



COVID-19 5/3 UPDATE

COVID-19 5/3 Update

Global

Total cases – 3,485,948

Total deaths – 246,125

United States

Positive tests – 1,149,197

Total deaths – 67,447

Total # tests – 6,816,347

Administration

- The **Trump administration** announced Sunday that at least 2.2 million loans, worth about \$175 billion, have been paid out in the second round of federal emergency relief aid for small businesses.
 - In a joint statement Sunday morning, **Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin** and **Small Business Administration Administrator Jovita Carranza** said the average size of a loan made under the second round of the program was \$79,000.
 - **Companies and lenders** say they need more guidance on how to calculate the amount that's eligible for forgiveness and what documentation is required to support the claims. That could leave small firms on the hook to repay loan proceeds they thought would be a grant. As a result, some business owners are holding onto the loans and may even return them, according to interviews with small business groups, lenders and borrowers.
- **U.S. Secretary of State [Michael Pompeo](#)** said “enormous evidence” shows the novel coronavirus began in a laboratory in Wuhan, China, and that Beijing has refused to give international scientists access to learn what happened.
 - “I can tell you that there is a significant amount of evidence that this came from that laboratory in Wuhan,” Pompeo said on ABC’s “This Week.” “These are not the first times that we’ve had a world exposed to viruses as a result of failures in a Chinese lab.
- **President Donald Trump** said he is “in no rush” to provide federal assistance to states that are short of money because of the coronavirus, and said Democrats would have to make concessions if they want grants for state governments. “If they do it, they’re going to have to give us a lot,” he said in a podcast interview with conservative commentator Dan Bongino.



COVID-19 5/3 UPDATE

- President Trump says Democrats have wanted to include state aid in previous coronavirus relief bills but he has pushed to include it in future legislation.
 - “I was a little surprised they went along with it but at least it puts us in a good negotiating position,” Trump says on the Dan Bongino Show
 - **Trump** says Democrats must give a lot in exchange for state aid to be included in the next legislative package
- The **IRS**, backed into an interpretive corner, eliminated some potential extra benefits of a massive loan program that is part of the government’s virus response—and it’s on lawmakers to fix it if they disagree, tax professionals said.
 - In the Thursday guidance ([Notice 2020-32](#)) the agency said expenses that qualify businesses for forgiveness of loans under the Paycheck Protection Program won’t generate federal tax deductions. This decision “prevents a double tax benefit” since the forgiven loans aren’t included in taxable income, the guidance said, following a standard under tax code [Section 265](#).
- Auto loan inquiries dropped 52% between the first and last week of March as the pandemic spread, while new mortgage inquiries fell 27%, the **Consumer Financial Protection Bureau** [says](#).
 - Revolving credit card inquiries were down 40%
 - The declines are “significantly more pronounced” for consumers with higher credit scores, a sign those people have more flexibility in their loan needs
- The **Department of Homeland Security** study on the effects of heat and sunlight on the coronavirus is undergoing the process for peer review and publication in scientific journals, according to the department.
 - There is no written report as yet, although the results are being submitted for peer review and publication in scientific journals, a DHS spokesperson told CNN.
 - DHS' Science and Technology Directorate has been studying the impacts of environmental conditions on the coronavirus, particularly the impacts of temperature, humidity, and sunlight on the virus.
 - The study came under increased scrutiny after President Trump suggested last week during a press briefing that the virus could be treated with sunlight, as well as whether disinfectants could be used to treat the virus in humans.
- **President Trump** met with the CEO of pharmaceutical company **Gilead** today and discussed the promising results of an experimental drug named remdesivir in treating patients infected by the coronavirus.



COVID-19 5/3 UPDATE

- The **Food and Drug Administration** on Friday issued an emergency-use authorization for the drug, saying it could be used to treat hospitalized patients diagnosed with severe Covid-19.
- "I'm pleased to announce that Gilead now has an EUA from the FDA for remdesivir," Trump said. "An important treatment for hospitalized corona patients and something I spoke with Dr. (Stephen) Hahn and Dr. (Anthony) Fauci. I spoke with Deborah (Birnbaumer) Birx about it. It is really a very promising situation," Trump added.
- **White House economic adviser Kevin Hassett** said that another stimulus package – called phase four – might not be necessary.
 - "I think right now because there's been good news really that the opening up is starting to happen faster than we expected, appears to be doing so safely, then there is a chance that we won't really need a phase four," Hassett said on Fox News Saturday morning regarding the package, which is expected to have funding for states and localities.
 - In a gaggle with reporters after his Fox appearance, Hassett seemed to imply that there would be some sort of additional stimulus package but that a potential phase four deal might be geared more toward "growth and taking off and recovering, rather than just building a bridge to recovery."
- **White House trade adviser Peter Navarro** told CNN that the administration thinks it moved as quickly as other countries in addressing the coronavirus pandemic.
 - President Trump "moves stuff in Trump time. We are moving mountains in this crisis," Navarro said.
 - On the issue of testing, Navarro emphasized "we're doing what we need to do as fast as we can do it," and said he sees a "bright future ahead."
- **Larry Kudlow, the head of the White House's National Economic Council**, told CNN there may be a need for additional stimulus aid because of Covid-19 but said there was a "pause" right now before money is sought.
 - Kudlow said the government still needs to execute the last package and "see what the results are."
 - The President was "very keen" on a payroll tax holiday for workers and would like to see tax deductions for businesses/entertainment, as well as a shield on liabilities, Kudlow said.
- According to **Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar** and **President Donald Trump**, all U.S. senators will be able to be tested for the coronavirus.



