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Global

Total cases – 4,413,597

Total deaths – 300,315

United States

Total cases – 1,401,948 (2% increase from prior day)

Total deaths – 85,066 (3% increase from prior day)

Total # tests – 9,974,831(3% increase from prior day)

Administration

- **President Trump** is open to phase four coronavirus relief legislation but he's opposed to the \$3 trillion stimulus measure drafted by House Democrats, White House Press Sec. Kayleigh McEnany says on Fox News
- **Tesla CEO Elon Musk** is “doing the right thing,” by deciding to restart production in Calif. car plant against area rules, **President Trump** says in Fox Business interview.
 - “I’m all for him,” Trump says of Musk when asked for his take on Musk decision
- **President Trump** said the administration will “go after” public companies that received PPP loans that they should not have taken if they don’t return the loan.
 - “Well we’ll go after them very seriously. If there’s any companies that got loans that they weren’t entitled to, we’ll go after them very seriously. They’ll have big problems,” Trump said.
 - The deadline for companies to return the loans with amnesty to the Small Business Association is Thursday.
 - Earlier in the week, a House coronavirus oversight panel asked five companies to return PPP loans.
- **President Trump** said the House Democrats’ proposed \$3 trillion coronavirus relief package is “dead on arrival” because it contains provisions he believes are meant to prevent Republicans from winning elections.
- **Small Business Administration** says it has approved \$192.6b in loans out of the \$320 billion that Congress authorized in the second round of the [Paycheck Protection Program](#).
 - SBA says on its [website](#) it has processed 2.69 million applications from 5,428 lenders as of 5pm Eastern time



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- Total amount is about \$1.2b higher than on Tuesday but is a net number, with loans canceled or returned subtracted, SBA says
- Average loan amount for second round is now \$71,679
- The **US Food and Drug Administration** said thermal imaging systems shouldn't be used for "mass fever screening" in crowds, according to guidance published Wednesday.
 - When used correctly, these devices have certain benefits such as allowing individuals' temperatures to be taken at a distance, for example, the FDA said.
 - The agency cautioned that the systems "have not been shown to be accurate when used to take the temperature of multiple people at the same time."
 - The effectiveness of the systems, the agency said, depends on their careful set-up and operation, as well as proper evaluation of the person being screened.
- The contested **CDC** guidelines on how to reopen specific types of businesses are expected to be released publicly today, an administration official tells CNN, after weeks of [back and forth between the White House and the CDC](#) over their level of specificity.
 - It's not clear yet what format they will take or how specific they ended up after concerns were raised by the White House that they were overly prescriptive for states experiencing varying levels of outbreak.
 - The guidance includes sectors like restaurants and retail outlets, as well as schools and day cares.
- First \$500m of \$3.9b in stimulus transit funding is headed to New York's Metropolitan Transportation Authority, **President Trump** says in [tweet](#).
- **Pentagon inspector general** to evaluate the "impact to operations resulting from Covid-19," says agency's oversight plan released today.
 - Evaluation is one of 10 planned in addition to six ongoing reviews and will look at whether top combat commands for Africa, Middle East, Europe, Indo-Pacific and Southern Hemisphere executed pandemic response plans
 - IG also to evaluate whether DoD officials adequately cleaned and disinfected facilities occupied by individuals suspected of or confirmed as being positive for Covid-19, plan says
 - Audit will review whether DoD organizations maintained network cyber protections as workforce maximized telework capabilities during the Covid-19 pandemic
- Truck drivers will be allowed to drive more hours under a **Transportation Department** rule change announced Thursday that's not related to the coronavirus pandemic.



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- Truckers who drive short distances will be allowed to drive up to 14 hours instead of 12
- Time spent loading, unloading truck will be counted as breaks from driving
- Drivers will be required to take a 30-minute break after eight hours of driving, instead of taking a break after eight hours of completing job-related tasks, such as loading a truck
- Regulation change is permanent
- The whistle-blower complaint filed by **Rick Bright**, who was ousted last month as head of the agency helping to fund development of vaccines and treatments for the new coronavirus, “is filled with one-sided arguments and misinformation,” **HHS** says in statement.
 - **HHS** statement alleges Bright pushed for “quick and serious consideration” of the same drugs he says he raised concerns over
- President Donald Trump plans to name **Moncef Slaoui**, the former head of GlaxoSmithKline Plc’s vaccines division, and **Gustave Perna**, a four-star U.S. general, to lead a Manhattan Project-style effort to develop a vaccine for the novel coronavirus, two people familiar with the matter said.
 - Slaoui, 60, and Perna will oversee the initiative known as Operation Warp Speed, according to the people, who spoke on condition of anonymity ahead of an announcement expected later Wednesday. Slaoui will work on a volunteer basis.
- The **Trump administration** project seeks to produce 300 million doses of a Covid-19 vaccine by the end of the year, hastening development by simultaneously testing many different candidates and beginning production before they’ve completed clinical trials.
 - The program will pull together private pharmaceutical companies, government agencies and the military to try to cut the development time for a vaccine by as much as eight months, according to two people familiar with the matter. Slaoui will serve as the program’s chief adviser while Perna will work as the chief operating officer, the people said.
- **State and local governments** are expected to see tax revenue declines of an estimated \$54 billion during the fiscal year ending next month, according to Stephan Whitaker, an economist at the **Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland**.
 - Depending on the speed of the recovery over the next fiscal year, another \$25 billion to \$137 billion of revenue may be lost



