

COVID-19 Issues Tracker & Top-Tier Coverage

Monday, March 16, 2020

Notable Updates:

U.S. News

- According to national COVID-19 [trackers](#), there are currently over 3,823 cases of COVID-19 in the U.S. confirmed by lab tests in all states except West Virginia with 67 deaths reported. Notable new cases include:
 - Louisiana topped [100 cases total](#)
 - New Orleans [reported](#) its first death from COVID-19
 - New York reported [221 new cases](#)
- The White House will hold another coronavirus task force briefing [at 3:00 PM ET](#)
- The Fed announced it will [cut interest rates](#) to 0 to 0.25 percent and purchased \$700 billion in Treasury and mortgage-backed securities
- The U.S. stock market [hit its circuit breaker](#) for a third time on Monday after the S&P 500 fell 8 percent
- The New York Stock Exchange introduced [temperature screening measures](#) for individuals on the stock market floor
- The CDC recommended cancelling or postponing gatherings [larger than 50 people](#) for the next eight weeks; sources are reporting discussion of [a nationwide curfew](#)
 - Governors from New York, New Jersey and Connecticut [announced](#) a ban of gatherings over 50 people; New Jersey is enacting a curfew from 8 PM to 5 AM
- The White House task force announced there will be [2,000+ labs](#) conducting high-speed testing this week
- The Senate will [review](#) the Families First Coronavirus Response Act this week after the House implements technical corrections on the bill
- Supreme Court [postponed](#) all oral arguments over coronavirus, citing Spanish flu precedent
- President Trump urged consumers [to buy only "what they need" and met](#) with the CEOs of Whole Foods, Target, General Mills, Costco, Publix Supermarkets, Tyson Foods, Kroger and Walmart among others to discuss an action plan to curb shopper stockpiling and ensure food and essentials are available
- The CNN's Democratic Presidential Debate on Sunday was held [with no audience](#) and focused on [COVID-19 response](#)
- Over 30 states and the District of Columbia are [closing schools](#) this week for over 30 million children and are working on measures to assure meals will be served
- Various city and state leaders have placed bans on public gatherings and [ordered bars and restaurants to close](#) in an effort to halt the spread of the coronavirus, including in [New York City, California, Massachusetts, Ohio, Minnesota, Illinois](#) and [Washington](#) among others
- New York announced [additional COVID-19 measures](#) including closing gyms as of 8:00 PM ET Monday, requiring local governments to reduce workforce by 50 percent with non-essential employees working from home, potentially canceling elective surgeries to free up hospital beds
- President Trump allegedly offered CureVac, a German pharmaceutical company, [a large sum of money](#) for exclusive access to its potential COVID-19 vaccine
- Google partner company Verily [launched](#) a website for online COVID-19 screenings
- More non-food retailers announced the closure of all or some of their U.S. stores to help prevent the spread of the outbreak. The latest include: [Levi Strauss, Away, Columbia Sportswear Co., VF Corp, Disney, Lush Cosmetics](#).
- LVMH Moët Hennessy – parent company of Louis Vuitton, Fenty Beauty, and Benefit Cosmetics – announced its factories that normally manufacture perfume [will shift to](#) manufacturing hand sanitizer gel.

International News

- According to global COVID-19 [trackers and official counts](#), there are at least 170,400 cases confirmed globally in over 140 countries with at least 6,619 deaths. Notable new cases include:
 - [Global deaths](#) from COVID-19 surpassed 6,000
 - Italy reported [3,600 new cases and 368 deaths](#) in the past 24 hours
 - South Africa called the pandemic a “[national emergency](#)”
 - Spain reported 1,000 additional cases and [nationalized](#) all private hospitals to assist in COVID-19 response
 - China reported [just 27 new cases](#) on Sunday
 - A member of the clerical body that chooses Iran’s supreme leader has [reportedly died from COVID-19](#); Iran has reported over 14,000 cases total
- Peru and Argentina on Sunday [sealed off their borders](#); Peru also restricted movement within the country, allowing only essential services like supermarkets, banks and pharmacies to remain open
- Germany will [impose temporary controls](#) on its borders with France, Switzerland, Austria, Denmark and Luxembourg
- Austria will [ban gatherings](#) of more than five people
- France [still held municipal elections](#) on Sunday, despite a nationwide lockdown
- G7 leaders will hold an [emergency coronavirus video summit](#)
- Fiat Chrysler [ended production](#) at the majority of its European plants and Volkswagen stopped production in Italy and Spain

