday.
- **House Democrats** are proposing a federal reinsurance program designed to widely shield large and small businesses against the ravages of the coronavirus pandemic.
 - The program, still in the early stages of negotiation, would mirror an existing federal backstop for terrorism risk created in the aftermath of 9/11, and could be part of the next congressional relief package, according to a [draft proposal](#) circulated by House Financial Service Committee Democrats.

State/Local

- **Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf** announced all schools will remain closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic year.
 - "Although schools are closed, teaching and learning may continue: schools are strongly encouraged to provide continuity of education for all students in the most appropriate and accessible ways possible," a release from the governor's office said.
 - Students and families may continue to pick up meals at designated sites, according to the release.
- **New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio** criticized the federal government for not helping New Yorkers gain access to coronavirus testing.
- **Georgia** is pushing back its elections for the second time due to the coronavirus, postponing May primaries until June, the Associated Press [reports](#).
- **Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp** has extended the state's public health emergency through May 13.
 - Kemp signed an executive order Wednesday extending the public health emergency in an effort to help contain the coronavirus.



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- **Oregon Gov. Kate Brown** announced Wednesday that schools will continue to be closed statewide for the rest of the academic year.
 - Brown, a Democrat, says all high school seniors who were “on track to graduate” before schools were closed will receive passing grades.
- **South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster** signed an executive order Wednesday which allows furloughed employees to receive “Covid-19 Support Payments” from their employers and still qualify for unemployment benefits, his office said.
- **Rhode Island Gov. Gina M. Raimondo** announced that the courts extended their closure for all non-essential business through May 17. She also asked the people of Rhode Island to wear a cloth mask every time they leave their house.
 - The governor explained today that eviction is a court procedure, saying, “you cannot be evicted anytime for any reason between now and May 17 because the court is closed.”
 - The governor also spoke about people who are struggling to pay their full mortgage, saying, “we are working on ways to provide relief around that, and I hope to have an announcement in the next few day or next week to help you get some forgiveness. Because I know it is impossible to pay your mortgage if you and your family are out of work.”
- **California** will utilize new technology from the company Battelle that allows for the sterilization and reuse of N95 masks as early as this week, Mark Ghilarducci, with the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services, announced today.
- **Mayor Lori Lightfoot** has announced a 9 p.m. curfew on liquor sales in **Chicago** effective Thursday.
 - Lightfoot said at a press conference today that the curfew was prompted by the fact that “too many individuals and business were violating the stay at home order” at the press conference that was provided to CNN by affiliate WGN.
- **New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy** ordered all non-essential construction across the state to cease indefinitely, effective at 8 p.m. ET on Friday.
 - Exceptions to this order include projects at hospitals and schools, building of affordable housing and emergency services, among other limited instances, Murphy announced in Wednesday’s press conference.
 - Additionally, the governor is ordering all essential retail-grocery stores and pharmacies to indefinitely limit their number of customers in their stores to 50% of their current approved capacity, and ordered that customers and employees must wear face coverings.



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- **New York. Gov Andrew Cuomo** said all voters in the state will be able to cast their votes by absentee ballot this year.
 - Cuomo had previously moved the state's primary [from April 28 until June 23.](#)
- **New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo** said the state will make an additional \$600 payment to all who filed for unemployment during the coronavirus crisis.
 - "The federal government says they will reimburse us for it, but people need money now in their pocket. So, New York will be doing that immediately," he said.
- **Maine's Department of Education** is distributing WiFi-enabled tablets to students without internet for remote learning, according to a release from the department.
 - Maine schools will continue virtual learning for the remainder of the academic year, the DOE said on its website.
- **Dallas** Mayor Eric Johnson announced that he is closing all parks in the city for the Easter weekend in an effort to maintain social distancing and continue to combat the spread of coronavirus, he said in a tweet Thursday.
- **New Jersey** will delay its state primary to July 7 from June because of the pandemic, a move that would extend it past the Democratic National Committee's normal deadline for delegates to be selected. New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy (D) said his state wants to "preserve the possibility that improvements in the public health situation will allow for in-person voting," but if the pandemic persists, he would consider a possible vote-by-mail election statewide, "which has never happened before
- **Louisiana State University** has erected an extra pedestrian barrier around the habitat for bengal tiger Mike, the school's mascot, to prevent the animal catching coronavirus.
 - The new layer of fencing was put in place Tuesday to provide a four-foot barrier between the tiger and pedestrians, according to Ginger Guttner, spokesperson for LSU's School of Veterinary Medicine.
- All parks in **Los Angeles** will be closed on Easter Sunday to prevent the spread of the coronavirus amid the city's stay-at-home order, Mayor Eric Garcetti announced in a news conference Wednesday night.
 - Many families have traditionally used the parks for Easter egg hunts and gatherings, but the mayor said the events now present too great a risk to public health.
- Outdoor meeting places used for recreation in **Nevada** will be closed until further notice in order to curb the spread of Covid-19, Gov. Steve Sisolak said Thursday.