COVID-19 5/3 UPDATE

- Azar [tweeted](#) the “good news” Friday night: “we have now received an initial request and are sending 3 Abbott point of care testing machines and 1,000 tests for their use.”
- The move comes after the New York Times [reported](#) that Congress’s attending physician, Brian Monahan, warned that he didn’t have the capacity to test all 100 senators -- several of whom are elderly and considered at higher risk should they contract Covid-19.
- **U.S. Attorney General William Barr** said it’s time “to start rolling back” in a measured way restrictions that were put in place to deal with the coronavirus crisis, a signal the Justice Department could consider legal action against officials who resist acting.
 - “Now that the curve has been flattened, the rate of spread has been slowed, our system has not been overwhelmed and has time to adjust to the situation, it’s time to start rolling back some of these restrictions in an orderly and sensible way,” Barr said Friday in a question-and-answer forum on Twitter.
- On Thursday, the **Fed** also increased the number of employees a business could have to qualify for the Main Street loan program to 15,000, an increase of 5,000, and doubled the revenue cap to \$5 billion annually.
 - The move followed calls from U.S. lawmakers and the business community for the program to be widened after the Fed initially announced terms of who would qualify.
- The **Fed** said it doesn’t want to weaken companies that borrow from its Main Street facilities by placing strict payroll requirements on them. More restrictions placed on borrowers mean the loan facility is less likely to be used, according to the central bank.
- The **Trump admin.** would like to see a provision on sanctuary cities in the next coronavirus aid bill, Kayleigh McEnany says in her first news conference as White House press secretary.
 - The controversial immigration policy is a negotiating item that will be brought up, she says
- The **Federal Reserve** further slowed the pace at which it plans to buy Treasuries under the unlimited program that began in March.
 - The U.S. central bank, which has bought more than \$1.4 trillion of Treasuries in daily operations over seven weeks in an effort to restore smooth market functioning during the coronavirus pandemic, on Friday [said](#) it would buy securities at a pace of about \$8 billion a day May 4-8. It bought around \$10 billion a day this week.



COVID-19 5/3 UPDATE

- The Treasury purchase operations began March 13 and peaked in size at \$75 billion per day from March 19 to April 1. The pace was subsequently reduced in stages.
- **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development** Secretary Ben Carson today announced his Department will allocate \$685 million in COVID-19 relief funding to help low-income Americans residing in public housing. The funding, made available by the CARES Act legislation President Trump signed into law on March 27, 2020, will be awarded to Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) across the Nation. ([HERE](#))
- The **U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)** has issued an alert with safety tips for restaurant, and food and beverage businesses to protect their workers from coronavirus exposure while they provide curbside pickup and takeout service. ([HERE](#))
- The **U.S. Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA)** today issued [Frequently Asked Questions](#) under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) and revised [COBRA model notices](#). Plan administrators can use these model notices to notify plan participants and beneficiaries of their rights under COBRA and qualified beneficiaries of their rights to elect COBRA. ([HERE](#))
- The **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Minority Health (OMH)** announced a competitive funding opportunity to invest up to \$40 million for the development and coordination of a strategic network of national, state, territorial, tribal and local organizations to deliver important COVID-19-related information to racial and ethnic minority, rural and socially vulnerable communities hardest hit by the pandemic. ([HERE](#))
- Today, the **Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)** is processing payments from the Provider Relief Fund to hospitals with large numbers of COVID-19 inpatient admissions through April 10, 2020, and to rural providers in support of the national response to COVID-19. ([HERE](#))
- The **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)**, through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), awarded \$20 million to increase telehealth access and infrastructure for providers and families to help prevent and respond to COVID-19. ([HERE](#))
- Today, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued an emergency use authorization for the investigational antiviral drug remdesivir for the treatment of suspected or laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 in adults and children hospitalized with severe disease. ([HERE](#))



