

# Groton Daily Independent

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Chicken Soup  
for the Soul

“NEVER  
SETTLE FOR  
ANYTHING  
LESS THAN  
YOU WANT.”

-PJ HARVEY

## COVID-19 CASES

	Mar. 20	Mar. 21	Mar. 22	Mar. 23	Mar. 24
Minnesota	115	137	169	235	262
Nebraska	27	42	50	52	61
Montana	15	27	34	45	51
Colorado	277	475	591	720	912
Wyoming	18	24	26	28	33
North Dakota	26	28	30	32	36
South Dakota	14	14	21	28	30
United States		15,219	33,276	43,963	54,812
US Deaths		201	417	560	780

**The Groton Fireman Fun Night scheduled for April 25th is canceled. If you have already purchased a ticket you will be refunded. Contact the person that sold you the ticket or call Patti Woods. Thank you for your support and stay safe and stay home and enjoy your families!**

## **OPEN:** Recycling Trailer in Groton

**The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.**

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**The lockers have been emptied and students and/or parents will be collecting them today. The Groton Area Elementary School commons area is the venue for parents to stop over and pick up their children's items. They are all placed in a bag and on tables in the commons. The middle/high school pickup is in the GYS Gym.**

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

## Spring Sports cancelled through May 3rd

In response to Governor Noem's direction of school closure through May 1st, all SDHSAA spring sports practices and competitions are cancelled through Sunday, May 3rd.

The SDHSAA Board of Directors will meet in coming days to decide on the 2020 Spring Sports season, as well as the suspended/postponed events of State Basketball, Visual Arts, Region Music, and All-State Band. That agenda will be posted to the SDHSAA website when it is finalized and advanced notice of the meeting will be given per South Dakota Codified Law. The meeting will be held via teleconference and will be live streamed for the public.

Any questions may be directed to SDHSAA Executive Director Dan Swartos.

We thank everyone for their patience during this unprecedented period.

- Dan Swartos, SDHSAA Executive Director

## HHS Announces Grants to Provide Meals for Older Adults in South Dakota

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is announcing \$250 million in grants from the Administration for Community Living (ACL) to help communities provide meals for older adults. South Dakota received a grant for \$1,200,000.

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act, signed into law by President Trump on March 18, 2020, provided the additional funding for the nutrition services programs authorized by the Older Americans Act (OAA) of 1965. These programs provide meals to more than 2.4 million older adults each year, both through home delivery and in places like community centers. The need for these services, particularly home-delivered and packaged meals, has increased as community measures to slow transmission of COVID-19 have closed meal sites and have left many family caregivers unable to assist their older loved ones.

"The Trump Administration recognizes that the measures needed to protect older Americans from the serious threat of COVID-19 have been disruptive for many of our most vulnerable," said HHS Secretary Alex Azar. "Getting more funds to community organizations that deliver meals to older adults, such as Meals on Wheels, is another example of the Trump Administration's whole-of-government, whole-of-America approach to combating the COVID-19 pandemic."

In addition to meals, Older Americans Act programs provide a wide range of services, such as help with bathing and dressing, rides to doctors' offices, education on managing chronic illnesses, support for family caregivers, and much more. Provided by a network of community-based organizations, such as Area Agencies on Aging, local community and senior centers, faith-based organizations, and other non-profit service providers, these programs work together to help millions of older adults each year stay healthy and continue living independently.

"The network of community-based organizations that provide Older Americans Act services has an exceptional capacity to coordinate services, bring together service providers, and adapt to overcome challenges, and they are employing innovative solutions to continue meal services," said ACL Administrator Lance Robertson. "This additional funding will help communities across the country provide older adults, especially those at greatest risk, with the healthy meals they need."

Funding has been provided to states, territories, and tribes for subsequent allocation to local meal providers. Grant amounts are determined based on the population-based formulas defined in the Older Americans Act.

Older adults who need assistance can contact the Eldercare Locator to find services available in their community. The Eldercare Locator can be reached at 1-800-677-1116 or <https://eldercare.acl.gov/>.

## South Dakota Public Universities Move Rest of Semester Online

PIERRE, S.D. – As COVID-19 further impacts this state and region, the South Dakota Board of Regents, and the six public universities and two special schools it governs, must adjust operations accordingly.

Effective immediately, all public university courses will continue by remote delivery through the remainder of the spring semester. Face-to-face instruction will not resume. The spring 2020 semester is scheduled to end May 8.

Students attending South Dakota School for the Blind & Visually Impaired will work with teachers remotely through Friday, May 1, consistent with state directives for other K-12 schools. Outreach visits have been suspended at both SDSBVI and South Dakota School for the Deaf. Audiology clinics will be closed until further notice.

Because state officials anticipate an increase in COVID-19 infections, presidents at all South Dakota public university campuses have made the difficult decision to postpone spring 2020 commencement ceremonies. Further details will be shared as new plans are confirmed.

The public universities' priority is to ensure that instruction continues through the remainder of the spring semester. No tuition or fees will be adjusted unless a student withdraws completely from the university on or before March 28, or the institution is unable to deliver a course online.

Students may qualify for credits to their accounts in the following areas:

- 50% housing credit, except for those students approved for emergency housing at the close of the extended spring break;
- Pro-rated credit for meal plans not utilized and full credit on unused flex dollars;
- Pro-rated credit for parking permits, equal to 50% of the spring semester.

Please refer to university-specific news releases and websites to stay up to date on the status of campus operations.

The South Dakota Board of Regents is the constitutional governing body for Black Hills State University, Dakota State University, Northern State University, South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, South Dakota State University, University of South Dakota, South Dakota School for the Blind & Visually Impaired, and South Dakota School for the Deaf.