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- Under the most optimistic scenario, states and local governments will lose \$25 billion in revenue in FY21. They are estimated to lose \$73 billion if the nation experiences a slow recovery and \$137 billion if there is a resurgence of COVID-19
- **CFPB** outlines the billing error responsibilities of credit card issuers and other open-end non-home secured creditors during the Covid-19 pandemic.
 - CFPB “encourages financial firms to continue to provide the kind of assistance to their communities that many have been providing, such as waiving fees, lowering minimum-balance requirements, and implementing changes in account terms that benefit consumers,” agency says in emailed statement
- Of 10,509 locations associated with prime contractors monitored by the **Defense Contract Management Agency**, 248 have closed since the Covid-19 outbreak, 208 have reopened, says agency spokesman Matt Montgomery in a statement.
- “Our military is now being mobilized” to administer vaccine, if one is available, “rapidly” by end of year, **President Trump** says in Fox Business interview.
 - “I think we’re going to have a vaccine by the end of the year,” Trump says, adding he expects to focus on giving vaccine to nursing home residents, other vulnerable people first
- **President Donald Trump** said he doesn’t see the U.S. unemployment dropping below 10% by September, two months before Election Day.
 - Trump said in an interview with Fox Business that the economy, which has been crippled by fallout from the coronavirus, “will transition” in the third quarter and that the U.S. is “going to be strong again” next year.
 - “We’re going to lose over 100,000 perhaps in this country,” President Trump says about coronavirus deaths in Fox Business interview.
- **President Trump** is signing an executive order under which the United States International Development Finance Corporation will provide financing “to key industries producing vital goods and services,” says White House says in statement.
 - IDFC’s CEO may also use authority under the Defense Production Act, in consultation with the secretaries of Defense, HHS, DHS, and the heads of other agencies as deemed appropriate, “for the domestic production of strategic resources needed to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak, or to strengthen any relevant domestic supply chains,” order says
- **President Trump** tells Fox Business that China will try to steal intellectual property and get a Covid-19 vaccine first but the U.S. can prevent it.



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- “We can stop them, they’re going to try doing it. I mean you can also stop doing business with them, that’s one thing,” Trump says
- “They’ve always been doing it and they were never called. Now they’re being called out all the time with me,” he says about China and IP stealing
- **President Trump** says international travel will return “as soon as possible,”, adding that U.S. can’t send planes over to a country that’s still “badly infected.”
 - “It will take a little while,” Trump says in Fox Business interview about resuming international travel
- **President Donald Trump** accused the nation’s top infectious disease official, Anthony Fauci, of wanting to “play all sides of the equation” with congressional testimony Tuesday that warned reopening the country too quickly could lead to coronavirus case flare ups.
 - “I was surprised by his answer, actually,” Trump told reporters yesterday at the White House. “Because you know, it’s just -- to me it’s not an acceptable answer, especially when it comes to schools.”
- **White House** isn’t seeing increase in coronavirus cases in some of the states increasing mobility, Press Sec. Kayleigh McEnany says.
 - “What I would note is Dr. Birx shared with me yesterday that we’re seeing an inverse correlation between mobility and new cases,” McEnany tells reporters
 - “So as mobility - she showed me a graph of Miami and Atlanta - as mobility is going up, that’s reopening, we’re seeing cases go down in those areas”: McEnany
- **President Donald Trump’s** administration plans to keep 90 days of medical supplies in the national stockpile to help gird against future flare-ups of the coronavirus pandemic as the U.S. starts to reopen.
 - The Strategic National Stockpile will maintain the supplies while additional surge manufacturing is built up, a senior administration official said Thursday. The stockpile will include testing supplies that weren’t maintained in the past. Trump is scheduled Thursday to tour an Owens & Minor Inc. plant in Allentown, Pennsylvania, on Thursday that produces medical supplies.
 - In addition to bolstering the federal storehouse of crucial supplies like ventilators and respirator masks, the president’s plan -- being billed as the Strategic National Stockpile 2.0 -- calls for entering into contracts with companies to maintain a flow into the stockpiles, similar to the way the Defense Department



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- manages its supply chains, according to senior administration officials who requested anonymity to detail the plan before it was formally announced.
- Under the new system, the government will collect information on the manufacturing of supplies, what hospitals have available on their shelves, and how quickly hospitals are using supplies, the official said.
 - The **Pentagon's industrial policy chief** who oversees efforts to ramp up production of equipment to combat the pandemic was fired from her job this week, [Politico reports](#), citing two people familiar with matter.
 - Jennifer Santos will move to a position in the Navy: Politico
 - The **Federal Reserve and Treasury Department** should restrict large companies that get bailout funds from pursuing mergers and acquisitions that could hurt small businesses, three Democrats wrote in a letter to Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell. Small- and medium-sized businesses that are struggling due to the crisis are easy targets for “cheap, predatory takeovers,” the lawmakers said.
 - **SBA** issued an [interim final rule](#) authorizing all lenders to increase existing PPP loans to partnerships and seasonal employers who applied before SBA guidance specific to their type of business had been issued and, as a result, received lower loan amounts than they would have ultimately been entitled to.
 - The U.S. economy faces unprecedented risks from the coronavirus if fiscal and monetary policy makers don't rise to the challenge, **Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell** said while pushing back against the notion of deploying negative interest rates. “The recovery may take some time to gather momentum, and the passage of time can turn liquidity problems into solvency problems,” Powell said today in remarks to a virtual event hosted by the Peterson Institute for International Economics. “Additional fiscal support could be costly, but worth it if it helps avoid long-term economic damage and leaves us with a stronger recovery.”
 - The **EPA** is shifting nearly 9,500 pieces of protective equipment to the Federal Emergency Management Agency to help it respond to the coronavirus. The Environmental Protection Agency's air and radiation office uses protective gear for laboratory work and to respond to emergencies. “EPA is transferring the excess equipment while still maintaining its emergency response readiness,” the EPA said in a press release today.
 - The **Trump administration** said firms that took loans of more than \$2 million that they didn't need from a small business aid program would be allowed to repay the money



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without legal consequences, reversing an earlier threat that the government could pursue them criminally.