COVID-19 5/3 UPDATE

- As a part of President Trump's Opening Up America Again effort, the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)** announced a new independent Commission that will conduct a comprehensive assessment of the nursing home response to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The Commission will provide independent recommendations to the contractor to review and report to CMS to help inform immediate and future responses to COVID-19 in nursing homes. ([HERE](#))
- As a result of Major Disaster Declarations declared by President Trump, **Maryland, Virginia, and Washington DC** became eligible to request Battelle units that would serve medical providers such as hospitals, nursing homes, urgent care centers as well as law enforcement agencies and first responders. **FEMA** worked closely with partners from Battelle, HHS and State Emergency Management officials to identify locations, move the equipment into place and begin testing. ([HERE](#))
- **U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue** today announced Delaware and Oregon have been approved to operate Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT), a new program authorized by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), signed by President Trump, which provides assistance to families of children eligible for free or reduced-price meals dealing with school closures. ([HERE](#))
- **U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue** today announced approval of a request from Minnesota to provide online purchasing of food to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households. ([HERE](#))
- **The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board)** today announced it is expanding access to virtual hearings to all Veterans awaiting their Board hearing after successfully testing the capabilities during the [last year](#). ([HERE](#))
- **The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)** today announced participation in a series of clinical trials and investigations across the nation aimed at finding ways to mitigate or potentially prevent symptoms of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in patients ([HERE](#))

Capitol Hill

- "I look forward to seeing my colleagues on Monday. We will continue to stand together for the American people - even as we stand six feet apart," **Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell** says in statement.
 - The Kentucky Republican urges senators to consult guidelines from the chamber's physician as "we carefully resume in-person work"



COVID-19 5/3 UPDATE

- **House Speaker Nancy Pelosi** and **Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell** issued a joint statement Saturday “respectfully” declining an offer from the Trump administration to deploy rapid coronavirus testing capabilities to Capitol Hill.
 - “Our country’s testing capacities are continuing to scale up nationwide and Congress wants to keep directing resources to the front-line facilities where they can do the most good the most quickly,” Pelosi and McConnell wrote in the statement.
 - “Consistent with CDC guidelines, Congress will use the current testing protocols that the Office of the Attending Physician has put in place until these speedier technologies become more widely available,” they also said.
- **Dr. Anthony Fauci** will testify before the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee on May 12, per an aide to Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander.
 - “Chairman Alexander looks forward to hearing from Dr. Fauci and other administration officials at the Senate health committee’s second hearing back,” the aide said.
- The **Federal Reserve** is facing mounting questions from **members of a key watchdog** for not requiring mid-sized businesses to refrain from layoffs in exchange for accepting taxpayer-backed funds.
 - The Fed drew rebukes from two appointees from the Congressional oversight committee after it updated a [term sheet](#) for its Main Street Lending Facilities Thursday that included guidance on whether participants should make efforts to retain workers.
 - The Fed said participants “should make commercially reasonable efforts to maintain its payroll and retain its employees” while the loan is outstanding. The central bank said on Thursday that “commercially reasonable” means companies should strive to maintain their payroll as long as doing so doesn’t weaken operations or hamper their ability to reopen once states allow them to.
- **Representative Donna Shalala**, part of the five-member Congressional board overseeing stimulus spending, said she will be carefully monitoring how the central bank helps American workers.
 - The Fed’s term sheet language gives companies “the biggest hole in the world” to lay-off workers, the Florida Democrat said in an interview. “We will ask careful questions by what they mean by ‘commercially reasonable.’”
- Another member of the panel, **Bharat Ramamurti**, also criticized the Fed for not requiring businesses keep workers.



COVID-19 5/3 UPDATE

- “The only way to keep workers employed and generate a broad-based recovery is to attach strings to these loans,” he said on Twitter. Ramamurti is a former top staffer for Democratic Senator Elizabeth Warren.
 - The commission will publish its first monthly report in mid-May on the Fed and Treasury’s work during the pandemic. Senator Pat Toomey and Representative French Hill, both Republicans, also serve on the panel. It has no commissioner yet.
- **Majority Leader [Steny Hoyer](#)** asks the House chief administrative officer and attending physician to share guidance on how best to reopen the U.S. House and Capitol.
 - Hoyer says in [letter](#) they need detailed plans about the provision of supplies to disinfect surfaces, as well as information on how many staff members ought to return first in each office during a phased reopening
 - Hoyer also says he “will be supporting rules changes authorizing and empowering the House and its committees to conduct all legislative activities - such as hearings, markup, floor debate, and voting – remotely over virtual platforms”
- **Senators** including **Sherrrod Brown** urge President Trump to amend his executive order compelling meat processing plants to remain open despite poor health and safety.
 - Trump should mandate that in order for plants closed due to coronavirus to reopen, they must meet safety guidelines issued by OSHA and CDC, Brown, fellow Democratic senators [say in letter](#)
- **Republican Senator Mitt Romney** says he’s introducing a measure that would give essential workers “like health care professionals, grocery store workers, food processors” a raise of up to \$12 an hour in May, June, and July.
 - Bill would “help ensure essential workers receive greater compensation,” says Romney in [tweet](#)
 - One-quarter of the bonus would be paid by the employer, and three-quarters would be paid by the federal government, funded by a refundable payroll tax credit, Romney says in [statement](#)
- **House Appropriations Committee spokesman Evan Hollander** tells CNN that the White House is blocking Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, from testifying on the Hill next week.
 - "The Appropriations Committee sought Dr. Anthony Fauci as a witness at next week’s Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee hearing on COVID-19 response. We have been informed by an administration official that the White House has blocked Dr. Fauci from testifying," Hollander said in a statement.



