

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

### NEWS UPDATES

Friday, April 24, 2020

#### **Notable Updates**

*U.S. News*

- According to national COVID-19 [trackers](#), there are currently over 869,172 cases of coronavirus confirmed by lab tests in all 50 states with over 50,000 deaths reported. Notable new cases include:
  - The U.S. reaches a grim milestone as [the number of coronavirus deaths surpass 50,000](#)
  - Preliminary results of a [New York State antibodies test estimates that 13.9% of residents have had the coronavirus](#)
  - [Georgia Governor Kemp proceeds with allowing certain nonessential businesses to reopen today](#), despite surpassing 20,000 cases statewide, leaving some businesses weary about opening their doors
- According to the White House task force [briefing](#) Thursday evening:
  - Trump says that he expects the House to pass the paycheck protection program and the healthcare enhancement act. This will provide \$320 billion in relief for American workers and small businesses.
  - Harvard, Princeton, Stanford and other Universities and large businesses have sent funds back to the U.S. treasury, amounting to about \$350 million
  - The bill also includes \$30 billion to support small lending institutions to help distressed African American and Hispanic communities and small businesses
  - In 23 states, new coronavirus cases have declined. In 46 states, there has been a drop in patients exhibiting coronavirus-like symptoms
  - Trump says there are coronavirus vaccine trials going on in the U.S., Germany, the U.K. and China, claims we are very close to developing a vaccine
  - Trump finalized contracts to make an additional 39 million N95 masks in 90 days, but is also asking healthcare workers to use the new sterilization process to reuse masks up to 20 times
  - The military has airlifted nearly 750 million PPE under project airbridge into the U.S.
  - The FDA has expanded access to convalescent plasma to help use antibodies of recovered coronavirus patients to help cure current patients
  - The Trump administration said that they may extend social distancing guidelines past the spring into the summer
  - Pence is encouraging states to restart elective surgeries either statewide or on a county by county basis
  - Pence says that sixteen states have released 'formal reopening plans'. Of those, thirteen of them unveiled their plans since the Trump administration rolled out the 3 phase reopening plan
  - William Brian, head of science and technology claims that increased temperature, humidity and sunlight are believed to kill the coronavirus
- Notable new companies / organizations / states in favor of reopening the economy are:
  - [General Motors has considered testing options for employees](#), GM has considered testing options for employees, including tests to detect antibodies, but privacy and logistical hurdles could be a sticking point, said Jim Glynn, the auto maker's global chief of workplace safety.
  - [AMC said in a statement "We remain comfortable with our expectation of a mid-June restart, with initially limited attendance"](#) said in a statement "We remain comfortable with our expectation of a mid-June restart, with initially limited attendance (both due to social-distancing guidelines and consumer reluctance), and a film slate mostly composed of library content."
  - [Missouri Governor Mike Parson unveiled 'show me strong' recovery plan](#), a two phase plan to protect the most vulnerable Americans
  - [Pennsylvania will end stay-at-home orders for portions of the state beginning on May 8th](#)
  - [Oregon will do a three phase reopening](#) on a county by county basis

