

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

### NEWS UPDATES

Monday, April 27, 2020

#### Notable Updates

*U.S. News*

- According to national COVID-19 [trackers](#), there are currently over 968,203 cases of coronavirus confirmed by lab tests in all 50 states with over 53,938 deaths reported. Notable new cases include:
  - A new week in the coronavirus pandemic is beginning with a United States case count approaching [1 million and several cities and states preparing to loosen stay-at-home restrictions](#).
- Notable new companies / organizations / states in favor of reopening the economy are:
  - After weeks of shutdown, the nation began to slowly, cautiously re-emerge this week. Like the decisions to shut down and order residents to stay at home, [the plans to reopen have come state by state or region by region](#). They have brought sighs of relief in some corners but kindled fears of a resurgence in others
  - As governments around the world begin easing their lockdowns -- and as new infections are inevitable -- they will get another chance to get their responses right. [Many are embracing that second chance, but some US states are not. There are now fears that reopening too quickly, or too boldly, could mean a second wave of infections in the US](#) as fierce as the first.
  - [Alaska, Georgia, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas and South Carolina](#) have begun in recent days to allow patrons back into establishments, though some residents and business owners remain skeptical that it is safe to do so.
  - New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D) said Sunday that it [may be safe for some construction and manufacturing firms outside New York City, the epicenter of the state's coronavirus outbreak, to reopen in mid-May. Some parts of New York will see the stay at home order be lifted after May 15](#).
  - [Volkswagen Group announced that the Volkswagen Passenger Cars brand resumed vehicle production at its Wolfsburg plant starting Monday at 10 to 15 percent of capacity](#). The company plans to increase production to around 40 percent the following week.
  - [NBA players will be allowed to return to their teams' training facilities on Friday if their local governments do not have stay-at-home orders in place](#) prohibiting travel amid the coronavirus pandemic, The Associated Press reported on Sunday.
- Notable new companies announcing layoffs/furloughs in the U.S. are:
  - Many healthcare centers across the U.S., such as [Anne Arundel Medical Center](#) and [West Tennessee Healthcare](#) are laying off and furloughing staff. These medical centers are each furloughing 1,000 employees. Mohawk Valley Health System in New York is also [furloughing 20% of its staff](#).
- Notable new companies halting production:
  - [Apple Inc. is pushing back the production ramp-up of its flagship iPhones coming later this year by about a month](#), according to people familiar with the changes, as the coronavirus pandemic weakens global consumer demand and disrupts manufacturing across Asia, the heart of the consumer electronics supply chain.
  - A [New Jersey mayor is calling for the temporary closure of an Amazon warehouse](#) following a report of a number of employees infected with the coronavirus.
  - [JBS USA plant in Green Bay, Wisconsin beef production plant is briefly closing](#) after nearly 200 employees tested positive for the coronavirus, company officials said.
- New states with restrictions to “non-essential” business or implementing “shelter-in-place” policies are:
  - New York governor, Anthony Cuomo, said that stay-at-home orders will be [extended past May 15 in "many parts" of New York](#).

