

COVID-19 Issues Tracker & Top-Tier Coverage

NEWS UPDATES

Friday, May 1, 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 63,766 deaths reported. Notable new cases include:
 - [The USNS Comfort departed NYC's pier yesterday afternoon after serving the city's influx of coronavirus patients since March 30.](#) It is heading back to its homeport in Norfolk, VA
 - [The temporary field hospital set up inside the Jacob Javitz Center in NYC will also close today](#) as the last dozen patients are scheduled to be discharged. 1,000 patients were treated at the facility over the last month
- Notable new companies / organizations / states in favor of reopening the economy are:
 - [Utah Governor Gary Herbert announced that dine-in restaurants, gyms, barbershops and nail salons will reopen today.](#) He also said that people will now be able to gather in groups of up to 20 people
 - [Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson announced that gyms will reopen on May 4.](#) All staff and gym-goers will be screened upon entering. Those who have recently traveled to New York, New Jersey, New Orleans and overseas will not be allowed in
 - [Ford Motors outlined safety measures it will institute for the most profitable U.S. plants amid the coronavirus pandemic,](#) convincing leaders of the United Auto Workers union to send members back to work
 - [NASCAR announced that it will reopen on May 17 with a Cup Series race at Darlington Raceway in South Carolina, one of four it hopes to run without fans during the month of May.](#) This would make it the first major U.S. sporting series to return to competition after being suspended due to the coronavirus outbreak
- Notable new companies announcing layoffs/furloughs in the U.S. are:
 - After announcing on Wednesday that they would be slashing 16,000 jobs due to a \$1.7 billion operating loss, [Boeing states it won't need a federal bailout, it's raising \\$25 billion through a bond offering.](#)
 - [J Crew is filing for bankruptcy, working to secure \\$400 million in financing to fund operations.](#) The coronavirus outbreak brought devastating economic loss to the already struggling retail chain
- Notable new companies halting production:
 - [Tyson is closing another one of their plants, this time in Logansport, IN after nearly 900 workers test positive for the coronavirus.](#) They will be closed over the weekend for a mandatory facilities cleaning
- New states with restrictions to “non-essential” business or implementing “shelter-in-place” policies are:
 - New York Governor Andrew Cuomo announced today that [all New York schools will remain closed for the rest of the academic year](#)
 - [Ohio Governor Mike DeWine will extend his state's stay-at-home order that was set to expire today.](#) However, dentists and veterinarians can reopen today. Manufacturers, distributors, construction and general office environments are allowed to reopen on May 4
 - [Minnesota Governor Tim Walz extends his state's stay-at-home order until May 18.](#) There will be some flexibility allowing some retailers to operate curbside pick-up or delivery for customers
- New York Governor Andrew Cuomo announced that [NYC will shut down overnight Subway service from 1am-5am beginning May 6 to help clean and disinfect all subway cars every 24 hours](#)

- [President Trump contradicted a statement from his own intelligence committee](#) claiming that he has seen evidence that gives him a "high degree of confidence" the coronavirus originated in a laboratory in Wuhan, China, but declined to provide details to back up his claim
- [Trump's administration is working on a long-term plan to punish China and place blame on them for the coronavirus pandemic.](#) The plans consist of using sanctions, canceling US debt obligations and drawing up new trade policies
- [Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is looking to reopen the Senate as early as next week,](#) but Dr. Brian Monahan, the Capitol's attending physician, said that there aren't enough coronavirus tests for all 100 senators
- [30 million Americans have now filed for unemployment since mid-March.](#) First-time claims for unemployment benefits totaled 3.8 million in the last week. This represents roughly 18.6% of the US labor force
- [JP Morgan Chase and Bank of America said on Thursday that they submitted nearly half a million applications worth almost \\$46 billion](#) to the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program for small businesses hurt by the coronavirus outbreak
- [Delta, American and Frontlines airlines join JetBlue airlines in implementing a mandatory mask wearing protocol for all passengers](#) starting May 4
- [Shell, one of the world's largest oil companies slashed their dividend for the first time since World War II](#) as oil demand continues to fall. It posted a net loss of \$24 million for the first quarter of 2020, compared with a profit of \$6 billion in the same period a year ago
- [Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos warns that they could see a loss in the second quarter due to \\$4 billion in coronavirus outbreak costs.](#) They are still looking to hire \$175,000 employees and raise hourly wages by \$2 as well as overtime pay while outraged employees have demanded better protection