- [Idaho released 'rebound Idaho'](#) which will consist of four phases to begin to reopen
  - [Tennessee is working towards 'The Tennessee Pledge' to reopen](#) restaurants at 50% capacity on Monday and have retailers reopen to 50% capacity on Wednesday for 89 of the state's 95 counties
- New states with restrictions to “non-essential” business or implementing “shelter-in-place” policies are:
  - [Michigan will extend their stay-at-home order until May 15](#)
- Notable new companies announcing layoffs/furloughs in the U.S. are:
  - [Gogo will furlough up to 60 percent of its workforce starting May 4](#), will furlough up to 60 percent of its workforce starting May 4, as the in-flight connectivity service provider enacts cost cutting measures in response to the impact that the decline in business and commercial airline traffic in March and April has had on its revenues.
  - [Tribune Publishing, owner of The Baltimore Sun, today announced three-week furloughs for non-union employees](#) owner of The Baltimore Sun, today announced three-week furloughs for non-union employees who make between \$40,000 and \$67,000 a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The furloughs will take place between May and July. Workers can also opt to leave the company and receive severance.
- Notable new companies that have stopped or are modifying production in the U.S. are:
  - [Honda North America officials announced Thursday that the company is extending its the automobile production suspension in North America for one week](#), North America officials announced Thursday that the company is extending its the automobile production suspension in North America for one week, and also is adding an additional week to a two-week furlough period for business operations staff in the U.S.
  - [Foods Inc. said Thursday it is halting production at its Pasco, Wash. beef facility to allow team members to be tested for the coronavirus that causes COVID-19](#). Inc. said Thursday it is halting production at its Pasco, Wash. beef facility to allow team members to be tested for the coronavirus that causes COVID-19. The workers affected will be paid while they self-isolate at home.
- After President [Trump suggested injecting disinfectants into your body to get rid of the coronavirus](#), health professionals, lawmakers and the makers of Lysol responded with statements by discouraging people from trying that approach as disinfectants are highly toxic
- [The Association of Flight Attendants want to ground all non-essential travel](#) "to take further action to limit the spread of the virus by restricting air travel to only that necessary to continue essential services". More than 250 flight attendants and 470 airport security screeners have tested positive for coronavirus
- [Video communication service Zoom makes adjustments to their privacy and security settings](#) as usage spike in both personal and business related video-conferencing continues to rise amid the coronavirus outbreak
- Bezos is taking control of [day to day operations at Amazon as orders skyrocket and warehouse workers stage walkouts](#). He plans to use the company's supply chain to increase coronavirus testing across the U.S.
- [Americans could see shortages of pork, chicken and beef in grocery stores as soon as May](#) as most packing plants remain closed due to employees contracting the coronavirus
- [Reports show that consumers are spending more time and money on cooking and cleaning](#) instead of on grooming and makeup, as Unilever and P&G report a higher demand for their products

#### *International News*

- According to global COVID-19 [trackers and official counts](#), there are at least 2.7 million cases confirmed globally in over 177 countries with at least 191,962 deaths. Notable new cases include:
  - [In the U.K., banks have provided 2.8 billion pounds in emergency loans](#) to small and medium sized companies to help aid in the economy during the coronavirus lockdown
  - For the first time since the coronavirus outbreak began in Italy, [there have been more recoveries than new cases](#)

- France finance minister Bruno Le Maire announced that [companies registered in tax havens with subsidiaries cannot receive any of the billions of Euros in Government aid](#) for the coronavirus pandemic
- [Portugal announced that it is giving vouchers to tourists that were forced to cancel their vacation](#) because of the coronavirus outbreak, allowing them to reschedule their trip until the end of 2021
- [In India, Muslims are being blamed for the spread of the coronavirus](#), they are being targeted in Islamophobic attacks in the streets and online
- [Indonesia is banning all air travel from April 24 through June 1 to curb the spread of the coronavirus](#). This comes as the world's most populous Muslim nation marks the start of the holy month Ramadan

### **Notable Updates**

- [CNN: The country's coronavirus death toll surpasses 50,000 as a few states relax restrictions Friday](#)
- [CNBC: New York antibody study estimates 13.9% of residents have had the coronavirus, Gov. Cuomo says](#)
- [Reuters: Georgia forges ahead with reopening despite disapproval of Trump, pandemic experts](#)
- [The Washington Post: Trump comments prompt doctors, and Lysol, to warn against injecting disinfectants](#)
- [CNN: Flight attendant union wants leisure travelers to stay grounded](#)
- [CNN: Zoom makes privacy and security fixes as millions flock to service](#)
- [The Daily Mail: Jeff Bezos takes back daily running of Amazon during pandemic as orders skyrocket, warehouse staff stage walkouts and the billionaire plans to use the company's supply chain to ramp up coronavirus testing across states](#)
- [Politico: Save your bacon: A real meat shortage looms with virus shutdowns](#)
- [The Wall Street Journal: More Cooking, Less Shampooing: The Coronavirus Consumer Starts to Emerge](#)
- [The New York Times: UK Lenders Provide 2.8 Billion Pounds in Emergency COVID Loans](#)
- [Newsweek: ITALY'S DAILY CORONAVIRUS RECOVERIES SURPASS NEW CASES FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE OUTBREAK BEGAN](#)
- [The Financial Times: France rules out coronavirus aid for tax-haven businesses](#)
- [The New York Times: 'Don't Cancel, Postpone,' Portugal Urges Tourists in Voucher Scheme](#)
- [The Washington Post: As the world looks for coronavirus scapegoats, Muslims are blamed in India](#)
- [Bloomberg: Indonesia Bans Air Travel Through June 1 to Limit Virus's Spread](#)

