

COVID-19 Issues Tracker & Top-Tier Coverage

NEWS UPDATES

Thursday, April 2, 2020

Notable Updates

U.S. News

- According to national COVID-19 [trackers](#), there are currently over 217,263 cases of coronavirus confirmed by lab tests in all 50 states with over 5,151 deaths reported. Notable new cases include:
 - Coronavirus [deaths in the United States passed 4,600](#) Wednesday as Vice President Pence issued an ominous warning that America's situation is most comparable to Italy's struggle with the virus, which has pushed that nation's hospitals to capacity and has left more than 13,000 people dead despite a weeks-long lockdown.
 - US public health experts warn of a [cresting wave of coronavirus infections](#) in the coming weeks, rates of transmission among the nation's front-line fighters — doctors, nurses and other medical staff — are setting off alarm bells.
- According to the White House task force [briefing](#) Wednesday evening:
 - The United States is launching enhanced counter-narcotics operations in the Western Hemisphere to protect the American people from the deadly scourge of illegal narcotics.
 - Military families have delayed planned moves to their next duty station and are waiting longer for soldiers to come home from deployment.
 - FEMA and HHS formed a historic partnership with the private sector called "Project Airbridge" to bring supplies from other countries to the United States, including gloves, gowns, goggles, and masks. These supplies will soon be distributed around the country. We have large cargo planes coming in from various parts of the world.
 - More than 17,000 National Guard personnel have now been activated all across our country. On Tuesday, the Vice President sent a letter to the governors, calling on them to have plans in place to use the National Guard to move medical supplies from warehouses to hospitals.
- More than [6.6 million Americans applied for unemployment benefits last week](#) — a record — as political and public health leaders put the economy in a deep freeze, keeping people at home and trying to slow the spread of the deadly coronavirus.
- [Thousands of health care workers across the nation who have been laid off, furloughed](#) or are working reduced hours as their services are deemed nonessential and patients skip routine visits during an outbreak of COVID-19 cases.
- The [government's emergency stockpile of respirator masks, gloves and other medical supplies is running low](#) and is nearly exhausted due to the coronavirus outbreak, leaving the Trump administration and the states to compete for personal protective equipment in a freewheeling global marketplace rife with profiteering and price-gouging, according to Department of Homeland Security officials involved in the frantic acquisition effort.
- [Amazon will begin taking the temperature of employees](#) across its entire operations network and Whole Foods stores by early next week. At some facilities, employees are already being subject to temperature checks.
- Carnival Corp. and a group of federal, state and local authorities in Florida have reached an agreement to [allow passengers off a coronavirus-struck ship](#) that has been stranded for weeks, according to a local official.
- A [Washington state nursing home tied to at least 37 covid-19 deaths faces a fine of more than \\$611,000](#), federal inspectors said, and could also lose Medicare and Medicaid funding if it does not correct a slew of deficiencies that led to the country's first major outbreak of the novel coronavirus.
- Boeing announced plans [to provide contract buyouts and offers of early retirement](#) for some employees as the company's production suffers under the coronavirus epidemic.
- Sony Corp. has established [a \\$100 million coronavirus relief fund](#) to support health care workers, children and educators working remotely, as well as artists and creators who have lost work.

- Video conferencing company [Zoom announced this week that around 200 million daily meeting participants](#) used its services in March as the coronavirus forced people to stay home, up from a maximum daily average of 10 million in December.
- The New England Patriots' team plane is set to arrive in Massachusetts on Thursday [carrying more than 1.2 million N95 masks that were retrieved in Shenzhen, China](#).