Top-Tier Coverage:

Business

- [Stocks Open Sharply Lower After Fed Slashes Rates](#), *The Wall Street Journal*
- [Fed Cuts Rates to Near Zero and Will Relaunch Bond-Buying Program](#), *The Wall Street Journal*
- [Fed slashing rates to zero is more likely than a recession, Barclays’ top economist says](#), *CNBC*
- [Fed Cuts Rates To Near Zero As Coronavirus Rips Through Economy](#), *NPR*
- [Fed cuts interest rates to zero percent amid coronavirus fallout](#), *The Hill*
- [Federal Reserve slashes interest rates to zero as part of wide-ranging emergency intervention](#), *The Washington Post*
- [White House Urges Against 'Hoarding' as Trump Talks to Grocery Store Executives](#), *U.S. News & World Report*
- [Factories shift operations in scramble to restock supermarket shelves](#), *Reuters*
- [Former White House economic adviser: 'Odds of a global recession are close to 100 percent'](#), *Politico*
- ['There Is Plenty of Food in the Country'](#), *The New York Times*
- [As Coronavirus Deepens Inequality, Inequality Worsens Its Spread](#), *The New York Times*
- [BREAKING NEWS: White House is considering cash payments to U.S. workers, as Mitt Romney gets behind plan to give \\$1,000 to every American EACH MONTH during the coronavirus crisis](#), *Daily Mail*
- [Silicon Valley Ramps Up Efforts to Tackle Virus](#), *The Wall Street Journal*
- [Alphabet’s Verily launches a limited coronavirus screening website](#), *CNBC*
- [US retail closures could surge, Roche has over 400 tests on the way](#), *CNBC*
- [NYC, Los Angeles, and Washington state have announced a shutdown of bars and restaurants. Here are all the places taking drastic measures to curb the spread of coronavirus.](#), *Business Insider*
- [States order bar closures and restaurant restrictions as coronavirus cases climb](#), *CNN*
- [Gov. Baker Closes Schools, Bans Mid-Size Gatherings, Eating at Restaurants](#), *NBC*
- [California governor calls for closure of all bars, wineries](#), *Associated Press*
- [D.C. closes nightclubs and restricts bars, restaurants: New cases in Md., Va.; NIH employee tests positive for coronavirus](#), *The Washington Post*
- [Trump calls on Americans to cease hoarding food, supplies](#), *The Washington Post*
- [Fiat Chrysler suspends car production at most of its plants in Europe](#), *CNN*

- [Disney to Close Hotels, All Retail Stores Due to COVID-19](#), *Associated Press*
- [Uber is delivering free meals to health-care workers and first responders amid coronavirus crisis](#), *CNBC*
- [JPMorgan tells employees around the world to work from home if possible](#), *CNBC*
- [These retailers are closing stores to slow coronavirus outbreak](#), *CNBC*
- [Nike, Urban Outfitters and other retailers shuttering stores temporarily because of coronavirus](#), *CNN*
- [Now Walmart joins stores cutting opening hours to refill shelves emptied by coronavirus stockpiling as workers take to social media to share worries about huge demand and risk of getting infected](#), *The Daily Mail*
- [Peloton closes retail stores, will stream live classes from a closed set in coronavirus response](#), *CNBC*
- [Starbucks temporarily adopts 'to go' model, will close or shorten hours near coronavirus clusters](#), *CNBC*
- [Louis Vuitton parent company will use cosmetics and perfume manufacturing facilities to make free alcohol-based sanitizer amid global shortage](#), *Business Insider*
- [Brothers who hoarded 17,700 bottles of hand sanitizer forced to donate to charity](#), *TODAY*