### **Agriculture / Food**

- [The Washington Post: Full fields, empty fridges](#)
- [NPR: VIDEO: 6 Tips For Staying Safe While Grocery Shopping](#)
- [CNN: No need to wipe down groceries or takeout, experts say, but do wash your hands](#)
- [USA TODAY, USDA inspector dies as coronavirus spreads in meat packing plants.](#)
- [The Hill: USDA under pressure as food safety concerns grow](#)
- [Meat + Poultry, Long-term pandemic effects on food industry still unknown](#)

### **Reopening Economy / Response Plans**

- [NPR: The Office As We Knew It Isn't Coming Back Anytime Soon. Maybe It's Changed Forever](#)
- [The Wall Street Journal: States Reopen for Business, but Many Big Chains Sit It Out for Now](#)
- [CNBC: 4 reasons retail in the US won't be bouncing back like in China](#)
- [The New York Times: Airlines and Automakers Consider How to Reopen](#)
- [CNN: The dangerous morality behind the 'Open it Up' movement](#)
- [The New Yorker: How will we reopen the economy after the coronavirus crisis](#)

- [NPR: Sun Rays, Disinfectants And False Hopes: Misinformation Litters The Road To Reopening](#)

### **Stimulus / Bailout**

- [Politico: House passes \\$484B relief package to help small businesses and hospitals](#)
- [CNN: McConnell thinks bankruptcy, not more federal money, might be best for state and local governments](#)
- [Yahoo!: Coronavirus stimulus checks: 4 plans for sending Americans more money](#)
- [Forbes: How Do Child Support Offsets Affect Tax Refunds And Stimulus Checks?](#)
- [Fox News: SBA expected to resume taking new business loan applications next week, as fund replenished](#)
- [Yahoo!: Coronavirus response: Here are the big restaurant chains who have — and haven't — returned their small business loans](#)
- [The New York Post: Company executives could face prison time for keeping coronavirus loans](#)
- [CBS News: Fresh \\$310 billion in loans for small businesses already gone, bankers say](#)
- [The Washington Post: New SBA guidelines ask big companies to consider returning coronavirus loans](#)
- [The New York Times: Treasury Clarifies Small-Business Loans as Fed Vows Transparency](#)
- [Fox News: PPP coronavirus loans: Forgiveness may not be as simple as business owners think](#)
- [The Wall Street Journal: What Small Business Owners Need to Know About the New Stimulus Bill](#)
- [The Washington Post: Hard-hit restaurants, gyms and other businesses are battling insurers over the coronavirus, sparking a new Washington lobbying war](#)
- [USA Today: Confused by the federal government's small business loan program? You're not alone. Here's your guide](#)

### **Healthcare Response**

- [Reuters: J&J strikes deal with Emergent BioSolutions on coronavirus vaccine manufacturing](#)
- [CNN: Global stocks falter as Gilead halts trial of potential coronavirus treatment](#)
- [CBS News: Large-scale human trial of potential COVID-19 vaccine kicks off at Oxford](#)
- [NBC News: Coronavirus testing in U.S 'is chaotic,' Bill Gates says, but vaccine may come sooner rather than later](#)
- [The Hill: Controversial idea to speed coronavirus vaccine gains ground](#)
- [Bloomberg: Sanofi Says Coronavirus Vaccine Question Isn't When, But How Much](#)
- [CNN: What a sugar cube can teach us as we develop a coronavirus vaccine](#)
- [USA Today: 'Our moon shot': Vaccine makers go ahead with unproven candidates to meet 2021 goal – that experts say may be unrealistic](#)
- [Buzzfeed News: Two Antibody Studies Say Coronavirus Infections Are More Common Than We Think. Scientists Are Mad.](#)
- [The New York Post: Hydroxychloroquine had no effect on seriously ill coronavirus patients in New York: study](#)