- New [guidance](#) issued Wednesday for the [Paycheck Protection Program](#) by the Small Business Administration and the Treasury Department also said that companies that accepted loans of less than \$2 million will automatically be determined to have done so in good faith because they're less likely to have access to other resources.
- The guidance comes before the Thursday deadline that the SBA and Treasury had set for firms that weren't eligible for a PPP loan to return them without penalty and provides more assurance for firms with smaller loans who were uncertain about whether they should keep the money. Some companies [have reported](#) returning loans even though they Update on Treasury Implementation of the Payroll Support Program for the Aviation Industry ([HERE](#))
- Since announcing the Payroll Support Program, Treasury has approved over \$25 billion in assistance to 352 applicants, supporting hundreds of thousands of American jobs. Approved applicants include all of the major passenger air carriers, more than 260 smaller passenger air carriers, and a significant number of cargo air carriers and contractors
- Millions more **Americans** filed for unemployment benefits over the last week, pushing the eight-week total above 36 million since the pandemic started to close businesses across the country in mid-March. Initial jobless claims totaled 2.98 million in the week ending on May 9, according to Labor Department numbers released today, slightly higher than the median estimate in a Bloomberg survey. The data follow last Friday's report, which showed the jobless rate hitting 14.7% in April,
- **FCC** says 774 broadband and telephone providers have extended a pledge to assist residential and small business customers that have difficulties paying their bills or have connection issues as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.
 - Providers extend commitment to June 30; expired May 12, FCC says in [statement](#)
 - Separately, FCC [says](#) it has extended temporary waivers through June 30 for Telecommunications Relay Service providers to ensure their services remain available during the pandemic for individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, deafblind, or have a speech disability
- A clinical trial has begun to evaluate whether the malaria drug hydroxychloroquine, given together with the antibiotic azithromycin, can prevent hospitalization and death from the coronavirus disease, **NIH** says in emailed statement



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- To help homeowners who are in COVID-19 related forbearance, the **Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA)** has announced that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac (the Enterprises) are making available a new payment deferral option. ([HERE](#))
- **Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM)** President and Chairman Kimberly A. Reed today concluded a series of teleconference listening sessions with 30 of EXIM's delegated authority lenders, discussing EXIM's temporary relief measures and other efforts to protect both exporters and the taxpayer during the COVID-19 pandemic. ([HERE](#))
- **U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue** today announced during a virtual press conference that USDA is investing \$22.5 million for two recipients in Michigan to provide broadband service in unserved and underserved rural areas. These investments are part of USDA's round one investments made through the [ReConnect Pilot Program](#). ([HERE](#))
- The **Department of Homeland Security (DHS)** has announced a temporary final rule to change certain H-2B requirements to help support the U.S. food supply chain, maintain essential infrastructure operations and reduce the impact from the coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency. ([HERE](#))
- Manufacturing facilities are an integral part of the United States' supply chain. Some facilities are part of the [critical manufacturing sector](#) identified by the **U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency**. CDC's [Critical Infrastructure Guidance](#) advises that critical infrastructure workers may be permitted to continue work following potential exposure to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), provided they remain asymptomatic, have not had a positive test result for COVID-19, and additional precautions are implemented to protect them and the community. Facilities that are not part of the critical manufacturing sector should follow the [CDC Public Health Recommendations for Community-Related Exposure](#) following a workers' potential exposure to COVID-19. s ([HERE](#))
- The **CDC** has posted a map with country-specific travel health information about COVID-19. ([HERE](#))
- Today, under the direction of President Trump, **CMS** released a new [toolkit](#) developed to aid nursing homes, Governors, states, departments of health, and other agencies who provide oversight and assistance to these facilities, with additional resources to aid in the fight against the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic within nursing homes.



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- **FEMA** has developed an Exercise Starter Kit with sample documents your organization can use to conduct your own planning workshop to navigate the complexities of returning to full operations during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The Exercise Starter Kit includes a sample facilitator guide and conduct slides that are designed to be adapted and customized for your own needs. ([HERE](#))
- The **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services** (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) awarded \$15 million to 159 organizations across five health workforce programs to increase telehealth capabilities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These awards demonstrate the Trump Administration's continued efforts and commitment to building a national telehealth infrastructure. ([HERE](#))
- The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** (CDC) and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) have together determined that government entities working in support of the COVID-19 response efforts are providing essential services and the [current guidelines for critical infrastructure workers apply](#). Therefore, providing that they are asymptomatic, screened, and monitored for fever and other symptoms, wear a face covering, and maintain a distance of at least six feet from others, Drs. Redfield, Hahn, and Fauci can and will participate in meetings on the White House complex when their attendance is needed. ([HERE](#))
- The **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs** (VA) announced it has maintained an increasing supply of beds for both Veterans and COVID-19 patients, steady supplies across the nation and a stable staffing situation in the vast majority of VA locations nearly two months into the national emergency. ([HERE](#))
- The **Department of Defense** and the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**, announced a \$138 million contract with ApiJect Systems America for “Project Jumpstart” and “RAPID USA,” which together will dramatically expand U.S. production capability for domestically manufactured, medical-grade injection devices starting by October 2020. ([HERE](#))
- The **Department of Defense’s Defense Logistics Agency**, in coordination with FEMA and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, has signed a \$134 million contract award with the Federal Resources Supply Company to provide personal protective equipment (PPE) kits including protective eyewear, gloves, gowns, and masks for medical personnel at over 15,000 nursing home locations. ([HERE](#))