COVID-19 5/3 UPDATE

- White House Deputy Press Secretary Judd Deere confirmed the decision.
- The **Small Business Administration Office of Inspector General** is conducting several investigations into the implementation of the Paycheck Protection Program and a separate emergency loan program, with the first report to be published by May 8, according to a letter from the watchdog to lawmakers. “There is no higher priority” than oversight of the loan program, the agency’s letter **to Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.)** and House Small Business **Chairwoman Nydia Velazquez (D-N.Y.)** said.
- **House Financial Services Chairwoman Maxine Waters (D-Calif.)** told Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and SBA Administrator Jovita Carranza that payday lenders should be denied access to the small-business loan program. “There’s no reason” for predatory companies like payday and car-title lenders to be helped, she said
- **Three Senate Democrats** urged chamber leadership 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, including **Senate Finance Committee ranking member Ron Wyden (D-Ore.)**, said in a letter.
- **New York Sen. Chuck Schumer** is calling for the federal government to stop predatory lenders from preying on people who are in desperate need of emergency funds as the coronavirus pandemic continues to cause economic hardship for millions of Americans, in a press release issued Sunday.
 - “The coronavirus crisis is creating a desperate situation for countless Americans and New Yorkers, but it is also creating nefarious opportunity for greedy loan sharks who smell proverbial blood in the consumer waters,” Schumer said.
 - He said that “loan sharks” will stop at nothing to drown everyday consumers and small businesses “in a cascade of debt that could far outlast the coronavirus itself.”
 - Schumer wants the nation’s federal regulators, including the Consumer Financial Protections Bureau (CFPB) and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), to act and stop rolling back regulations that enable predatory lenders to prey on people.

State/Local

- **Connecticut** closed 11 state parks Saturday as limits were reached for proper social distancing, according to the state's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP).



COVID-19 5/3 UPDATE

- Sleeping Giant and Southford Falls state parks, both near New Haven, were among those closed early. All these parks were reopened Sunday morning.
- **Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves** said today that he had planned to announce the reopening of certain businesses but decided against it after the state reported its largest increase new cases.
 - He said the number of cases increased after the state received new information on previous deaths and tests.
- **Washington state Gov. Jay Inslee** said he will extend his stay-at-home order until May 31.
 - Inslee said the new executive order "will continue a ban on public gatherings."
 - "Many businesses will have to remain closed and that is why I'm extending the order through May 31," he said at his news conference.
- **New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy** signed an executive order to allow couples to get married using video-conferencing technology.
 - The order amends the in-person requirements for couples to obtain a marriage license.
 - The order still requires that a marriage or civil union be solemnized in the physical presence of an officiant and two witnesses, but it can be satisfied through the use of live audio-visual technology, according to a statement.
 - The order will take effect Monday, May 4.
- **Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis** held a roundtable Saturday with Orange County salon and barbershop owners to discuss potentially reopening their businesses on Monday.
 - "Phase 1" of DeSantis's reopening plan allows for restaurants and retail shops to reopen at 25% of their capacity. Gyms, barbershops and hair salons were not initially included in this phase, DeSantis has said.
 - In a letter to the governor, **Orange County Mayor Jerry Demings** asked DeSantis to consider including barbershops and salons in the first step of the reopening plan.
- **Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer** signed an executive order today that extends existing safety measures to protect consumers and employees at grocery stores and pharmacies.
 - The order requires grocery stores and pharmacies to continue following the established guidelines until May 29, according to a news release.
 - Some of these guidelines include:
 - Customers must wear a face covering when entering a grocery store or pharmacy



