

COVID-19 Issues Tracker & Top-Tier Coverage

NEWS UPDATES

Wednesday, May 6, 2020

Notable Updates

U.S. News

- According to national COVID-19 [trackers](#), there are currently over 1.2 million cases of coronavirus confirmed by lab tests in all 50 states with over 71,000 deaths reported. Notable new cases include:
 - A team of epidemiologists and clinicians at four universities worked with amfAR, the AIDS research non-profit, and Seattle's Center for Vaccine Innovation and Access, PATH, to analyze Covid-19 cases and deaths. [The study found that coronavirus deaths were higher in disproportionately African American rural and small metro counties](#)
 - [For the first time in history, New York City, home to the most subway stations in the world began its overnight shutdown last night from 1am-5am](#) to clean the heavily used system to prevent the spread of the coronavirus
 - [Two men in New England are charged with trying to defraud the small business loan program intended for coronavirus outbreak relief](#). They were seeking more than a half-million dollars in stimulus loans created as part of federal coronavirus protections
- Notable new companies / organizations / states in favor of reopening the economy are:
 - [Major U.S. automakers in Detroit are planning to reopen their North American factories within two weeks](#). Fiat Chrysler CEO Mike Manley said on an earnings conference call Tuesday his company plans to start reopening factories May 18. Michigan's shelter-in-place order is currently in effect until May 15
 - [By the end of the weekend, at least 43 states will have completely or partially reopened](#). In Mississippi, Governor Tate Reeves announced Monday that starting this week, outdoor gatherings of up to 20 people will be allowed and dine-in services at restaurants will also be allowed to resume. In Texas, Governor Greg Abbott announced that wedding venues can reopen with an occupancy of 25%, however, those limits don't apply to outdoor wedding receptions
- Notable new companies announcing layoffs/furloughs in the U.S. are:
 - [Airbnb announced Tuesday that it will lay off nearly 1,900 employees, which is 25% of the company](#). They will halt projects related to hotels, a transportation division and luxury stays. U.S. employees laid off will receive 14 weeks of base pay plus an additional week for every year they worked at Airbnb. They will also provide 12 months of healthcare for laid off U.S. employees
 - [Uber announced Wednesday that it will lay off 3,700 employees, which is 15% of the company](#). CEO Dara Khosrowshahi is waiving his base salary for the remainder of 2020
- Notable new companies halting production:
 - [Norwegian Cruise Line warned investors on Tuesday that they may go out of business](#) as the cruise industry has been hard hit from the coronavirus pandemic, particularly from outbreaks that spread rapidly on cruise ships
- New states with restrictions to "non-essential" business or implementing "shelter-in-place" policies are:
 - [So far, 46 states and Washington, D.C., have announced school closures through the end of the 2019-2020 academic year](#)
- Former Director of Biomedical Advanced Research and Development, [Dr. Rick Bright filed a whistleblower complaint on Tuesday alleging that his early warnings about the coronavirus were ignored back in January](#). He is seeking reinstatement of his position, as well as a full investigation into his ousting
- [President Trump toured a Honeywell facility in Phoenix wearing goggles, but no mask](#). The facility has signage that states that everyone there is required to wear a mask. They are currently producing millions of N95 masks for the Federal Government

- [A group of scientists at the Los Alamos Laboratory in CA have identified a new strain of the coronavirus that appears to be more contagious than the original strain.](#) This newer strain appeared in February in Europe and was the one that migrated to the east coast
- [Health insurer Humana will cover medical bills for millions as they return to the doctor's office.](#) They are waiving copayments, deductibles and other out-of-pocket costs for the rest of the year for all Medicare Advantage customers who visit their primary care doctor or see a behavioral health specialist
- [Insurance giant Allstate will likely grant an additional rebate to auto insurance customers due to reduced driving during the coronavirus outbreak.](#) They said that they would return more than \$600 million in premiums to customers as many Americans were driving about 40% to 55% less due to stay-at-home orders
- [Starbucks will reopen 85% of their stores across the U.S. by Friday according to CEO Kevin Johnson,](#) but their new model will focus on mobile ordering and contactless pickup and cashless payment
- [Steve Mnuchin warns that international travel may not resume until 2021 and encourages Americans to consider domestic travel](#) after the coronavirus lockdown is lifted to help restart the economy
- According to a report from ADP, [Private payrolls fell by more than 20 million jobs in April as companies furloughed and laid off employees amid the coronavirus-induced shutdown.](#) The decline totaled 20,236,000, which is the worst job loss in the history of the ADP report
- [15 children in New York City are sickened with a rare coronavirus related illness, Kawasaki Disease.](#) Toxic shock has also been seen in patients between the ages of 2 and 15, as well as days-long fevers and inflammation
- [At home exercise bike company Peloton has seen a strong last couple of weeks, with earnings expected to hit an all-time high.](#) Many people are looking for ways to workout at home with gyms and fitness studios shuttered, due to the coronavirus lockdown

