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Global

Total cases – 3,276,373

Total deaths – 233,998

United States

Positive tests – 1,068,892

Total tests – 6,322,198

Administration

- A big cut in the payroll tax is high on **Trump's** wish list for the next coronavirus bill, but that idea is getting the brushoff from Republicans and Democrats who would rather send aid to people who aren't getting a paycheck. Trump has backed a payroll tax cut since long before the pandemic brought the economy to a halt and threw millions of people out of work
- The **Trump administration** limited to \$20 million the value of loans that corporate groups can obtain from a popular coronavirus aid program after outrage over reports that big companies and brand-name chains got federal aid. The **Small Business Administration** and **Treasury Department** unveiled a new rule for the Paycheck Protection Program, which was meant for small businesses to receive loans of up to \$10 million that convert to grants a company uses the proceeds to keep workers employed.
 - The new rule says that corporate groups shouldn't get more than \$20 million in loans, which applies if businesses are "majority owned, directly or indirectly, by a common parent." The cap is effective immediately for any federal loan not yet fully disbursed as of today, the agencies said
- **President Trump** discussed what aid to states and localities might look like as part of a phase four stimulus package.
 - **Trump** was asked if he would support giving \$1 trillion dollars to states and localities, a number floated by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Trump said that Democrats want to help the states in the form of bailouts. He also said that it was states with Democratic governors that are asking for money.
 - "They happen to be Democratic states. It's California, it's New York, it's Illinois, you start with those three. And the Republican states are in strong shape. You know, I don't know, is that luck or talent? Or is it just a different mentality? But the Republican run states are in strong shape," Trump said.



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- Trump said that Democrats should have brought funding for states up earlier when Republicans wanted certain things.
- **President Trump** outlined additional steps the administration will take to protect seniors from coronavirus, saying the Federal Emergency Management Agency will send supplemental shipments of personal protective equipment to all 15,400 Medicaid and Medicare certified nursing homes in America.
 - He also said that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services will provide states with \$81 million dollars from the CARES Act to increase inspections of nursing homes.
 - Trump announced that a new rule will be finalized this week requiring information about coronavirus cases in nursing homes to be reported directly to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and testing data be posted online. The new rule will also require nursing homes to report cases to residents and their family members.
 - The President also announced the formation of the “**Coronavirus Commission for Safety and Quality in Nursing Homes.**”
 - Trump said the commission will be made up of leading industry experts, doctors and scientists, resident and patient advocates and others. The commission will convene in May and issue recommendations for additional steps to protect seniors, he added.
- **The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** has [drafted a 17-page document](#) that details interim guidance on how businesses, schools, churches, mass transit and other organizations should handle safely reopening to the public amid the coronavirus pandemic.
 - A [federal health official stressed](#) that the draft guidance, which was sent to Washington this week, is still under review by the Trump Administration and could change. The draft document was sent to CNN on Thursday by a person familiar with the deliberations.
 - It includes specific guidance for six categories: child care programs; schools and day camps; communities of faith; employers with vulnerable workers; restaurants and bars; mass transit administrators.
 - Some details: For schools and day camps that are preparing to reopen, the document recommends to consider keeping classes together in order to include the same group of children each day and avoid mixing between groups.



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- The document also suggests to space out seating and bedding to 6 feet apart if possible, avoid "non-essential" assemblies and field trips, and have students eat lunch in classrooms rather than cafeterias, among other recommendations.
- When it comes to child care, the document notes, "In communities that are deemed significant mitigation areas by State and local authorities, child care programs should be closed. However, child care programs can choose to remain open to serve children of essential workers, such as healthcare workers."
- "The president has directed a full investigation into the nature of the coronavirus, the origination in **China**, and also reviewing **China's** conduct," **Vice President [Mike Pence](#)** tells reporters at a General Motors Facility in Indiana.
 - "I think we see increasing confirmation that not only is China the source of the coronavirus but that there is significant evidence that China and the WHO simply were not forthcoming:" Pence
- A **U.S. Navy** review of the virus-stricken **USS Roosevelt** is expected to be submitted by May 27, unless an extension is granted, a spokesman for Admiral Michael Gilday, the chief of naval operations, says in statement.
- **Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin** says some private schools with significant endowments have taken Payment Protection Program loans and should return them, according to a [tweet](#).
- **Federal aviation regulators** are extending the testing deadlines for thousands of private pilots, flight schools and smaller commercial aviation operations because of the Covid-19 epidemic.
 - **The [Federal Aviation Administration](#)**, using emergency tools to quickly enact new regulations, said in a filing that it plans to adopt the measures on May 4. The agency has taken several earlier steps to give similar relief to airlines.
 - "This relief allows operators to continue to use pilots and other crew members in support of essential operations during this period," the agency said in a [posting](#).
 - In a separate action, the FAA on Thursday also granted a two- or three-month grace period for training and testing deadlines for air-ambulance pilots.
- A **federal judge** ordered **ICE** to release detainees from three South Florida detention centers, saying it is a "cruel and unusual punishment" and a violation of the detainees' rights to be kept in facilities that don't practice social distancing and don't provide them with masks or cleaning supplies.
 - Immigration rights groups had filed a lawsuit on behalf of 34 detainees seeking release during the coronavirus pandemic.