COVID-19 5/3 UPDATE

- Grocery stores and pharmacies must allocate at least two hours per week for vulnerable populations to shop safely
 - If an employee tests positive for coronavirus, the business must notify other employees
- **The New York Police Department** will have more than 1,000 police officers on foot, bikes and in vehicles to enforce social distancing during the weekend.
 - The NYPD said the officers will also educate the public about proper social distancing procedures, "so we can all help stop the spread of the coronavirus and keep all New Yorkers safe and healthy."
- There will be zero tolerance for people who do not practice social distancing or for those who do not wear masks at our parks and golf courses, **Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez** said during a news conference on Friday.
 - Parks, boating and waterways, and golf courses are open to the public for limited use by individuals and families as long as they follow current guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Florida Department of Health, according to the Miami-Dade County's website.
 - Gimenez said it will not be "business as usual." He said gatherings of 10 or more people will be prohibited and face coverings will be required in most cases. Boats must remain 50 feet apart.
- The city and county of **Denver** issued a public health order requiring people wear face coverings starting May 6, according to a statement released Friday.
 - They would be required to wear face coverings in certain public settings until further notice to reduce the spread of Covid-19, the statement said.
 - "Residents and employees will be required to wear face coverings while inside of, or waiting in line to enter, certain businesses, facilities or locations — such as any retail or commercial business, at a bus stop or facilities offering health care services," the statement said.
- Thousands of demonstrators took part in a protest in **Huntington Beach** against California Gov. Gavin Newsom's order to close all beaches in Orange County, the city's Police Chief Robert Handy said.
 - He said the crowd was peaceful for the most part and no arrests were made.
 - Enforcement was light because officers did not have enough signage for a full beach closure when the governor's order went into effect today, the police chief said.
- **New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu** said elective surgeries can start Monday as part of a "stay-at-home 2.0" order that will be in effect through May 31.



COVID-19 5/3 UPDATE

- He said public campgrounds can be used and interior parks will open, but seacoast beaches will remain closed.
- People can begin golfing again, and barbers and hair salons can open on May 11, he said. He added customers and employees must wear face masks.
- Retail shops will also be allowed to open to customers on May 11, with limited occupancy. Employees must wear personal protective equipment.
- Restaurants can open on May 18, but only with outdoor seating options. Tables must be 6 feet apart and only six people will be allowed per table.
- **Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee** said houses of worship can reopen with limited capacity.
 - People were encouraged to wear face masks.
 - His guidance also suggested a phased approach to resuming worship gatherings among vulnerable populations, according to a statement from his office.
 - Services should be limited to 50% of maximum capacity with increased social distancing between families, the statement said.
- **South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster** said the state's "work-or-home" order that was set to expire May 14 will be lifted May 4, according to a statement from his office.
 - Outdoor dining service can resume May 4 as well, according to the statement.
 - McMaster also lifted the executive order that required people entering the state from coronavirus hotspots to self-quarantine for two weeks.
- More than 1,500 warnings have been issued to park visitors for violating reopening rules, according to the **Miami Beach Police Department**.
 - Park rangers also issued verbal warnings to 10 people for failing to social distance as well as 76 people being asked to leave the parks after closing time.
 - Miami Beach reopened parks on Wednesday with some restrictions, including face coverings and social distancing.
- **Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer** signed a new executive order today allowing some types of work to resume on Thursday. It includes construction, real estate and work that is traditionally and primarily performed outdoors,
 - Manufacturing for the express purpose of producing items that will help businesses modify workspaces to keep employees safe, like partitions or cubicle, will also resume, Whitmer said.
 - According to the governor, her order requires those businesses to adopt measures to protect their workers against the spread of Covid-19. Under the order, construction sites have to adopt a set of best practices, including things like daily health screenings and identifying high-risk areas.



COVID-19 5/3 UPDATE

- **Arkansas** will allow barber shops, hair salons, massage therapy, body art and medical spa service businesses to reopen starting May 6, Gov. Asa Hutchinson announced today. Cosmetology schools are not included in the reopening. Strict guidelines will need to be followed after reopening, he said. The guidelines include:
 - Groups of 10 or less will be allowed in facilities
 - 30% of stations or less can be occupied
 - Appointments only, no walk-ins allowed
 - Clients should wait outside or in vehicles
 - Social distancing of 6 feet should be observed between clients
 - Spaces should be cleaned between appointments
 - Clients and staff should wear masks
- **Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf** announced today that 24 counties will reopen on May 8.
 - Those counties are: Bradford, Cameron, Centre, Clarion, Clearfield, Clinton, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, Lycoming, McKean, Mercer, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga, Union, Venango, and Warren.
 - Counties with larger urban centers, such as Philadelphia and Allegheny, are not included on the list.
- **Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker** signed an executive order today mandating the use of face coverings in the state.
 - "This order does not apply to children under the age of two or to people who are unable to wear a face mask or face covering due to medical conditions or other DPH-issued exemptions," Baker added.
 - The public is required to wear a face covering at all times in grocery stores, retail stores, and on public transportation. The order also applies to employees and staff with businesses open to the public.
 - The order will go into effect May 6, the governor said.
- **New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham** has locked down the city of Gallup in an effort to "mitigate the uninhibited spread of Covid-19."
 - Starting at noon today, "all roads into Gallup are closed," the governor's office said in a statement.
 - Businesses in the city will close from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m., and vehicles will only be allowed to have a maximum of two individuals, the statement said.
 - The move comes after Gallup's former mayor requested that Grisham declare a state of emergency in the city, according to a letter made public by the governor's office.