International News

- According to global COVID-19 [trackers and official counts](#), there are at least 3.6 million cases confirmed globally in over 177 countries with at least 257,920 deaths. Notable new cases include:
 - [The U.K. has surpassed Italy in the highest number of recorded coronavirus related deaths in Europe](#) with over 32,000
 - Epidemiologist in the U.K., [Neil Ferguson, a professor at Imperial College London, resigned from the government's scientific panel late Tuesday after it was reported that he broke lockdown](#) and allowed his mistress to cross London to visit him at his home
- [Germany extends its social distancing measures until June 5, as soccer is set to resume the weekend of May 16-17 at the earliest.](#) There will be no audience at stadiums and they will be testing players twice a week
- [The European Union and China were slated to take a significant step forward in their economic and strategic relationship until the coronavirus pandemic happened.](#) Concerns over China's transparency during the pandemic has been a sharp reminder as to exactly what engagement with China actually means
- [Europe's leading airline company Lufthansa is losing \\$1 million every hour due to the coronavirus pandemic](#) as it asks the German government for a bailout
- [Disneyland Shanghai is set to reopen on Monday in a phased approach according to CEO Bob Chapek.](#) All staff will wear masks and use contactless interaction with guests. There will be social distancing measures on lines as well as hand sanitizer available around the park to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus
- [Israel is opening mobile Coronavirus testing units](#) which allow the testers to swab individuals without the risk of exposure to the virus

Notable Updates:

- CNN: [Coronavirus is killing more African Americans than any other group in the US, study finds](#)
- CNN: [For the first time in its history, New York City deliberately shut down its entire subway system this morning](#)

- NBC News: [2 men charged with trying to defraud small business loan program meant for COVID-19 relief](#)
- The New York Times: [Detroit Automakers Push for Restart of Plants Within 2 Weeks](#)
- CNN: [US is unprepared to protect residents from virus while states are reopening, former acting CDC director says](#)
- CNBC: [Airbnb to lay off nearly 1,900 people, 25% of company](#)
- The Hill: [Uber to lay off 3,700 employees amid coronavirus pandemic](#)
- CNN: [Norwegian Cruise Line may go out of business](#)
- CNN: [Schools should be ready for phased reopening, future closures, pediatrics group says](#)
- CNN: [Ousted vaccine director files whistleblower complaint alleging coronavirus warnings were ignored](#)
- CNBC: [Trump does not wear coronavirus mask at Honeywell factory that makes masks](#)
- The Los Angeles Times, [A mutant coronavirus has emerged, even more contagious than the original, study says](#)
- The New York Times: [Humana Picks Up the Tab for Medicare Advantage Doctor Visits](#)
- Reuters: [Allstate will likely grant another auto insurance rebate as pandemic cuts driving: CEO](#)
- The Daily Mail: [Starbucks to reopen 85% of its US stores by the end of the week but with 'responsible' changes that focus on take-out and cashless transactions](#)
- The Daily Mail: [International travel may not resume until 2021, warns Mnuchin as he encourages Americans to consider domestic travel after lockdown instead to help reboot the economy](#)
- CNBC: [US private payrolls drop by 20.2 million in April, the worst job loss in the history of ADP report](#)
- NBC News: [15 NYC Children Sickened With Rare COVID-Related Illness — Here Are The Warning Signs](#)
- CNBC: [Peloton could hit all-time highs after earnings, trader says. Here's one way to play it](#)
- NPR: [U.K. Surpasses Italy In Recorded Coronavirus Deaths, Now Leads Europe In Fatalities](#)
- Fox News: [British health secretary 'speechless' after coronavirus scientist broke lockdown rules to meet married mistress](#)
- USA Today: [What to know as soccer gets set to resume in Germany amid pandemic](#)
- CNN: [Europe and China were on course for a reset. Coronavirus changed all that](#)
- The Daily Mail: [Disneyland Shanghai to reopen on Monday with staff wearing masks and under orders to use 'contactless interaction' with guests to protect them from coronavirus](#)
- CNN: [Getting tested for Covid-19 inside Israel's mobile booths](#)

Reopening Economy/ Response Plans

- CNN: [The price of reopening the economy: tens of thousands of American lives](#)
- Market Watch: [Trump says reopening may result in more deaths, but 'we can't sit in the house for the next three years'](#)
- NBC News: [Here's a look at how much of the country is reopening](#)
- ABC News: [Trump to ABC's David Muir: 'Possible there will be some' COVID-19 deaths as country reopens](#)
- NBC News: ['There'll be more death': Trump says it's time to reopen country despite fears of coronavirus rebound](#)
- CNBC: [Stocks are flat, but big tech stocks see continued strength](#)
- The New Yorker: [The White House's Push to Reopen the Economy This Early Is a Dangerous Gamble](#)
- The Atlantic: [The Public Is Astonishingly United](#)