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## Covid-19 Update by Marie Miller

The numbers continued to climb today. We're over 50,000 cases in the US with 53,478, a 24% increase. Just 10 states account for 80% of these cases; they are NY – 25,665, NJ – 3675, CA – 2516, WA – 2335, MI – 1783, IL – 1535, FL – 1456, LA – 1388, MA – 1159, and GA – 1097. While these are mostly fairly densely populated states, places where respiratory spread would be considered more likely, this is not true for all of them. We have 6 states with over 500 cases, another 15 over 200, 8 + DC over 100, 6 over 50, and 5 + PR, GU, and VI over 10. No state remains in single digits.

There have been 714 deaths, again, over 80% of these in those same 10 states. Another 25 states + DC, PR, and GU account for the rest. First deaths were reported today in HI and IA. There are still 15 states + VI which have not had a death from this infection. That will change in coming days.

There is news on the science front: Molecular geneticists studying hundreds of samples of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, have been comparing these samples and are concluding the virus does not appear to be mutating. If it were, that would mean immunity developing from an infection or from a vaccine would not last very long. Turns out this virus has a "proofreading" mechanism that reduces the error rate when it replicates inside your cells; this reduces the rate of mutations, which generally are the result of replication errors. They are also questioning an earlier conclusion that there are two distinct strains; they're not seeing this. That's another sign it might not be particularly prone to mutation. This makes it considerably easier to deal with in the long haul.

Also, I've read a preprint of a report on data from China; the article has been peer-reviewed, but is not yet published. The report is from study of around 2000 pediatric patients, one-third confirmed and two-thirds suspected cases of Covid-19. The range of effects in these children was from no symptoms at all to death in one case (14 year-old). The conclusion drawn was simply that children can be infected, and that infants seem more likely to be infected than older children. The authors did mention that, because so many of these were not confirmed, it is possible some of these cases may have been respiratory infections other than Covid-19, which makes it more difficult to draw solid conclusions. They did speculate as to why children have had so few serious cases, but drew no firm conclusions about that.

There is other news on the order of a cautionary tale. A married couple at higher risk for infection, having heard mention of chloroquine as a drug that can prevent Covid-19, decided to take matters into their own hands and dosed themselves with a chloroquine phosphate-containing fish tank cleaning product intended to protect fish from parasites. They became ill almost immediately, and the man has died. The woman is still ill. The lesson here is DO NOT self-medicate. There's a reason doctors and pharmacists go to school all those years; you must leave medication decisions to the professionals. And don't eat things which were not meant to be ingested by humans.

I read an interview with Tom Inglesby, a physician who is advising Maryland's governor during this pandemic. He says Asia lowered the pandemic's pace by properly using social distancing and cautioned us that it takes time to see results from these measures—a minimum of three weeks in Wuhan, China. He also responded to hints we may be considering cutting those measures short, saying that this would absolutely be the wrong direction to go. Inglesby says, before we relax these measures, there is a need for more doctors and more personal protective equipment such as gowns, masks, and ventilators, also for airport screening and a serologic test to identify those who've been infected and recovered. That test would look in the blood for antibodies to the virus, a sign the person has had an immune response.

I also read an interview with Bruce Aylward, senior advisor to the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) about the outlook worldwide. He explained that, because China and much of Asia is on the far side of their waves of cases, many western countries are still in exponential growth, and the pandemic is just getting started in Africa and India (although growth is already exponential in these places), we're probably six months from this wave receding all over the world. He expressed some concern about the fact that six months from now coincides with the beginning of the next flu season.

He indicated he thinks the most likely outcome after that is that the disease will return in cyclical waves or simply remain in the population at low levels, something we'll have to learn to live with. Neither of these

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is particularly desirable. He says a lot depends on what we do, recommending we test every case and isolate rapidly, which should be able to keep the virus in check without shutting everything down periodically. His opinion is that, if we rely on big shutdowns without finding every case, the virus will just come back every time we let up on restrictions. He's big on using our time wisely; indicated we did not use the lead time provided by the warnings from China well, but that we've now bought more time with these social distancing measures and need to use that better—getting testing in place and getting systems in place so we can manage individual level cases, which will be foundational to stopping this. The virus can outwait us, so delaying it now without taking steps to deal more effectively with it later would be a serious mistake. If we take these steps right now, we can limit the economic impact by preventing the need for further shutdowns later. Who doesn't want that?

Dr. Aylward believes the only countries doing anything like enough testing are China, South Korea, and Singapore and that we must get it together on this front; he pointed out that 10% of the people in ICU beds in Italy are in their 20s, 30s, and 40s, so no one is free of risk. He suggested messaging to young, healthy people who've felt the distancing measures shouldn't apply to them that everyone is a part of transmission chains and can put people, including themselves, in danger. This isn't going away by magic; it's going to require pitching in.

So we're beginning to see the outlines of a way forward. Overcoming this will depend on persistence with social distancing and shelter-in-place policies, as well as more adherence to those policies from the population. It will also depend on getting our testing capacity ramped up to an appropriate level as quickly as possible and excellent case management in the future. Tall order, but we're up to it if we have the will. At the moment, we simply need to endure the pain and work like crazy so that we're ready for what comes next. We need to get through the next year or two in reasonable order until there is an effective vaccine available. That means everyone must step up.

I hope you're doing well, staying home, exercising precautions, and staying healthy. Take care.

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## COVID-19 IN SOUTH DAKOTA

There are two new cases in South Dakota. One in Brookings County that is travel related and one in Beadle County. Two more individuals are fully recovered.

### SOUTH DAKOTA CASE COUNTS

Test Results	# of Cases
Positive*	30
Negative**	790
Pending***	268

\*Positive test results are no longer required to be sent to the CDC for confirmation.

\*\*The negative test results above represent testing conducted by the South Dakota Public Health Laboratory. It does not include results from private laboratories. Those results will be included as they become available.

\*\*\*Tests currently pending at the South Dakota Public Health Lab.

