

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

### **NEWS UPDATES**

**Monday, May 18, 2020**

#### **Notable Updates**

##### *U.S. News*

- According to national COVID-19 [trackers](#), there are currently over 1.4 million cases of coronavirus confirmed by lab tests in all 50 states with over 89,504 deaths reported. Notable new cases include:
  - [In Florida, health officials reported 777 new coronavirus cases, adding the state's testing also increased in the past week, according to a statement released Sunday.](#) On Monday, the state will enter into its first full phase of reopening, which will allow restaurants, retail stores and gyms across Florida to reopen with certain restrictions.
- Notable new companies / organizations / states in favor of reopening the economy are:
  - [Apple released a blueprint for how it will reopen its stores once it is safe to do so.](#) Customers will be required to submit to a temperature check and wear a mask before entering the store.
  - [The U.S. auto industry is slowly returning to life, with vehicle assembly plants scheduled to reopen on Monday and suppliers gearing up.](#) General Motors Co, Ford Motor Co and Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV all have been preparing for weeks to reopen their North American factories.
  - While most states announced students would not return to class this academic year, [a union representing nearly 1.7 million teachers has published guidance on how schools should safely reopen -- when they do.](#)
  - [Campground and restaurant owners are the latest business owners going to court to challenge the governor's plan to reopen Maine's economy.](#)
  - [The plan to reopen Massachusetts is set to be announced Monday,](#) detailing a four-phase approach to returning to "a new normal," while the state continues to combat COVID-19.
- New states with restrictions to "non-essential" business or implementing "shelter-in-place" policies are:
  - [In some places, businesses, houses of worship and other organizations are refusing to reopen just yet.](#) Several dozen pastors and faith leaders in Charlotte, N.C., declared they would not resume in-person services, even though a federal judge ruled on Thursday that such services could be held.
  - [New York City won't permit swimming at its beaches over Memorial Day weekend](#) and in the coming weeks to try to slow the spread of COVID-19, but the ban could be lifted later this summer, Mayor Bill de Blasio said Sunday.
- [Moderna Inc said on Monday its experimental COVID-19 vaccine produced antibodies that could "neutralize" COVID-19 in patients in a small early stage clinical trial,](#) sending its shares up 25%.
- [New York Governor Andrew Cuomo on Sunday addressed the state's early response to the coronavirus outbreak and said "nobody" should be prosecuted for the those who died,](#) noting that "older people" were most vulnerable.
- [Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell issued a grim warning about the U.S. economy's recovery from the coronavirus pandemic:](#) The process could stretch through the end of 2021 — and may hinge on the completion of a successful vaccine.
- [Many companies are facing a tough decision as Monday is the deadline to decide whether to return government loans.](#)
- [Uber is cutting 3,000 more jobs less than two weeks after an initial round of layoffs.](#) In an email to employees Monday, CEO Dara Khosrowshahi said Uber would also be shutting or consolidating 45 offices around the world and it is considering cuts to other businesses, like freight.

##### *International News*

- According to global COVID-19 [trackers and official counts](#), there are at least 4.7 million cases confirmed globally in over 177 countries with at least 315,089 deaths. Notable new cases include:

- [Germany is facing the first major coronavirus outbreak in a refugee center near Cologne](#), where the authorities said that more than 70 residents had tested positive for the virus
- [China's leader, Xi Jinping, defended his country's actions in a video address to the assembly on Monday](#). He also pledged \$2 billion to help fund the global public health body, one month after President Trump halted U.S. funding for the agency.
- [An Australian-led draft motion calling for an independent coronavirus inquiry is being supported by over 110 countries](#) ahead of this week's World Health Assembly,
- [The mayor of Brazil's largest city, São Paulo, has said its health system could collapse](#) as demand grows for emergency beds to deal with coronavirus cases.
- [Police cracked down on large anti-shutdown protests in cities across Germany over the weekend](#). Thousands of protesters took to the streets of the country's largest cities — Stuttgart, Cologne, Munich, Frankfurt and Berlin — to voice their anger with government restrictions on public life.
- [A UK coronavirus vaccine trial could deliver 30 million doses by September](#), according to the country's Business Secretary Alok Sharma.
- [Japan has fallen into a recession for the first time since 2015](#), as its already weakened economy was dragged down by the coronavirus's impact on businesses at home and abroad.
- [India recorded 5,242 new cases of Covid-19 in 24 hours](#) -- the country's biggest single-day spike in confirmed infections.
- [The World Bank estimates that global remittances will fall 20% in 2020 due to Covid-19](#) — cutting about \$100 billion from a vital source of funds for the world's poorest people.
- [The head of the World Health Organization, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said there is still a "long road to travel" in the world's response to Covid-19](#), with most countries showing a large portion of their population still uninfected.
- [WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said his agency will facilitate an independent review of its response to the coronavirus outbreak](#).

### **Notable Updates**

- The New York Times: [As States Reopen, Governors Balance Existing Risks With New Ones](#)
- CNN: [Governors perform balancing act to reopen US as nationwide Covid-19 death toll inches toward 90,000](#)
- CNBC: [Apple's retail reopening plan: Temperature checks, mandatory masks and 25 stores to reopen this week](#)
- Fox Business: [US auto industry to begin reopening plants in recovery from pandemic](#)
- Boston Herald: [Ticker: TCI talks pushed into fall; Maine campgrounds sue over closures](#)
- Mass Live: [Gov. Charlie Baker to announce coronavirus reopening plan for Massachusetts today](#)
- The Wall Street Journal: [No Swimming at New York City Beaches as Summer Nears](#)
- Fox Business: [Moderna's experimental coronavirus vaccine shows promise in early-stage study](#)
- CBS News: [Cuomo says no one should be prosecuted for coronavirus deaths in New York, including those in nursing homes](#)
- CNBC: [Coronavirus live updates: Market cheers positive vaccine news; WHO chief says 'long road to travel'](#)
- Fox Business: [Fed's Powell warns coronavirus recovery could stretch through end of 2021](#)
- CNBC: [WHO chief agrees to independent review of coronavirus response; warns majority of world still susceptible to virus](#)
- The New York Times: [China Defends Coronavirus Action at W.H.O. Meeting: Live Coverage](#)
- Axios: [Over 100 nations back Australia's coronavirus probe call at WHO talks](#)
- BBC: [Coronavirus: Hospitals in Brazil's São Paulo 'near collapse'](#)
- NPR: [Germans Protest Shutdown Even After Easing Of Coronavirus Restrictions](#)
- Fox News: [UK coronavirus vaccine trial could deliver 30 million doses by September, government says](#)
- CNN Business: ['I can't send money back home': How a lifeline for the world's poorest is being cut off due to Covid-19](#)
- CNBC: [Uber to cut 3,000 more jobs](#)

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

- CNN: [Trump officials deflect blame for US death toll, escalate reopening push](#)
- USA Today: [Is day care safe during the coronavirus pandemic? It depends. Here are some guidelines.](#)
- Fox Business: [These governors get failing grades for coronavirus economic response: Stephen Moore](#)
- Good Morning America: [Shopping post-pandemic: Nike, Ulta Beauty, Gap and more prep to reopen with new safety measures](#)
- The Washington Post: [Big Tech was first to send workers home. Now it's in no rush to bring them back.](#)

### **Stimulus/Bailout**

- Axios: [Fed chair: "There's no limit" to coronavirus stimulus response](#)
- Forbes: [GOP Dictates Slow Timeline For Next Stimulus Bill —And Shifting Priorities For What Will Be Included In It](#)
- The Washington Post: [\\$500 billion Treasury fund meant for coronavirus relief has lent barely any money so far, oversight commission finds](#)
- Forbes: [SBA Issues PPP Loan Forgiveness Guidance, A Few New Rules: What You Need To Know Now](#)
- The Hill: [Mark Cuban says PPP failed, calls for millions of contact tracers to be hired](#)
- CBS News: [Stimulus checks: Some Social Security recipients to get checks starting today](#)