Stimulus/ Bailout

- Market Watch: [Pelosi signals support for massive new payroll subsidies as small-business loan fund nears expiration](#)
- The Los Angeles Times: [Small business loan money shows up, but it won't last long](#)

- The Washington Post: [Despite pushback, Sidwell and other D.C.-area prep schools are keeping their small-business loans](#)
- The Wall Street Journal: [Tax Deductions Tied to Forgiven Small Business Loans Draw Support](#)
- Fox News: [Small-business loan forgiveness clouded by confusion, uncertainty](#)
- Forbes: [Sorry, Republicans Refuse To Budge On Second Round Of Stimulus Checks](#)
- The New York Times: [Trump Eyes New Tax Cuts for Next Stimulus Package](#)
- Fox News: [Coronavirus stimulus phase four proposals include these tax policies](#)

Healthcare Response

- Independent: [First US patients dosed with potential coronavirus vaccine, Pfizer says after announcing experimental trial](#)
- The Wall Street Journal: [What We Know About Coronavirus Tests, Treatment and Vaccines](#)
- The New York Times: [Exclusive: Sanofi to Enroll Thousands for Its Coronavirus Vaccine Trials](#)
- CNN: [New evidence indicates coronavirus was infecting people in Europe and the US before the first official cases were reported](#)
- Politico: [Trump softens promise of coronavirus vaccine by end of year](#)
- NBC News: [Pfizer, NYU working on innovative coronavirus vaccine that could be ready by end of summer](#)
- USA Today: [To find a coronavirus vaccine, can we ethically infect people with a disease with no cure?](#)
- The New York Post: [Potential coronavirus vaccine enters clinical trial, could be ready by end of year](#)
- CNN: [Coronavirus quickly spread around the world starting late last year, new genetic analysis shows](#)
- The New York Times: [With Crispr, a Possible Quick Test for the Coronavirus](#)

Health Official Guidance

- CNN: [Anthony Fauci just crushed Donald Trump's theory on the origins of the coronavirus](#)
- The Hill: [Trump says Fauci, Birx will still be involved in COVID-19 efforts](#)

Federal Response

- The Wall Street Journal: [Trump Travels to Arizona in First Foray From East Coast Since Coronavirus Lockdown](#)
- CNBC: [Trump says coronavirus task force will keep working 'indefinitely,' with a focus on vaccines and reopening](#)
- CNN: [Trump pivots hard away from fight against unvanquished pandemic](#)
- Politico: [Trump touted reopening. Privately, his team sounded alarms.](#)
- ABC News: [States with few virus cases get big share of relief aid](#)
- Business Insider: [Trump says he might give federal coronavirus aid to states if they comply with his political demands](#)

State/ Local Response

- NBC News: [DC Mayor Still Looking for Coronavirus Case Declines Before Reopening](#)
- The Hill: [North Carolina school buses serving as WiFi hotspots for remote learning](#)
- Boston.com: [Here's what Gov. Charlie Baker said in response to the protest to reopen the economy during the coronavirus pandemic](#)
- The Hill: [Atlanta mayor: Busy streets on Cinco de Mayo 'disappointing'](#)
- NJ.com: [N.J. will keep federal coronavirus aid, and \\$467M is going to schools, Murphy says](#)
- CNBC: [New York Gov. Cuomo rebukes Trump, says coronavirus 'doesn't pick Democrats or Republicans'](#)
- The Mercury News: [Coronavirus: Newsom slams Northern California counties as "making a big mistake" for opening restaurants, gyms, salons and spas](#)

- The Detroit Free Press: [Michigan businesses have repurposed to help during coronavirus pandemic](#)
- The Seattle Times: [State parks, fishing and boating reopened in Washington after a coronavirus hiatus. Here's how it went.](#)
- Newsweek: [TEXAS GOVERNOR ABBOTT CAUGHT ON RECORDING SAYING REOPENING WILL ESCALATE CORONAVIRUS SPREAD ON SAME DAY STATE BUSINESSES OPEN](#)

GENERAL INFORMATION

- 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
- 3/19/20: The Department of Homeland Security classifies food & agriculture as “essential” work
- 3/20/20: The U.S., Mexico and Canada close borders for all non-essential travel
- 3/27/20: The U.S. signed into law the CARES Act, which allocates \$9.5 billion for agriculture
- 3/27/20: The U.S. signed into law the Defence Production Act, to manufacture 39 million N95 masks
- 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.
- 4/6/20: 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
- 4/16/20: The U.S. rolls out a 3-phase plan to reopen the country
- 4/21/20: Trump announces he will sign a 60-day Executive Order to suspend immigration to the U.S.
- 4/28/20: The U.S. surpasses 1 million COVID-19 cases
- 5/1/20: WHO extends its declaration of global health emergency

Relevant Links:

- WHO press briefings Monday/Wednesday/Friday ([LINK](#))
- White House Task Force briefing ([Twitter](#))
- Tracker on states reopening ([NYT](#), [WSJ](#), [CNN](#))
- 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](#))

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