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- The **House Rules Committee** is expected to meet today to vote on a resolution to authorize temporary remote voting by proxy in the House and providing for official remote committee proceedings during a public health emergency due to the coronavirus. It would also authorize virtual committee proceedings.
 - Democrats are moving ahead without bipartisan support from a task force dedicated to establishing a “virtual Congress.”
 - “While we could not come to an agreement, we have incorporated several Republican ideas into this resolution. We will now move forward on these temporary emergency procedures to ensure the House can continue fully working for the people during this public health and economic emergency,” House Majority Leader [Steny H. Hoyer](#) (D-Md.), Committee on House Administration Chairperson [Zoe Lofgren](#) (D-Calif.), and Rules Committee Chairman [James McGovern](#) (D-Mass.) said in a statement yesterday
- **Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell** criticized the House for not returning to Washington and says the Senate has been back for two weeks conducting hearings and confirming nominees.
 - McConnell, in opening floor comments, says the House wants to “jam through” remote voting by proxy so lawmakers can be “counterproductive from the comfort of their homes”
 - He reiterates that House Democrats’ \$3t virus relief plan not a serious proposal
- **Democratic Senate leader Chuck Schumer** says McConnell has scheduled “zero” votes on legislation related to the virus and instead Republicans are pursuing diversion and conspiracy theories to prop up President Trump
- **Republicans** want a new congressional panel created to monitor coronavirus funding to also investigate “the actions and inactions” of the World Health Organization, China and the House itself in the early stages of the coronavirus pandemic. The demands are included in a list of rules that the GOP wants the committee to adopt as safeguards against “partisan political ends,” in a letter delivered hours before the panel holds its first hearing today on how to safely reopen the U.S.
- **Reps. Anna Eshoo** and [Jan Schakowsky](#) and Sens. [Richard Blumenthal](#) and [Mark Warner](#) introduce a [bill](#) that would give consumers the right to sue companies and government agencies if their private health data is not protected during the coronavirus pandemic.
 - Bill would require entities to obtain consent and delete data 60 days after health emergency ends; it would also prohibit sharing of data for e-commerce uses



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- The bill would apply to the system Apple and Google are developing to help with contact tracing during the pandemic, a Democratic House aide said.
- **House Democrats** are adding provisions to their next major stimulus bill to bar lobbyists and political groups from coronavirus relief funds for small businesses under the popular Paycheck Protection Program.
 - Changes in an [amendment](#) to the Democrats' \$3 trillion [plan](#) for the next round of stimulus reflect concerns that the aid money could go to lobbyists while Democrats seek to expand eligibility for the loans to an array of non-profit groups.
 - The changes, which are backed by leadership and are expected to make it into the Democrats' final proposal, would bar businesses and other groups from counting the compensation of federally registered lobbyists when calculating how much aid the firms can access.
 - It would also disqualify groups that have or will spend money on elections or political advocacy in the current election cycle on the federal, state or local level. The House is scheduled to vote on the bill Friday.
- The proposed bill would make several changes to the PPP, the centerpiece of the Trump administration's \$2.2 trillion relief package enacted in March. The program offers loans to small businesses of up to \$10 million and was designed to be a short-term lifeline to keep businesses afloat until they can reopen. The loans convert to grants if the money is spent mostly on payroll in eight weeks.
 - Among the changes in the amendment are lengthening the period for spending the money to 24 weeks, scrapping a requirement that at least 75% be spent on payroll, and setting aside funding for firms with 10 or fewer employees. The amendment would also allow loans to be spent on personal protective equipment or supplies needed to protect the health and safety of employees.
- **House Republicans** last week created a China Task Force to probe the origins of the coronavirus and how the WHO handled reports of the initial outbreak. Rep. [Michael McCaul](#) (R-Texas), top Republican of the House Foreign Affairs Committee who's leading the task force, said in an interview that it will not be a "partisan exercise" but rather a look into Chinese influence through a "Covid-19 lens."
- Lawmakers on the newly formed **House Select Committee on the Coronavirus Crisis** sparred with panel of top health experts Wednesday afternoon about testing, tracing and targeted containment of the new coronavirus.



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- “Testing was the fundamental failure that forced our country to shut down,” Dr. Ashish Jha, the director of the Harvard Global Health Institute, testified.
- “You see testing is critical. Testing tells us who has the disease and who doesn’t. And testing is the cornerstone of controlling every single disease outbreak. It was inadequate testing that precipitated the national shutdown,” Jha added. “We must not make the same mistakes again as we open up our nation.”
- Jha placed the blame on the federal government.
- “I believe we need federal leadership,” he said. “The institute that I run has calculated that the US needs more than 900,000 tests every day to safely open up again. We’re doing about a third of that.”
- Other health experts on the panel, including former Food and Drug Administration commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb, agreed that testing is one of the keys to safely reopening society.
- “Most of all, it’s going to turn on testing, as four panelists just mentioned, and we need to make sure that we get testing out widely and get testing most of all to the people who are at highest risk of this virus,” Gottlieb said.
- “Not everyone’s at equal risk for the coronavirus. Many people, because of where they work and where they live and how they work, are at higher risk than other Americans, and we need to make sure we get testing into the communities that are most affected by this,” he added.
- Some **Senate Republicans** eager to kick-start economic recovery are pushing for clear, enforceable agency guidelines for businesses in conjunction with legislative safeguards to protect employers against coronavirus-related lawsuits. But calls for new guidance could compound efforts to forge and implement a political compromise. A liability shield for businesses is the “red line” McConnell has marked out in any future talks on another stimulus package, yet Democrats are largely resistant to blank et protections.
 - While any agreement between Republicans and Democrats is likely weeks away, at best, a deal that emphasizes agency guidance to protect businesses would likely require federal agencies such as the Labor Department, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to ease up on enforcement efforts and focus on providing compliance assistance to employers, management-side attorneys told Bloomberg Law.
 - Republican lawmakers call on U.S. Senate leaders to pursue regulatory relief for businesses as a way to help the economy amid the pandemic.