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- According to the court order, ICE has seven days to determine who can be released given their health and immigration status, along with their criminal history.
- **The Trump administration** is again postponing hearings for migrants in Mexico awaiting their US court dates, the Departments of Homeland Security and Justice announced Thursday.
 - All migrants will be required to present at a port of entry to receive new notices with rescheduled hearing dates. Hearings for the Migrant Protection Protocols program scheduled through and including June 1 will be rescheduled.
- **The Justice Department** has begun a preliminary inquiry into how taxpayer money was lent out under the Paycheck Protection Program and has already found possible fraud among businesses seeking relief, a top official said. Assistant Attorney General Brian Benczkowski, who runs the department's criminal division, said prosecutors have contacted 15 to 20 of the largest loan processors and the Small Business Administration, which oversees one relief program, as part of an effort to police the trillions of dollars in federal aid being pushed out hastily to blunt the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic
- Small businesses that manage to get their **Paycheck Protection Program** loans forgiven may find themselves losing valuable tax breaks, according to new guidance from the Internal Revenue Service. Companies that qualify for loan forgiveness under legislation Congress approved won't be able to deduct the wages or other businesses expenses they paid for using the loan, according to an IRS notice published yesterday. "This treatment prevents a double tax benefit," the agency said in the notice.
- New **IRS** FAQs provide conflicting guidance for taxpayers, deviating from a nonpartisan congressional committee's interpretation of applying health care expenses toward a tax break for businesses who keep employees on their payroll during the coronavirus pandemic. The agency answered more than 90 FAQs, giving businesses much of the clarity they need to proceed with claiming the employee retention credit worth up to \$5,000 per employee. But one significant difference between the IRS guidance, which was updated Wednesday, and the Joint Committee on Taxation's recent description of the benefit could complicate employers' decision-making, especially since neither of the items are legally binding—meaning taxpayers can't rely on them to support an argument in court
 - The **IRS** said employers can't claim the credit for health care expenses they continue to pay on behalf of their employees if they aren't paying any other wages, while the JCT said Treasury and the IRS had the authority to take the



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opposite position. During an American Bar Association webcast Thursday, IRS officials didn't directly answer questions about what would be considered a reasonable position for taxpayers to take when the IRS and JCT reach different conclusions in informal guidance

- The **Federal Reserve** yesterday said it's expanding a program that helps the government provide stimulus loans to small businesses and is designed to keep workers on payrolls during the coronavirus pandemic. The Fed said in a statement that it broadened access to its PPP Liquidity Facility to additional lenders such as non-depository institutions. The central bank also widened the collateral that can be pledged. The Trump administration earlier yesterday laid out criteria allowing non-bank lenders to handle loans "to ensure broad and diverse lender participation"
- The **Fed** also revamped its Main Street Lending Program in ways that will allow battered oil companies to qualify for the aid after industry allies lobbied the Trump administration for changes. Larger, more heavily indebted companies can now qualify and use the money to pay off prior loans under the changes the central bank announced yesterday. The move opens the door to more oil and gas producers, said Sen. [Kevin Cramer](#) (R-N.D.), who pressed the administration on the issue as energy companies struggle to survive an epic collapse in fuel demand and crude prices
- **FCC Chairman Ajit Pai** asked broadband, telephone service providers to extend pledge to waive late fees, continue service through June, according to a statement. Since the fee pledge began in March, more than 700 providers have committed to maintain service, waive fees and open Wi-Fi hotspots, the agency said
- The **federal government** will give \$20 million to half a dozen national organizations and a university to boost telehealth access for vulnerable groups, including pregnant women and young children. The funding is aimed at increasing infrastructure and helping health-care providers get licensed to provide virtual care across state lines, the Health and Human Services Department said yesterday
- **FDA** includes a **NASA**-developed ventilator under its [emergency use authorization](#) rules for the medical device, according to a [statement](#) from the agency.
 - The **NASA** ventilator was added to list of authorized ventilators and related equipment under [rule](#) issued to address concerns over availability of FDA-cleared ventilators
- **Sec. of State [Mike Pompeo](#)**, in radio interview, says U.S. is weighing measures to screen passengers once the coronavirus travel bans are lifted.
 - Pompeo, in interview with Dan "Ox" Ochsner of Ox in the Afternoons, says he sees some new vetting procedures put in place



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- “People traveling to places like the United Kingdom or Europe or South America, we’re working with those airports and countries to develop exactly those algorithms so we can try and get people back into business, back into commission”
- “One of the things we know down the road if we get therapeutics or vaccines, we’re going to need needles,” **White House trade adviser Peter Navarro** told reporters on Air Force Two as he traveled with Vice President Mike Pence to Indiana to visit a GM plant that is making ventilators.
 - Navarro says “standing principal strategy” is not to use coercion for production of PPE and other medical supplies unless it’s a last resort
- **Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai** asks broadband, telephone service providers to extend pledge to waive late fees, continue service through June.
 - Since pledge launched in March, more than 700 providers committed to maintain service, waive fees and open Wi-Fi hotspots: FCC
- The **Department of Health and Human Services’** inspector general announced a probe into the process used by the **Food and Drug Administration** to authorize coronavirus tests, according to a [post](#) on the IG’s website.
 - That process, known as “Emergency Use Authorization,” or EUA, has faced criticism from some lab directors and personnel throughout the country who say they were ready to begin testing residents in their communities during the early stages of the virus’ spread but couldn’t due to regulations at the FDA, CNN previously [reported](#).
 - The inspector general’s office “will examine FDA’s EUA processes and any challenges it may have faced regarding EUAs for COVID-19 diagnostic tests and serological tests for antibodies developed in response to the viral infection,” the post said.
- The **Federal Emergency Management Agency** will coordinate the shipment of personal protective equipment to more than 15,000 nursing homes across the country starting next week, if not sooner, according to a document obtained by CNN.
 - The shipment includes “more than 7.1 million surgical masks, nearly 32.3 million gloves, more than 922,000 goggles and other eye protection, and nearly 9.7 million gowns.”
 - The equipment is only being shipped to Medicaid and Medicare-certified nursing homes based on input from the American Health Care Association.
 - The document, dated April 24, notes that facilities may not receive notification prior to the shipment arriving, citing a large number of nursing homes.