- Seeking relief from a heat wave, [thousands of people crowded beaches in Southern California this weekend amid the coronavirus pandemic, despite a statewide stay-at-home order](#) implemented by the governor last month.
- Some form of [social distancing will probably remain in place through the summer, Deborah Birx, the White House's coronavirus task force coordinator, said Sunday](#) — the same day several governors expressed optimism about the course of the virus and outlined their plans for a piecemeal reopening of their economies.
- [More than half of U.S. states will have to significantly step up their Covid-19 testing to even consider starting to relax stay-at-home orders after May 1](#), according to a new analysis by Harvard researchers and STAT.
- [Poison control centers in a number of states have reported a rise in calls](#) about exposure to household cleaners since President Trump made remarks suggesting that disinfectants should be looked into as a possible treatment for the coronavirus.
- [Tyson Foods \(TSN\) is warning that "millions of pounds of meat" will disappear from the supply chain](#) as the coronavirus pandemic pushes food processing plants to close, leading to product shortages in grocery stores across the country.
- [Two million chickens on several farms in Delaware and Maryland will be "depopulated" -- meaning humanely killed -- due to a lack of employees at chicken processing plants](#), according to a statement from Delmarva Poultry Industry Inc.
- Nearly [350,000 people in Nevada have filed for unemployment benefits since the crisis began, the highest number in the history of the state](#). Applied Analysis, a Las Vegas-based economic research firm, estimates the city's current jobless rate to be about 25 percent — nearly double what it was during the Great Recession — and rising.
- [New York temporary hospitals will remain open throughout the fall](#). This decision was made in part out of caution in case there is a possible second wave.
- [Prince George's, one of the nation's wealthiest majority-black counties, has reported the most coronavirus infections](#) and some of the highest death tolls in the Washington region.
- Boeing CEO Dave Calhoun told shareholders Monday that [air travel demand won't recover for two or three years](#), another challenge for the manufacturer that was reeling from the 737 Max grounding before the coronavirus pandemic.

#### *International News*

- According to global COVID-19 [trackers and official counts](#), there are at least 2.9 million cases confirmed globally in over 177 countries with at least 207,518 deaths. Notable new cases include:
  - New Zealand claimed Monday it had ["eliminated" the coronavirus](#) as the country announced the easing of restrictions from "level four" to "level three," with new cases in single figures. At a news conference, New Zealand reported one new case, four "probable cases" and one new death.
  - The [last COVID-19 patients were released on Sunday from a hospital in Wuhan](#), where the novel coronavirus is believed to have originated, Chinese officials said.
  - [Italy reported 260 deaths caused by the novel coronavirus on Sunday](#), marking the country's lowest confirmed single-day death toll since the week of March 12,
- Boris Johnson, U.K. prime minister, [returned to work today and warned that the UK was at "the moment of maximum risk" and suggested restrictions would need to remain in place for the time being to avoid a second peak of infection](#). The UK's lockdown measures are due to be reviewed again by May 7.
- [France, Italy and Spain are preparing to loosen coronavirus restrictions](#), with other countries watching closely to see how some of the first and hardest-hit countries in Europe might safely emerge from their crippling lockdowns.
- [New Zealand's retailers, restaurants, construction sites and schools will start to reopen Tuesday](#), five weeks after Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern deployed a "go hard and go early" approach that has led to a sharp decline in coronavirus infections.
- [South Korea is confident that there is no basis to the recent swirl of rumors that the North's leader, Kim Jong-un, is gravely ill](#), the South's chief policymaker on the North said in comments reported on Monday.