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- “We write to urge the consideration of statutory changes to significantly reduce red tape, paperwork, and other regulatory requirements as an important step to respond to Covid-19,” Sens. [Chuck Grassley](#), [Marsha Blackburn](#) and others say in [letter](#)
- **Senate Republicans** are flooding **McConnell**’s inbox with costly new proposals they want included in a recovery package they believe will move soon, even as McConnell pushes back on House Democrats’ latest offer. Some Republicans are aligning with Democrats and stepping up their requests for their home-state priorities.
- **Sens. Susan Collins** (R-Maine) said [in a bipartisan letter](#) with nine others that their constituents are flooding their offices with concerned calls that Trump’s opposition to postal aid will cost them their mail service, and said they want “significant emergency appropriations to help USPS survive this crisis.”
- **Republicans John Boozman** (Ark.) and [Lisa Murkowski](#) (Alaska) [also joined Democrats](#) in urging Senate and House leaders in both parties to support \$2 billion to help health care providers boost telehealth services by improving access to broadband. The funds could be part of the House bill’s \$5.5 billion for broadband.
- **Senators** from farm states want the next bill to require the Department of Agriculture to make payments to pork producers who have to depopulate livestock herds amid the closure of meat processing plants. **Senate Finance Chairman Chuck Grassley** (R-Iowa) led a group of 14 lawmakers from both parties [calling for](#) the government support.
- **Sen. Joni Ernst** (R-Iowa) said she and seven other lawmakers from both parties [wrote to leaders](#) urging them to include at least \$200 million in [diaper assistance](#) for low-income families and front-line workers.
- **Sen. Josh Hawley** (R-Mo.) might have the most expansive plan to help businesses and their workers. Hawley wants the federal government to “cover 80 percent of wages for workers at any U.S. business,” up to the national median wage, “until this emergency is over.”
- **Republicans** want a **new congressional panel** created to monitor coronavirus dollars to also investigate “the actions and inactions” of the World Health Organization, China and the U.S. House of Representatives itself in the early stages of the outbreak.
 - The demands are included in a list of rules the GOP wants the Democratic-led committee to adopt as safeguards against “partisan political ends,” in a letter delivered just hours before the panel holds its first hearing Wednesday on how to safely reopen the U.S. economy.



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- The letter was sent from the panel's top Republican, [Steve Scalise](#) of Louisiana, who is also the second-highest ranking Republican in the House, to the panel's chairman, [Jim Clyburn](#) of South Carolina, the House's No. 3 Democrat.
- China "has increased efforts to hack U.S. medical research institutes for COVID-19 information," Republican [Sen. Marco Rubio](#) says in [statement](#).
 - "Policymakers at every level of the U.S. government, as well as the private sector, must be clear-eyed about this threat and work diligently to protect against it," Rubio says

State/Local

- **Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz** will replace stay-home order with a "safer at home" order with looser social distancing restrictions, the Star Tribune newspaper [reports](#).
 - Not a full reopening of state; restrictions on bars, restaurants, salons, theaters to remain; schools to stay closed; gatherings capped at 10 people
 - Walz says state working on plan in next weeks to reopen bars, restaurants in state
- **New Mexico's** governor is allowing most businesses in the state to reopen starting on May 16, but only at 25 percent capacity.
 - "Anybody who sells goods or services can now open [Saturday]," Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham said at a news conference Wednesday.
 - The governor's reopening order does not include salons, gyms, malls and dine-in service at restaurants. It also does not apply to three counties in the northwestern part of the state that are considered a "hotspot" for coronavirus.
 - Houses of worship must limit their gatherings to 10% of normal capacity.
 - At the same time, New Mexico is requiring face coverings for anyone in public places. Exceptions are given only for eating, drinking, exercise and medical requirements.
- The **Wisconsin Supreme Court** has overturned the state's stay-at-home order, ruling the order "unlawful" and "unenforceable."
 - The court ruled that Democratic Gov. Tony Evers' administration overstepped its authority when state Department of Health Services Secretary-designee Andrea Palm issued an extension of the order that was scheduled to run until May 26.
 - The lawsuit was filed by the Republican-controlled Wisconsin Legislature against Palm and other health officials, who recently extended the state's "Safer-at-Home" emergency order, but loosened some restrictions on certain businesses, including golf courses, public libraries and arts and crafts stores.