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- “However, as possible, FEMA will provide notification to a state prior to shipments arriving at their Medicaid/ Medicare-certified facilities,” it notes.
- A program created by **Donald Trump’s son-in-law Jared Kushner** has airlifted millions of gloves, masks and other coveted coronavirus supplies into the U.S. from overseas -- but it isn’t clear who’s getting them and at what price, or how much private-sector partners are earning through the arrangement.
 - **Kushner’s “Project Airbridge”** provides transportation via FedEx and others for supplies that medical distributors, including McKesson and Cardinal Health, buy from overseas manufacturers, mainly in China. Once a supplier’s goods arrive in the U.S., the companies must sell half the order in government-designated hotspots. They sell the rest as they see fit.
 - The U.S. government provides the air transportation for free, to speed the arrival of the products. The six distributors keep the profits, if any.
 - The program has won praise from some states, where officials say it provided hard-to-find supplies at a critical time in the Covid-19 outbreak, even if it met a fraction of demand.
 - The **House Oversight Committee** is seeking answers, and Sens. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and [Richard Blumenthal](#) (D-Conn.) wrote to the medical supply companies this week requesting details about their participation in Kushner’s program. “The American people need an explanation for how these supplies are obtained, priced, and distributed,” they said.
 - The letter went to all six participating distributors: **McKesson, Cardinal, Medline Industries, Henry Schein, Owens & Minor and Concordance Health care Solutions**
- **Trump admin.** has no plans to take equity positions in, or nationalize energy companies, Energy Dept spokeswoman Shaylyn Hynes says in emailed comment.
 - “Reports to the contrary are categorically false.” Hynes
- The **Department of Education** continues to garnish wages of those who default on student debt, despite protections Congress enacted last month in response to the coronavirus, borrower advocates alleged in [a lawsuit](#).
 - The department can withhold as much as 15% of a borrowers’ paychecks when their federal student loan goes into default. The CARES Act ([Public Law 116-136](#)), which President Donald Trump signed last month, halted involuntary collections for six months on top of pausing payments on federal student loans through September.



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- The Education Department, led by Secretary Betsy DeVos, failed to ensure that employers were instructed to stop garnishing the wages of employees with defaulted student loans, argues the lawsuit, filed by the National Student Legal Defense Network and announced Friday. The loss of money is causing immediate harm to workers who need to pay for food and rent, the lawsuit says
- **The Department of Health and Human Services** has awarded a \$100 million contract to medical supply distributor American Medical Depot for 10 million reusable N95 respirators, according to the General Services Administration [website](#).
 - The masks are characterized in the contract as “Antibacterial Spectrashield Reusable N95 Respirators” with a 14-day reusability
 - American Medical Depot will be required to deliver the respirators by June 30; the HHS didn’t immediately respond to a request for how the masks would be distributed
- **At President Trump’s** direction, and building on its recent historic efforts to help the U.S. healthcare system manage the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services today issued another round of sweeping regulatory waivers and rule changes to deliver expanded care to the nation’s seniors and provide flexibility to the healthcare system as America reopens. ([HERE](#))
- The **Federal Reserve** on Thursday expanded access to its Paycheck Protection Program Liquidity Facility (PPPLF) to additional lenders, and expanded the collateral that can be pledged. The changes will facilitate lending to small businesses via the Small Business Administration’s (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). ([HERE](#))
- The **Federal Reserve Board** on Thursday announced it is expanding the scope and eligibility for the Main Street Lending Program. As part of its broad effort to support the economy, the Federal Reserve developed the Main Street Lending Program to help credit flow to small and medium-sized businesses that were in sound financial condition before the pandemic. A start date for the program will be announced soon. ([HERE](#))
- Yesterday morning **U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin** held a call with his counterparts from Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the European Commission, and the Eurogroup. As directed by G7 leaders, G7 finance ministries are in regular contact to coordinate on timely and effective actions in response to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Finance Ministers discussed domestic and international economic responses underway, strategies to accelerate economic activity once our economies begin reopening, in line with necessary health and safety measures. The Finance Ministers also discussed the



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importance of foreign direct investment and the use of investment screening mechanisms to identify national security risks. ([HERE](#))