Health

- [Global Deaths From Coronavirus Surpass 6,000](#), *NPR*
- [CDC Says U.S. Gatherings of Over 50 People Should Be Put Off](#), *Bloomberg*
- [Everything You Need to Know About Coronavirus Testing](#), *WIRED*
- [U.S. Officials Urge More Action to Combat Coronavirus](#), *The Wall Street Journal*
- [Coronavirus testing: Information on COVID-19 tests according to state health departments](#), *NBC News*
- [Pence Pledges High-Speed Coronavirus Testing From 2,000 Labs This Week](#), *The New York Times*
- [Trump 'offers large sums' for exclusive access to coronavirus vaccine](#), *The Guardian*
- [Trump administration discussing possible encouragement of nationwide curfew](#), *CNN*
- [Coronavirus Closes School for Nearly 30 Million Children in U.S.](#), *The Wall Street Journal*
- [Fauci: Young people are not immune from becoming 'seriously ill'](#), *The Hill*
- [France says ibuprofen may aggravate coronavirus. Experts say more evidence is needed](#), *CNN*
- [New Orleans police clear Bourbon Street hours after city's 1st coronavirus death](#), *Fox*
- [World Health Organization says some nations aren't running enough coronavirus tests: 'Test every suspected case'](#), *CNBC*
- [The U.K.'s Coronavirus 'Herd Immunity' Debacle](#), *The Atlantic*
- [Sanofi, Regeneron begin testing coronavirus treatment with arthritis drug](#), *Fox News*

International

- [Italy reports record 368 new coronavirus deaths in one day](#), *Axios*
- [Coronavirus: EU states record highest one-day death toll](#), *BBC*
- ['It's silent outside': Italy, France and Spain adapt to life under coronavirus lockdown](#), *NBC News*
- [In coronavirus lockdown, Milan sheds its reputation for aloofness, grows closer — from a distance](#), *The Washington Post*
- [Gantz Chosen To Form Government, Netanyahu Argues To Stay PM Over Coronavirus Concerns](#), *NPR*
- [Africa, Latin America Brace as Coronavirus Threatens Weaker Health Systems](#), *The Wall Street Journal*
- [Peru to close borders to curb spread of coronavirus- Vizcarra](#), *Reuters*
- [Germany seals off borders; Spain's number of cases jumps almost 1,000](#), *CNBC*
- [Spain has nationalised all of its private hospitals as the country goes into coronavirus lockdown](#), *Business Insider*
- [Austria announces major restrictions on movement over coronavirus](#), *Reuters*
- [Bank of Japan Rolls Out Measures to Blunt Coronavirus Impact](#), *The Wall Street Journal*

- [China's Business Activity Turns Broadly Negative for First Time](#), *The Wall Street Journal*
- [G7 leaders to hold emergency coronavirus video summit](#), *The Guardian*
- [South Africa imposes coronavirus travel restrictions affecting US, other hard-hit countries](#), *Fox News*
- [To Track Coronavirus, Israel Moves to Tap Secret Trove of Cellphone Data](#), *The New York Times*
- [France votes in nationwide municipal elections despite coronavirus lockdown](#), *France24*

Travel

- [United Airlines to cut capacity by 50% over the coronavirus](#), *Axios*
- [For Airlines, Week That Went From Bad to Worse](#), *The Wall Street Journal*
- [Coronavirus Travel Restrictions, Across the Globe](#), *The New York Times*
- [Coronavirus forces airlines to consider a once unthinkable possibility — halting US flights](#), *CNBC*
- [Travel updates: which countries have coronavirus restrictions and FCO warnings in place?](#), *The Guardian*
- [End of the cruise? Industry struggles through rough waters of coronavirus crisis](#), *The Guardian*
- ['It just impacts us all': Military families try to cope with coronavirus travel restrictions](#), *USA Today*
- [Coronavirus: China relaxes travel rules in Wuhan](#), *Sky News*

Sports

- [Sports, Retailers, Airlines, Autos: The Damage Across Business](#), *The Wall Street Journal*
- [Business as \(Not Quite\) Usual: The NFL Pushes on in a Time of Uncertainty](#), *Sports Illustrated*
- [Will Leitch NBA season suspended over coronavirus fears. But our sports blackout may be just beginning.](#), *NBC News*
- [The Coronavirus's Economic Effect On Sports Could Be Staggering](#), *FiveThirtyEight*
- [Tokyo 2020: Organisers to discuss latest coronavirus developments](#), *BBC*
- [Coronavirus: EFL says 'no decisions taken yet' on what may happen next](#), *BBC*
- [CDC's coronavirus guidelines could dampen sports world's hopes of returning quickly](#), *Fox News*
- [Sources: NBA players won't be subject to drug testing during coronavirus hiatus](#), *Yahoo! Sports*