### **Notable Updates**

- CNN, [Coronavirus cases in the United States are nearing 1 million](#)
- CNN, [People crowd Southern California beaches despite coronavirus concerns](#)
- Wall Street Journal, [Some States Ease Lockdowns as Global Coronavirus Cases Near 3 Million](#)
- The New York Times, [See Which States Are Reopening and Which Are Still Shut Down](#)
- The Hill, [Cuomo says some businesses might be able to open in New York after May 15](#)
- NASDAQ, [Volkswagen Resumes Production At Wolfsburg With Reduced Capacity](#)
- CNN, [Stay-at-home orders will be extended past May 15 in "many parts" of New York](#)
- The Hill, [NBA players to be allowed to return to training facilities on Friday: report](#)
- Becker's Hospital Review, [Anne Arundel Medical Center furloughs 1,000](#)
- Becker's Hospital Review, [West Tennessee Healthcare furloughs 1,100](#)
- Spectrum News, [MVHS to Furlough Roughly 20% of Workers](#)
- Wall Street Journal, [Apple Delays Mass Production of 2020 Flagship iPhones](#)
- U.S. News & World Report, [Mayor Calls for Temporary Closure of Warehouse Due to Virus](#)
- CNN, [Lifting lockdowns safely relies on effective testing. Germany surges ahead, but US states are flying blind](#)
- Washington Post, [Social distancing could last months, White House coronavirus coordinator says](#)
- STAT, [Many states are far short of Covid-19 testing levels needed for safe reopening, new analysis shows](#)
- The Hill, [Calls to poison control centers spike after Trump disinfectant comments](#)
- CNN, ['The food supply chain is breaking,' Tyson says as plants close](#)
- CNN, [2 million chickens will be killed in Delaware and Maryland because of lack of employees at processing plants](#)
- The New York Times, [How Las Vegas Became Ground Zero for the American Jobs Crisis](#)
- The Washington Post, [Covid-19 is ravaging one of the country's wealthiest black counties](#)
- KIRO, [Wisconsin beef processing plant closes after 200 workers infected with virus](#)
- CNN, [New Zealand claims 'elimination' of coronavirus with new cases in single digits](#)
- The Hill, [Last COVID-19 patients discharged from Wuhan hospital](#)
- Axios, [Italy reports lowest single-day coronavirus death toll since March 12](#)
- CNN, [Boris Johnson warns against relaxing UK lockdown as he returns to work after battle with coronavirus](#)
- The Guardian, [France, Italy and Spain prepare to ease coronavirus lockdowns](#)
- The New York Times, [New Zealand loosens restrictions and moves closer to eliminating the virus.](#)
- The New York Times, [South Korea Confident That Rumors of Kim Jong-un Illness Are Wrong](#)

### **Food / Agriculture**

- Georgia Recorder, [Gainesville's 'Poultry Capital of the World' braces for COVID-19 spread](#)
- The Washington Post, [As they rushed to maintain U.S. meat supply, big processors saw plants become covid-19 hot spots, worker illnesses spike](#)
- North Carolina Health News, [Coronavirus invading NC meat processing plants](#)
- Global meat News, [US plant closures prompt worker safety plea](#)
- Bloomberg Law, [Ranks of Absent U.S. Food Inspectors Swell on Virus, Union Says](#)
- Delaware News Journal, ['I am feeling helpless': Delaware officials say chicken plant workers face hurdles as coronavirus cases rise](#)
- Northeast Georgian, [Fieldale keeps adjusting to COVID-19 challenges](#)
- WBRZ, [Tyson Foods: At this rate, U.S. grocery stores will soon face a shortage of meat products](#)
- The Wall Street Journal, (Updated) [Tyson Foods: At this rate, U.S. grocery stores will soon face a shortage of meat products](#)
- Politico, [Save your bacon: A real meat shortage looms with virus shutdowns](#)

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

- Daily Mail, [New York plans how to return to business amid pandemic](#)
- The Hill, [Brown University president says reopening campuses in the fall should be 'national priority'](#)
- Washington Post, [Online orders could save retailers, but workers say they are risking their safety to fill purchases few need](#)
- Wall Street Journal, [Biggest Hurdle to Bringing People Back to the Office May Be the Commute](#)
- Forbes, [With Georgia Diners Set To Reopen, Waffle House Braces For A Slow Recovery](#)
- Washington Post, [Warehouse workers are essential. It's time we treated them that way.](#)
- Forbes, [Four Numbers That Show How Coronavirus Is Dramatically Reshaping Retail As We Know It](#)
- CNBC, [Small essential businesses are grateful to remain open during coronavirus, but running a small business during a pandemic proves challenging](#)
- Forbes, [SoftBank-Backed Robotics Firm Brain Raises \\$36 Million For Expansion Beyond Autonomous Scrubbers During Coronavirus Crisis](#)
- Bloomberg, [Major Retailers Call on States to Adopt Uniform Reopening Plans](#)