- **U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao** announced today that the Department of Transportation's [Federal Aviation Administration](#) (FAA) will award \$1.187 billion in airport safety and infrastructure grants. The total includes \$731 million in [Airport Improvement Program](#) (AIP) grants and an additional \$455 million in [Supplemental Discretionary grants](#). The money will be available for 100 percent of the eligible costs under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. ([HERE](#))
- A new **State Department** resource, USBusiness@state.gov, supports U.S. companies facing foreign government-imposed supply chain interruptions that prevent these companies from addressing the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States([HERE](#))
- **U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos** announced today that nearly \$1.4 billion in additional funding will be directed to Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), including Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities (TCCUs), as well as institutions serving low-income students to help ensure learning continues during the coronavirus national emergency. ([HERE](#))
- **The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** is working to improve the environment and public health conditions of low-income and minority communities through our daily efforts to ensure all Americans have clean air, safe water, and access to information to make decisions to protect personal and public health. In response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, EPA is making \$1 million in grant funding available to states to help local environmental justice communities address COVID-19 concerns faced by low-income and minority communities. ([HERE](#))

Capitol Hill

- **House Speaker Nancy Pelosi** (D-Calif.) said today U.S. states and cities alone are seeking up to \$1 trillion in aid in the next coronavirus relief package, a figure that could be tough to reach as lawmakers juggle demands to bolster the pandemic-crippled economy.
 - Pelosi said state governments are still finalizing their request but so far sought \$500 billion, while local governments have a similar figure. Lawmakers also are considering other proposals including another round of payments to taxpayers, expanded unemployment insurance, help for renters, and broadband access.
 - “State and local, I talked about almost \$1 trillion right there,” Pelosi said at her weekly news conference. “We are not going to be able to cover all of it, but to the extent we can keep the states and localities sustainable, that is our goal.”



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- **House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy** (R-Calif.) indicated openness to targeted state and local aid in the next bill in a press call today. He said that states should be required to open their accounting books and prove that their expenses were virus-related to prevent them from using the funding for other fiscal burdens, such as public employee pension obligations.
 - “It has to be for Covid,” he said. “If you go and apply it to the states themselves and give the governors a lot of flexibility, they will use it to pay off other things and not help the cities and counties.” Senate Majority Leader [Mitch McConnell](#) (R-Ky.) previously outlined similar conditions on state aid.
- “We cannot let a second pandemic of opportunistic litigation enrich trial lawyers at the expense of Main Street and medical professionals,” **Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell** and House Republican leader [Kevin McCarthy](#) say in joint statement on liability protection.
 - “Senate and House Republicans agree these protections will be absolutely essential to future discussions surrounding recovery legislation,” the Republican leaders say in statement, adding they demand small cos., health workers and others on virus front line “must receive strong protections from frivolous lawsuits”
- **Republican congressional leaders** say they’ll pursue creating stronger protections from lawsuits for health-care workers after a flurry of industry pressure for new liability shields.
 - **Senate Majority Leader [Mitch McConnell](#)** (R-Ky.) and **House Minority Leader [Kevin McCarthy](#)** (R-Calif.) said in a joint statement Friday they are “united in our demand that healthcare workers, small businesses, and other Americans on the front lines of this fight must receive strong protections from frivolous lawsuits.”
 - “We cannot let a second pandemic of opportunistic litigation enrich trial lawyers at the expense of Main Street and medical professionals,” the pair said. “Senate and House Republicans agree these protections will be absolutely essential to future discussions surrounding recovery legislation.”
- **The U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure** today opened an inquiry into Carnival Corp.’s handling of the Covid-19 outbreaks that have resulted in more than 1,500 confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus aboard its cruise ships, as well as dozens of passenger and crew deaths.
 - In letters sent Friday to Carnival President and Chief Executive Officer Arnold Donald, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [Peter DeFazio](#), the Oregon Democrat who chairs the committee,



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requested a wide-ranging collection of internal Carnival documents and correspondence related to its outbreak response, as well as specific assurances about Carnival's plans for improvement

- A **planned Senate bill** from top **Republicans** would require companies such as **Apple** and Alphabet's **Google** to obtain consent to collect people's health or location data as part of a response to the coronavirus pandemic.
 - The bill, which is expected to be introduced by four lawmakers when the Senate resumes next week, comes as privacy concerns mount over the collection of user data to trace the spread of coronavirus. A draft was obtained by Bloomberg and confirmed by two GOP staffers.
 - The bill, which is led by Sen. [Roger Wicker](#) (R-Miss.), would also require companies to explain "how their data will be handled, to whom it will be transferred, and how long it will be retained" when the data is first being collected, according to an announcement from the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee.
- The **attorney general** can't make states and cities help enforce the White House's immigration policies by tacking on conditions to their receipt of federal law enforcement funding, the Seventh Circuit said today. In an effort to get all people, such as undocumented immigrants, to cooperate with law enforcement officers, Chicago bars its police from requesting or disclosing a person's immigration status. The city therefore challenged the conditions the attorney general placed on the federal Byrne JAG grants
- **House Ways and Means Chairman Richard Neal** (D-Mass.) wants a public briefing from the IRS within seven days on the coronavirus stimulus payments being provided to taxpayers. "I feel very strongly that Americans deserve to hear from the Administration on this important topic and have their questions answered directly by IRS officials," Neal said in letter to Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and IRS Commissioner Charles Rettig
 - House Democrats on Thursday released a proposal for investing more than \$80 billion to spread broadband, and House Speaker [Nancy Pelosi](#) said she wants "a piece" of that funding in the next large coronavirus relief bill.
 - "We're talking about distance learning, we're talking about telemedicine, we're talking about people buying things in a way that they hadn't before," Pelosi said at a news conference Thursday. "And yet, it's not available to everyone. So, this is about fairness and equity in every way."
- **House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy** in a press call Thursday called broadband funding "an appropriate discussion for us to have" as lawmakers debate the bill's dimensions. In the Senate, **Majority Leader Mitch McConnell** has signaled reluctance to



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spend more in emergency packages -- yet other Republicans there acknowledge that broadband should be spread more widely.