### COVID-19 IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Number of Cases	30
Deaths	1
Recovered	8

### SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases
Male	19
Female	11

### SD COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF COVID-19 CASES

County	# of Cases
Beadle	13
Bon Homme	1
Brown	1
Brookings	1
Charles Mix	1
Codington	1
Davison	2
Hughes	1
Lyman	1
McCook	2
Minnehaha	5
Pennington	1

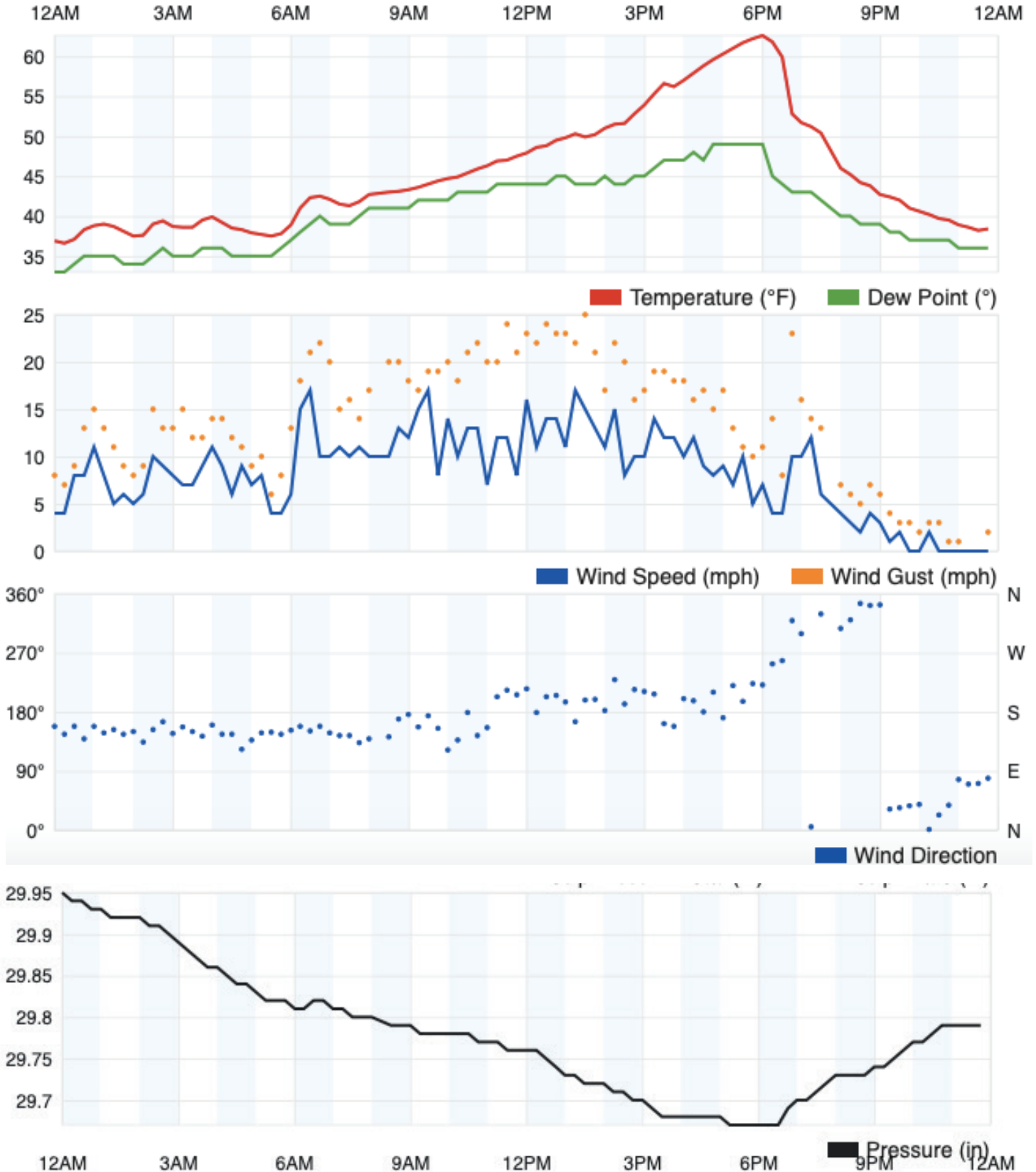
### AGE GROUP OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Age Range	# of Cases
0 to 19 years	2
20 to 29 years	4
30 to 39 years	5
40 to 49 years	4
50 to 59 years	8
60 to 69 years	6
70 to 79 years	1
80+ years	0

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs





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Today



Snow Likely

High: 34 °F

Tonight



Partly Cloudy

Low: 24 °F

Thursday



Slight Chance  
Snow then  
Chance  
Rain/Snow

High: 40 °F

Thursday  
Night



Mostly Cloudy

Low: 29 °F

Friday




Partly Sunny  
then Slight  
Chance Rain

High: 49 °F

## Today


Rain Turning Mostly to Snow  
Most areas will receive less than 1", although a narrow band of 1-2" is possible across central and east central South Dakota




**Highs in the 30s**

## Thursday

Light Snow Turning to Mostly Rain  
Snow accumulations are expected to be light.



**Highs in the 30s to low 40s**

 National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

3/25/2020 5:20 AM

A couple systems will affect the region today and Thursday. The first one is presently producing precipitation across portions of South Dakota. Initially, most locations will be seeing rain, but this should transition to mostly snow throughout the morning. Most locations will see less than an inch of snow, although there could be a narrow band of 1-2" with maybe even isolated 3" amounts. The second system on Thursday will start as snow and transition to rain. Accumulations are expected to be light with maybe up to an inch in central South Dakota.