International News

- According to global COVID-19 [trackers and official counts](#), there are at least 3.27 million cases confirmed globally in over 177 countries with at least 234,000 deaths. Notable new cases include:
 - [Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin has tested positive for the coronavirus](#) and will self-isolate
 - [Australian capital Canberra declares itself free of all known coronavirus cases,](#) the first time in seven weeks
 - [There are over 2,100 Indian citizens that want to be evacuated from the U.S.](#) but they are stranded until India lifts its coronavirus lockdown
 - [Japan's low testing rate is raising questions on why their confirmed coronavirus cases are so low.](#) Since February, only 10,981 people have been tested for the coronavirus. Of those, just over 4,000 were positive.
- According to a research study, [more ethnic minorities are dying at a higher rate from the coronavirus than their white counterparts in England and Wales](#)
- [U.K. bakery giant Greggs is postponing reopening its stores after initially pushing for the stores to open next week.](#) They now fear that the stores reopening will draw large crowds and they will be unable to operate effectively with social distancing measures
- Tensions escalate in Russia as medical facilities in the country have emerged as one of the main breeding grounds for the coronavirus and two dozen hospitals have had to shut down for long quarantines, with many doctors getting infected. [Russia's total number of reported coronavirus cases surpassed 100,000](#)
- [India's Government is likely to cap its overall spending on coronavirus-related relief at around \\$60 billion,](#) due to concerns that excess spending could trigger a sovereign rating downgrade
- [South Korea's Health Minister proclaims that the country is beating the coronavirus without a major lockdown](#) by robust public health response based around extensive testing and tech-powered contact tracing to keep their citizens safe
- [China is spearheading the way for how the coronavirus has changed global business forever.](#) Global companies like Nike, Starbucks and Disney are developing new strategies that won't bring life back to normal. Instead, they say the crisis could permanently upend the way we work, shop and manage our businesses

- [In Norway, they plan to temporarily ease tax rules for oil firms to try to aid in the coronavirus pandemic](#) with crude oil prices collapsing. This plan could boost the liquidity of oil companies by as much as \$9.7 billion until next year

Notable Updates:

- NBC News: [USNS Comfort Gets Salute From NYPD, FDNY as It Exits New York City](#)
- ABC News: [Coronavirus News: Javits Center hospital closing after treating more than 1,000 amid COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- Daily Herald: [Utah to allow reopening of restaurants, gyms, other sites](#)
- CBS News: [Arkansas gyms allowed to reopen May 4th with restrictions](#)
- Reuters: [Ford wants to restart U.S. car plants shut by coronavirus, if it can convince union](#)
- Fox News: [NASCAR announces return to the track on May 17](#)
- CNN: [Boeing is raising \\$25 billion and says it doesn't need a federal bailout](#)
- CNBC: [J. Crew is preparing for a bankruptcy filing that could come this weekend](#)
- Fox News: [Nearly 900 workers at Tyson Foods plant in Indiana test positive for coronavirus](#)
- NBC News: [Cuomo: All New York Schools Closed Rest of Academic Year, Daily Deaths Hit New Low](#)
- Fox News: [Ohio extends stay-at-home order with exceptions as businesses set to reopen](#)
- Star Tribune: [Minnesotans to get two more weeks of stay-at-home, but with new flexibility](#)
- The New York Times: [NYC Subway Will Halt Overnight Service Due to Virus](#)
- CNN: [Trump contradicts US intel community by claiming he's seen evidence coronavirus originated in Chinese lab](#)
- CNN: [Trump administration draws up plans to punish China over coronavirus outbreak](#)
- MSNBC: [Reopening the Senate, Mitch McConnell takes a big risk](#)
- CNN: [30 million Americans have filed initial unemployment claims since mid-March](#)
- Reuters: [Biggest U.S. banks says they submitted \\$45.8 billion in loans for emergency aid program](#)
- CNN: [American, Delta, Frontier to require passengers to wear face masks](#)
- CNN: [Shell cuts dividend for first time since World War II as oil demand collapses](#)
- The Daily Mail: [Jeff Bezos says Amazon could LOSE money this quarter as he commits to spending \\$4 billion on coronavirus-related costs and tells shareholders 'you may want to take a seat'](#)
- CNN: [Russian Prime Minister tests positive for Covid-19](#)
- Fox News: [Australian capital is free of all known coronavirus cases, as infections continue to dwindle](#)
- CNN: [Over 2,100 Indians want to be evacuated from the US. But until India's lockdown lifts, they're stranded](#)
- BBC: [Coronavirus: Japan's low testing rate raises questions](#)
- CNN: [Ethnic minorities in England and Wales dying from coronavirus at higher rates than white peers, study suggests](#)
- The Guardian: [Greggs postpones reopening UK bakery stores](#)
- CNN: [Anger rises among Russia's doctors as coronavirus hospitals get put on lockdown](#)
- The New York Times: [Exclusive: India Set to Cap Stimulus Package at \\$60 Billion to Protect Credit Rating, Sources Say](#)
- Time: [South Korea's Health Minister on How His Country Is Beating Coronavirus Without a Lockdown](#)
- CNN: [Lessons from China: How global business has changed forever](#)
- Reuters: [Norway plans temporary tax relief for oil firms](#)

Reopening Economy/ Response Plans

- CNN: [Most US states are reopening within days but some need time 'to remain vigilant'](#)
- Forbes: [Business Guide To Reopening: Thrive In The Economic Recovery](#)

- Business Insider: [How Starbucks plans to reopen 90% of stores by June and what the new normal for its coffee shops will look like](#)
- CNN: [States warned against 'leapfrogging' on coronavirus reopening guidelines](#)
- Market Watch: [My state is reopening restaurants and movie theaters. Am I selfish if I go, or am I selfish if I stay home?](#)
- CNN: [State openings bring risks and huge stakes for America -- and Trump](#)
- CNBC: [Reopening America: A state-by-state breakdown of the status of coronavirus restrictions](#)
- The Wall Street Journal: [Meat Companies Want to Reopen, but Officials Fear New Wave of Coronavirus Infections](#)
- CNBC: [The biggest US mall owner prepares to reopen 49 properties. Here's how that will work](#)
- CNN: [Fauci says states should have 'wiggle room' on reopening but cautions: 'Don't wiggle too much'](#)

Stimulus/ Bailout

- Reuters: [For small business loan program, forgiveness may be the hardest part](#)
- CNBC: [Ex-TARP watchdog says Washington is to blame for large companies receiving small business loans](#)
- The New York Times: [How Lobbyists Robbed Small Business Relief Loans](#)
- The Washington Post: [Despite the rocky publicity, the small-business loan program is really working](#)
- Business Insider: [Small businesses got hundreds of millions of dollars in coronavirus loans that are supposed to be forgivable. Now comes the hard part.](#)
- Forbes: [What Savers Need From A Second Stimulus Bill](#)
- The Hill: [76 lawmakers urge emergency funding for mental health in next coronavirus stimulus package](#)
- Forbes: [The Smartest Ways To Use Your Stimulus Check](#)