International News

- According to global COVID-19 [trackers and official counts](#), there are at least 965,246 cases confirmed globally in over 171 countries with at least 49,236 deaths. Notable new cases include:
 - Confirmed Covid-19 infections are nearing the [one million mark](#) after “near exponential growth” saw global cases more than double in the past week.
 - The World Health Organization (WHO) said Thursday that [more than 95 percent of coronavirus deaths in Europe were for individuals age 60 or older](#), but warned young people are still at risk.
- As Russia experienced its sharpest daily rise in coronavirus cases, [President Vladimir Putin announced a three-week extension to the national stay-at-home requirement](#) until the end of the month, for all but essential services.
- Henan province in central China has taken the drastic measure of putting [a mid-sized county in total lockdown](#) as authorities try to fend off a second coronavirus wave in the midst of a push to revive the economy.
- Spain's death toll from the [coronavirus rose above 10,000 on Thursday after a record 950 people died overnight](#), but health officials saw a glimmer of hope with the epidemic slowing in terms of proportional daily increases in infections and deaths.

Business

- ABC 8 News: [Henrico Kroger employee tests positive for coronavirus](#)
- Beckers Hospital Review: [CVS, Walgreens, Rite Aid coronavirus response updates](#)
- Bloomberg: [Amazon's Covid Hiring Boom Has Applicants Packed Into Job Fairs With No Special Precautions](#)
- Business Insider: [13 business leaders who have cut their salaries to \\$0 to help struggling workers as the coronavirus wreaks havoc on their industries](#)
- Business Insider: [Amazon and Walmart sellers are hawking coronavirus-themed T-shirts about social distancing while workers protest about safety conditions](#)
- Business Insider: [Amazon recently hosted job fairs and new-hire orientations where groups of up to 70 people were reportedly packed into one room](#)
- Business Insider: [Amazon workers in Detroit are set to walk out after a third case of the coronavirus was confirmed there](#)
- Business Insider: [Here's what major retailers and beauty brands are doing to support the fight against coronavirus](#)
- BuzzFeed: [The People Who Served Free Samples At Costco Are Losing Their Jobs Because Of The Coronavirus](#)
- Click2Houston: [H-E-B president: Don't bring your entire family to the grocery store during the coronavirus outbreak](#)
- CNBC: [Amazon workers protest at Michigan warehouse, calling for coronavirus protections](#)
- CNBC: [Boeing to offer voluntary layoffs to employees to tide over coronavirus fallout](#)
- CNBC: [Coronavirus 'is an existential threat to retail,' says former Saks CEO](#)
- CNBC: [Dollar Tree CEO says supply chains stressed — but \\$1 billion of goods in 'pipeline somewhere'](#)
- CNBC: [NY lawmakers, unions urge Jeff Bezos to close Amazon warehouses hit by coronavirus](#)
- Forbes: [Coronavirus Layoffs: Sephora Latest To Dismiss Workers Amid Pandemic](#)
- Forbes: [Walmart, Home Depot Implement Safety Measures Amid Coronavirus Pandemic. More Companies Should Follow Suit.](#)
- Fortune: [Amazon's coronavirus hiring boom has applicants packed into job fairs taking no special precautions](#)