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## Today in Weather History

March 25, 2009: Rapid snowmelt and ice jamming caused the Elm River near Westport to rise -above flood stage on March 20th. The Elm River reached an all-time record level of 22.69 feet on March 25th almost 9 feet above flood stage. The previous record was 22.11 feet set on April 10th, 1969. The flood stage for the Elm River at Westport is 14 feet. The city of Westport was evacuated with the flood waters causing damage to many homes and roads in and around Westport. Also, many other roads and agricultural and pastureland along the river were flooded. The Elm River slowly receded and fell below flood stage on March 30th. The flood waters from the Elm River flowed south and into the northern portion of Moccasin Creek. Subsequently, the Moccasin Creek rose as the water flowed south into the city of Aberdeen. Flooding became a concern for Aberdeen and areas along the creek north of Aberdeen. The Governor signed an emergency declaration which allowed the state to help with flood response efforts, including sending 50,000 sandbags to the area. Also, the National Guard was activated to move a variety of heavy equipment. Some sandbagging and a falling Elm River kept the Moccasin Creek from causing any significant flooding in and north of Aberdeen. The creek flooded some township and county roads.

1901: More than 20 people were killed by an estimated F3 tornado that moved across parts of Birmingham, Alabama. The twister cut a 15-mile path from the south side of the city to Avondale and Irondale.

1935: Suffocating dust storms frequently occurred in southeast Colorado between the 12th and the 25th of the month. Six people died, and many livestock starved or suffocated. Up to six feet of dust covered the ground. Schools were closed, and tenants deserted many rural homes.

1992: Hailstones up to four inches in diameter resulted in more than \$60 million in damage in Orlando, Florida. This storm is still the costliest Florida hailstorm on record.

1843 - A second great snowstorm hit the northeastern U.S. The storm produced snow from Maine all the way to the Gulf of Mexico. Natchez MS received three inches of snow, and up to 15 inches buried eastern Tennessee. Coastal Maine received 204 inches of snow that winter. (David Ludlum)

1914 - Society Hill, SC, was buried under 18 inches of snow, establishing a state record. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1934 - A spring storm produced 21 inches of snow at Amarillo TX in 24 hours. However, much of the snow melted as it fell, and as a result, the snow cover was never any deeper than 4.5 inches. (David Ludlum)

1948 - For the second time in less than a week airplanes were destroyed by a tornado at Tinker AFB in Oklahoma City OK. A March 20th tornado destroyed fifty planes at Tinker AFB causing more than ten million dollars damage, and the March 25th tornado destroyed another thirty-five planes causing six million dollars damage. The first tornado struck without warning, and caused more damage than any previous tornado in the state of Oklahoma. The second tornado was predicted by Fawbush and Miller of the United States Air Force, and their accurate tornado forecast ushered in the modern era of severe weather forecasting. (The Weather Channel) (Storm Data) (The National Severe Storms Forecast Center)

1975 - The town of Sandberg reported a wind gust to 101 mph, a record for the state of California. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Heavy rain left rivers and streams swollen in Kansas and Nebraska, causing considerable crop damage due to flooding of agricultural areas. The Saline River near Wilson Reservoir in central Kansas reached its highest level since 1951. March rainfall at Grand Island NE exceeded their previous record of 5.57 inches. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - An early season heat wave prevailed in the southwestern U.S. The high of 93 degrees at Tucson, AZ, was a new record for March. Windy conditions prevailed across the central and eastern U.S. Winds gusted to 60 mph at Minneapolis MN, and reached 120 mph atop Rendezvous Peak WY. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

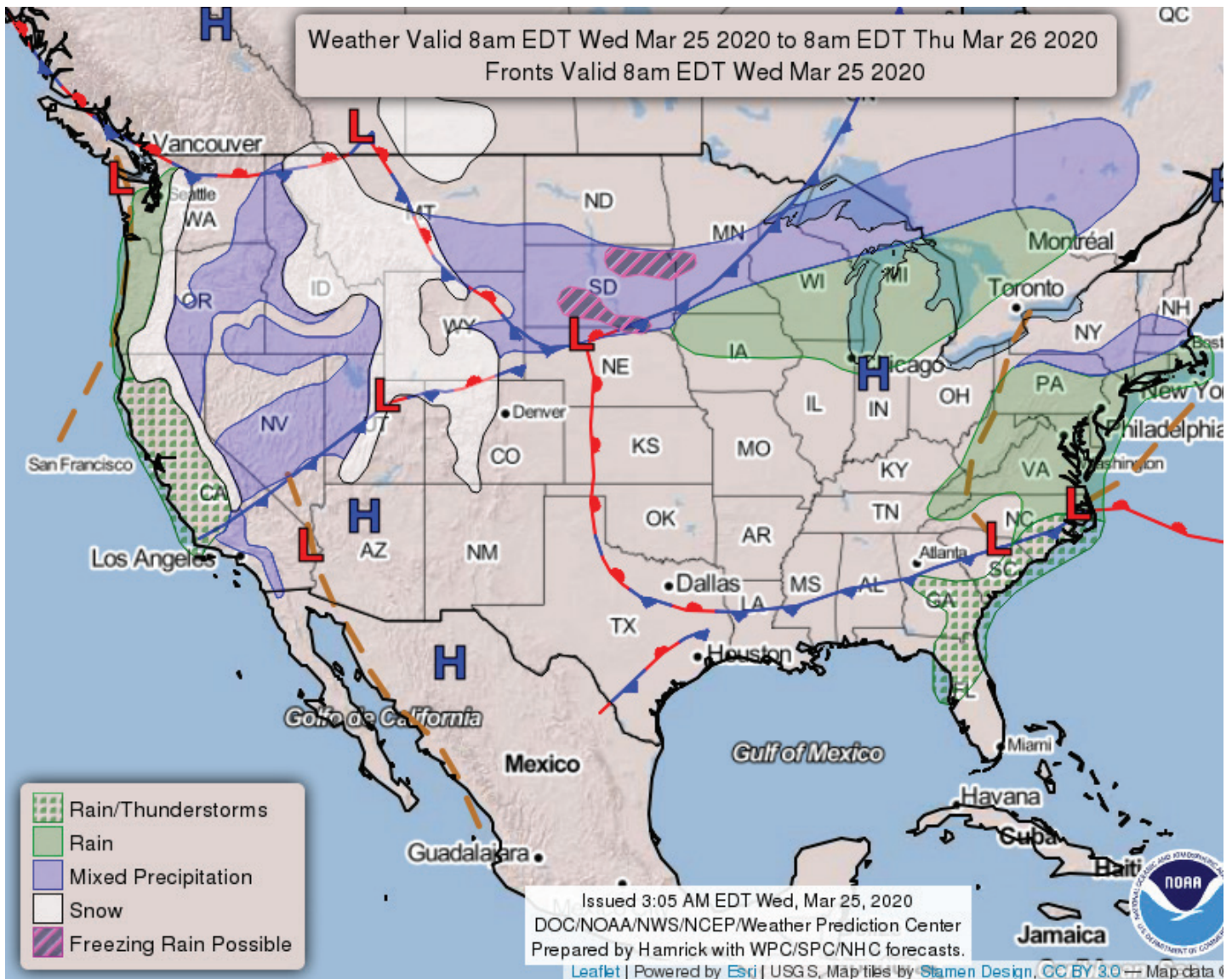
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp: 63 °F at 6:04 PM**  
**Low Temp: 37 °F at 12:12 AM**  
**Wind: 25 mph at 6:50 AM**  
**Snow**

