

COVID-19 Issues Tracker & Top-Tier Coverage

NEWS UPDATES

Monday, May 4, 2020

Notable Updates

U.S. News

- According to national COVID-19 [trackers](#), there are currently over 1.1 million cases of coronavirus confirmed by lab tests in all 50 states with over 67,795 deaths reported. Notable new cases include:
 - President Trump predicts that [coronavirus deaths could hit 90,000](#) in the U.S. on a Fox town hall Sunday.
 - As [President Trump presses for states to reopen their economies, his administration is privately projecting a steady rise in the number of cases and deaths from coronavirus](#) over the next several weeks, reaching about 3,000 daily deaths on June 1, according to an internal document obtained by The New York Times, nearly double from the current level of about 1,750.
- Notable new companies / organizations / states in favor of reopening the economy are:
 - [President Trump on Sunday sought to reassure Americans that it is safe for states to reopen](#) amid the coronavirus pandemic, offering support to protesters who have railed against the lockdowns across the country.
 - [Utah Gov. Gary Herbert \(R\) placed the state under “moderate risk” protocols starting Friday](#), allowing certain establishments including gyms and salons to reopen and restaurants to begin offering a dine-in option with precautions in place.
 - After a wave of reopenings over the weekend, [at least six more states will begin allowing certain businesses to open back up on Monday](#), the latest expansion in economic activity despite rising coronavirus cases
 - [Carnival Cruise Line announced plans Monday to resume service beginning Aug. 1](#), despite concerns from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that cruise ship travel “exacerbates the global spread of Covid-19.”
 - As it anticipates a restart to its core rideshare business amid the pandemic, [Uber plans to require drivers and riders to wear face masks or face coverings when using the platform in certain countries, including the United States](#).
- Notable new companies announcing layoffs/furloughs in the U.S. are:
 - [Several more universities and colleges have recently declared they will be furloughing employees](#). These institutions join the ranks of several schools that had already made the decision to furlough staff in an effort to plug widening budget holes due to the virus.
 - [Layoffs at two Pennsylvania casinos in recent months topped more than 3,000 combined](#). Parx Casino and Harrah’s both filed WARN (Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification) notices with the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry.
 - The [National Rifle Association has laid off dozens of employees](#), canceled its national convention and scaled back on fundraising, membership and shooting events just months before the presidential election and during an unprecedented pandemic.
- Notable new companies halting production:
 - Demand for oil to fuel cars, planes and industry has dropped around 30% worldwide. The resulting supply glut has pushed U.S. crude prices well below production costs, forcing companies to start winding down operations. [Producers are shutting down the higher-cost output first - and those are also the operations likely to stay shut the longest](#).
- New states with restrictions to “non-essential” business or implementing “shelter-in-place” policies are:
 - Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan (R) [pushed back against pressure to lift his stay-at-home order](#), saying he respects the rights of demonstrators who gathered over the weekend to protest the restrictions but that it is too soon to safely reopen the state.
 - New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy announced Monday that [the state’s schools will stay closed for the remainder of the academic year](#) to continue to curb further spread of the coronavirus.

- President Trump asserted during a Fox News town hall Sunday night that he's ["very confident" the U.S. will produce a coronavirus vaccine by the end of the year.](#)
- The Food and Drug Administration announced on Monday that [companies selling coronavirus antibody tests must submit data proving accuracy within the next 10 days or face removal from the market.](#)
- [Gilead Sciences' coronavirus fighting drug will be in the hands of doctors and patients as early as this week,](#) the biotechnology company's CEO said Sunday.
- The [Chinese government intentionally concealed the severity of the coronavirus from the international community while it stockpiled imports and decreased exports,](#) a Department of Homeland Security report found, according to an administration official familiar with the report.
- [Roche has won emergency approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\) for an antibody test](#) to determine whether people have ever been infected with the coronavirus, the Swiss drugmaker said on Sunday.
- World leaders will hold a pledging "marathon" on Monday to raise at least 7.5 billion euros (\$8.2 billion) for research into a possible vaccine and treatments for the coronavirus, although [the United States is not directly involved.](#)
- Even as the novel coronavirus pandemic draws attention and resources to the nation's doctors and hospitals, [the health-care industry is suffering a historic collapse in business that is emerging as one of the most powerful forces hurting the U.S. economy](#) and a threat to a potential recovery.
- [Native American health systems are stretching to a breaking point](#) under a growing number of coronavirus cases flooding into rural clinics and hospitals that are unprepared for the case load.
- New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said on Monday that [the state is now "on the other side of the mountain" as the daily number of hospitalizations, rate of new infections and deaths related to Covid-19 continues to decline.](#)
- President Trump's announcement in March that Google was developing a tool to screen and schedule people for covid-19 tests heralded the yet-to-be-launched website as a way to streamline testing. But seven weeks later, that tool is available only in a handful of cities, and [Google sister company Verily — which was really behind the effort — says it has facilitated slightly more than 30,000 tests as of Wednesday.](#) That's a small portion of the more than 5.8 million estimated tests taken across the nation since the beginning of the pandemic, according to the COVID Tracking Project.
- [J. Crew filed for bankruptcy protection on Monday.](#) It is the first major retailer to fall during the coronavirus pandemic, though other big industry names including Neiman Marcus and J.C. Penney are also struggling with the toll of mass shutdowns.
- After a decade of spectacular growth, [Disney has been devastated by the coronavirus pandemic.](#) Its 14 theme parks (annual attendance: 157 million) delivered record profits in 2019. They're now padlocked. Its movie studios (there are eight) controlled a staggering 40 percent of the domestic box office last year. Now, they're sitting at a near standstill.
- Kroger, one of the country's largest retailers, said Monday that it will [help employees get a free Covid-19 test if they have symptoms or qualify based on medical need.](#)
- Department store chain [Kohl's Corp. is raising \\$600 million through a note offering.](#) The notes would carry an interest rate of 9.5% and are expected to mature May 15, 2025, according to regulatory filings.