- Fox Business: [Amazon employees worry about coronavirus as they keep working](#)
- Fox Business: [Home Depot halts coronavirus N95 mask sales, implements temperature checks for workers](#)
- Fox News: [Walmart to take employees' temperatures, add one-way aisles as part of latest coronavirus-prevention protocols](#)
- KNWA: [Walmart to open drive-thru testing site for healthcare workers in Benton County](#)
- Market Screener: [Amazon com : Tech Workers Back Demands to Shut Warehouses Over Virus](#)
- NBC12: [Kroger employee tests positive for COVID-19 in Henrico](#)
- NBC5 DFW: [Kroger Grocery Workers in Texas Receive Pay Raises, New Benefits During Coronavirus Outbreak](#)
- New York Post: [Kroger's sales jump 30% as shoppers stock up amid coronavirus crisis](#)
- Reuters: [Exclusive: Amazon to deploy masks and temperature checks for workers by next week](#)
- Reuters: [Amazon warehouse workers protest near Detroit, days after NYC walkout](#)
- Star Tribune: [What you need to know about the novel coronavirus](#)
- Supermarket News: [Kroger sees March identical-store sales jump 30% due to coronavirus](#)
- The Hill: [Kroger reports 30 percent surge in sales, borrows \\$1B for coronavirus fallout](#)
- The Motley Fool: [Best Buy Will Pay Workers for an Additional Two Weeks](#)
- The Motley Fool: [Costco Is Changing Its Membership Policy to Prevent Spread of Coronavirus](#)
- The San Francisco Chronicle: [Google to donate 4,000 computers, internet access](#)
- The Seattle Times: [Leaders of nation's largest labor unions pressure Amazon, CEO Jeff Bezos on coronavirus response](#)
- The Washington Post: [Uber drivers and other gig economy workers were promised unemployment benefits. It may be a long wait.](#)
- THV11: [Arkansas partnering with Walmart for drive-thru pilot project amid COVID-19 outbreak](#)
- USA Today: [Amazon workers in Michigan plant to walk out, as third coronavirus case confirmed](#)
- USA Today: [Costco to limit how many people per membership can enter clubs due to COVID-19 starting Friday](#)
- USA Today: [Mass layoffs for Sephora's part-time, seasonal staff](#)
- Worcester Telegram & Gazette: [At Shrewsbury CVS, drive-thru testing available to ill-feeling people 65 and over](#)
- Washington Post, [Amazon vowed to crack down on coronavirus profiteering. Some sellers have figured out loopholes.](#)
- The New York Times, [Hobby Lobby Defies Stay-at-Home Orders by Reopening Some Stores](#)

Food

- NPR, [Grocery Workers Keep America Fed, While Fearing For Their Own Safety](#)
- Fox Business, [Grocery shopping tips for avoiding coronavirus](#)
- TODA, [Big-box stores including Walmart, Target to stop selling nonessentials in Vermont](#)
- Politico, [It's come to this: Liberal San Francisco Bay Area bans reusable grocery bags](#)
- Politico, [Coronavirus undercuts Trump's food stamps crackdown](#)
- Food Business News, [Uniform and higher truck weight limits sought during pandemic](#)

Health

- Washington Post, [Desperate for medical equipment, states encounter a beleaguered national stockpile](#)
- The Hill, [First US coronavirus patients being treated with plasma therapy](#)
- CNBC, [White House advisor Fauci says coronavirus vaccine trial is on target and will be 'ultimate game changer'](#)
- The New York Times, [Unproven Stem Cell Therapy Gets OK for Testing in Coronavirus Patients](#)
- CNN, [Experts tell White House coronavirus can spread through talking or even just breathing](#)
- NBC News, [NYC medical workers treating coronavirus describe fear, confusion with protective equipment rationed](#)
- The Hill, [Los Angeles mayor says all residents should wear masks](#)

- Reuters, [Why is New Orleans' coronavirus death rate seven times New York's? Obesity is a factor](#)
- Washington Post, [As more states look to ban abortion during pandemic, legal battles erupt nationwide](#)
- Mother Jones, [The Mental Health Effects of Coronavirus Are a “Slow-Motion Disaster”](#)
- NPR, [The Coronavirus Doesn't Discriminate. U.S. Health Care May Be A Different Story](#)
- Boston.com, [Why health experts aren't warning about coronavirus in food](#)
- Washington Post, [Anthony Fauci's security is stepped up as doctor and face of U.S. coronavirus response receives threats](#)
- The Hill, [COVID-19 is occurring in clusters, making good data and resource allocation crucial](#)
- NBC News, [Muscle aches, extreme fatigue: Coronavirus symptoms go beyond fever and cough](#)
- USA Today, [Labs are testing 100,000 people each day for the coronavirus. That's still not enough.](#)