**Record High:** 81° in 1925  
**Record Low:** -10° in 1894  
**Average High:** 45°F  
**Average Low:** 24°F  
**Average Precip in March.:** 0.84  
**Precip to date in March.:** 0.00  
**Average Precip to date:** 1.86  
**Precip Year to Date:** 0.35  
**Sunset Tonight:** 7:54 p.m.  
**Sunrise Tomorrow:** 7:24 a.m.





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## TRUSTING THE PLAN

Years ago I would watch my mother embroider beautiful napkins, pillowcases, and tablecloths. She would spend hours working within a small "hoop" that stretched the fabric tight so she could follow the pattern. She would work with one color of thread at a time until she finished that part of the pattern. Then, she would move to the next part of the pattern and begin again.

If I looked underneath the "hoop," I would see many knots and dangling threads that made no sense at all. It looked like a real mess. When I looked carefully at the top side of the "hoop," however, I would eventually see a pattern emerge that followed the plan of an artist. And, when the product was finished, it was beautiful.

There are times when it seems as though life is made up of "many knots and dangling threads." No matter where we look, nothing makes any sense at all. We feel forced to cry out, "Lord, what are You doing?" or "Where are you taking me?" or "I want to give up!" or "What's happening?" or "Have you no plan for me, God?"

When times are tough, we must turn to and trust in His Word: "I know the plans I have for you?Plans for good and not for evil?to give you a future and a hope!" Look for the pattern. It's there!

Prayer: Lord, when days are dark and the path is perilous, let us sense Your presence and trust Your plan. Help us to see our lives through Your eyes! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

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## 2020 Groton SD Community Events

- 04/04/2020 Groton Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt - City Park (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
  - 04/04/2020 Dueling Piano's Baseball Fundraiser at the American Legion
  - **CANCELLED** Fireman's Fun Night (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
  - 04/25-26/2020 Front Porch 605 Rural Route Road Trip
  - 04/26/2020 Father/Daughter dance.
  - 05/02/2020 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales, (1st Saturday in May)
  - 05/11/2020 Girls High School Golf Meet at Olive Grove Golf Course
  - 05/25/2020 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services
  - 06/05/2020 Athletic Fundraiser at Olive Grove Golf Course
  - 06/8-10/2020 St. John's VBS
  - 06/19/2020 SDSU Golf at Olive Grove Golf Course
  - 06/20/2020 Shriner's Golf Tournament at Olive Grove Golf Course
  - 06/22/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Ladies Invitational
  - 06/26/2020 Groton Businesses Golf Tournament at Olive Grove Golf Course
  - 07/04/2020 Firecracker Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
  - 07/12/2020 Summer Fest/Car Show
  - 07/16/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Pro Am Golf Tourney
  - 07/31-08/04/2020 State American Legion Baseball Tournament in Groton
  - 08/07/2020 Wine on Nine Event at Olive Grove Golf Course
  - 09/12/2020 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Sat. after Labor Day)
  - 09/13/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Couples Sunflower Classic
  - 10/09/2020 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
  - 10/10/2020 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
  - 10/31/2020 Downtown Trick or Treat
  - 10/31/2020 Groton United Methodist Trunk or Treat
  - 11/14/2020 Groton Legion Annual Turkey Party (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
  - 11/26/2020 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center
  - 12/05/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Tour of Homes & Holiday Party
  - 12/05/2020 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services
  - 01/--/2021 83rd Annual Carnival of Silver Skates
- 
- Bingo every Wednesday 6:30pm at the American Legion Post #39
  - Groton Lions Club Wheel of Meat, American Legion Post #39 7pm (Saturday nights November 30th thru April 11th)
    - Groton Lions Club Wheel of Pizza, Jungle Lanes 8pm (Saturday nights November 30th thru April 11th)
- 
- All dates are subject to change, check for updates here
  - Jun 2020 Transit Fundraiser (Thursday Mid-June)



## News from the Associated Press

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Tuesday:

Mega Millions

02-08-16-18-31, Mega Ball: 14, Megaplier: 2

(two, eight, sixteen, eighteen, thirty-one; Mega Ball: fourteen; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$101 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$150 million

### Noem says COVID-19 will last months despite Trump's optimism

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Kristi Noem said Tuesday that South Dakota may be as much as eight weeks away from the peak of the COVID-19 crisis and needs to limit business activity, even as President Donald Trump considers relaxing national guidance.

"This situation is not going to be over in a week. ... We have another eight weeks until we see our peak infection rate," Noem told reporters.

