

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

Tuesday, March 31, 2020

### Notable Updates

#### U.S. News

- According to national COVID-19 [trackers](#), there are currently over 163,575 cases of coronavirus confirmed by lab tests in all 50 states with over 3,073 deaths reported. Notable new cases include:
  - [The first US service member has died from the novel coronavirus](#), the US military announced on Monday.
  - Health officials have warned that [the virus could kill as many as 200,000 people in America](#).
- According to the White House task force [briefing](#) Monday evening:
  - Trump said the next 30 days will be “very vital” in flattening the curve of COVID-19.
  - Over one million Americans have been tested so far and over 100,00 samples are being tested a day.
  - 30 million tablets from Sandoz and one million tablets from Bayer of hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine, which are potential COVID-19 treatments, were secured; Teva Pharmaceuticals is also donating six million tablets of hydroxychloroquine to U.S. hospitals.
  - Secretary Azar authorized Battelle’s new decontamination machines, which can each sterilize thousands of essential N95 masks for reuse every day.
  - The Abbott point-of-care test has been authorized; the test can provide results to patients within five to fifteen minutes at the testing site.
  - The Javits Center hospital was completed; the U.S. Navy ship Comfort arrived yesterday equipped with 12 operating rooms and 1,000 hospital beds; additional temporary hospitals are in development in Brooklyn and on Wall Street.
  - The Army Corps of Engineers has awarded contracts for the construction of alternate care facilities at the State University at Stony Brook, State University Old Westbury, and the Westchester Community Center.
  - 60 ambulances are being sent to New York City.
  - FEMA has allocated \$1.3 billion to New York City.
  - Additional ventilators are being shipped to Michigan, New Jersey, Illinois, Louisiana and Connecticut.
  - Approximately \$100 million worth of medical supplies will be sent to Italy from the U.S.
  - CEOs from Jockey International, MyPillow, Procter & Gamble, Honeywell, and United Technologies Corporation spoke about their contributions to COVID-19 relief efforts.
    - The Washington Post published an article on [Trump’s Rose Garden](#) appearances with corporate executives. The article criticizes that the executives get more airtime than the medical professionals who are part of the White House virus task force.
- House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said Tuesday that [the coronavirus outbreak will likely require the country to move toward voting by mail in upcoming elections](#).
- Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker said Monday that [the federal government sent the wrong type of medical masks](#) in a shipment that his state recently received.
- [Walmart announced it will soon start taking temperatures](#) and doing basic health screenings of employees to detect workers who may be sick with COVID-19.
- [L.L. Bean CEO Stephen Smith](#) appeared on CNBC’s Power Lunch, where he said the federal government has not done enough to address the crisis in the retail sector caused by the coronavirus. Smith expressed particular concern for middle market retail and apparel retailers.
- [Amazon](#) has fired Christian Smalls, the worker who led the Staten Island walkout. [New York Attorney General](#) Letitia James is now calling for an investigation of Amazon after firing the employee.
- [Brooks Brothers](#) announced it will convert its factories in New York, Massachusetts and North Carolina from manufacturing ties, shirts and suits to medical masks and gowns to combat the

ongoing shortage of personal protective equipment. The company says it will be able to produce up to 150,000 masks per day.

- [Disney's top executives, including executive chairman Bob Iger and chief executive Bob Chapek, are taking pay cuts](#) as the coronavirus pandemic continues to ravage the media giant's stock and impede its operations globally.
- [BP will not cut jobs over the next three months](#), Chief Executive Officer Bernard Looney said, even as the company seeks to reduce spending following an oil price crash.
- [Ford and GE Healthcare will begin manufacturing ventilators](#) designed by a Florida company at a Blue Oval components plant in Michigan.
- New states with restrictions to “non-essential” business or implementing “shelter-in-place” policies are:
  - [The San Francisco Bay Area's shelter-in-place order deadline is getting extended](#) until 'at least May 1'
- Notable new companies announcing layoffs/furloughs in the U.S. are:
  - [Gap will furlough 80,000 store workers](#) in North America and Europe.
  - [Neiman Marcus will furlough about 14,000 workers](#).
  - [Macy's will furlough a majority of its 130,000 employees](#).
- Notable new companies that have stopped or are modifying production in the U.S. are:
  - Major automakers such as Ford, Toyota and others are continuing with [plans to restart U.S. vehicle production next month](#).