### **Healthcare Response**

- Fox News: [Coronavirus vaccine might be available this year, but don't 'bank on it,' Johns Hopkins expert says](#)
- New York Post: [Bill Gates-backed coronavirus testing program put on hold by the FDA](#)
- Forbes: [Why Moderna Is Clearly Pulling Ahead In The COVID Vaccine Race](#)
- CBS News: [Researchers creating groundbreaking COVID-19 vaccine trial](#)
- CNBC: [Morgan Stanley sees 'millions of doses' of coronavirus vaccine available by the fall](#)
- The Washington Post: [Major nursing home chain violated federal standards meant to stop spread of disease even after start of covid-19, records show](#)
- The Wall Street Journal: [What We Know About Coronavirus Tests, Treatment and Vaccines](#)

### **Healthcare Official Guidance**

- The Guardian: [Former WHO board member warns world against coronavirus 'vaccine nationalism'](#)
- NPR: [Businesses, Schools Draw On CDC's Guidance To Reopen](#)

### **Federal Response**

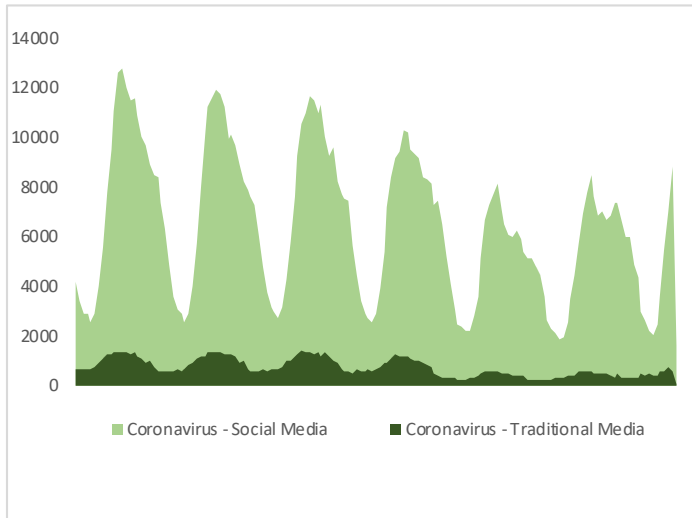
- CNN: [Senior CDC official rebukes White House trade adviser's criticism as tensions escalate over reopening strategy](#)
- Axios: [Scoop: Trump leans toward keeping total cut to WHO funding](#)
- CNBC: [Federal government should help states, cities and hospitals recover from coronavirus, Gary Cohn says](#)
- The Washington Post: [Top Trump official says country safe to reopen as governors stress social distancing](#)

### **State/Local Response**

- Forbes: [Cuomo Said Most Coronavirus Cases Are From People Staying At Home—Public Health Experts Have A Few Ideas Why](#)
- Fox News: [Colorado Gov. Polis pushes back against CDC's coronavirus death counts](#)
- CNN: [Newsom says California budget deficit is a direct result of Covid-19](#)
- Fox News: [De Blasio: NYC needs billions in federal aid or city economy 'won't come back'](#)

- The Wall Street Journal: [Cuomo Taps Private Advisers as Part of Coronavirus Response, Stirring Critics](#)