- “The coronavirus pandemic has further underscored the pressing need for increased access to broadband for all Americans,” **Mississippi Senator Roger Wicker**, chairman of the Commerce Committee that oversees internet policy, said in an emailed statement. “I believe this bipartisan priority will be considered by Congress.”
- **Sen. Ed Markey** (D-Mass.) sent a [letter](#) to Clearview AI yesterday, renewing his call for the company to submit its facial recognition technology to rigorous testing after reports that it was selling it to government entities for tracking coronavirus patients.
 - Markey had initially written to Clearview in January and in March. “Technology has an important role to play in mitigating the COVID-19 pandemic, but this health crisis cannot justify using unreliable surveillance tools that could undermine our privacy rights,” he wrote
- **Sens. Sherrod Brown, Michael Bennet, Dick Durbin, and Ron Wyden** are urging Senate leaders to include a temporary expansion of two tax credits in the next virus-relief package.
 - The Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit must be expanded, as Covid-19 “will have wide-ranging and long-lasting effects, especially on low-wage workers, children, and their families,” lawmakers says in [letter](#) to Senate leaders
- **Republican Sens. David Perdue and Todd Young** along with **Democrats Dick Durbin and Chris Coons** say they will introduce bipartisan legislation to temporarily address a shortage of doctors and nurses as the U.S. responds to the coronavirus pandemic.
 - “This proposal would simply reallocate a limited number of unused visas from prior years for doctors and nurses who are qualified to help in our fight against Covid-19,” Perdue says in a statement
 - Bill would allocate 25,000 unused immigrant visas already approved by Congress for nurses and 15,000 for doctors
- **House Oversight and Reform Chairwoman Carolyn Maloney** (D-N.Y.) and **House Homeland Security Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee ranking member Peter King** (R-N.Y.) were among lawmakers who sent a [letter](#) to House and Senate leadership today urging funding for the U.S. Postal Service as it faces steep revenue drops and a potential shutdown with the coronavirus pandemic. “Without immediate help from Congress and the Administration, the Postal Service—a vital staple of American society since 1775—could cease to function by this summer, they wrote.



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- **Sens. Rob Portman** (R-Ohio) and **Ben Cardin** (D-Md.) in a letter to Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and SBA Administrator Jovita Carranza said the agency shouldn't deny loans under the program to those with criminal records. They urged the agency to revise the rule to "support second chances" and "a stronger economy"
- **Senate Democrats**, led by Sen. **Ed Markey** (D-Mass.), [plan to introduce legislation](#) next week that would steer \$4 billion to provide wireless devices to connect students without internet at home during the pandemic. It's similar to [H.R. 6563](#) from Rep. [Grace Meng](#) (D-N.Y.), which would provide \$2 billion for Wi-Fi devices.
 - **Sen. Chris Van Hollen** (D-Md.), who is co-sponsoring Markey's bill, said in an interview the money is a top priority for CARES-2, the next stimulus bill Congress is working on.
- **House Majority Whip James Clyburn (D-S.C.), House Energy and Commerce Chairman Frank Pallone (D-N.J.)** and 11 other House Democrats announced a [plan](#) Thursday to expand affordable broadband internet, including providing funding for mobile hotspots for students and Wi-Fi-connected school buses.
- **Markey, Van Hollen, and other Democrats** argue the next stimulus package should include \$4 billion toward a new Emergency Connectivity Fund to expand the FCC's E-Rate program to help pay for Wi-Fi hotspots and wireless devices in students' homes. The FCC's E-Rate program provides 20%-90% discounted broadband internet to K-12 schools and libraries. Markey helped write the 1996 legislation that created the E-Rate program.
 - **Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.)**, chairman of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, is considering all proposals to address the homework gap and other connectivity needs,
- **Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell** (R-Ky.), in an interview with a Kentucky sports radio station, said he spoke with Major League Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred a few weeks ago to discuss getting the season back up and running. "I called the commissioner of baseball a couple of weeks ago and I said, 'America needs baseball. It's the sign of getting back to normal. Any chance?'" McConnell told 93.9 FM WLCL. He said there's discussion about how to salvage at least part of the season starting around July 4
- **Reps. Ami Bera (D-Calif.) and Larry Bucshon (R-Ind.)**, both of whom are physicians, said that doctors working in their own practices or as part of small-group practices are among the hardest hit by the losses in patient visits caused by the spread of coronavirus. These practices have had to forgo elective medical procedures, which are typically more lucrative than emergency services, for months and many are in danger of closing