International News

- According to global COVID-19 [trackers and official counts,](#) there are at least 3.5 million cases confirmed globally in over 177 countries with at least 248,164 deaths. Notable new cases include:
 - The [U.K.'s death toll from the coronavirus is set to overtake that seen in Italy:](#) As of Sunday, the U.K. has seen 28,446 deaths as a result of Covid-19, closely behind Italy's 28,884 deaths, according to data from Johns Hopkins University.
 - New Zealand on Monday reported [zero new confirmed cases of COVID-19,](#) the disease caused by the coronavirus, over a 24-hour period.
- [Spain reported its lowest daily increase in coronavirus deaths in six weeks](#) on Sunday, with 164 new deaths, as it eases stay-at-home restrictions after weeks under one of the strictest lockdowns in the world.

- [Italy on Monday began a precarious economic reopening after facing Europe's deadliest coronavirus outbreak](#), with people reemerging from their apartments and homes with a mix of relief and apprehension.
- Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Monday he had decided to [extend the country's national state of emergency to May 31](#).
- Politicians from [Australia and New Zealand are discussing the possibility of opening up borders to each other, creating a travel corridor -- or "travel bubble" -- between the two nations](#).
- [France plans to quarantine all travelers entering the country, including returning citizens, for two weeks as part of a new proposal to extend the health emergency](#) put in place to limit the spread of the coronavirus, the country's health minister said Saturday.
- Officials in [India have ordered all private and public workers across the country to use a government-backed app designed to trace the spread of the virus](#) - prompting concern from privacy advocates.
- Three months after Vietnam detected its first case of coronavirus, [the country of more than 95 million hasn't reported a death from the virus and most of its 270 confirmed cases have recovered](#), the Wall Street Journal reports.

Notable Updates:

- CNN, [Lincoln got better press treatment, Trump claims, as he ups pandemic death estimate](#)
- New York Times, [Coronavirus Live Updates: Trump Administration Models Predict Near Doubling of Daily Death Toll by June](#)
- Washington Post, [Trump says it's safe to reopen states as governors grapple with loosening restrictions](#)
- The Hill, [Utah starts to reopen as number of coronavirus cases continues to rise](#)
- New York Times, [More states are allowing certain businesses to open up](#)
- CNBC, [Carnival Cruise Line says it will sail again Aug. 1, a week after coronavirus no-sail order due to expire](#)
- CNN, [Exclusive: Uber will soon require drivers and riders to wear face coverings in the US](#)
- Forbes, [More Than A Dozen Additional Universities Begin Furloughs, Affecting Thousands Of Staff](#)
- Penn Live, [There were more than 3,000 layoffs combined at these 2 Pa. casinos](#)
- Fox News, [NRA lays off dozens of staffers, cuts pay during coronavirus pandemic](#)
- New York Times, ['Like Watching a Train Wreck': The Coronavirus Effect on North Dakota Shale Oilfields](#)
- Washington Post, [Live updates: Hogan resists pressure to reopen quickly as coronavirus deaths rise; Northam to announce guidance on nonessential business closures](#)
- CNBC, [New Jersey schools will stay closed for the remainder of the academic year](#)
- Axios, [Trump claims U.S. will have coronavirus vaccine by end of 2020](#)
- New York Times, [F.D.A. Orders Companies to Submit Antibody Test Data](#)
- CNBC, [Gilead CEO says remdesivir will be available to patients this week: 'We've donated the entire supply'](#)
- CNN, [US government report assesses China intentionally concealed severity of coronavirus](#)
- New York Times, [Roche Wins U.S. Nod for COVID-19 Antibody Test, Aims to Boost Output](#)
- Reuters, [U.S. steers clear of global COVID vaccine pledging conference](#)
- Washington Post, [Historic financial decline hits doctors, dentists and hospitals — despite covid-19 — threatening overall economy](#)
- The Hill, [Underfunded Native nations battle coronavirus outbreaks](#)
- CNBC, [New York continues seeing drop in coronavirus deaths and hospitalizations, Gov. Cuomo says](#)
- Washington Post, [Trump touted Google as a solution to coronavirus testing. A month later, Verily has barely made a dent.](#)
- New York Times, [J. Crew Files for Bankruptcy in Virus's First Big Retail Casualty](#)
- New York Times, [For Disney, a Stricken Empire](#)

