

COVID-19 Issues Tracker & Top-Tier Coverage

Tuesday, March 24, 2020

Notable Updates

U.S. News

- According to national COVID-19 [trackers](#), there are currently over 43,499 cases of coronavirus confirmed by lab tests in all 50 states with over 537 deaths reported. Notable new cases include:
 - Dr. Deborah Birx said at a news briefing with President Donald Trump that the greater [New York City area has an "attack rate close to one in a thousand"](#) -- five times higher than what other areas are experiencing.
 - A World Health Organization (WHO) official says the [United States has the potential to become the new epicenter of the coronavirus crisis](#) as a large acceleration of infections is occurring in the nation.
- According to the White House task force briefing Monday night:
 - The Trump Administration continues to work with Democrats and Republicans to work to develop a relief bill to help businesses
 - At the end of the 15-day social distancing period, the Trump Administration will make a determination if they will lift the strict guidelines, as President Trump stated he did not want months of social distancing
 - FEMA is distributing 80 million N95 masks across the country focusing on the areas with the most intense need, New York and Washington State
 - The Trump Administration will make it a crime to stockpile essential items, the Administration will work with HHS to determine these items
 - The Department of Justice will begin to prosecute fraudulent claims such as vaccines and name a lead prosecutor in each of the 93 district attorney's offices
 - The Trump Administration announced a new test that will not require as intense levels of personal protective equipment (PPE)
 - HHS will issue new guidance to direct all commercial labs to prioritize testing for hospitalized patients
- [Trump is considering reopening the economy](#) despite health expert warnings and many economists saying there is no positive trade-off.
- [The Senate is battling over a coronavirus relief bill](#), including a measure that permits affected savers to take a hardship withdrawal of up to \$100,000 from their 401(k) retirement plan.
- [House Democrats have drafted their own counter proposal](#) titled the Take Responsibility for Workers and Families Act.
- Prudential Financial, the Newark-based insurance giant, [donated a stockpile of 153,000 protective face masks and respirators](#) to New Jersey.
- [Wells Fargo said that](#) all of its domestic full-time employees who make less than \$100,000 a year would receive a pre-tax payment of \$600 and part-time employees would get a \$300 bonus.
- [General Motors, Ford and Tesla in the US have all pledged their support to offer resources to make more ventilators](#), along with Japanese carmaker Nissan and Formula 1 teams in the UK.
- [Citigroup CEO Michael Corbat said the bank will send \\$1,000 awards](#) to some employees to compensate them for the "financial burden" of working during the coronavirus pandemic.
- In Arizona, a man died after reportedly taking a nonmedical form of chloroquine, after [Trump has called chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine, which are used to treat malaria and other conditions, game changers](#), and a rush to procure the pharmaceuticals spurred several US states to take measures to prevent shortage.
- Notable new companies announcing layoffs/furloughs in the U.S. are:
 - [Boeing said it was suspending airplane production](#) in the Seattle area for 14 days beginning on March 25.
- Notable new companies that have stopped or are modifying production in the U.S. are:
 - [Thor Industries announced the temporary suspension](#) of all production of its recreational vehicles in North America.
- New states with restrictions to "non-essential" business or implementing "shelter-in-place" policies are:

- [Florida's Governor issued an Executive Order](#) mandating 14-day self-isolation for travelers from New York to New Jersey.
- [Louisiana, New Mexico, Washington and West Virginia](#) have issued stay-at-home orders.
- [Washington, Oregon, New Mexico and West Virginia ordered nonessential businesses to suspend](#) their usual operations and advised residents to stay home.

International News

- According to global COVID-19 [trackers and official counts](#), there are at least 382,000 cases confirmed globally in over 166 countries with at least 16,890 deaths. Notable new cases include:
 - [Italy recorded a lower day-to-day increase of coronavirus cases](#) for the second day in a row Monday, officials said.
 - [Hubei province](#) says travel restrictions on Wuhan city will be lifted in two weeks.
- Boris Johnson [announced](#) a nationwide lockdown for citizens of the U.K.
- The [IOC and Japan have agreed to officially postpone](#) the Summer 2020 Olympics until 2021.
- [AstraZeneca is donating nine million face masks](#) to support healthcare workers around the world as they respond to the COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) global pandemic; Italy will receive the first shipment imminently.
- [Germany signed off on taking on billions in new debt](#) as part of an unprecedented package totaling more than 750 billion euros (\$800 billion) to cushion the fallout from the coronavirus pandemic.
- [Britain's government opened the first part of a 330 billion pounds](#) (\$384 billion) loan guarantee scheme for businesses on Monday.
- A small section of the [Great Wall of China](#) has reopened to visitors.
- [India Prime Minister Narendra Modi maintained there is no sign of community spread](#), and the World Health Organization (WHO) has praised India's swift response, which has included grounding domestic and international commercial flights and suspending all tourist visas.