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- Many **lawmakers** have called for eliminating the payment limits on relief checks for farmers because they're worried the cap would [crush certain sectors of the industry](#) that have been hardest hit by the pandemic, like livestock and dairy farmers or fresh produce growers, because of how their operations are structured or their high production costs.
- A **bipartisan group of senators** is urging USDA to target local producers when distributing coronavirus emergency financial funds. [Read the letter here.](#)
- **House Education and Labor Chairman Rep. Bobby Scott** (D-Va.) recently introduced [H.R. 6559 \(116\)](#), which would require OSHA to issue an emergency standard within seven days that would establish mandatory coronavirus protections.
- **House Democrats** are planning to [introduce a set of bills today aimed at protecting frontline TSA workers](#) during the pandemic. The bills would reverse TSA's move last year to stop paying a full share of health care premiums for part-time employees, fund hazardous duty pay for frontline employees, and provide a "presumption of workplace causation" for employees who have regular contact with the public.
- **House Homeland Security Chairman Bennie Thompson** (D-Miss.) [sent letters](#) to private prison companies CoreCivic, The GEO Group, and others which manage some detention facilities for Immigration and Customs Enforcement yesterday. Thompson pressed for more information about how the companies are trying to halt the rising spread of coronavirus, citing media reports indicating the groups were preventing staff and detainees from wearing masks. Thompson also pressed for information on how many staff tested positive.
- **House Education and Labor Committee Chairman Bobby Scott** (D-Va.) will introduce a proposal Friday to spend \$15 billion on workforce-training programs, dwarfing the commitment in the \$2.2 trillion CARES Act, which featured a \$345 million grant program for unemployed workers. The bill would give states funding to beef up vocational training programs and other employment services to aid the flood of newly jobless workers, a number that has now [eclipsed 30 million](#)
- **Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations Chairman Rob Portman** (R-Ohio) said in a statement a virtual roundtable the panel held yesterday was a "successful test run for future virtual hearings." The panel discussed the possibility of amending chamber rules to allow senators to vote and participate remotely during a national crisis, which is part of a bipartisan resolution introduced by Portman and Sen. **Dick Durbin (D-Ill.)**. Portman said at the roundtable the chamber was awaiting guidance from the Rules Committee on how to conduct more hearings remotely



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- **House Majority Whip James Clyburn (D-S.C.)** and 11 other House Democrats released a plan yesterday aiming to ensure all Americans can access affordable broadband. The proposal is an updated and expanded version of some provisions of the caucus's Moving America Forward Framework, [according to a press release](#). Part of the plan would authorize funding for Wi-Fi on school buses so students, especially in rural areas, could stay connected.
- **House Intelligence Chairman Adam Schiff (D-Calif.)** asked the CEOs of Twitter, Google and YouTube to contact users who've been exposed to misinformation related to the coronavirus and to "proactively" direct them to "authoritative, medically accurate resources." While taking down "harmful misinformation is a crucial step," mitigating damage from false content also requires making sure users have the opportunity to view facts, Schiff wrote, [Ben Livesey reports](#).
- **Sens. Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.), Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.), Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Mo.),** and Moran led 37 Senators in a letter to the Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services advocating to increase telephone-based, or audio-only, telehealth reimbursements to equal other video telehealth reimbursements, to support Americans who do not have reliable access to broadband during the pandemic

State/Local

- **Governor Brian Kemp** says the shelter-in-place order for most Georgians will expire at 11:59 p.m. Thursday.
- The **Federal Emergency Management Agency** is launching a campaign to distribute face masks to **North Carolina's** energy and food supply workers, Michael Sprayberry, the state director of Emergency Management, announced Thursday.
- **California Gov. Gavin Newsom** announced today a temporary pause on state and local beaches in Orange County.
 - He said the beaches may open very quickly if the framework and guidelines allow.
 - Newsom has consistently reiterated his disappointment and frustration with beachgoers, chiding them for crowding the coast. He noted that only about 5% of beaches in the state actually presented an issue with crowding.
- In defiance of **Gov. Gavin Newsom's** stay-at-home order, **a small rural county on the northeastern edge of California** plans to reopen businesses, schools and churches starting Friday, according to the county's Facebook page.



COVID-19 5/1 UPDATE

- Bordering Oregon, **Modoc County** is the first in the state to openly reject Newsom's continued restrictions to stem the spread of the coronavirus.
- Employees in **Iowa** must return to work or risk losing their jobs and Pandemic Unemployment Compensation benefits (PUC), state officials said at a briefing Thursday.
 - "We want to remind all individuals that if you are recalled to work, and choose not to return, you may lose eligibility for unemployment benefits. In addition to losing your job," said Beth Townsend, director of Iowa Workforce Development.
 - Iowans will still qualify for benefits if a person is diagnosed with the virus, is taking care of a family member with the virus, or lack necessary childcare, Townsend said.
- **Utah Gov. Gary Herbert** has issued an Executive Order that will place the state under a lower, "moderate risk" protocol beginning on midnight tomorrow, according to a statement on the governor's website.
 - The lower risk category allows restaurants and bars to open for dine-in services, but with "strict requirements," a Utah Department of Health document said.
 - The requirements include limiting tables to groups of 10, enforcing social distancing and face coverings for staff, the document said.
- **Gov. Andrew Cuomo's** office has directed the New York State Department of Corrections to begin the release of pregnant, non-violent, inmates who have six months or less remaining on their sentences, Melissa DeRosa, the secretary to the governor, said in a statement Thursday
- **Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker** said the state's modified stay-at-home order will allow more flexibility "where it is safe" to do so.
 - The order will go into effect Friday, May 1.
 - State parks, golf courses, retail stores, and garden centers are some of the few places that are reopening with strict social measures.
 - Elective surgeries that have been put off due to the crisis can also now be scheduled in surgery centers and hospitals, Pritzker said.
 - He also will require everyone in the state to wear a face mask when possible.
- Some **Mississippi** casinos could reopen in time for Memorial Day weekend, Gov. Tate Reeves said during a news conference on Thursday.
 - The state's casinos have been closed since mid-March.
 - Reeves said he was confident that by Memorial Day some of the facilities would be open, but it would not be the exact same way it was before the pandemic.
- **Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont** outlined the industries that could reopen on May 20.