#### *International News*

- According to global COVID-19 [trackers and official counts](#), there are at least 796,000 cases confirmed globally in over 171 countries with at least 38,556 deaths. Notable new cases include:
  - Italy had its [lowest daily virus infections](#) in two weeks.
  - [Spain's daily death toll hit its highest level to date](#).
  - [The World Health Organization said there are signs of some stabilization in Europe's coronavirus outbreak](#).
  - Mexico's announced a health emergency including stricter measures aimed at containing the spread of coronavirus after [the number of cases passed 1,000 and deaths rose substantially](#).
- Fiat Chrysler [top executives will temporarily cut their salaries](#) to preserve the automaker's financial soundness during the coronavirus emergency.
- [Credit Suisse bank could restrain 2020 bonuses](#) in a show of unity with victims of the coronavirus epidemic in Switzerland.
- [Royal Bank of Canada will not cut jobs](#) in 2020 as a result of the coronavirus outbreak.
- [Lidl is donating thousands of fruit and vegetable bags to NHS staff across the U.K.](#)
- [Japan will boost government bond issuance by \\$149 billion](#) from July to fund a massive stimulus package aimed at combating the hit to the economy from the coronavirus pandemic.
- [The coronavirus crisis could be the “opportunity of the century” for China to cement its place as a global power](#), a professor told CNBC on Tuesday.
- [China did not include asymptomatic individuals who tested positive for coronavirus](#) in their counts as the number of confirmed cases and deaths from the disease grew worldwide.
- [The economic fallout from the coronavirus pandemic could drive an additional 11 million people into poverty in East Asia and the Pacific unless](#) "urgent action" is taken, the World Bank warned in a report released Monday.

#### **Business**

- **ABC News:** [Some Instacart, Amazon workers strike as jobs get riskier](#)
- **Barron's:** [The Coronavirus Brought a Surge in Business—and Labor Strife—to Amazon and Instacart](#)
- **Business Insider:** [New York's attorney general called Amazon's firing of a worker following a protest 'disgraceful' and is 'considering all legal options'](#)

- **Business Insider:** [Walmart will screen the temperatures of its 1.5 million US employees and provide them with masks and gloves](#)
- **CNBC:** [L.L.Bean CEO says Congress must do more to address 'serious' retail crisis](#)
- **CNN:** [Here's why Amazon and Instacart workers are striking at a time when you need them most](#)
- **Fast Company:** [Instacart says strike over coronavirus protections has had 'absolutely no impact'](#)
- **Financial Times:** [US department stores Macy's and Kohl's stop paying workers](#)
- **Fortune:** [Gap Inc. furloughing 80,000 store workers because of coronavirus hit to sales](#)
- **FOX Business:** [Brooks Brothers fights coronavirus by making protective equipment for health care workers](#)
- **MarketWatch:** [Walmart to start taking workers' temperature as it steps up COVID-19 safety measures](#)
- **NBC News:** [Some Instacart workers strike, others demand more as coronavirus alters labor landscape](#)
- **New York Post:** [Walmart to check temperatures of workers to prevent coronavirus spread](#)
- **Newsday:** [Macy's to furlough majority of its 125,000 workers](#)
- **Reuters:** [BRIEF-New York Attorney General Letitia James Statement On Firing Of Amazon Worker Who Organized Walkout](#)
- **Reuters:** [IKEA SAW LITTLE SUPPLY CHAIN DISTURBANCE DURING CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK IN CHINA, IMPACT MUCH BIGGER WHEN CONTAGION HIT EUROPE, AMERICA](#)
- **Reuters:** [Kohl's extends store closure, draws down \\$1 billion credit facility amid coronavirus outbreak](#)
- **Reuters:** [Neiman Marcus to furlough nearly 14,000 workers amid virus crisis](#)
- **The New York Times:** [A Revolt Over Safety and Pay](#)
- **The New York Times:** [Walkouts at Amazon and Whole Foods Over Coronavirus: Live Updates](#)
- **The San Francisco Chronicle:** [Gap to furlough majority of retail workers amid coronavirus outbreak](#)
- **The San Francisco Chronicle:** [Instacart reports no impact from strike as workers demand better pay, protections in coronavirus age](#)
- **The Telegraph:** [Amazon fires warehouse worker who spoke out about lack of coronavirus protection](#)
- **The Verge:** [Amazon warehouse workers walk out in rising tide of COVID-19 protests](#)
- **The Wall Street Journal:** [Walmart to Check Temperatures of Store Workers Amid Coronavirus Crisis](#)
- **The Washington Post:** [Macy's is furloughing most of its 125,000 employees amid prolonged coronavirus](#)
- **The Washington Post:** [Workers protest at Instacart, Amazon and Whole Foods for health protections and hazard pay](#)
- **USA Today:** [Coronavirus live updates: Amazon workers to strike; Virginians ordered to stay home; US deaths surge past 3,100](#)
- **USA Today:** [Kohl's keeping stores closed, furloughing employees](#)
- **USA Today:** [Work strikes at Amazon, Instacart and Whole Foods show essential workers' safety concerns](#)

