

COVID-19 Issues Tracker & Top-Tier Coverage

NEWS UPDATES

Wednesday, April 29, 2020

Notable Updates

U.S. News

- According to national COVID-19 [trackers](#), there are currently over 1 million cases of coronavirus confirmed by lab tests in all 50 states with over 59,136 deaths reported. Notable new cases include:
 - [The U.S. reported over 1 million coronavirus cases](#) as the death toll surpasses the total number of U.S. troops that died during the Vietnam War, which last more than 10 years
 - [NYC Emergency room doctor Lorna Breen died by suicide after weeks of treating coronavirus patients and recovering from the virus herself](#). This has raised more questions on how our healthcare workers are stretched thin and mental health is being compromised
 - In North Carolina, [a pug named Winston is believed to be the first dog that contracted the coronavirus](#) in the U.S.
- Notable new companies / organizations / states in favor of reopening the economy are:
 - [Alabama Governor Kay Ivey unveiled a safer-at-home order that will allow some business to reopen on April 30](#). Retail stores will be allowed to reopen but must maintain a 50% occupancy rate, schools and restaurants will remain closed, but beaches will reopen
 - [Ohio Governor Mike DeWine announced that masks will no longer be required in retail establishments](#), going back on his Monday announcement saying they were required
- Notable new companies announcing layoffs/furloughs in the U.S. are:
 - [Trip Advisors is laying off an additional 900 employees](#), adding to the 200 that they had originally laid off earlier this year as CEO Steve Kaufer will forgo his salary for the rest of the year
 - [Uber is reportedly laying off 20% of their employees](#) as the Chief Technology Officer resigns
- Notable new companies halting production:
 - [Ruiz Foods company in Tulare County is temporarily shutting down production after some of its team members tested positive for COVID-19](#). Ruiz Foods says it will close several production lines at its facilities in Dinuba and Tulare in order to limit the spread of the virus to other team members
- New states with restrictions to “non-essential” business or implementing “shelter-in-place” policies are:
 - [Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker extends the states stay-at-home order until May 18](#)
 - [New Orleans Mayor Latoya Cantrell suggested on Tuesday that canceling the 2021 Mardi Gras festivities](#) is “something we have to think about.”
- With growing fears of a meat shortage hitting America’s supermarkets as early as next week, [Trump signed an executive order under the Defense Production Act to keep meat processing plants open](#) amid the coronavirus pandemic
- [Vice President Pence visited a Mayo Clinic facility in Rochester, MN and was the only one in the building not wearing a face mask](#), violating their mandatory mask policy. He was briefed in the last several days that this was their rules to exercise caution during the coronavirus outbreak
- [The Stock market soared 500 points this morning after hopeful news from Gilead Sciences on a potential coronavirus vaccine](#). Gilead also released the results of its own study, which [showed improvement in patients taking remdesivir to treat the virus](#)
- [Global retail spending is expected to fall by over \\$500 billion in 2020](#) due to national lockdowns and lack of consumer confidence and stability
- [Verizon, AT&T and Comcast have extended their offers not to terminate service](#) nor charge late fees to customers who are struggling with their monthly bills because of the coronavirus pandemic

- [Online news publication Axios returned \\$4.8 million that they received from Congress's Paycheck Protection Program](#), amid public backlash
- [On May 6, National Nurses Day, Dunkin' Donut will be distributing free coffee and donuts to healthcare workers](#) to thank them for working on the frontlines during the coronavirus outbreak. Since March, Dunkin' has already distributed hundreds of thousands of free cups of coffee and donuts to hospitals and emergency sites all over America.
- [PepsiCo's soda sales declined this quarter due to closed restaurants, theaters and sports venues](#). However, they saw a boost in breakfast item snack sales as more Americans at home purchased Quaker oatmeal and Frito-Lay chips
- [Reports show that people with eating disorders are struggling more than ever](#) as they are finding few foods that are 'safe' to eat during the coronavirus outbreak
- [The U.S. Navy paid contractors \\$600 million which it had previously withheld due to poor performance](#) in order to drum up finances for suppliers ravaged by the coronavirus outbreak's economic fallout. The U.S. Air Force also did the same