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- Evers, who had ordered Palm to issue the stay-at-home order in late March, has not yet issued a statement, but had slammed the lawsuit after it was filed as "focused entirely on how to get legislative Republicans more power" and "exploiting a global pandemic to further their attempts to undermine the will of the people."
- **Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine** announced today that beginning May 31 childcare providers in the state will be able to reopen with reduced numbers of children in each classroom and intensified cleaning and hand-washing practices.
 - Childcare providers will be wearing masks, temperature checks will occur regularly, and children will be required to wash their hands upon arrival, throughout the day, and before pickup, according to adviser Joni Close, president of the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton.
 - Preschool classes will only be allowed a maximum number for nine children, while classes with infants and toddlers will only be allowed six per classroom.
 - As Ohio's childcare providers will need assistance when they reopen, the state will be utilizing over \$60 million in federal CARES Act funding to provide reopening grants.
- **Rhode Island Gov. Gina Raimondo** announced today that summer and youth camps in the state will be allowed to operate in person starting June 29.
 - Raimondo said that summer camps will look different than previous years because there will be strict social distancing and hygiene guidelines in place. The administration is also considering requiring camp advisers to keep children in "small, stable groups" of about 10 in order to limit their interaction with others.
- **Ohio Lt. Gov. Jon Husted** announced today additional reopening dates for the state.
 - Campgrounds can now reopen on May 21 if they can meet safety protocols.
 - Horse racing can resume on May 22, but spectators will be prohibited.
 - Gyms and fitness centers in Ohio can reopen on May 26 and low or non-contact sports leagues can resume if they can meet safety protocols.
 - Pools can reopen on May 26 if they are regulated by local health departments, but Husted pointed out that this guidance is not for water parks or amusement parks.
- Bars and restaurants in **Wyoming** will be allowed to reopen on May 15 under a new order signed by Gov. Mark Gordon.
 - Tables will be limited to six people, but unlike most states with similar regulations, people from different households will be allowed to sit at the same



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- table. Buffet service is not allowed, and tables must be separated by at least six feet.
- All restaurant employees must be screened for Covid-19 symptoms before beginning work.
 - Movie theaters and salons also are being allowed to open with social distancing, and public gatherings of up to 25 people will be allowed.
- **Maryland's** stay-at-home order will be lifted this Friday at 5 p.m. ET, **Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan** said Wednesday.
 - Hogan announced Maryland will instead be under a "Safer-at-Home" public health advisory.
 - Under this new advisory, Hogan said retail stores may open with 50% capacity, manufacturing operations may resume, barber shops and hair salons may open with 50% capacity by appointment only and churches can begin to hold religious services again either outside or indoors with 50% capacity.
 - Hogan advised proper precautions, such as masks and social distancing, must still be practiced.
 - **Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan** said he is working with Washington, DC Mayor Muriel Bowser and Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam as the region grapples with Covid-19.
 - Hogan said the areas surrounding DC, including two Maryland counties, are hot spots for Covid-19.
 - "As I said, 70% of our infection rates are in four counties, I think 50% of it is in the two counties surrounding Washington. And Washington, Prince George's and Montgomery County and Northern Virginia, right now are the hot spots in the country behind New York," he said
 - Hogan said he spoke with both leaders on Friday and took their input into consideration when deciding Maryland's next steps.
 - He announced Wednesday that Maryland will enter a partial reopening phase on Friday, lifting the stay-at-home order, and allowing certain businesses and activities to resume. Prince George's County and Montgomery County, the two counties closest to Washington, will not move ahead with "Stage One" reopening guidelines yet.
 - Hogan's announcement came hours after DC officials extended the city's stay-at-home order through June 8.
 - **Virginia** will similarly implement a partial reopening on Friday, with Northern Virginia maintaining firmer restrictions.



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- Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam detailed the first phase of reopening starting Friday during a news conference on Wednesday.
- Nonessential retail and centers of worship can operate at 50% capacity starting Friday.
- Gyms will remain closed, but can offer outdoor fitness options. Restaurants will also remain closed, but can offer outdoor seating at 50% capacity. Salons and barbershops can reopen with social distancing and face covering requirements.
- Gatherings of more than 10 people will remain banned, Northam said.
- On May 18, 11 DMV centers will reopen on an appointment-only basis for select services, such as getting a license, vehicle registration, or disabled parking permit, Northam said.
- Phase one will be delayed for two more weeks in northern Virginia, which has almost one-third of the state's population but half of the coronavirus cases, Northam said
- **Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis** said he's aiming for sports to resume practice and playing in the state as soon as this week.
 - "That may not be the case in every other state in this country as we've seen and so what I would tell commissioners of leagues is if you have a team in an area where they just won't let them operate. We'll find a place for you here in the state of Florida, because we think it's important and we know that it can be done safely," DeSantis said Wednesday.
 - Sport teams that play in the state will not necessarily have fans, according to DeSantis.
- **North America's** largest shopping and entertainment complex – the **Mall of America** in Bloomington, Minnesota — will reopen on June 1, according to a statement.
 - The announcement comes a day after Gov. Tim Walz announced he would let his state's stay home order expire and allow non-essential businesses to reopen beginning Monday.
- Ocean and lakefront beaches in the state of **New Jersey** will be open by Memorial Day weekend with capacity limitations and social distancing remaining in place, Gov. Phil Murphy announced at a press conference.
 - Every beach must establish capacity limits, and six feet social distancing will be enforced except for family groups, household caretakers, or couples, Murphy announced.



