

## COVID-19 Issues Tracker & Top-Tier Coverage

Wednesday, March 18, 2020

### Notable Updates

#### *U.S. News*

- According to national COVID-19 [trackers](#), there are currently over 5,880 cases of coronavirus confirmed by lab tests in all states with over 107 deaths reported. Notable new cases include:
  - The U.S. death toll [exceeded 100 deaths](#)
  - West Virginia confirmed its [first case](#) of COVID-19
  - 22 people in an [Illinois nursing home](#) tested positive for COVID-19
  - Officials anticipate a spike in confirmed cases as testing capabilities increase across the U.S.
- The U.S. and Canada will [halt all “non-essential traffic”](#) between countries
- The U.S. [government is considering a range](#) of tracking and surveillance technologies to help control the spread of the coronavirus outbreak
- The Senate will vote Wednesday on a [second COVID-19 response bill](#) that would cover free testing and two weeks of paid leave
- Discussions continue over a [\\$1 trillion](#) U.S. emergency stimulus package and the Trump administration is requesting [\\$500 billion for direct payments](#) to American taxpayers as part of a \$1 trillion plan
- Sources reported that the U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin [warned Republican senators](#) Tuesday that the unemployment rate could hit 20% with no action
- In the daily White House task for [briefing](#), officials confirmed:
  - FEMA has been largely activated to Level One
  - President Trump will [invoke](#) the Defense Production Act to expedite and expand the supply of resources
  - The U.S. will be sending Navy [hospital ships](#) to the New York Harbor and the West Coast
  - The President will hold a second press conference later Wednesday to discuss FDA developments on testing
  - The Housing and Urban Development will suspend foreclosures and evictions
  - The Administration will host a meeting with FEMA and Governors Thursday to connect on national resources
  - CMS will announce recommendations to limit non-essential medical, surgical and dental procedures
- Hospitals across the U.S. are beginning to experience [supply shortages](#) of equipment
- New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo [announced](#) Wednesday that no more than 50% of workforce can leave the home except for essential services
- Pennsylvania [will close](#) restaurants and bars except for takeout and delivery & closed all gyms, casinos and movie theaters
- Kansas became the first state to [end its K-12 school year](#) for 2020
- Facebook [will give](#) its full-time employees an additional \$1,000 in their next paycheck and an “exceeds expectations” performance review H1 2020 to ensure all of those employees receive their biannual bonuses
- Amazon [warehouse workers are demanding](#) commitments to pay workers if the spread of coronavirus leads to temporary closures of warehouses
- Additional notable store closures reported are: [Gap](#), [Microsoft](#) and [Ikea](#)
- Honda and BMW [will suspend](#) North American and European production, becoming the latest car manufacturers to adjust factory operations. Tuesday, United Auto Workers union reached a deal with Ford, Fiat Chrysler and General Motors that [would partially shut down](#) facilities in the U.S.

#### *International News*

- According to global COVID-19 [trackers and official counts](#), there are at least 201,000 cases confirmed globally in over 144 countries with at least 8,204 deaths. Notable new cases include:

- The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases [doubled](#) in two weeks, topping 200,000 cases globally
- The death toll in Europe [surpassed](#) deaths reported in China for the first time
- Asia has reported a [second wave](#) of COVID-19 with 87 new cases [reported](#) in South Korea alone
- The EU will [seal](#) its borders for 26 EU states as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland
- Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte told European Union leaders on Tuesday that COVID-19 was causing a "[socio-economic tsunami](#)" across Europe and that dedicated bonds may be needed
- Scotland and Wales will [close schools nationwide](#) on Friday
- Belgium and Germany are imposing [nationwide lockdowns](#) for citizens to prevent the spread of COVID-19
- Nigeria [banned entry](#) for travelers from 13 countries
- Chinese officials [reported](#) that a Japanese flu drug was found "clearly effective" as a treatment for COVID-19

### Top Tier Coverage:

#### Business

- The New York Times: [Layoffs Are Just Starting, and the Forecasts Are Bleak](#)
- NPR: [Dow Down 7% As Trump Outlines New Coronavirus Measures](#)
- Reuters: [U.S. manufacturers delay new goods due to coronavirus disruptions](#)
- Politico: [Emergency stimulus to soar above \\$1 trillion](#)
- CBS News: [White House and Senate focus on \\$1 trillion coronavirus stimulus package](#)
- The New York Times: [Fed Unveils Emergency Lending Programs as Companies Struggle to Raise Cash](#)
- CNBC: [Mnuchin warns senators of 20% US unemployment without coronavirus rescue, source says](#)
- The Washington Post: [U.S. government, tech industry discussing ways to use smartphone location data to combat coronavirus](#)
- The Hill: [Federal government in talks with tech groups to use phone location data to track coronavirus: report](#)
- CNBC: [Honda, BMW close plants in U.S. and Europe due to the coronavirus outbreak](#)
- The Wall Street Journal: [To Track Virus, Governments Weigh Surveillance Tools That Push Privacy Limits](#)
- CNBC: [Group run by former Google CEO to hold meeting with VCs, philanthropists about ways to fight coronavirus](#)
- USA Today: [Lyft looking to add food, medical supplies delivery service](#)
- The Wall Street Journal: [Facebook Gives Employees Extra \\$1,000 and Good Reviews Amid Coronavirus](#)
- NBC: [Facebook to give employees \\$1,000 and six-month bonuses as coronavirus assistance](#)
- CNBC: [Facebook to pay employees \\$1,000 bonuses to assist during coronavirus outbreak](#)
- Reuters: [Google delays launch of coronavirus informational website](#)
- The Wall Street Journal: [Marriott Begins Furloughing Tens of Thousands of Employees](#)
- Reuters: [Honda will halt all North American production for six days](#)
- Forbes: [Coronavirus Layoffs: Marriott, Laura Ashley Join List Of Companies Shedding Jobs Due To The Pandemic](#)
- CNN: [Marriott is beginning to furlough employees](#)
- Reuters: [Tesla plant can't run normally in coronavirus shutdown: California county](#)
- The Verge: [Tesla told to shut down California factory to help fight the coronavirus](#)
- Reuters: [The White House wants to give you \\$1,000. Here's how it could work](#)
- The Wall Street Journal: [FedEx Pulls Guidance, Will Reduce Capacity as Coronavirus Slows Economy](#)