International News

- According to global COVID-19 [trackers and official counts](#), there are at least 3.1 million cases confirmed globally in over 177 countries with at least 218,456 deaths. Notable new cases include:
 - [India has only reported 1,000 coronavirus deaths despite being the world's second most populated country](#) with 1.3 billion people
 - [Canada is seeing a higher coronavirus death toll than they previously predicted](#), now reporting over 3,000 deaths
 - [Lebanese Government officials are citing that 75 % of citizens need aid](#) after hungry protestors take to the streets
- [The Prime Minister of Spain Pedro Sanchez has announced a four-phase plan to lift its coronavirus restrictions and return to a 'new normal' by the end of June](#). Each region would relax restrictions at a different pace, depending on the severity of the outbreak
- [Dentists in Japan will now conduct coronavirus tests, in hopes to curb the spread of the virus](#). Japan also have the highest number of dentists per capita
- [2 Million Australians have downloaded a coronavirus tracking app called COVIDSafe](#), which is designed to help health authorities trace people who may have come into contact with someone who has the coronavirus
- [In Germany, doctors are posing naked to protest PPE shortages](#). On Monday, Germany received a shipment of 10 million face masks from China, as wearing face masks have become mandatory in many public places across the country
- [As European Governments continue to bailout big airline companies like Air France-KLM and Lufthansa](#), Brussels is calling on airlines to use this time to 'go green' and reduce their carbon footprint, enforcing the kerosene tax
- [The Financial Conduct Authority is cracking down on U.K. banks that have been preying on corporate clients](#) requesting financial assistance during the coronavirus outbreak
- [China's brands continue to take a hit from the coronavirus outbreak](#). Americans' opinion of China is at its lowest point in 15 years, and 62% of those surveyed said they viewed China's power and influence as a "major threat."
- Sainsbury, the second largest [supermarket chain in the U.K. is reopening 100 petrol stations](#) after being closed due to coronavirus fears

Notable Updates:

- CNN: [US coronavirus cases surpass 1 million and the death toll is greater than US losses in Vietnam War](#)
- CNN: [An ER doctor who continued to treat patients after she recovered from Covid-19 has died by suicide](#)
- CNN: [A pug in North Carolina may be the first dog in US to test positive for coronavirus](#)

- ABC News: [Governor Kay Ivey announces plan to reopen portions of Alabama economy](#)
- Whio News: [Coronavirus Pandemic: State will not mandate masks in retail stores](#)
- CNBC: [TripAdvisor slashes nearly a quarter of its staff as the coronavirus stalls travel](#)
- Market Watch: [Uber reportedly may cut around 20% of workforce; CTO resigns](#)
- NBC News: [Gov. Baker Extends Mass. Business Closures, Stay-at-Home Advisory to May 18](#)
- CNN: [New Orleans mayor says city will have to think about canceling Mardi Gras 2021](#)
- CNN: [Trump orders meat processing plants to stay open](#)
- CNN: [Pence flouts Mayo Clinic policy on masks -- which is to wear one](#)
- CNBC: [Stocks soar after positive Gilead news on potential coronavirus treatment, Dow up 500 points](#)
- Forbes: [Coronavirus Will Reduce Global Retail Spending By Over \\$500bn in 2020](#)
- USA Today: [Verizon, AT&T and Comcast extend no late fee, termination policies through June 30](#)
- The New York Times: [Online News Site Axios Returning \\$4.8 Million U.S. Payroll Loan](#)
- ABC News: [Dunkin' distributing free coffee, donuts to health care workers on May 6](#)
- Reuters: [PepsiCo sees snacking boost as lockdowns hammer soda sales](#)
- CNN: [People with eating disorders have suffered all their lives. Now they're struggling even more](#)
- Reuters: [U.S. Navy pays contractors \\$600 mln that had been withheld for poor performance](#)
- CNN: [How does India, a country of 1.3 billion people, have around 1,000 coronavirus deaths?](#)
- CNN: [Canada says its coronavirus death rate continues to spike despite a slower growth rate](#)
- CNN: [75% of Lebanon needs aid after coronavirus, and hungry protesters are back on the streets](#)
- BBC: [Coronavirus: Spain plans return to 'new normal' by end of June](#)
- NPR: [Japan To Allow Dentists To Conduct Coronavirus Tests](#)
- CNN: [2 million Australians have downloaded a coronavirus contact tracing app](#)
- CNN: [German doctors pose naked to protest protective equipment shortages](#)
- Financial Times: [EU eyes ways to attach green strings to airline bailouts](#)
- The Guardian: [FCA warns banks not to put pressure on clients during Covid-19 crisis](#)
- CNN: [China's model of control has been blamed for the coronavirus crisis, but for some it's looking increasingly attractive](#)
- The Sun: [PUMP IT UP Sainsbury's to reopen 100 petrol station shops after closing them due to coronavirus](#)

Reopening Economy/ Response Plans

- The Washington Post: [Push to reopen economy runs up against workers and consumers worried about risk](#)
- Politico: [Trump's next coronavirus pivot: Celebrate America's grand reopening](#)
- PBS News: [Despite widespread economic hardship, most Americans not ready to reopen, poll says](#)
- CBS News: [Trump and Fauci at odds on reopening economy](#)
- The Guardian: [Coronavirus US live: most Americans not ready for country to reopen, poll finds](#)
- The Hill: [Elon Musk pushes for reopening country, ending 'de facto house arrest'](#)
- Fox News: [Jared Kushner: 'We have all the testing we need' to start reopening the country](#)
- USA Today: ['They're playing Russian roulette': As states reopen amid coronavirus, experts warn of risks](#)
- The New York Times: [Reopening Plans Across U.S. Are Creating Confusing Patchwork](#)
- Politico: [White House signals a pivot to reopening the country](#)