**Conversation over time (US, past 7 days):  
May 11 – May 18, 2020**

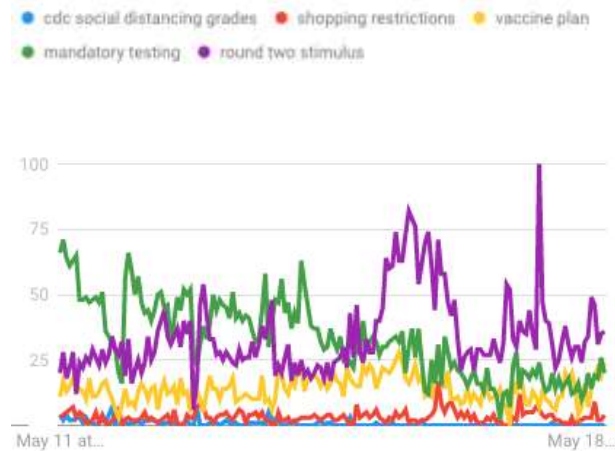


\*Note: overall mentions of COVID-19 have decreased by 1% since last week

**Over the past week, there have been 1.1M traditional media articles and social media posts related to COVID-19. Overall, conversation is down 1% since last week and the majority (90%) of conversation is driven by social media.**

- Top drivers of coverage for the week include news around the Heroes Act, changes in coronavirus cases since states lifted Stay-At-Home restrictions and key aspects of the Trump Administration's Pandemic Plan.
- Tweets, including a [post from ABC News](#), focuses on House and Senate officials introducing a bill to strengthen some of the key watchdog provisions of the \$2.3 trillion CARES Act. The bill would require the Small Business Administration to publicly report lenders and recipients in the Paycheck Protection Program.
- The [NY Times](#) expresses concerns of the possibility of social media being swelled with misinformation about a COVID-19 vaccine.
- The Washington Post shared an [article](#) that claims coronavirus cases are undercounted and reasons vary, according to Dr. Anthony S. Fauci.

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



Over the past week, there was a significant boost in search interest around ‘round two stimulus,’ as the House continues to vote on the Heroes Act.

- The recent spike in search popularity for ‘round two stimulus’ started on May 15<sup>th</sup>, as outlets like [Forbes](#) discussed key aspects of the Heroes Act like, extended hazard pay for essential and vital workers, an extension of COVID-19 unemployment benefits, a second round of one-time payment stimulus checks for all qualifying Americans and \$75 billion for coronavirus testing, tracing and isolation efforts.
- As conversation began to ramp up at the beginning of the week around the key aspects of the Heroes Act, ‘Mandatory testing’ searches spiked.

**Top hashtags^ and related content (This week, May 12<sup>th</sup> – May 18<sup>th</sup>):**

1. #ObamaGate	6. #FakeNews
2. #Pandemic	7. #HeroesAct
3. #KAG2020	8. #StayHome
4. #MAGA	9. #StaySafe
5. #lockdown	10. #Fauci

**Top hashtags^ and related content (Last week, May 5<sup>th</sup> – May 11<sup>th</sup>):**

6. #Trump	11. #lockdown
7. #pandemic	12. #Facemask
8. #CoronavirusOutbreak	13. #NationalNursesDay
9. #StayHome	14. #SocialDistancing
10. #COVIDIOTS	15. #OPENAMERICANOW

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

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Key dates:**

- 5/1/20: WHO extends its declaration of global health emergency

- 5/1/20: The White House announced that Dr Fauci will not be allowed to testify at a Congressional inquiry into the Trump Administration's handling of the coronavirus pandemic.
- 5/2/20: The FDA authorizes the use of Gilead Sciences's antiviral drug remdesivir for emergency use in hospitals.
- 5/7/20: United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Mark Lowcock appealed for \$4.7 billion in funding to top up its \$2 billion fund to help developing countries combat COVID-19.
- 5/8/20: The United States Department of Labor reported that the unemployment rate reached 14.7% in April, with an estimated 20.5 million jobs lost as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 5/11/20: The White House confirmed staff will be required to wear masks in the West Wing, after two staffer tested positive for coronavirus
- 5/12/20: Dr. Fauci and other health officials testify before Congress regarding reopening plans
- 5/15/20: The House to vote on \$3 trillion coronavirus aid package and historic rules change to allow for remote voting

#### 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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