### **Health Official Guidance**

- [CNN: Bleach and sunlight might kill the coronavirus on a park bench, but they can be harmful to the body](#)
- [USA Today: CDC Director Redfield warns second coronavirus wave could be 'more difficult,' hit same time as flu](#)
- [The New York Post: City health officials warn coronavirus antibody tests may not prove immunity](#)
- [CNN: Trump's coronavirus briefing casting keeps people guessing](#)
- [NPR: NIH Panel Recommends Against Drug Combination Promoted By Trump For COVID-19](#)
- [Axios: Trump says he doesn't agree with Fauci that U.S. is "not there yet" on testing](#)
- [The Hill: Fauci: Best way to reopen economy is to avoid a rebound of virus](#)
- [Business Insider: Fauci said he's 'convinced' that COVID-19 would linger in the fall, right after Trump said it could be gone by then](#)
- [The New York Post: Trump says he 'doesn't agree' with Dr. Fauci's testing concerns](#)

- [CNN: CDC issues recommendations for closed South Dakota Smithfield plant following coronavirus outbreak](#)

### **Federal Response**

- [NBC News: Want a mask contract or some ventilators? A White House connection helps](#)
- [Fox News: House OKs committee to probe federal government's coronavirus response, over GOP objections](#)
- [Politico: 'A crippling blow to America's prestige.' The government struggles to meet the moment](#)
- [Forbes: 9 Democratic Senators Claim Trump's Coronavirus Response Favored Swing States, Seek Probe](#)
- [CNBC: Trump says he may extend coronavirus social distancing guidelines to early summer](#)
- [Politico: Feds again shift guidance on prisoner releases due to coronavirus](#)
- [The Hill: Trump says he might extend social distancing guidance into the summer — or beyond](#)

### **State / Local Response**

- [The Wall Street Journal: New York City Council Wants to Open Miles of Streets to Pedestrians for Social Distancing](#)
- [The Los Angeles Times: California seeks 'army of volunteers' for coronavirus crisis](#)
- [The Hill: New Jersey governor's approval rating jumps amid coronavirus pandemic](#)
- [Detroit Metro Times: Study ranks Michigan among the top states for coronavirus response — despite being a hotspot](#)
- [The Boston Globe: Barack Obama just gave Mass. a shout out for its coronavirus efforts](#)
- [The Seattle Times: Inslee says elective surgeries, outdoor recreation and some construction could restart as Washington begins to recover from coronavirus](#)
- [The Baltimore Sun: Maryland Gov. Hogan says coronavirus recovery plan will involve reopening businesses based on risk level](#)
- [The Advocate: How Louisiana is ramping up coronavirus testing to begin phased reopening of economy](#)
- [NBC News: How Will the Mass. Economy Reopen After Coronavirus Surge Subsides?](#)
- [The Los Angeles Times: Who benefits from California's coronavirus care guidelines?](#)
- [The Daily News: 'You want to go to work? Go take a job as an essential worker': Cuomo pushes back on coronavirus protesters](#)

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **Key dates:**

- 4/1/20: Reports emerge that China may have underreported the COVID-19 death toll and the severity of the outbreak
- 4/2/20: Unemployment filing hits a record-breaking number in the U.S.
- 4/3/20: New York sees biggest single-day death toll
- 4/6/20: Japan announces a State of Emergency
- 4/7/20: China reported its first day without COVID-19-related deaths
- 4/14/20: The U.S. halts funding to the WHO
- 4/14/20: The U.S. recorded its highest single day death toll 2,405 after several days of a downward trend
- 4/16/20: The U.S. rolls out a 3-phase plan to reopen the country
- 4/20/20: The U.S. reports more than 40,000 deaths due to COVID-19
- 4/21/20: Trump announces he will sign an Executive Order to suspend immigration to the U.S.

### **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](#))
- A Guide to State Coronavirus Lockdowns ([WSJ](#))

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