Healthcare Response

- The Daily Mail: [Gilead can make enough doses of its antiviral remdesivir to treat 140,000 coronavirus patients by the end of May and 'several million' by next year after trial shows 'promising results'](#)
- The Washington Post: [Administration describes a dash for a coronavirus vaccine that would be available in January](#)
- CNN: [In quest for vaccine, US makes 'big bet' on company with unproven technology](#)
- Yahoo! News: [Trump wants to deliver 300 million doses of coronavirus vaccine by the end of the year. Is that even possible?](#)
- The New York Times: [Find a Vaccine. Next: Produce 300 Million Vials of It.](#)
- Business Insider: [Bill Gates thinks there are 8 to 10 promising coronavirus vaccine candidates and one could be ready in as little as 9 months](#)
- Bloomberg: [Vaccine Leader Signs Deal for 1 Billion Covid-19 Doses a Year](#)
- NPR: [A Next-Generation Coronavirus Test Raises Hopes And Concerns](#)
- Fox News: [WHO: 102 potential coronavirus vaccines in the works](#)
- The New York Times: [What if We Already Have a Coronavirus Vaccine?](#)

Health Official Guidance

- CNN: [Coronavirus symptoms: 10 key indicators and what to do](#)
- NPR: [Fauci Says It's 'Doable' To Have Millions Of Doses Of COVID-19 Vaccine By January](#)
- CNN: [CDC's draft guidance for reopening amid coronavirus includes spaced-out seating in schools, disposable menus in restaurants](#)
- CNN: [Expert report predicts up to two more years of pandemic misery](#)
- CNN: [Read this before you venture out in public](#)

Food & Agriculture Response

- DelmarvaNow: [Chicken industry working to keep workers safe, feed people](#): Column (Author: Mike Brown, President, National Chicken Council)
- Bloomberg: [There Is Plenty of Chicken to Make Up for Shortages of Red Meat](#)
- Bloomberg: [Meat Plants to Reopen in 'Days Not Weeks,' USDA Boss Says](#)
- The Guardian: [US consumers empty shelves amid concerns over Covid-19 meat shortages](#)
- Daily Mail: [America's meat crisis laid bare: Shelves across the country sit empty after processing plants were forced to shut due to COVID-19 with 900 workers - or 40% of its workforce - testing positive at one facility](#)
- Restaurant Dive: [McDonald's primes supply chain for potential meat shortage](#)

Federal Response

- CNN: [Here are the government watchdog investigations into the federal coronavirus response](#)
- ABC News: [Coronavirus government response updates: Trump declares May 'Older Americans Month'](#)
- The Washington Post: [Coronavirus offers another lens on how Trump's politics works](#)
- ABC News: [Trump admin pulls NIH grant for coronavirus research over ties to Wuhan lab at heart of conspiracy theories](#)
- The New York Times: [Trump and Kushner Engage in Revisionist History in Boasting of Success Over Virus](#)
- NPR: [Trump Announces Panel To Look At Nursing Home Responses To Coronavirus Outbreak](#)
- ABC News: [Coronavirus government response updates: Trump calls US death totals 'very, very strong'](#)
- The New York Post: [Gov. Murphy praises Trump's coronavirus response during Oval Office visit](#)
- The Washington Examiner: ['A lie': Musk accuses federal government of misleading public over coronavirus death classifications](#)

State/Local Response

- CNN: [Arkansas Foodbank distribution event runs out of food early because of demand](#)
- The Hill: [Maryland governor says coronavirus tests acquired from South Korea under guard at undisclosed location](#)
- CNN: [Michigan governor extends state of emergency after lawmakers refuse to lengthen disaster declaration](#)
- USA Today: [Itching to visit Las Vegas again? MGM Resorts says these Strip hotels will reopen first](#)
- CNN: [Protesters pour into Michigan Capitol calling for end of state of emergency](#)
- The Guardian: [Politics drive Georgia's reopening gamble as coronavirus cases rise](#)
- CNN: [Georgia governor suspends road test requirement for driver's licenses due to coronavirus pandemic](#)
- NorthJersey.com: [After meeting with Trump, Gov. Murphy says testing supplies, PPE is on the way to NJ](#)
- The Hartford Courant: [Connecticut has one of the nation's highest coronavirus death tolls. Here's why.](#)
- Fox News: [California has list of outdoor activities still permissible during coronavirus, gets panned on social media](#)

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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