Top Tier Coverage:

Business

- [The Wall Street Journal: Coronavirus Crisis Reveals Retail Haves and Have-Nots](#)
- [The Wall Street Journal: Guns, Groceries and News: What Sells in a Pandemic—and Doesn't](#)
- [USA Today: Stores offer shopping time for vulnerable customers amid coronavirus: Walmart, Target, Costco and more](#)
- [Footwear News: Coronavirus Means More Bankruptcies, More Closures: How America's Mall Will Survive Now](#)
- [Financial Times: Coronavirus lay-offs split corporate America](#)
- [Business Insider: All of Target's Starbucks locations are temporarily closed, and many baristas are transferring to work in the superstore itself](#)
- [Yahoo! Finance: Coronavirus: 'There's going to be a generalized crushing of retailers in America'](#)
- [USA Today: Costco, Walgreens and Trader Joe's add senior shopping hours](#)
- [USA Today: Walgreens adding 9,500 jobs and giving bonuses in coronavirus response](#)
- [CNBC: Amazon gives part-time warehouse workers paid time off after a group of them fought for it](#)
- [The Guardian: 'The US of Amazon': how the coronavirus has created a governance vacuum the tech giant is quickly filling](#)
- [Business Insider: Amazon is offering some kids movies and TV shows for free as families stay inside amid the coronavirus outbreak](#)
- [Business Insider: Amazon's latest shipment delays show it's willing to largely give up on non-Prime orders as the coronavirus puts strain on its supply chain](#)
- [The Washington Post: Prime members first: Amazon is ranking customers and ramping up hiring to address coronavirus demand](#)

- Fortune: [Some Amazon Prime shipments won't arrive for a month due to coronavirus](#)
- Reuters: [Amazon teams up with Bill Gates-backed group to deliver coronavirus test kits](#)
- Business Insider: [Amazon will deliver and pick up coronavirus test kits in Seattle in a partnership with a research group backed by Bill Gates](#)
- CNBC: [Amazon will deliver and pick up test kits being issued by a new coronavirus program in Seattle](#)
- The Hill: [Amazon to begin offering paid time off to delivery employees](#)
- BuzzFeed News: [Amazon Workers Who Petitioned For Paid Time Off Have Claimed A Victory](#)
- Bloomberg: [Amazon Suspends Almost 4,000 Seller Accounts Over Price Gouging](#)
- USA Today: [Amazon removes more than 3,900 seller accounts from US store due to 'coronavirus-based price gouging'](#)
- Business Insider: [Amazon and Walmart are ramping up hiring to add 250,000 new jobs. Here's how to apply and whether you can expect an interview.](#)
- USA Today: [Walmart is latest retailer to temporarily raise pay in response to the coronavirus](#)
- Business Insider: [Costco is paying to keep its sample servers employed as store cleaners after the service was suspended amid coronavirus concerns](#)
- Business Insider: [Costco is offering an additional \\$2 an hour to its hourly employees across the US as the coronavirus outbreak causes massive shopping surges](#)
- The Washington Post: [CVS to hire 50,000 workers, pay out bonuses as pandemic boosts demand](#)
- CNBC: [CVS Health looking to fill 50,000 jobs to meet demand](#)
- MarketWatch: [CVS plans to hire furloughed workers from its customers as companies get creative during coronavirus pandemic](#)
- CNBC: [We are not seeking a corporate bailout: International Council of Shopping Centers CEO](#)
- The Wall Street Journal: [Coronavirus Emails From Companies May Not Be Calming to Customers](#)
- Nordstrom: [Nordstrom Provides Additional Update Related to Coronavirus](#)
- Fortune: [Amazon, Walmart, eBay pushed by states to stop price gougers](#)
- Markets Insider: [All of Target's Starbucks locations are temporarily closed, and many baristas are transferring to work in the superstore itself](#)
- Forbes: [Retailers Are Looking To Hire Almost Half A Million Workers Because Of Coronavirus](#)
- People: [Starbucks Commits to Paying Workers for 30 Days Regardless of Whether They Work During Coronavirus Crisis](#)
- USA Today: [Instacart to hire 300,000 additional workers due to higher demand](#)
- Reuters: [Instacart to add 300,000 gig workers in coronavirus-driven hiring](#)
- Yahoo! Finance: [Retail stocks hammered as coronavirus cases spike throughout the U.S.](#)
- Fox News: [Kroger hiring more than 10,000, changing store hours as coronavirus spurs panic buying](#)
- USA Today: [Dollar General to hire 50,000 employees to meet demand during coronavirus crisis](#)
- Fortune: ["Essential" stores like CVS and Dollar General go on hiring sprees while the rest of retail reels](#)
- Business Insider: [In leaked memo, Hobby Lobby refuses to give workers paid sick leave during coronavirus pandemic](#)
- Footwear News: [H&M Could Cut Tens of Thousands of Jobs Due to Coronavirus](#)
- CNBC: [Fashion retailer H&M weighs tens of thousands of job cuts because of coronavirus](#)
- The Wall Street Journal: [Grocers Stopped Stockpiling Food. Then Came Coronavirus.](#)
- CNBC: [Retailers are dangling deals online amid coronavirus, but shoppers may not show up](#)
- The Motley Fool: [Walmart Opens Drive-Through Coronavirus Testing Sites](#)