- CNBC, [Kroger expands coronavirus testing for employees with free self-administered kits, drive-thru appointments](#)
- Milwaukee Business Journal, [Kohl's looks to raise \\$600 million in note offering](#)
- CNBC, [UK coronavirus death toll set to overtake Italy's with exit strategy still unknown](#)
- The Hill, [New Zealand reports zero new confirmed coronavirus cases](#)
- Forbes, [After Strict Lockdown, Spain Has Lowest Coronavirus Death Toll In 6 Weeks](#)
- Washington Post, [Italy loosens Europe's longest lockdown](#)
- CNBC, [Japan's Abe extends state of emergency to May 31](#)
- CNN, [A 'travel bubble' between New Zealand and Australia could be a model for the future](#)
- Fox News, [France to extend coronavirus health emergency, will quarantine all travelers for 14 days, health minister says](#)
- Independent, [Coronavirus: India makes government tracing app compulsory for all workers](#)
- Axios, [Vietnam's economy could boom thanks to fast coronavirus response](#)

Reopening Economy/ Response Plans

- CNBC, [Salesforce will help businesses return to work with a new set of tools it just announced](#)
- Daily Mail, [Southwest Airlines CEO says it's safe to fly again: Gary Kelly claims that the worst has passed for the industry as company tells passengers and crew to wear masks and some seats must be left empty](#)
- Axios, [Colleges gamble on reopening this fall](#)
- Axios, [How April's jobs report will help to size up the economy](#)
- CNBC, [Why many employees are hoping to work from home even after the pandemic is over](#)
- Forbes, [For Retail To Survive COVID-19 We Must All Face The Biggest Taboo Of The 21st Century](#)
- CNBC, [7 ways the coronavirus pandemic is going to change the way we shop](#)
- Bloomberg, [America's Retailers Return to Lure Virus-Wearers to Malls](#)
- CNBC, [This skincare company saw record sales in April even as coronavirus pandemic ravaged retail](#)
- Washington Post, [Students wearing masks return to school as some countries start to reopen during covid-19 crisis. Here's what that looks like.](#)

Stimulus/ Bailout

- Axios, [Why you shouldn't hold your breath for the next coronavirus stimulus bill](#)
- Washington Post, [A timeline of IRS stimulus payment glitches](#)
- Wall Street Journal, [Call It Hero Pay or Hazard Pay, Essential Workers Want More of It](#)
- Forbes, [Support In Congress Grows For Monthly Stimulus Check Bill](#)
- Bloomberg, [Trump Says Further Virus Stimulus Must Include Payroll Tax Cut](#)
- Wall Street Journal, [Lobbyists Press Congress for Last Chance at Coronavirus Stimulus Funds](#)
- New York Times, [Norwegian Air Gets Bondholder Deal on \\$1.2 Billion Debt-For-Equity Swap](#)

Healthcare Response

- Reuters, [German study suggests infections are 10 times the number of confirmed cases](#)
- Axios, [U.S. coronavirus testing levels off at half of what experts say is needed](#)
- Washington Post, [The coronavirus pandemic is pushing America into a mental health crisis](#)
- NY Post, [WHO envoy warns coronavirus vaccine may never be developed](#)
- CNBC, [A coronavirus vaccine cannot be reasonably expected until the end of 2021, professor says](#)

Health Official Guidance

- Forbes, [Drs. Fauci & Birx: Here's A Way To Contain Covid-19 And Reopen The Economy In As Little As One Month](#)
- Axios, [Coronavirus patients are most infectious early on](#)

- CNBC, [Dr. Scott Gottlieb on coronavirus antibody tests: 'I would repeat it three times' to make sure](#)