COVID-19 5/3 UPDATE

- **Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources** announced a phased reopening of state parks and forest facilities in line with social distancing guidelines set forth by Gov. Tom Wolf, according to a statement released on Saturday.
 - With the exception of one restroom in each day use area and marina, all state park and forest facilities outside of the counties will remain closed until changes are made consistent with Wolf's guidelines for reopening, the statement reads.
 - The public can still access trails, lakes, rivers, streams, forests, roads and parking areas statewide for recreation. All playgrounds, nature play areas, interpretive centers, amphitheaters and group camping facilities statewide will remain closed indefinitely.
- **New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo** announced a new regional partnership with seven northeast states to form a purchasing consortium to obtain medical equipment and supplies.
 - The consortium will purchase \$5 billion of equipment and supplies that will include personal protective equipment, tests and ventilators, Cuomo said.
 - This new partnership will make the states more competitive in the international marketplace, save taxpayer money and help the region acquire medical equipment, Cuomo added.
 - The governor added that the consortium will coordinate with the federal government.
 - The seven states in the consortium are New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Connecticut and Massachusetts.
- **New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo** said the state will now require all hospitals to build a 90-day supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) to prepare for a possible second wave of coronavirus hospitalizations.
 - Cuomo said New York, and the rest of the country, needs to "institutionalize these lessons" that were learned during the outbreak.
- **Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine** (R) said Sunday that he reversed course on requiring Ohioans to wear masks because people "were not going to accept the government telling them what to do."
 - "It became very clear to me after we put out the order that everyone in retail who walked into a store as a customer — it became clear to me that was a bridge too far," DeWine said on ABC News's "This Week."
 - He added: "It just wasn't going to work. You got to know what you can do and what you can't do."



COVID-19 5/3 UPDATE

- **Oregon Gov. Kate Brown** on Saturday extended the state's emergency declaration through July 6, preserving her power to keep stay-at-home requirements in place and issue other emergency orders as the coronavirus pandemic stretches into the summer.
 - The original declaration, signed in early March after the outbreak reached the Pacific Northwest, was set to expire at the end of this week. An executive order from Brown, a Democrat, will leave it in place for another 60 days.
- The state of **Maryland** on Saturday terminated a \$12.5 million contract for personal protective equipment with a firm started this spring by two well-connected Republican operatives.
 - State officials said the company, Blue Flame Medical, failed to deliver masks and ventilators as promised and that the matter has been referred to Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh (D) for review.
 - Blue Flame received a down payment of nearly \$6.3 million from Maryland in early April — after promising to provide within weeks desperately needed PPE for front-line medical personnel dealing with the novel coronavirus.
- Starting May 7, **New York City** residents will be able to obtain marriage licenses online, Mayor Bill de Blasio announced Saturday on Twitter.
 - "An important new visitor is coming to New York City, and that visitor is Cupid," de Blasio said in a video where he answered questions sent in by New Yorkers.
- **Fargo, North Dakota**, will reopen city facilities on Monday, including city hall.
 - This decision is part of "phase one" in reopening the economy, the city said in a news release.
 - City buildings will open safely, but said "these methods will be adjusted as needed to appropriately address and respond to the evolving Covid-19 pandemic," according to the release.
 - Several safety initiatives will be implemented, such as supplying personal protective equipment to employees, encouraging people to wear masks when they are not able to social distance and conducting business virtually or on the phone whenever possible, the release said.
- More than 1 million **Florida** workers have filed for unemployment benefits, according to the [Florida Department of Economic Opportunity \(DEO\) website](#).
- The state of **Illinois** has reached an agreement with a handful of banks that will allow residents without bank accounts to cash their stimulus checks free of charge, Gov. J.B. Pritzker said during a Sunday news conference.
 - One in five Illinois households are either underbanked or unbanked, Pritzker said.



COVID-19 5/3 UPDATE

- The partnered institutions include Wells Fargo, JP Morgan Chase, US Bank, Fifth Third and First Midwest Bank, Pritzker said.
- **Ronald Reagan National Airport in Washington** has announced that American Airlines will only use the center concourse at the airport, or gates 23-34, beginning Monday. As result, due to reduced activity, the airport will temporarily suspend flight operations from Terminal C, Gates 35-45.
 - This closure will include gate 35X, American's commuter gate that required passengers to be bused to and from their planes.