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- He said at a news conference today that state officials were looking into how to safely open outdoor only restaurants, outdoor zoos and outdoor museums, university research programs, hair and nail services and the remaining retail businesses that are currently been deemed as nonessential.
 - Some offices would also open but individuals would be encouraged to continue to work from home when possible. Outdoor recreation such as camping and mountain biking would also reopen.
 - The recommendations are being made based on industry types that can be reopened safely and where social distancing can be maintained, Lamont said.
 - Ultimately it will be up to each individual business to decide if it feels comfortable reopening on May 20, Lamont stressed.
- **Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee** has shared a series of rules businesses like barbershops and hair salons must follow before before reopening May 6.
 - The guidelines apply to "close contact personal services" in 89 of the state's 95 counties, according to the guidelines shared by the [state online](#).
 - Some of the guidelines include:
 - Verbal and temperature screenings for all employees
 - Practicing social distancing
 - Increased hygiene practices like changing protective garments on a regular basis
 - Washing hands between each customer
 - Employees must wear a cloth face covering
 - Other protocols that businesses will need to observe include not offering any self-serve food or beverages and prohibiting congregation.
 - The new guidelines limit certain services that require the removal of face coverings. Services like beard shaving/trimming and facials will not be allowed in phase one, the guidelines state.
- **New York schools** will remain closed for the remainder of the academic year, Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced.
 - The schools – kindergarten through high school as well as college facilities — will continue to provide distance learning.
 - Summer school programming plans will be announced by the end of the month, Cuomo said.
 - "In the meantime, meal programs will continue, the child care services for essential workers will continue," Cuomo said.
- **Los Angeles County** will not provide coronavirus testing for low risk and asymptomatic residents, according to Health Services Director Christina Ghaly.



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- Ghaly said the focus will instead be on people living in institutional settings like nursing homes, homeless shelters and jails. That includes both people with symptoms and those without.
 - Ghaly acknowledged the psychological reassurance of knowing whether you are infected, but warned that a test captures only one moment in time.
- **Arkansas** will lift restrictions on gyms, fitness centers, and indoor athletic facilities so they can resume operations beginning next Monday, May 4, Gov. Asa Hutchinson announced on Thursday.
 - The governor outlined limitations and requirements for the facilities upon reopening including:
 - No entry for people who recently traveled to New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, New Orleans, or overseas
 - No entry for people with a fever, symptoms, or recent contact with a Covid patient or anyone with compromised immune systems or chronic diseases
 - Temperature checks for staff
 - Face coverings for staff and patrons, except while actively exercising
 - No pools, spas, showers or saunas
 - Hand sanitizer must be available
 - Equipment must be sanitized after each use
 - 12-foot distancing while working out, during training sessions, and for classes
 - No personal contact
- A stay-at-home order in **Louisiana** has been extended until May 15, Gov. John Bel Edwards said at a news conference Thursday.
- **Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz** announced he is signing a new executive order that extends the state's stay-at-home order but also loosens some restrictions on businesses.
 - Walz said that the order is extended until May 18. The governor also "strongly" encouraged Minnesotans to wear masks outside the home.
 - Starting on Monday, retail businesses may begin to offer curbside pickup, Walz announced. Businesses are required to develop and post a plan on safe operation, use contactless payments, and follow social distancing and minimize contact with customers, Walz explained.
- The stay-at-home order in **Ohio** has been extended until May 29 to prevent the spread of Covid-19, the state's department of health said late Thursday.
 - The department outlined procedures for most businesses to re-open as long as they are following proper procedures and social distancing measures.



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- Meanwhile, all Ohio residents — with some exceptions — are ordered to stay at home.
- **Washington, DC**, has continued to see an overall rise in coronavirus cases over the last seven weeks.
 - As of Thursday, DC tested 21,135 people, with 4,658 total positives. There have been a total of 231 deaths. The number of positive cases took a drastic jump to 335 cases Friday — the biggest rise in a single day.
 - Friday's rise in cases coincides with the first day DC has received more than 1,000 test results in a single day.
- [The Beverly Hills City Council voted to repeal its moratorium](#) on any elective surgeries, including cosmetic procedures and plastic surgeries.
 - Members voted 4-1 [to remove restrictions put in place by the state](#) to ensure more beds for coronavirus patients and to prepare hospitals for a surge of cases.