## Health

- The New York Times: [In Virus Hot Spot, Lining Up and Anxious at Drive-in Test Center](#)
- NPR: [Drive-Through Coronavirus Tests Begin To Pop Up Around The United States](#)
- The New York Times: [U.S. Virus Plan Anticipates 18-Month Pandemic and Widespread Shortages](#)
- CNN: [US coronavirus death toll tops 100 as doctors say hospitals aren't prepared for a continuing surge](#)
- U.S. News & World Report: [U.S. Coronavirus Death Toll Tops 100](#)
- Forbes: [Japanese Flu Drug 'Effective' Against Coronavirus In Clinical Trials, Chinese Officials Say](#)
- The Guardian: [Japanese flu drug 'clearly effective' in treating coronavirus, says China](#)
- ABC News: [Head of largest nurses union in US says they 'don't have protections they need' from coronavirus](#)
- New York Post: [West Virginia, last state without coronavirus, sees its first case](#)
- The Wall Street Journal: [Hospitals Facing Coronavirus Are Running Out of Masks, Other Key Equipment](#)
- The Wall Street Journal: [Lessons From Italy's Hospital Meltdown. 'Every Day You Lose, the Contagion Gets Worse.'](#)
- The New York Times: [Hospital Ship Headed to New York as Virus Count Spikes: Live Updates](#)
- NPR: [Coronavirus: Kansas Becomes 1st State To End School Year — But May Not Be Last](#)
- NPR: [New Analysis Suggests Months Of Social Distancing May Be Needed To Stop Virus](#)

## International

- The Guardian: [Glastonbury 2020: festival cancelled due to coronavirus outbreak](#)
- BBC: [Coronavirus: MPs stay away from House of Commons chamber](#)
- BBC: [Coronavirus: Schools in Scotland and Wales to close from Friday](#)
- The Guardian: [More than 250m in lockdown in EU as Belgium and Germany adopt measures](#)
- The New York Times: [Europe Barricades Borders to Slow Coronavirus](#)
- CNBC: [Putin is being protected from coronavirus around the clock, Kremlin says](#)
- The New York Times: [Coronavirus Disrupts Troop Withdrawal in Afghanistan](#)
- The Wall Street Journal: [China's Coronavirus Response Toughens State Control and Weakens the Private Market](#)
- Fox News: [Spain's coronavirus cases spike, edges closer to Iran amid nationwide lockdown](#)
- The Wall Street Journal: [China's Glowing Coronavirus-Response Coverage Triggers Anger at State Media](#)
- Financial Times: [Second wave of coronavirus cases hits Asia](#)
- ABC News: [NKorea's Kim admits troubled medical system amid virus fears](#)
- Financial Times: [London lockdown imminent to slow coronavirus outbreak](#)
- Reuters: [Italy PM says coronavirus 'tsunami' won't leave any EU state untouched - source](#)
- The New York Times: [China Announces That It Will Expel American Journalists](#)

## Travel

- CNBC: [Trump says US will close the border with Canada to 'non-essential' traffic due to coronavirus](#)
- The Hill: [Trump says US, Canada to close border to 'non-essential traffic' amid coronavirus](#)
- Fox News: [Trump announces US, Canada closing border to 'non-essential traffic' amid coronavirus fears](#)
- The New York Times: [Can California Keep 9 Million People at Home?](#)
- USA Today: ['A stunning shift': United, JetBlue, Spirit, Allegiant slash flights as coronavirus crisis deepens](#)
- USA Today: [Coronavirus shuts Pearl Harbor memorial, Grand Canyon West, Eiffel Tower, other iconic landmarks](#)

- CNN: [Nigeria bans entry for travelers from 13 countries as it announces five new cases of coronavirus](#)

## Sports

- The New York Times: [Will the Olympics Go On? Japan's Businesses Would Like to Know](#)
- Bloomberg: [Olympics Organizers Still Confident, Acknowledge Threat to Games](#)
- Reuters: [Dissent grows as IOC battles to keep Tokyo Games on track](#)
- BBC: [Coronavirus: Tokyo 2020 Olympic organisers respond to frustrated athletes](#)
- CBS Sports: [Coronavirus: NBA defends teams getting tested following critical comments from New York City mayor](#)
- USA Today: [Doctor says baseball can 'lead the way' on coronavirus response](#)

## Politics

- The Wall Street Journal: [Senate Expected to Pass Bill Offering Free Virus Testing, Paid Leave](#)
- The New York Times: [Congress Races to Respond While Defying Ban on Mass Gatherings](#)
- The New York Times: ['Go Big' on Coronavirus Stimulus, Trump Says, Pitching Checks for Americans](#)
- The Wall Street Journal: [Biden Sweeps Tuesday's Primaries as Voters Confront Coronavirus Fears](#)
- The Wall Street Journal: [Trump Administration May Close U.S. Borders to Unauthorized Foreigners Over Coronavirus Risk](#)

## 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

- 3/18/20: The EU announced it will seal its borders; the U.S. and Canada will close its border to “non-essential” traffic

**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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