The Republican governor said she'll continue to support restrictions on businesses and social gatherings. She expects infections to increase and is bracing the state's health care system for a surge of patients. She ordered schools to remain closed and state employees to work from home until at least May.

The Sioux Falls School District announced that a staff member had tested positive for the coronavirus. It was not clear if the person was infected recently or before Noem ordered schools closed.

When the governor was asked if she is considering lifting her executive order that recommends businesses to limit gatherings to 10 or fewer people, she said she hasn't ordered any businesses to close. The move to ask, rather than demand, that businesses and municipalities self-regulate has irked some mayors who are calling for statewide enforcement.

"Any changes we make for how we conduct our daily lives have to be sustained," Noem said.

COVID-19 infections are now spreading in communities throughout the state, as the total number of positive tests rose to 30 on Tuesday.

The governor said that nine women on Monday escaped from the Women's Prison in Pierre, where one inmate tested positive on Monday. One of the women who escaped has been apprehended, and three others were taken into custody Tuesday on the Crow Creek Reservation.

Noem confirmed that the escapees were from the same unit as the woman who tested positive, but the governor did not know how close in proximity the women had been. Officials are keeping the woman with COVID-19 in isolation. Secretary of health, Kim Malsam-Rysdon says an investigation is underway into how the coronavirus spread to the prison and who might be at risk for infection.

For most people, the coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

The vast majority of people recover from the virus. According to the World Health Organization, people with mild cases recover in about two weeks, while those with more severe ones can take three to six weeks to get better.

One state lawmaker had to be airlifted to a hospital in Sioux Falls on Monday after he became infected. Rep. Bob Glanzer, a Huron Republican, is one of 13 people who have tested positive in Beadle County, where testing shows the outbreak is the worst in the state.

Noem said lawmakers are considering holding their final scheduled meeting of this year's legislative session via teleconference next week.

The state's public universities have canceled all in-person classes for the rest of the semester and postponed graduation ceremonies as the state expects COVID-19 infections to rise through the spring.

Follow AP coverage of the virus outbreak at <https://apnews.com/VirusOutbreak> and <https://apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak>

## 'Imaginary clock': Governors reject Trump's virus timeline

By PAUL J. WEBER and JONATHAN J. COOPER Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Governors across the nation on Tuesday rejected President Donald Trump's new accelerated timeline for reopening the U.S. economy, as they continued to impose more restrictions on travel and public life in an attempt to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

The dismissal of Trump's mid-April timeframe for a national reopening came from Republicans and Democrats, from leaders struggling to manage hot spots of the outbreak and those still bracing for the worst. Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, the head of the National Governors Association and a Republican, called the messaging confusing since most leaders are still focused on enforcing the restrictions, not easing them. He accused the White House of running on a schedule made of some "imaginary clock."

The pushback suggests Trump's talk of an early reboot is unlikely to gain traction. In most cases, it's state leaders — not the federal government — who are responsible for both imposing and lifting the stay-at-home orders and other restrictions intended to stop the contagion.

But the governors' reaction also revealed the striking disconnect and growing tensions between Trump and the state leaders closer to the front lines of a crisis that threatens to overwhelm U.S. hospitals and claim thousands of lives.

The president is eager to get the U.S. back to work as the crisis takes a political toll and the economy, which had been the cornerstone of his re-election bid, begins to wobble. The economic damage could be worse than the death toll from the virus, he has said. As soon as next week, Trump wants to take another look at recommendations about business closures and self-isolation, and said Tuesday the country could reopen by Easter Sunday — less than a month away. "Our people want to return to work," he said.

But governors suggested that view had little connection to the reality they're facing. California Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom said he and Trump are "clearly operating under a different set of assumptions." California, home to 40 million people and the world's fifth-largest economy, reported hundreds of new known cases of COVID 19 and now has more than 2,200, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University.

In New York, Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Tuesday said the infection rate was doubling every three days and pleaded for more federal help as the number of cases in the state surpassed 20,000.

"If you ask the American people to choose between public health and the economy, then it's no contest. No American is going to say accelerate the economy at the cost of human life," Cuomo told reporters Tuesday. "Job one has to be save lives. That has to be the priority."

Even some of Trump's usual allies are continuing to move ahead with tighter controls on travel, commerce and mobility, despite the president's words. In Texas, Republican Gov. Greg Abbott has endorsed stay-at-home orders that continued to spread through the biggest cities. Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey said public health needed to come first, and South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem is stressing limiting business activity, not relaxing them.

"This situation is not going to be over in a week," said Noem, whose state has more than two dozen cases. "We have another eight weeks until we see our peak infection rate."

The U.S. is now more than a week into an unprecedented effort to encourage all Americans to drastically scale back their public activities. The orders closing schools, restaurants and businesses have largely come from a patchwork of local and state governments — with areas hit hardest imposing the most restrictions, while other communities are still weighing tighter rules.

That means the White House is eyeing ways to ease the advisories while some areas are still ramping up their responses — a mixed message that some governors worried would lead Americans to ignore the orders of local officials.

Michigan's Gretchen Whitmer, a Democrat, told WWMT-TV/Sinclair Broadcast Group that Trump's "off-the-cuff statements are really going to undermine our ability to protect people." Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker said Trump was "not taking into account the true damage that this will do to our country if we see truly millions of people die."

Trump has defended his handling of the outbreak and argued that his administration is doing all it can to help governors.

"They shouldn't be hitting us," he said on Fox News. "The fact is we've done a lot."

Among the few statehouse leaders to publicly endorse Trump's view was Texas' lieutenant governor, Dan Patrick, 69, who on Monday suggested that people his age and older can "take care of ourselves" as the nation gets back to work. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says people over 65 are at higher risk for the disease.

Friction between Trump and the governors has been steady throughout the crisis. The president said last week that states should be doing more to obtain their own critically needed supplies while insisting that the federal government was not a shipping clerk. States, meanwhile, have been pressing the government to help procure necessary protective and breathing equipment.