International

- Reuters, [Canada coronavirus cases rise above 10,000, death toll jumps by 21%](#)
- Financial Times, [Political divisions deepen as Spain battles coronavirus](#)
- The Hill, [Death toll in Italian province may be twice as high as official count: researchers](#)
- Reuters, [Fielmann to donate 20,000 protective glasses to fight coronavirus](#)
- CNBC, [Coronavirus epicenter could 'possibly' shift back to Asia, says public health expert](#)
- Reuters, [Indonesia needs 'massive, rapid' testing for coronavirus](#)
- The Hill, [Philippines' Duterte threatens to shoot those causing 'trouble' amid coronavirus](#)
- ABC News, [Childcare centres to be free for parents during coronavirus pandemic, Scott Morrison announces](#)
- Reuters, [Britain's Hancock will set out new testing measures for coronavirus](#)
- The Hill, [Israeli health minister diagnosed with coronavirus](#)
- Washington Post, [How a prayer meeting at a French megachurch may have led to scores of coronavirus deaths](#)
- The Hill, [Top African public health official: Coronavirus poses 'existential threat' to continent](#)
- Reuters, [Dutch end-of-life debate flares as coronavirus tests healthcare limits](#)
- CNN, [South Africa gathered homeless people into a sports stadium. Here too, coronavirus divides rich from poor](#)
- The Intercept, [Coronavirus started in China, but Europe became the hub for its global spread](#)

Travel

- Washington Post, [How coronavirus grounded the airline industry](#)
- The Hill, [Southwest Airlines plans to apply for stimulus grants](#)
- The New York Times, [Empty Hotels. Idled Tour Buses. The Pandemic Is Devastating Tourism.](#)
- CNN, [More than 40 spring breakers who ignored public health advice test positive for coronavirus](#)

Sports

- National Review, [The Grim Outlook for the Sports World's Returning Anytime Soon](#)
- Press Herald, [Coronavirus and sports: British Open considering a postponement](#)
- CNBC, [Media networks have paid billions for sports they won't receive this year — but the fighting for refunds hasn't started yet](#)
- Press Herald, [Coronavirus and sports: Boston Marathon offering refunds for first time](#)
- USA Today, [Jim Edmonds confirms in an Instagram Story that he tested positive for COVID-19](#)

Politics

- Mother Jones, [Watch How Politics Slowed Red States' Response to the Coronavirus](#)
- Los Angeles Times, [Coronavirus: Political parties race to adapt before elections](#)
- New York Times, [Alarm, Denial, Blame: The Pro-Trump Media's Coronavirus Distortion](#)
- The Hill, [Trump lashes out at Schumer over call for supply czar](#)

- Washington Post, [Federal officials scramble to ensure tech glitches, bureaucracy don't delay \\$1,200 coronavirus checks](#)
- The Harvard Crimson, ['There's No Playbook': Massachusetts Political Campaigns Navigate a New Coronavirus Reality](#)
- Yahoo Finance, [Coronavirus crisis gives Trump political boost: Campus Reform editor](#)
- CNN, [As tragic toll from virus rises, so do questions about Trump's leadership](#)
- The Hill, [Pelosi forms House committee to oversee coronavirus response](#)
- ABC News, [The Note: Policy choices outweigh political posturing as coronavirus threats grow](#)
- Washington Post, [A new rallying cry among America's working class: No one should pay rent until the coronavirus pandemic ends](#)
- NBC News, [Can Donald Trump win re-election despite the coronavirus outbreak?](#)
- CNN, [Trump uses coronavirus briefing to unveil new military counternarcotics mission](#)
- The Hill, [Florida megachurch pastor says he's closing church due to 'tyrannical government'](#)
- Washington Post, [Joe Biden raises doubts about whether Democrats will hold convention in July, saying 'It's hard to envision that'](#)
- Politico, [How the coronavirus is shaping the 2024 presidential race](#)
- CNN, [The dangerous disconnect between Trump's rhetoric and the reality for potential coronavirus treatments](#)
- Washington Post, [Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp, who resisted strict coronavirus measures, says he just learned it transmits asymptotically](#)
- The Hill, [Schumer: Administration 'must move heaven and earth' to implement new unemployment benefits](#)

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Key Dates (March 2020):

- 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](#))
- 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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