Politics

- [Senate scrambles on coronavirus package as U.S. begins to shut down](#), *Politico*
- [Supreme Court postpones arguments over coronavirus, citing Spanish flu precedent](#), *CNBC*
- [Supreme Court postpones oral arguments amid coronavirus pandemic](#), *The Hill*
- [House coronavirus package hits snag](#), *Politico*
- [No Audience? No Problem. A TV Debate Like Few Others Gets High Marks.](#), *The New York Times*
- [Sanders hints Tuesday's primaries should be postponed over coronavirus](#), *Fox News*
- [The Coronavirus Debate](#), *The New York Times*
- [Coronavirus Sick-Leave Bill Raises Concern Over Small-Business Burden](#), *The Wall Street Journal*

GENERAL INFORMATION

Key dates:

- 12/31/19: China alerted WHO of potential new disease
- 1/7/20: WHO announced identification of "novel" coronavirus
- 1/20/20: The U.S., South Korea, Japan and Thailand confirm cases
- 1/23/20: Wuhan, China quarantined by Chinese authorities
- 1/30/20: WHO declares coronavirus a "global emergency"; U.S. State Department warns against traveling to China
- 2/2/20: First death from the coronavirus reported outside of China (Philippines)
- 2/5/20: Diamond Princess Cruises quarantined off shore of Japan

- 2/7/20: CDC begins to ship test kits to state and local health departments
- 2/10/20: Death toll from coronavirus surpasses SARS worldwide
- 2/11/20: WHO names the disease COVID-19
- 2/19/20: Diamond Princess Cruises passengers disembark, fly back to U.S. for quarantine
- 2/21/20: Iran announces an increase in coronavirus cases
- 2/23/20: Italy announces surge in coronavirus cases
- 2/26/20: President Trump appoints Vice President Pence to lead COVID-19 task force
- 2/26/20: U.S. reports first case of “community spread”; Latin America reports first coronavirus case
- 2/28/20: WHO increases global health threat to “very high,” the highest risk level before “pandemic”
- 3/1/20: U.S. reports first two deaths
- 3/2/20: Number of cases reported in Italy spikes by nearly 50%; the E.U. raised its risk level to “high”
- 3/6/20: Number of cases surpassed 100,000 globally
- 3/9/20: Global stock markets plunged and oil prices dropped amid global anxiety
- 3/10/20: Number of known coronavirus cases in the U.S. surpassed 1,000
- 3/10/20: Deadliest single day toll to date
- 3/11/20: WHO declares a pandemic; U.S. bans travel from Europe, excluding the U.K.
- 3/13/20: Trump declares a national emergency
- 3/14/20: U.S. extends travel ban to include Britain, Ireland

Potential escalations:

- CDC raises travel alert levels on countries
- Major U.S. cities quarantined or “containment zones” created
- Other foreign leaders make emergency declarations
- Results from initial trials of vaccines being developed (expected in the next few weeks) or delays in vaccines
- Countries begin to stop cross-border travel (i.e., bans or repatriating ex-pat citizens)
- Increased economic impact of COVID-19 on businesses and supply chains

Relevant Links:

- WHO press briefings Monday/Wednesday/Friday ([LINK](#))
- CDC COVID-19 travel advisories ([LINK](#))
- CDC report on situation in the U.S. ([LINK](#))
- FDA updates related to COVID-19 ([LINK](#))
- Tips to prevent spread ([CDC](#), [WHO](#))
- News outlets with LIVE running updates on COVID-19 ([NYT](#), [CNN](#), [BBC](#), [The Guardian](#))
- Outbreak Trackers: ([NYT U.S.](#), [NYT World](#), [Foreign Policy](#), [Information is Beautiful](#))
- Event Cancellation Tracker ([AdAge](#), [NYT](#))
- Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) COVID-19 resource center ([LINK](#))

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