On Tuesday, Trump suggested any shortage of ventilators was on the states.

"All they had to do was order them two years ago, but they decided not to do it. They can't blame us for that," he said on Fox News.

"Some of the messaging coming out of the administration doesn't match," Hogan, the Maryland governor, told CNN. "We don't think that we're going to be in any way ready to be out of this in five or six days or so, or whenever this 15 days is up from the time that they started this imaginary clock."

For most people, the coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. Worldwide, more than 375,000 cases have been reported, and while most people recover in weeks, more than 16,000 have died from the virus.

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Cooper reported from Phoenix. Associated Press writer Stephen Groves in Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Nancy Benac in Washington; John O'Connor in Springfield, Illinois; and David Eggert in Lansing, Michigan, contributed to this report.

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Follow AP coverage of the virus outbreak at <https://apnews.com/VirusOutbreak> and <https://apnews.com/UnderstandingtheO>

## South Dakota governor signs 'riot-boosting' penalties

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem signed a bill that revives the state's criminal and civil penalties for rioting and inciting a riot, the Republican governor's office said Tuesday.

Noem had told lawmakers months before the session began that she would revive the so-called "riot-boosting" penalties.

A federal judge found parts of the state's riot laws unconstitutional last year, in part because they were targeted at opponents to the Keystone XL pipeline. The proposal drew demonstrations from Native American and environmental groups, but did not face any major opposition from Republican legislators.

Noem said the bill uses the "narrowest" definitions of rioting and inciting a riot and only goes after people who commit violence or cause damage. But opponents said the bill would have a "chilling effect" on peaceful protests and creates a false narrative that Native American people are violent.

The South Dakota Legislature passed a similar law last year aimed at demonstrations against the pipeline. At the time, Noem said it was necessary to have civil penalties for people or groups that fund violent

demonstrations, calling the action "riot boosting." But a federal judge last year found parts of that law, as well as several older laws on the books, to be unconstitutional.

Noem asked lawmakers to try again this year to update the state's criminal and civil penalties for rioting, arguing they are necessary to "protect people and property." Ahead of the Senate vote, she told reporters that the bill protects free speech and would be used against people who fund demonstrations "only if they're involved in those protests."

One of the reasons the judge found parts of a "riot boosting" law passed last year to be unconstitutional was because it was created in response to potential demonstrations against the Keystone XL pipeline. The governor's office has said that this is not the case this year.

Several Indian tribes in the state opposed the bill, putting a strain on the governor's relationship with the tribes.

## The Latest: Sioux Falls school staff member tests positive

The Latest on the coronavirus outbreak in South Dakota (all times local):

3 p.m.

The Sioux Falls School District reports a staff member at Laura Wilder Elementary School has tested positive for COVID-19.

The district says parents and staff members at Laura Wilder were notified of the confirmed case Tuesday afternoon. District officials say they have provided guidance from the South Dakota Department of Health to families and staff.

South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem has ordered schools to remain closed until at least May as the state tries to stem the spread of the coronavirus.

1:15 p.m.

South Dakota public universities have canceled all in-person classes for the rest of the semester and postponed graduation ceremonies as the state expects COVID-19 infections to rise through the spring.

The Board of Regents says classes are currently being held online at the state's six universities. The universities won't be changing tuition charges unless a course can't be delivered online. They will offer partial financial credits for room, meal and parking fees.

Teachers at the School for the Blind & Visually Impaired will work with students remotely until May. But audiology clinics through the School for the Deaf are closed. In-person instruction at both special education schools is canceled.

11:55 a.m.

Authorities say nine inmates left a South Dakota women's prison after another inmate tested positive for the coronavirus.

The state Department of Corrections says the women left the Community Work Center in Pierre on Monday night through an exterior door.

The Rapid City Journal reports the women fled several hours after the state secretary of health, Kim Malsam-Rysdon, confirmed that a female inmate tested positive for COVID-19. One of the escapees was later caught.

Malsam-Rysdon says an investigation is underway into how the case spread to the prison.

11:15 a.m.

South Dakota Rep. Bob Glanzer was airlifted to Sioux Falls for COVID-19 treatment on Tuesday morning, KCCR Radio reports.

Glanzer was not responding to treatment at Huron Regional Medical Center, and doctors decided to send him to Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, according to his son Tom Glanzer.

The Republican lawmaker received a positive confirmation for the coronavirus on Sunday after feeling



sick for several days.

7:30 a.m.

Two regional health care providers based in Sioux Falls say they will begin processing tests for the coronavirus after getting regulatory approval.

Sanford Health said initially it will process about 400 tests daily with plans to double that number in the coming weeks. Avera Health said it has the capacity to handle about 200 tests daily.

Testing was previously done at the state lab in Pierre or by commercial labs.

Avera said most test results can be returned in a few days. Hospitalized patients that are considered urgent can be returned more quickly, the Argus Leader reported.

Sanford says it will test people who meet Centers for Disease Control and Prevention criteria for symptoms, including lower respiratory infections, contact with an infected person or travel to a nation with widespread infections.

The new virus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough in most people. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. The vast majority recover.

"Testing of COVID-19 samples is a complex process. Thanks to Avera's background with genetic testing, we have the expertise and equipment to accomplish this," said Dr. Bruce Prouse, the clinical vice president of the Avera Laboratory Service Line.

## **Sanford, Avera have approval to test for coronavirus**

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## **Noem asks restaurants, businesses to restrict operations**

**By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Kristi Noem on Monday issued an executive order asking businesses to restrict gatherings and hospitals to postpone elective procedures because COVID-19 is spreading in South Dakota, a move that had some elected officials asking why the Republican was asking for such action rather than demanding it.

Noem's order leaves enforcement up to counties and cities. It gives what she called "guidelines" for businesses, municipalities and hospitals to limit the spread of the coronavirus. It called on restaurants and retail businesses to offer takeout or limit groups of people to 10 or fewer, and asked hospitals to postpone elective procedures. The governor had tried to address the global COVID-19 pandemic by pinpointing cases



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but her messaging took a turn on Monday as she said infections will continue to increase.