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- The order includes public gyms, swimming pools and golf courses. Sisolak said people can continue to play sports on their own private property.
- Additionally, as most Christian denominations begin to celebrate the Easter week, Sisolak is prohibiting public worship services, except those that can be done with no more than 10 people.
- **Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards** said the state was "trending in the right direction" at a news conference on Wednesday.
- **New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu** expressed his frustration with obtaining crucial medical supplies from the federal government during a press conference in Concord on Wednesday.
 - The state received 15 Abbott rapid-testing devices last week, as part of the Granite State's response to the Covid-19 pandemic, according to Sununu.
- The city of **Miami** said Wednesday it has mandated all employees and customers in grocery stores, restaurants, pharmacies and convenience stores to wear masks at all times while on premises, effective today at 11:59 pm ET.
 - In a statement, the city said this "citywide order to wear masks extends to those performing construction work on job sites, as well as food delivery workers."

International

- **Sec. of State. Mike Pompeo** says Taiwan is donating 2 million face masks to U.S. health-care workers fighting the coronavirus pandemic.
- **Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez** expects to extend the country's state of emergency into May to help contain the spread of the novel coronavirus.
 - Sanchez told Spanish lawmakers on Thursday about this possibility as he asked them to approve a separate extension until the end of April.
- **The Finnish government** extended restrictions on schools, museums and theaters to contain the spread of coronavirus until May 13, announced in a statement on Thursday.
- **Cobra**, the **UK** government's emergency committee, will meet today to discuss options to review coronavirus restrictions -- but the culture minister has downplayed the likelihood they will be lifted.
 - The restrictions on people's movements were announced by Prime Minister Boris Johnson almost three weeks ago, and are due to be reviewed by Monday.
- **British** lawmakers are being given up to £10,000 (\$12,400) each to help them set up work-from-home arrangements during the coronavirus outbreak, the UK's Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) announced Thursday.



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- **Pakistan** launched the largest social protection effort in the country's history Thursday with plans to pay close to \$1 billion dollars to the country's poorest in an effort to counter the economic fallout of the Covid-19 crisis.
- Young people who don't live with their parents should be allowed to return to work first as part of an easing of coronavirus restrictions, **British** researchers have suggested.
- The **Czech government** announced Monday it would begin relaxing some coronavirus restrictions this week, including allowing some stores to reopen and exercising without a mask.
 - Shops such as hobby markets, construction and hardware stores, bicycle stores and repair centers are among those allowed to reopen. Outdoor sports facilities for individual sports are also opening, but only to some extent (for example, you can play tennis, but can't take a shower in the center afterwards).
- **Spain** will soon start the process of de-escalation of the current lockdown measures in place to mitigate the novel coronavirus pandemic in the country, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said today, as he asked Parliament to approve his request to extend the country's state of emergency until April 26.
- Starting Friday, people who arrive in **New Zealand** will need to be quarantined in an approved facility for at least two weeks.
 - The change means they can no longer self-isolate at home, or anywhere else they choose.
 - It's a rule that will only affect New Zealanders -- foreigners have [not been allowed](#) to enter the country for weeks.
- **China** says it has restored 40% of its flights, according to state-run news agency Xinhua, as the country begins to unwind tight restrictions designed to stop the spread of novel coronavirus.
 - Xinhua said most of the flights are to areas in the northwest and southwest of the country where migrant workers are more concentrated, and industrial areas in the Yangtze River and Pear River Deltas.
- Everyone in **Guatemala** will be required to wear a face mask from Monday.
- **Hungary's** Prime Minister Viktor Orban announced that current restrictions on movement will be extended "indefinitely."

Private Sector

- **DNC Chairman Tom Perez** tells Bloomberg TV that the party's 2020 campaign tactics have changed amid the coronavirus pandemic but overall goals have not.



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- DNC workers can't knock on voters' doors now, but in the last three weeks, 4k-5k digital organizers have been trained, Perez tells BTV's Kevin Cirilli
- **FedEx** and **DuPont** are teaming up to get 450,000 protective suits to U.S. healthcare workers from a plant in Vietnam this week. Federal officials expect delivery of 2.25 million sets of protective gear in the next five weeks. The HHS has an option to double that order.
- The **Burton** snowboard company is donating 500,000 respirator masks to hospitals across the Northeast.
- **McDonald's** is reporting a 22% tumble in sales for March. About 75% of McDonald's locations are open, but most are offering drive-thru, takeout or delivery only. McDonald's has pulled financial guidance for the year.
- **Panera Bread** is offering basic groceries for takeout and delivery at about 90% of U.S. stores. Customers can order things like milk, fruit, and yogurt along with regular Panera meals.
- **Airbus** says it is cutting production by about one-third as airlines scale back orders for new planes due to the coronavirus pandemic.
- **A trade group for community banks** plans to ask the Treasury Department and the Small Business Administration for better access to the government's new \$349 billion program to keep small businesses afloat in the coronavirus outbreak, as concerns persist that many of its members are shut out.
- **U.S. airlines'** desperate bid for \$29 billion in government rescue cash is being frustrated by a lengthening process and demands that companies provide more detailed financial information, people familiar with the situation said.
 - Carriers that filed April 3 for the [grants](#) intended to help meet payroll costs expected the checks to begin arriving days ago, said people familiar with the aid discussions who asked not to be identified because the talks are private. Instead, U.S. Treasury officials have asked for another round of data that appears to be more related to a separate loan process instead of the cash grants, further delaying the relief, the people said.