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- As a part of the order that goes into effect May 22, organized contact sports and events will be prohibited, as well as beachfront summer camps and special events that draw people to the beach such as concerts and festivals, and fireworks.
- **Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis** announced **Miami-Dade** and **Broward Counties** can start reopening under phase one of the reopening plan starting Monday. The announcement was made during a press conference in Doral, Florida.
- People in **New Jersey** will be allowed to gather in vehicles in cases such as drive-in movies or religious services, Gov. Phil Murphy announced today.
 - The action will not be in violation of the state's order prohibiting mass gatherings as long as all participants remain in their cars, he said.
- "If vehicles are closer than six feet apart, then all windows, sunroofs, and convertible tops must remain closed unless the safety of the occupants is in danger," Murphy said.
- **New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio** said that both the city and state indicators could be met in the first half of June — meaning some restrictions could begin to lift then.
 - "We have to get these indicators right, move down together for 10 to 14 days, we also have to meet the state indicators, but both of them right now could be met in the first half of June, that would be the right time then to lift some restrictions. But carefully, slowly, smartly," he said.
- **California** officially allowed 10 counties to move into the next stage of reopening businesses. They include Amador, Butte, El Dorado, Lassen, Nevada, Placer, Shasta, Plumas, Sierra and Tuolumne counties.
- **Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds** announced today she is lifting restrictions in all 99 counties starting Friday.
- **The University of Louisiana** is set to resume in-person classes this fall across all of its nine campuses, president of the university system Jim Henderson told CNN's Jake Tapper today.
 - Running through details of how the institution plans to bring back 92,000 students, as well as faculty and support staff, Henderson said they'd comply with all guidance from health officials as well as the governor's office "and other policies."
- **Mississippi** will end its temporary suspension on evictions on June 1, Gov. Tate Reeves said Wednesday.
- **San Francisco Mayor London Breed** said about 95% of all retail businesses that closed in the city due to Covid-19 can reopen for curbside pickup or delivery beginning May 18.



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- Breed said at a news conference Wednesday that as long as a business directly connects to a street to accommodate pickup or delivery, it can reopen to the public. The order, however, does not include shopping malls.
- Businesses that reopen will be required to follow guidelines on the use of face coverings and physical distancing, she said.

International

- **Italy's Serie A soccer clubs** held a vote Wednesday to resume the season starting on June 13, pending government approval.
 - The statement from the league would only resume “in accordance with the decisions of the Government and in compliance with the medical protocols to protect players and all involved personnel.”
 - This announcement follows Italian Minister for Sport Vincenzo Spadafora’s declaration at the House of Representatives today, which confirmed that the government and the Italian Football Federation (FIGC) have agreed to allow the league to resume training starting May 18.
- The **European Union’s** justice chief threw his weight behind a Covid-19 contact tracing system that would be supported by a tool jointly developed by Apple and Google. EU members have been using apps based on different methods. Justice Didier Reynders told the European Parliament that he preferred a “decentralized approach” that stores less data on back-end servers.
- **Turkey** allows children to go outside: Children under the age of 14 were allowed to go outside on the street today for the first time since the Turkish government announced a lockdown for the age group in early April. The children were allowed out for four hours, between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. local time.
- **Sweden** announced it is extending “advice against all nonessential travel to all countries” until July 15, according to the country’s Foreign Affairs Ministry.
- **Northern Ireland** will take its first steps in easing lockdown restrictions on Monday, First Minister Arlene Foster announced at a daily news conference in Belfast on Thursday.
 - From next Monday, “on the basis of the latest scientific and medical advice” garden centers and household recycling facilities can reopen with social distancing measures, with marriage ceremonies for the terminally ill also allowed to take place, Foster said.



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- **Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte** has criticized [the European Union's proposed tourism plan](#) that could allow special so-called green corridors between countries within the bloc, and threatened this could cause Italy to leave the EU.
 - The suggested tourism corridors would allow certain countries with low or sharply declining Covid-19 infection rates to open up to a select few destinations until borders are fully reopened.
- **Belgium** will move forward with the second phase of its reopening plan on May 18, when some school classes for primary and secondary students will resume and museums will be reopened under certain conditions, the prime minister announced Wednesday.
 - "We have decided that by May 18, museums and cultural facilities, such as historic buildings, will be able to open their doors again if they set up an online or telephone ticketing system and if they take the necessary steps to avoid the effects of crowds inside their establishment," Prime Minister Sophie Wilmes said.
- The **European Commission President** on Wednesday outlined a plan to fund European recovery from the coronavirus pandemic, while warning that "we will not just go back to business as usual soon."
 - "We have had economic slowdowns before but we have never had an economic shutdown like the last three months," President Ursula Von der Leyen said during an address to the European Parliament in Brussels on Wednesday.
 - The recovery instrument will be focused on those member states who have been most affected and where needs are the greatest, the European Union's top leader said, adding that the money for the recovery plan will be on top of the existing EU budget and will also be managed through rules of the budget.
- **French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe** has announced an "unprecedented" 18 billion euro (or about \$19.4 billion USD) plan to support the country's tourism industry.
 - Under the plan, tourism businesses will be eligible for grants of up to 10,000 euros (about \$10,781 USD). There are also government-guaranteed loans totaling 6.2 billion euro (about \$6.7 billion USD).
- It will be "months not weeks" before there is a return to normal travel within the **European Union**, **Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar** told parliament on Thursday.
 - He said Ireland was committed to preserving the EU's policy of allowing citizens to travel, study and work elsewhere in the continent.



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- “While these rights may be restricted for a time due to the pandemic and public health emergency, it is our policy to resume normal travel for business, leisure, study and visits to friends and relatives as soon as it is safe to do so, but not before,” he said.
- Varadkar said anyone arriving at Irish ports or airports must self-isolate for 14 days unless they meet the criteria for an exemption.
- **Japan** lifted its state of emergency for 39 of its 47 prefectures on Thursday evening, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced in a press briefing.
 - Tokyo, Osaka, and six urban prefectures will remain under the legislation, with the government assessing their status on May 21.
- **Britain** has approved a coronavirus antibody test developed by pharmaceutical company Roche and is now working towards acquiring enough kits for widespread testing.
 - UK health officials determined the tests were "highly specific," with an accuracy of 100%, in an independent evaluation, Public Health England (PHE) said in a statement to CNN.
- The **Italian government** has approved a 55 million euros (\$60 billion) stimulus package to help the country recover from the economic impact of the coronavirus crisis.
 - The plan will offer financial assistance directly to families and businesses, while also helping the construction, health care, education, culture, retail, hospitality and tourism industries
 - A total of \$27.6 billion will be allocated to support a worker's layoff fund -- which will be extended longer than the maximum length of nine weeks -- and other employment-related measures, including a \$650 bonus for freelancers workers.
 - The government is also spending \$3.5 billion to shore up its national health care system in the event of a second wave of Covid-19 inside the country.