International

- **Ethiopia** offered tax relief to companies affected by the outbreak, including cancellation of interest and penalties on outstanding taxes due for 2015-2018, state television said.
 - In addition, underlying taxes due for the period can be paid in installments, the Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation reported, citing Finance Minister Eyob Tekalign. The government will grant a one-month grace period on payment of value-added and turnover tax payments.
- **Ireland** will start reopening the economy on May 18, in the first of five phases that will run through mid-August, Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadka said in an address to the nation.
 - Construction and other outdoor workers will return to work in about three weeks, with further openings depending on the nation's progress in the fight against the coronavirus. Schools and colleges will reopen by September and October, he said.
 - In the short term, people will be allowed exercise 5 kilometers (3.1 miles) from home, up from 2 kilometers, and people older than 70 will no longer be told to stay home. "The curve has plateaued, but we have not yet won this fight," Varadka said. "We have two more weeks of tight restrictions to weaken the virus further and make sure it doesn't make a comeback when we begin to interact with each other."
- The **Canadian government** pledged about \$170 million for improved access to mental health care and other services online, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced Sunday, citing stress caused by the coronavirus pandemic and lockdown orders.
 - "If we can use apps to order dinner and video chats to stay in touch with family," [Trudeau said](#), "we can use new technology to keep each other healthy."
 - The funds will be used to develop new mental health programs and expand access to primary care.

- He also confirmed an additional \$124 million will be put toward AbCellera Biologics Inc., a Canadian biotechnology firm studying coronavirus antibodies.
 - Several Canadian provinces [plan to ease certain restrictions](#) over the next few days to allow some businesses to reopen. Manitoba will dramatically scale back restrictions, allowing museums and other nonessential businesses to reopen.
- **Turkey** has lifted trade restrictions imposed on the export of some medical equipment due to the novel coronavirus pandemic.
 - This equipment includes ventilators, intubation tubes and intensive care unit monitors.
 - The decision, which also removes the export limitations on disinfectants, hydrogen peroxide, ethanol and hand sanitizing cologne, was announced in the Official Gazette of government regulations on Saturday.
- **The French government** will extend a state of emergency over coronavirus for around two months in a set of measures to be proposed to Parliament on Tuesday, Health Minister Olivier Véran said in a press conference today.
 - Following a cabinet meeting over the coronavirus crisis, Veran was joined by Interior Minister Christophe Castaner to propose a new legislation on Tuesday that will see the health emergency move forward through to July 24.
 - "If we were to decrease overnight on May 11, the efforts we made... we can bet that all these efforts, made admirably by the French people would have been in vain," Véran said.
 - Other proposed measures include limiting travel and introducing a quarantining process for people entering France from "abroad, Corsica and other overseas territory."
- **U.K. primary schools** are due to reopen as soon as a June 1 under Prime Minister Boris Johnson's plan to gradually "unlock" Britain, The Sunday Telegraph reports. Johnson is expected to unveil the government's "road map" out of the lockdown in a speech next Sunday.
 - Johnson hopes to put teachers on three weeks' notice to reopen primary schools to all pupils on June 1, the newspaper reported.
- **Saudi Arabia** will need to take "painful" measures and consider deep spending cuts to deal with the pandemic and a meltdown in global oil markets, Finance Minister Mohammed Al-Jadaan said on Saudi television station Al-Arabiya.
- In [Spain](#), people took to the streets to run, cycle or walk after seven weeks in confinement. From today, people can exercise near their homes from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. and from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.