International

- **Mexican Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard** on Thursday made clear that Mexico will not reopen shuttered factories — even if they're involved in producing materials needed for food, medical and other critical goods — until it is advised by Mexican health officials.
 - "We're part of a global supply chain, but Mexico's priority today is the health and safety of the sick and the measures the Health Ministry is taking to prevent spread," Ebrard said in a press conference. "It's not a bilateral issue at this time."
 - Mexico will not change its definition of "essential businesses" to include supply chain needs, Ebrard said, despite repeated calls from the Trump administration, U.S. lawmakers on both sides of the aisle and U.S. manufacturers who are worried about major production disruptions.
- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** says 102 potential Covid-19 vaccines are in development around the world, according to documents posted on the organization's website.
 - Eight of the potential vaccines are approved for clinical trials. That is up from seven vaccines four days ago. The additional group is from China, but it is unclear if they have started trials on human study subjects — the other seven have.
 - Of the groups approved for clinical trials on humans, four are from China, one is from England, one is American and another is a combined American and European group.
- **Spain's** public deficit will balloon to about \$126 billion this year, or 10.3% of GDP, more than triple last year's deficit, the government announced Friday.



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- The public deficit, as a percent of gross domestic product, impacts Spain's capacity to get financing.
- **Malaysia** will allow the majority of businesses to reopen on Monday, Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin announced today, according to state-run news agency Bernama.
- **Australia** will consider easing lockdown restrictions earlier than planned, Prime Minister Scott Morrison said in a news conference today.
- The **Indian government** has extended its nationwide lockdown by two more weeks until May 17, but has issued exemptions for certain areas and activities, according to Ministry of Home Affairs. The current measures were set to expire on May 3.
 - Most travel by air, rail, metro and inter-state movement by road will continue to be prohibited and all schools and colleges will remain closed along with theaters, malls and places of worship.
 - The Ministry of Home Affairs will allow movement of people by air, rail and road only for select purposes. Over the last few days, the government has arranged for transportation for stranded migrant workers, students and tourists to travel back to their homes.

Other

- **McDonald's** will reopen 15 of its restaurants in the **UK** on May 13 in a limited capacity and with delivery only, McDonald's UK and Ireland CEO Paul Pomroy said today.
 - The company plans to introduce new measures to keep its staff safe. Clear screens and floor markings will be introduced in specific areas, and additional protective equipment, including non-medical grade face masks, will be provided. Contactless thermometers will be used on arrival at work for every shift.
 - McDonald's will also be introducing social distancing measures for all of its delivery and service partners.
- **Gilead Sciences** has studied its antiviral drug remdesivir as a possible treatment option for patients hospitalized with severe Covid-19, but now research is underway to investigate whether the medication can be used earlier in the course of illness — such as when the disease is still "moderate," the company's CEO Daniel O'Day said Friday morning on "Today."
- **Amazon.com** has told staff whose job can be done from home that they can do so until at least Oct. 2.
- The United States' three biggest airlines -- **American Airlines, Delta Air Lines and United Airlines** -- each said Thursday they will now require their passengers to wear masks.



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- The Delta and United policy takes effect on Monday and the American policy takes effect a week later, on May 11.
 - These airlines join JetBlue, Frontier, and Lufthansa, which have made similar announcements.
- **Southwest Airlines** will begin requiring customers to wear wear masks aboard its planes starting May 11.
 - "It is highly encouraged to bring your own hand sanitizer and mask, and to wear your mask while traveling. Face coverings or masks will be required for Customers starting May 11. If you forget your mask at home, one will be available for you," the company said in an update to travelers.
- **JBS** has announced that it is partially reopening its plant in Worthington, Minnesota, "to provide producers with a humane euthanasia option for market hogs," the company said in a statement today.
 - A small staff of "approximately 10 to 20 team members" will facilitate the process of putting down hogs that farmers are unable to keep and feed on their farms, the company statement said. JBS anticipates that approximately 13,000 hogs could be euthanized per day, the statement said.
- **Tyson Foods** said it will temporarily stop operations at its Dakota City, Nebraska, beef facility to complete a deep cleaning of the entire plant, according to a statement released by the company.
 - The statement said the facility will stop operations between May 1 through May 4.
- **Little League International** has canceled the upcoming Little League World Series.
 - The World Series was originally scheduled for August 20 through 30. The organization's Board of Directors canceled the regional qualifying events as well, citing public health concerns with coronavirus.
- **NASCAR** has announced that it will begin holding races in mid-May starting with events at Darlington Raceway in Darlington, South Carolina.
 - Fans will not be allowed at the events.
- **Smithfield Foods** will reopen its pork plant in Monmouth, Illinois, this weekend, and continue full operations into next week, company spokesperson Jenna Wollin said.
 - Tomorrow, the "kill floor," maintenance and plant service departments will begin operating, followed by the plant's "cold side" starting on Monday.
- **Amgen Inc.** will investigate the psoriasis drug Otezla as a potential therapy to treat Covid-19, the company announced during its first-quarter earnings.



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- In Covid-19 patients with extreme symptoms, it's believed that an overactive immune system may be at least partially to blame; Otezla is being investigated to treat immune system-related inflammatory diseases beyond psoriasis. Researchers are exploring if drugs that help temper the immune response may help to curb the severity of the illness.

Macy's Plans to Reopen All of Its 775 Stores in 6 to 8 Weeks.