### **Stimulus/ Bailout**

- The New York Times, [Start-Ups Pursue 'Free Money' With Relief Funds, Prompting Backlash](#)
- Axios, [There's no end in sight to coronavirus stimulus spending](#)
- CNBC, [Potbelly says it will return \\$10 million small business loan, following others after outrage](#)
- The New York Times, [Large, Troubled Companies Got Bailout Money in Small-Business Loan Program](#)
- CNBC, [Public companies took far more small business loans than first thought — here's the latest tally](#)
- Axios, [The hospitals that have disclosed bailout funds so far](#)
- CNBC, [Doctors apply for SBA coronavirus funding in struggle to keep practices afloat during the pandemic](#)
- Wall Street Journal, [Many Newspapers Want Coronavirus Stimulus. Four Out of Five Can't Get It.](#)
- CNN, [Amazon may be the ultimate coronavirus-proof stock](#)

### **Healthcare Response**

- CNN, [NASA team developed a ventilator tailored for coronavirus patients in 37 days](#)
- The Hill, [Health experts call for \\$46.5 billion to expand contact tracing, isolation](#)
- CNN, [Some scientists are using sewage to measure the prevalence of coronavirus in their communities](#)
- CNN, [New York hospitals are studying a common heartburn drug as treatment for Covid-19](#)
- CNBC, [Regeneron, Sanofi shut down part of arthritis drug study after trial shows benefit for only sickest coronavirus patients](#)
- CNN, [Bill Gates explains how the United States can safely ease coronavirus restrictions](#)
- CNBC, [Former FDA chief says there's still 'pervasive spread' in the US](#)
- The Hill, [Gottlieb says reassigning vaccine chief 'is going to set us back'](#)
- CNBC, [New York City to hire 1,000 health workers in May to trace coronavirus cases, Mayor de Blasio says](#)
- Becker's Hospital Review, [New York expands COVID-19 testing for healthcare workers](#)
- CNBC, [CVS and UPS will use drones to deliver prescriptions in a retirement community amid coronavirus outbreak](#)

### **Health Official Guidance**

- CNN, [Trump is driving Birx to a tough spot. It's about to get even tougher.](#)
- CNN, [The virus hunters who search bat caves to predict the next pandemic](#)
- NPR, [CDC Adds 6 Symptoms To Its COVID-19 List](#)

- CNN, [No need to wipe down groceries or takeout, experts say, but do wash your hands](#)
- Axios, [Coronavirus testing increasing, but still not good enough](#)

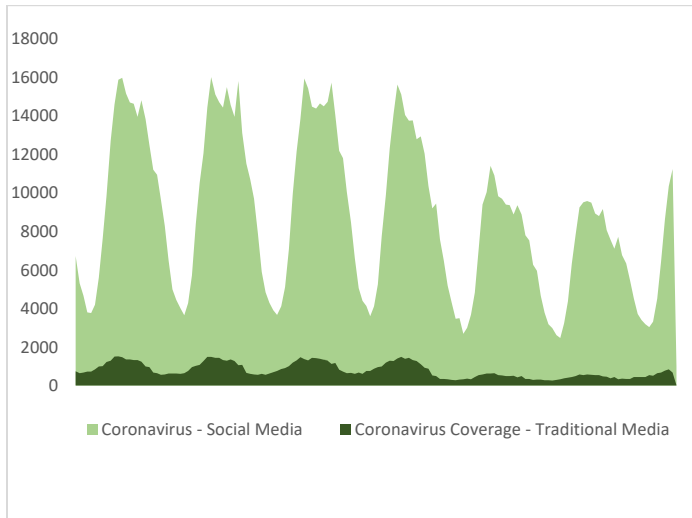
### **Federal Response**

- Washington Post, [13 hours of Trump: The president fills briefings with attacks and boasts, but little empathy](#)
- The Hill, [Five fights for Congress's fifth coronavirus bill](#)
- Washington Post, [Trump calls reports he may fire Alex Azar 'fake news'](#)
- The Hill, [Democratic lawmakers: 'Completely irresponsible' for IRS to demand essential workers provide own PPE](#)
- The Hill, [Schumer calls for ramped-up policing of coronavirus and antibody testing kits sold online](#)
- CNN, [Law enforcement and politicians clash over coronavirus orders](#)
- The Hill, [Pelosi: Governors' impatience 'will help us get an even bigger number' for state coronavirus funding](#)