COVID-19 5/3 UPDATE

- **Singapore** has announced plans to ease restrictions over the coming weeks, with business to resume more fully from June 1.
 - Employers and companies will be under stricter requirements to reduce the risk of infection, including staggered working hours, social distancing in the office, and the wearing of face masks.
 - Starting May 5, some residents will be allowed to exercise in common areas like footpaths. Playgrounds, pools, gyms and clubhouses will stay closed.
 - Starting May 12, select services will be allowed to resume operation, including food manufacturing, food delivery and takeaway, laundry services, and hairdressers.
- **Afghanistan** released 98 Taliban prisoners from Pul-e-Charkhi prison in Kabul on Saturday evening as part of the government's efforts to contain coronavirus, according to a statement from the National Directorate of Security.
 - The release is in line with a decree Afghan President Ashraf Ghani signed on March 11 to release Taliban prisoners as the peace talks between the Afghan government and Taliban began.
- A contact-tracing [app](#) will be released this week in the **UK** as the country's transport minister suggested people would be encouraged to walk or ride to work when restrictions ease. Prime Minister Boris [Johnson](#) said doctors had plans in case things went "badly wrong" when he was in hospital with the coronavirus.
- The [leaders](#) of **France, Norway, Italy and Germany** have pledged to raise an initial \$8 billion on Monday in an "international alliance" to find a vaccine and treatments for the coronavirus. They said more funding would be required to achieve their aim of developing and delivering medicines worldwide.
- **Mainland China** reported no new deaths for the fifth day in a row Saturday, as people flocked to attractions around the country for the Labour Day weekend. Meanwhile, Harbin City, on the Russia-China border, closed all dine-in restaurants until further notice, according to state-run CCTV.
- **Thailand** began to ease some of its month-long restrictions today, as Covid-19 cases continue to fall. Businesses such as markets and hairdressers can reopen, train and bus stations can also reopen and bars can sell alcoholic drinks, but people must consume them at home.
- All passenger and commercial flights to and from the **Philippines** were suspended today to prevent the spread of coronavirus. The Philippines has confirmed 8,928 coronavirus cases and 604 deaths.



COVID-19 5/3 UPDATE

- **South Korea** will relax its strict social distancing rules starting Wednesday as the number of new coronavirus cases have remained low in the country, South Korea's Prime Minister Chung Sye-kyun said on Sunday.
 - The measures to contain the spread of the virus have been in effect since March 22.
 - At a briefing, Chung said that from Wednesday closed facilities will reopen gradually and events and gatherings will be allowed as long as they abide by disinfection guidelines.
- **New Zealand police** have received more than 1,200 reports of people breaking restrictions on mass gatherings since the country's Level 3 alert went into effect last week.

Other

- The **Eurostar**, the high speed train that runs from southern England to Europe by undersea tunnel, will require passengers to wear face coverings as of Monday.
 - “Any type of mask is suitable as long as it effectively covers your nose and mouth,” Eurostar said in a statement.
 - Passengers without masks will be refused travel, it adds.
- **Comcast’s NBCUniversal** business is assessing operations across its media and entertainment properties in a move that could result in significant job losses, Dow Jones [reports](#), citing people familiar with the matter
- **Major League Soccer** announced today that players may begin to use outdoor team training facilities for individual workouts on May 6
 - In a statement released by the league, teams and players are to comply by “detailed health and safety protocols that were created in consultation with medical and infectious disease experts.” All workouts are voluntary.
 - MLS asked clubs to provide a controlled environment that adheres to social distancing measures.
 - Workout protocol prohibits players from entering team locker rooms, gyms and training rooms. Team gyms and training rooms will only be accessed by those players “receiving post-operative and rehabilitation treatment, as directed by the club’s Chief Medical Officer,” the statement said.
- **The Ashford Group**, a publicly traded hotel management company, [announced Saturday that the conglomerate and its affiliates](#) will return millions in aid from the federal government’s loan program [meant for small businesses](#) devastated by the pandemic.



COVID-19 5/3 UPDATE

- The reversal came after days of scrutiny leveled at CEO Monty Bennett, whose company had previously defended its qualification for funds from the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program.
- The **University of Oregon** is planning for students to return to campus in the fall, university president Michael Schill told CNN.
 - Oregon has the advantage of starting later than other colleges and universities, he said.
 - "We are in a fortunate position in that we start on quarters. So we're not beginning until the beginning of October. So we have extra time to do really careful planning and also watch what happens around the rest of the country," Schill said.
- **JBS USA and Tyson Foods** have agreed to do a temporary shutdown of its facilities in Kentucky for a thorough cleaning, Gov. Andy Beshear said Friday.
 - He said Purdue Farms has not been as "helpful and as responsive" on the issue.
- The **National Basketball Association** said this year's Draft Lottery and Draft Combine has been postponed due to concerns associated with the Covid-19 pandemic.
 - The Draft Lottery was scheduled for May 19, and May 21–24 for the combine. Both events were set to be held in Chicago.
 - The 2020 NBA Draft is still set for June 25. The NBA season was suspended on Wednesday, March 11.
- **Texas A&M University** and the **University of Texas** will reopen and be operational for the fall semester.
 - "This summer, we're fully online and enrollment is actually up, a sign that you remain undeterred in pursuing your goals," Texas A&M University President Michael K. Young said in [a letter](#).
 - Fall enrollment is also up and though online classes "are an option if needed," the university is planning to open its campus for the fall semester, Young said. University faculty and staff are "preparing for all the requirements necessary to do so safely across academics, athletics and campus activities," according to Young.
 - The University of Texas (UT) said plans for its campus reopening won't be announced until the end of June, UT President Gregory L. Fences said in [a letter](#) to students.