## Food

- **CNBC:** [Walmart will start taking employees' temperatures at all stores, distribution centers](#)
- **Forbes:** [Grocers Are Offering Coronavirus Hazard Pay. If Most Farms And Slaughterhouses Don't Follow, A Far Bigger Problem Lurks.](#)
- **Vox:** [Your coronavirus grocery questions, answered by experts](#)
- **WattAgNet:** [Sanderson offers attendance bonus for hourly employees](#)
- **QSR:** [KFC Sending a Million Pieces of Chicken to Feed Communities](#)
- **Politico,** [How direct-to-consumer farmers are flourishing](#)
- **CNN:** [What happens to our food supply if American farmers can't farm?](#)
- **CNBC:** [Why coronavirus probably won't force American grocers to run out of food](#)

## Health

- **CNN Politics:** [Fact check: Trump again touts unproven drugs for coronavirus, and other misleading statements from Monday's briefing](#)
- **The Washington Post:** [Both public health and politics played a role in Trump's coronavirus decision](#)
- **USA Today:** ['That's just not true.' GOP Gov. Hogan contradicts Trump claim that testing problems are fixed](#)
- **The Washington Post:** [The case for not panicking about contracting the coronavirus](#)
- **USA Today:** [Trump says more than 1 million Americans have been tested for coronavirus](#)
- **PBS:** [How the coronavirus' economic toll could also affect public health](#)
- **The New York Times:** [Restrictions Are Slowing Coronavirus Infections, New Data Suggest](#)
- **ABC News:** [As health officials feared, coronavirus outbreak invading nursing homes](#)
- **USA Today:** [6 feet enough for social distancing? MIT researcher says droplets carrying coronavirus can travel up to 27 feet](#)
- **The New York Times:** [D.I.Y. Coronavirus Solutions Are Gaining Steam](#)
- **Yahoo! Finance:** [Public health official: Confirmed U.S. coronavirus cases 'a small fraction of the actual number'](#)

## International

- **Vox:** [The coronavirus has pushed US-China relations to their worst point since Mao](#)
- **Mondoweiss:** [The politics of coronavirus: A timeline of public health actions in Israel/Palestine](#)
- **Quartz:** [The coronavirus crisis has been a huge boon to Israel's Netanyahu](#)
- **Wired:** [China is turning the coronavirus crisis into a soft power bonanza](#)
- **Forbes:** [Coronavirus Measures Ramp Up In Japan Following Postponement Of 2020 Tokyo Olympics](#)
- **The New York Times:** [North Korea Claims No Coronavirus Cases. Can It Be Trusted?](#)
- **The Guardian:** [Europe's homeless hit hard by coronavirus response](#)
- **ABC News:** [Coronavirus live updates: Need to prepare for 'battle' at the apex, Cuomo says](#)

## Travel

- **Fox News:** [Americans face nearly unprecedented travel restrictions inside US as states rush to stem coronavirus tide](#)
- **Bloomberg:** [Trump Says Coronavirus Travel Ban May Extend to More Countries](#)
- **NPR:** [Coronavirus: U.S. Still Seeing Thousands Of Flights, Despite A Drop In Air Travel](#)
- **Travel Agent Central:** [Stats: Americans Will Change Travel Habits After Coronavirus](#)
- **CNBC:** [Airline workers might not be cut but in coronavirus travel collapse their paychecks will be smaller](#)
- **The Guardian:** [Coronavirus: travel insurance policies not paying out in a crisis](#)
- **NPR:** [More Questions On Immigration, Borders And Travel During The Coronavirus Epidemic](#)

## Sports

- **Forbes:** [Estimating When Sports Could Resume Play After The Coronavirus Pandemic](#)
- **FTW:** [The 5 worst proposed ideas to bring back sports during the coronavirus pandemic](#)
- **Los Angeles Times:** [The Rec Room: Stay engaged during the coronavirus sports shutdown](#)

## Politics

- **CNN Politics:** [Trump says he could see recommending all Americans wear masks](#)
- **The Atlantic:** [Exclusive: Kushner Firm Built the Coronavirus Website Trump Promised](#)
- **The Hill:** [The Memo: Concerns grow over political pressure on coronavirus experts](#)
- **Fortune:** [Wall Street donors forgo political campaign contributions during coronavirus pandemic](#)
- **The New York Times:** [The Coronavirus and the Conservative Mind](#)
- **Slate:** [Florida Is Facing a Coronavirus Catastrophe](#)
- **The Washington Post:** [Coronavirus may alter the political landscape. But the GOP won't change.](#)

- **The Washington Post:** [Everyone and everything Trump has blamed for his coronavirus response](#)
- **The New York Times:** [Behind Trump's Reversal on Reopening the Country: 2 Sets of Numbers](#)
- **The New York Times:** [Border Wall Work in Arizona Speeds Up, Igniting Contagion Fears](#)

## 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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