Other

- **Yellowstone National Park** will begin to reopen on a limited basis on May 18, almost two months after it closed to visitors, according to a statement from the National Park Service.
 - The park has created a three-phased plan that initially opens the South and East entrances of Wyoming and limits visitor travel to the lower loop of the park. The first phase will allow visitors to visit Yellowstone Lake, Old Faithful, and Canyon Village as well as restrooms, self-service gas stations, trails and boardwalks in open parts of the park.



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- **Disney Cruise Line** has extended the suspension of its sailings through July 27, the company announced in a statement.
 - Guests currently booked on any of the sailings affected will be offered the choice of cruise credit (good for 15 months) or a full refund.
- **Amazon** extended a temporary pay increase on Wednesday for its warehouse and delivery workers, following concerns raised by employees and policymakers about the e-commerce giant's response to the pandemic.
 - The company implemented a \$2 hourly wage bump for those frontline employees in March. That policy will remain in effect through May 30, said Rachael Lighty, an Amazon spokesperson.
 - Amazon will also be extending double overtime pay for employees in the United States and Canada, Lighty added.
- **Delta Air Lines** says it will retire its Boeing 777 fleet, which includes 18 aircraft, as the effects of the pandemic continue to cause a financial crunch.
 - The 777s are wide-body aircraft that are often used for long-haul flights. The Boeing aircraft will be replaced by Airbus planes that the airline says are significantly more fuel efficient.
 - The retirement was already in the works, but will be accelerated, with the aircraft phased out by the end of the year.
- Some shops and restaurants at **Universal Orlando's CityWalk in Florida** will reopen today, [Universal Orlando announced](#).
 - The nightclubs at CityWalk, as well as Blue Man Group and Universal Cinemark, will stay closed.
 - Visitors will be required to wear masks and their temperatures will be taken when they arrive. Diners and shoppers are encouraged to wash their hands often and keep six feet apart from others.
- **Amazon** said Thursday it will begin mass-producing hundreds of thousands of protective face shields for medical workers and, eventually, the general public.
 - The gear allows for plastic shields to snap onto a 3D-printed headpiece. More than 10,000 have been donated to health workers so far, with another 20,000 on the way, Amazon said in a [statement](#).
 - The face shields are based on a collaboration with 3D printing hobbyists from Washington State, and the design has been approved by the National Institutes of Health, Amazon said.



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- The effort reflects how Amazon has sought to bring its massive logistics and supply chain operations to help fight the pandemic. The company has also previously said it is developing coronavirus testing capacity.
- **Uber** outlined new safety procedures at a virtual event yesterday, a move aimed to inspire more drivers and riders to feel comfortable getting in a shared car again. The rules will require drivers, passengers and food delivery couriers to wear face masks as cities begin to reopen across the U.S. A
- **The Tyson Foods** pork processing plant in Madison, Nebraska, has resumed limited operations, after shutting down at the beginning of this month for deep cleaning, sanitization and testing of employees, according to the company.
 - In a joint statement, Tyson Foods and the Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department announced that 212 of the employees at the Madison plant had tested positive for Covid-19.
- The famed **Hollywood Bowl** amphitheater in **Los Angeles** announced Wednesday it will not open for the 2020 season.
 - The venue said the decision was made "in response to the latest guidance of public health officials and in an effort to protect artists, audiences, and staff from the spread of Covid-19."
 - With a seating capacity of over 17,000, the Hollywood Bowl hosts about 110 concerts each summer and is one of the largest outdoor amphitheaters in the world, according the venue.
- A [**new study**](#) suggests that the Covid-19 test being used by the White House frequently misses cases of the virus.
 - The **Abbott ID NOW** test, which has been touted by President Trump on several occasions, is faster than other tests, showing results within 15 minutes.
 - Researchers at New York University Langone School of Medicine decided to compare it to other tests. They looked at nasal swabs from 101 patients who came in for coronavirus testing, comparing the Abbott test to a test made by a company called Cepheid.
 - The test from Cepheid found that 31 of the 101 patients were positive. The researchers ran those same positive swabs through the Abbott test and found it got a negative result on 48% of them.
- **Southwest Airlines** has told flight crews not to stop passengers from boarding if they refuse to wear a mask, according to an internal memo obtained by CNN.



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- “We will not deny boarding solely based on a Customer’s refusal to wear a face covering,” the memo reads.
- A collection of health and aviation groups, including the **International Civil Aviation Organization**, want to establish so-called public health corridors, in which steps have been taken to ensure passengers, crew, planes and airports are “COVID-19 free” to the extent possible.
 - The idea is to not only try to prevent the spread of the disease and protect passengers and crew, but also to ensure “minimal restrictions on aircraft operations,” according to a [bulletin released by ICAO](#). The recommendation was prompted by the “extensive and inconsistent border restrictions” that governments have imposed, which have “severely disrupted” supply chains.
 - ICAO included guidance for lessening the chances of cargo flight crew members contracting or spreading the disease.

The **International Air Transport Association**, which represents airlines, and the Airport Council International on Wednesday released a [“roadmap to resuming operations,”](#) suggesting there should be layers of precautions on planes and at airports. “There is currently no single measure that could mitigate all the risks of restarting air travel,” the groups said. Separately, IATA said Wednesday that [it doesn’t expect worldwide passenger demand to surpass 2019 levels until 2023.](#)