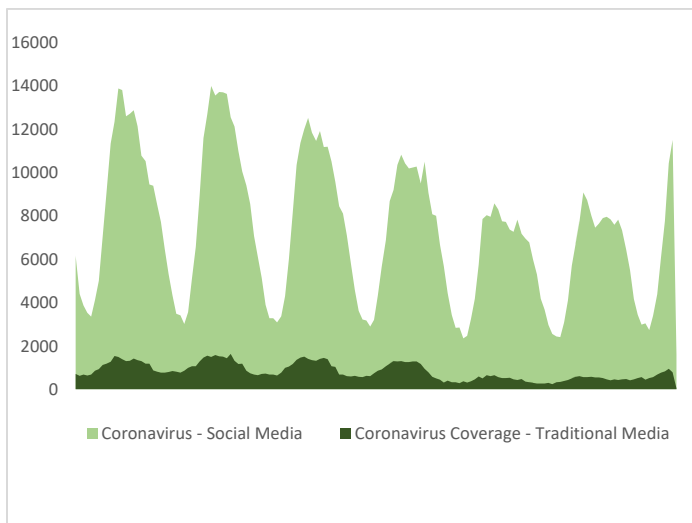
Federal Response

- CNN, [Trump claims intelligence officials did not raise coronavirus until late January](#)
- The Hill, [The 'new normal' takes shape on Capitol Hill](#)
- Axios, [Mike Pence: "I should've worn a mask" when visiting Mayo Clinic](#)
- The Hill, [McCarthy lays out plan to reopen Congress](#)
- The Hill, [COVID-19's class divide creates new political risks](#)

State/ Local Response

- CNN, [Timeline: How Florida's coronavirus response compares to three other big states](#)
- Forbes, [NY Will Team Up With 6 States To Buy Medical Supplies, Cuomo Says](#)
- The Hill, [Maryland cancels \\$12.5 million contract after company fails to deliver PPE](#)
- Axios, [Ohio governor says face mask requirement in stores was "a bridge too far"](#)
- Washington Post, [Maryland plays an outsized role in worldwide hunt for a coronavirus vaccine](#)
- The Hill, [Two Arizona sheriffs say they won't enforce governor's stay-at-home order](#)
- The Hill, [Florida governor: Coronavirus pandemic 'should not be used to bail out state obligations' that preceded outbreak](#)

Conversation over time (US, past 7 days): April 28 – May 4, 2020

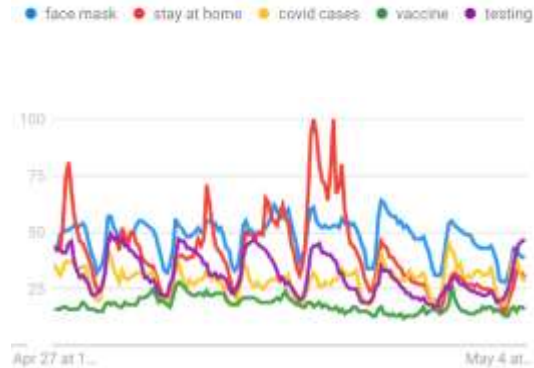


*Note: overall mentions of COVID-19 have decreased by 1% since last week

Over the past week, there have been 1.3M traditional media articles and social media posts related to COVID-19 – this is a 1% decrease in coverage from the previous week. The majority (90%) of conversation is driven by social media.

- Top drivers of coverage for the week include news around state officials easing restrictions and Stay-At-Home orders, reopening phases, coronavirus vaccines and the possibility of monthly stimulus packages.
- On Twitter, posts share an New York Times [article](#) on the Trump Administration models that predict daily death tolls to double by June.
- Social traction began to ramp up at the end of the week as White House economic advisor, [Kevin Hassett](#), told reporters that the Trump Administration is “studying very carefully” the possibility of a second round of stimulus packages to Americans in May.
- Additionally, conversation was driven by President Trump [claiming](#) that testing is the US is “better than any other country.”

Search trends (US, past 7 days):



Over the past week, there was a significant boost in search interest around ‘stay at home,’ as Americans began to protest state restrictions. The stay-at-home revolts were reflective of small business owners wanting local economies to reopen in hopes to save businesses.

- The recent spike in search popularity for ‘stay at home’ started on May 2nd, after state officials announced eased restrictions that included reopening gyms, nail salons, and retail stores.
- Throughout the week major outlets, including [NPR](#), published articles detailing the stay-at-home revolts that gained momentum after states like Georgia lifted stay-at-home orders.

Top hashtags^ and related content (This week, April 28th – May 4th):

1. #Trump	6. #lockdown
2. #MAGA	7. #SocialDistancing
3. #StayHome	8. #StayAtHome
4. #Pandemic	9. #AmericaStrong
5. #CoronaVirusOutbreak	10. #InThisTogether

Top hashtags^ and related content (Last week, April 14th - April 27th):

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

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

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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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