- Reuters: [Wells Fargo to pay special compensation to front-line workers amid coronavirus outbreak](#)
- Daily Mail: [Google could share users' location data with the UK government to help it determine whether people are practicing safe 'social distancing' during the coronavirus crisis](#)
- The Wall Street Journal: [Coronavirus Exacts Mounting Toll on Industry](#)
- The Wall Street Journal: [Detroit Landlord's Small-Business Survival Plan: Free Rent Until July](#)
- Barron's: [After Apple's Big Drop, There's Only One Trillion-Dollar Company Left](#)
- Becker's Hospital Review: [How 8 health systems are handling COVID-19 testing: in-house, drive-thru, triage and more](#)
- CNBC: [Citigroup is giving some employees a \\$1,000 bonus for working through the coronavirus pandemic](#)
- Forbes: [Coronavirus Layoffs: GE Latest To Shed Jobs During Pandemic](#)

Health

- CBS 2 (Chicago, IL): [Chicago Area Coronavirus Parking Lot Testing Efforts](#)
- Des Moines Register: [Iowa day cares: You want us to stay open? We need supplies](#)
- CBS 2 (Chicago, IL): [Coronavirus In Chicago: New Drive-Through COVID-19 Testing Site For First Responders Fills Up In Matter Of Hours](#)
- San Francisco Chronicle: [Bay Area site opens for coronavirus test without doctor's order, one of first in state](#)
- Fox News: [Drive-thru coronavirus testing sites in New Jersey immediately reach capacity, others in US lack supplies](#)
- The Washington Post: [How the automated coronavirus testing process works in Silicon Valley](#)

Food

- CNBC: [Coca-Cola CEO says supply chain is 'creaking around the world' due to coronavirus](#)
- Eater: [By the Numbers: COVID-19's Devastating Effect on the Restaurant Industry](#)
- Fast Company: [Is food delivery still safe during COVID-19? Here's what to do if you're ordering in](#)
- The Wall Street Journal: [Grocers Stopped Stockpiling Food. Then Came Coronavirus.](#)

International

- BBC: [Coronavirus: Pandemic is 'accelerating', WHO warns as cases pass 300,000](#)
- CNBC: [China to lift lockdown on Wuhan, the epicenter of its coronavirus outbreak](#)
- The Guardian: [Around 20% of global population under coronavirus lockdown](#)
- CNBC: [Britain goes into lockdown; Spain death toll jumps more than 500 in a day](#)
- BBC: [Coronavirus: Spanish army finds care home residents 'dead and abandoned](#)
- BBC: [Coronavirus: Wuhan to ease lockdown as world battles pandemic](#)

Travel

- CCN: [White House using legal lessons learned in travel ban fights in coronavirus travel restrictions](#)
- BBC: [Coronavirus: Separated parents 'relieved' children can be moved](#)
- Forbes: [Coronavirus And Travel: What's Next?](#)

Sports

- Wall Street Journal: [Japan, IOC Agree to Postpone 2020 Tokyo Olympics by About One Year](#)
- CNN: [Japanese PM and IOC chief agree to postpone 2020 Olympics](#)
- Reuters: [Japan PM Abe: Agreed with IOC's Bach on idea of delaying Olympics one year](#)
- Sports Illustrated: [Prime Minister Shinzo Abe Proposes One-Year Postponement For Tokyo Olympics](#)
- Politico: [Tokyo 2020 Olympics to be postponed](#)
- Washington Post: [Japan, International Olympic Committee agree to postpone Tokyo Games](#)

Politics

- Politico: [‘Our country wasn’t built to be shut down’: Trump pushes back against health experts](#)
- The New York Times: [Trump Considers Reopening Economy, Over Health Experts’ Objections](#)
- CNN: [Fox News hosts eye shutdown end as Trump says 'cure' can't be worse than 'problem'](#)
- Nasdaq: [Uber urges White House to include gig workers in coronavirus stimulus](#)
- U.S. News: [Uber Urges White House to Include Gig Workers in Coronavirus Stimulus](#)
- CNN: [Latest on Congress coronavirus discussions: A funding stare down with potentially catastrophic consequences](#)
- Reuters: [U.S. launches probes as Trump bans hoarding, price gouging to combat coronavirus](#)
- Reuters: [Trump signs order against hoarding, price gouging in fight against coronavirus](#)
- The New York Times: [Grim News Blunts Federal Reserve’s Crisis Response](#)
- Forbes: [Direct Payments In Coronavirus Stimulus Bill Are Well Targeted To Low- And Middle-Income Households](#)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Key dates:

- 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](#))
- White House Task Force briefing (11:30 AM ET, [Twitter](#))
- CDC COVID-19 travel advisories ([LINK](#))
- CDC report on situation in the U.S. ([LINK](#)) and Cases 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](#), [WSJ](#), [CNN](#), [BBC](#), [The Guardian](#))

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