Stimulus/ Bailout

- Fox News: [Second round of small business loan money could evaporate by end of week](#)
- CNBC: ['I just want to know who made the bad loans' — Cramer blasts small business loan program](#)
- Yahoo!: [Bank of America Sends 184,000 Applications for Small-Business Loans to SBA](#)
- Politico: [Trump lauds 'amazing' SBA loan program as big banks feel angst](#)
- NPR: [Loopholes In Small Business Relief Program Allowed Thriving Companies To Cash In](#)

- NBC News: [Lawsuit against Trump admin challenges denial of stimulus checks for those married to noncitizens](#)
- Fox News: [Coronavirus IRS stimulus check error could be fixed with this hack](#)
- CNBC: [Will there be another stimulus check? How lawmakers could get more money into people's hands](#)
- Market Watch: [Why haven't I gotten my stimulus check? 6 reasons your payment might be a no-show](#)
- Fortune: [The next round of stimulus checks goes out this week—here's everything to know if you are still waiting](#)
- Business Insider: [Americans are getting only one stimulus check for now, but Democratic lawmakers are floating plans for more](#)
- Forbes: [A Glimmer Of Hope Emerges For A Second Stimulus Check](#)

Healthcare Response

- CNN: [As a doctor in the US, I shouldn't have to buy masks and gloves on the black market](#)
- CBS News: [Coronavirus updates: U.S. death toll nears 60,000 as labs race for a vaccine](#)
- The Associated Press: [Groups sow doubt about Covid19 vaccine even before one even exists](#)
- CBS News: [Vaccine skeptics are already casting doubt on one for the coronavirus. But it doesn't exist yet.](#)
- The Hill: [Early studies show promise in coronavirus immunity](#)
- The New York Post: [Pfizer coronavirus vaccine could be ready for emergency use by this fall](#)
- The Wall Street Journal: [Race for Coronavirus Vaccine Accelerates as Pfizer Says U.S. Testing to Begin Next Week](#)
- The Washington Post: [Antibody tests support what's been obvious: Covid-19 is much more lethal than the flu](#)
- USA Today: [Less-invasive breathing therapies could keep 'significant number' of patients off ventilators](#)
- CBS News: [Oxford scientists say a vaccine may be widely available by September](#)

Health Official Guidance

- CNN: [US could be in for 'a bad fall and a bad winter' if it's unprepared for a second wave of coronavirus, Fauci warns](#)
- The Hill: [Fauci: Second wave of coronavirus 'inevitable'](#)
- USA Today: [Coronavirus live updates: US economy shrinks; Fauci warns of 'bad' fall, winter; Remdesivir maker sees positive trial results](#)
- Fox News: [Echoing Fauci, Chinese scientists believe coronavirus could return seasonally, like the flu](#)
- Market Watch: [Fauci says he's 'hopeful' a safe coronavirus vaccine is known 'by this coming winter'](#)
- The Hill: [Fauci says US will have needed tests by end of May, beginning of June](#)
- The New York Post: [Anthony Fauci: Sports might not happen this year](#)
- Newsweek: [DR. DEBORAH BIRX SAYS EVERYONE NEEDS TO WEAR A MASK AT SOCIAL GATHERINGS](#)

Federal Response

- CNN: [Trump still seems to not understand how bad the coronavirus crisis is](#)
- AbC News: [Coronavirus government response updates: Trump claims US will conduct 5 million tests per day 'very soon'](#)
- Newsweek: [TRUMP SAYS CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUNDING FOR STATES COULD DEPEND ON ENDING SANCTUARY CITIES](#)
- CNN: [Here are the government watchdog investigations into the federal coronavirus response](#)
- The Washington Times: [Trump to deploy 'full power' of federal government to help states with testing](#)

- Axios: [The federal government's coronavirus response risks spiking inflation](#)
- Yahoo!: [Senator Sherrod Brown calls Trump's coronavirus response 'incompetent' and 'immoral'](#)
- Politico: [Workers turn to courts and states for safety protection as Trump declines to act](#)
- MSNBC: [Months into coronavirus crisis, federal response has not improved](#)

State/ Local Response

- CNBC: [Here's what Gov. Cuomo says New York needs to do to reopen during coronavirus](#)
- Reuters: [Florida to unveil reopening plan as data shows painful contraction of U.S. economy](#)
- Politico: [Rising partisanship as Florida battles pandemic — DeSantis says there is 'light at the end of the tunnel' — Gig workers still waiting to apply for benefits](#)
- The Indianapolis Star: [What business owners and experts say about how and when Indiana should reopen its economy](#)
- The Herald Press: [Some businesses closed by virus may reopen Friday under Mills' plan to restart economy](#)
- The Daily Mail: [California Gov says some workplaces, schools and childcare facilities can gradually reopen 'within a few weeks' when state improves COVID-19 testing and contact tracing](#)
- The New York Post: [Why NYC failed on coronavirus response while Seattle succeeded: report](#)
- Forbes: [Your Next Stimulus Check May Come From State And Local Governments](#)

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](#))