### **State/ Local Response**

- CNN, [Reopening US states are taking their first steps toward a new normal](#)
- The Hill, [States stockpiling hydroxychloroquine: report](#)
- The Hill, [Texas salon owner rips cease-and-desist letter in protest of stay-at-home order](#)
- NBC News, [As most remain home, some states begin to slowly reopen](#)
- 6abc, [Governor Phil Murphy unveils 6-part plan to reopen New Jersey](#)
- NY Post, [Tennessee, Mississippi, Montana allow some businesses to reopen Monday](#)
- NPR, [Nebraska Governor On Decision To Partially Reopen State In May](#)
- The Philadelphia Inquirer, [More deaths in Pennsylvania, and New Jersey's reopening plans move tentatively forward](#)
- Star Tribune, [As many as 20,000 Minnesota businesses could reopen Monday, but will they?](#)

### **Conversation over time (US, past 7 days): April 21 - April 27, 2020**



\*Note: overall mentions of COVID-19 have decreased by 1.13% since last week

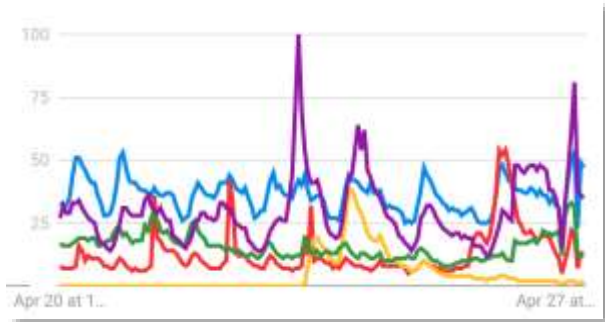
**Over the past week, there have been 1.5M traditional media articles and social media posts related to COVID-19. The majority (91.9%) of conversation is driven by social media.**

- Top drivers of coverage for the week include news around extended Stay-At-Home orders, state reopening phases and [stimulus package qualifications](#).
- On Twitter, [posts focused on](#) President Trump's controversial [statement](#) about the internal use of household disinfectants to protect against Coronavirus. Social traction began to ramp up at the end of the week surrounding [U.S Citizens](#) being blocked from receiving a stimulus packages if married to an immigrant. Additionally, conversation was driven by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi [announcing](#) that ideas of a "guaranteed minimum income" for Americas through the end of the pandemic, is worth considering.



**Search trends (US, past 7 days):**

- reopen ● fauci ● trump inject ● stimulus package
- stay at home order



Over the past week, there was a significant boost in search interest around ‘stay at home order,’ as some states (i.e., Georgia, Colorado, Montana, etc.) are loosening up policies in order to reopen the economy.

- The recent spike in search popularity for ‘stay at home order’ started on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, as major outlets, such as [CNN](#), published articles after states like Georgia announced weekend reopening plans that included eased restrictions for retailers, restaurants and bars.

**Top hashtags^ and related content (This week, April 21<sup>st</sup> - April 27<sup>th</sup>):**

1. #Trump2020	6. #COVIDIOTS
2. #KAG	7. #StayHomeSaveLives
3. #StayHome	8. #OPENAMERICANOW
4. #CoronavirusPandemic	9. #ReopenAmerica
5. #FakeNews	10. #disinfectant

**Top hashtags^ and related content (Last week, April 14<sup>th</sup> - April 20<sup>th</sup>):**

6. #CoronavirusLiar (President Trump)	11. #SocialDisancing
7. #CoronavirusPandemic	12. #MAGA
8. #TogetherAtHome	13. #KAG
9. #StayHome	14. #ReopenAmerica
10. #WorldHealthOrganization	15. #OPENAMERICANOW

^Note: Iterations of ‘COVID-19’ have been excluded

###

**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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