The pandemic and the response necessary to halt widespread infection is testing South Dakota law on what government authorities can and cannot do.

While governors around the country have issued orders for sweeping shutdowns, Noem said she was doing what she could given the limitations on her powers.

The South Dakota constitution does not grant the governor wide-ranging emergency powers, according to Patrick Garry, a state constitution expert at the University of South Dakota law school.

But one South Dakota law covering the authority of the governor in times of disaster allows her to suspend rules for state agencies and restrict the movement of people. That law also says the disaster response has to be "beyond local government capability."

Pressed at a news conference on what consequences businesses would face for not following her order's guidance, she said: "If a business wants to operate in this state, they will follow the direction of this executive order." But she gave no details on how that could be enforced.

Some mayors said recommendations aren't enough.

"It loses a lot of the teeth without a more universal approach," Sioux Falls Mayor Paul TenHaken said.

Without a statewide edict, a patchwork of city and county actions has emerged. Huron closed bars and eat-in restaurants just hours after Noem on Sunday announced six more cases in the area. The Rapid City Council took the first step to shuttering non-essential businesses. And TenHaken was pushing the Sioux Falls Health Board to close businesses.

Ordering businesses to close is a move no politician wants to make, said Bob Everson, the mayor of Mitchell. He'd rather see the governor take the heat for pulling the trigger on closing businesses.

"It's a lot of pressure to put on a mayor," he said. "Realistically you're going to see a major economic impact."

South Dakota has 28 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including one death and three people who are hospitalized. Monday's update included news that a woman in the South Dakota Women's Prison had tested positive.

Noem warned that up to 30% of people in South Dakota, about 240,000 people, could become infected with the coronavirus and the number of infections could increase until May or June.

Some municipal officials have complained that they are getting little information from the state on cases in their area.

In Huron, part of a county where Noem believes there is "community spread" after 12 people tested positive, local officials said they have not received details on who is infected or where they live. Community spread means it's not clear how an infected person contracted the virus and its origin can't be traced.

"All we're pretty much getting is the press releases from the governor's office," said Huron Police Capt. Mark Johnson.

Secretary of Health Kim Malsam-Rysdon said the state cannot give details on people who are infected because it is protected by privacy laws.

The state's two largest hospital systems also announced on Monday they can now run a combined 600 COVID-19 tests a day.

For most people, the coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

The vast majority of people recover from the virus. According to the World Health Organization, people with mild cases recover in about two weeks, while those with more severe ones can take three to six weeks to get better.

The state is distributing the \$4.5 million it received from the federal government to hospitals so they can gear up for an influx of patients, Secretary of Health Kim Malsam-Rysdon said. State authorities have also been working with the National Guard to prepare in case hospitals are inundated.

Follow AP coverage of the virus outbreak at <https://apnews.com/VirusOutbreak> and <https://apnews.com/>

UnderstandingtheOutbreak

## The Latest: Japan urges no trips outside of country

By The Associated Press

The Latest on the coronavirus pandemic, which has infected more than 428,000 people and killed over 19,000, according to Johns Hopkins University. The COVID-19 illness causes mild or moderate symptoms in most people, but severe symptoms are more likely in the elderly or those with existing health problems. More than 109,000 people have recovered so far, mostly in China.

TOP OF THE HOUR:

- Heir to the British throne Prince Charles tests positive for the coronavirus.
- Researchers to study psychological effects of lockdown.
- Environmentalists say air quality is improving.

**TOKYO** — Japan's foreign ministry says it has raised its travel warning to its people and urged them not to make any non-essential trips outside of the country.

The measures follow similar caution for most of Europe and the U.S. amid the rapid increase in the number of cases in those areas.

Also, the ministry says two employees at its embassy in Washington have contracted the virus and isolated themselves. One has no notable symptoms, while the other has a fever. A Japanese official at Japan's embassy in Macedonia also tested positive for the virus after traveling to Greece to help in the Olympic Flame handover ceremony.

**DHAKA, Bangladesh** — Authorities in Bangladesh say another 65-year-old man died of coronavirus and the total death toll rose to five while the total number of cases of infection remained at 39.

Meerjady Sabrina Flora, director of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research, says the man with diabetes and hypertension tested positive on March 18 and was being treated in a hospital in Dhaka.

She says no new cases of infection were reported over last 24 hours. But experts say Bangladesh is at the high risk of community transmission as hundreds of thousands of Bangladeshis, including many expatriate workers, returned home from Italy and other affected countries in recent weeks.

The government is asking the people to stay at home and military soldiers have been called into some big cities to enforce the social distancing

**LONDON** — Prince Charles, the heir to the British throne, has tested positive for the new coronavirus.

The prince's Clarence House office says the 71-year-old is showing mild symptoms of COVID-19 and is self-isolating at a royal estate in Scotland.

It says his wife Camilla has tested negative.

The palace says Charles "has been displaying mild symptoms but otherwise remains in good health and has been working from home throughout the last few days as usual."

**BRUSSELS** — A renowned Belgian university is launching a cross-border study in three European countries to assess the nefarious psychological effects of lockdown measures on individuals.

Researchers from the Louvain university say they want to find out to what extent the quarantine measures imposed to fight the novel coronavirus epidemics have changed people's way of life, and to analyze their impact on mental health.

Fearing a rise in the number of suicides, health sociologist Vincent Louvain said that governments are often overlooking the side effects of the quarantine measures as they try to stop the spreading of the deadly virus.

"Governments are currently putting their energy on managing the epidemic. As a result, other risks are

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forgotten," he said, insisting that a large part of the population is psychologically fragile and in need of health care. "The situation could deteriorate in terms of mental health".

The survey will analyze data collected in Belgium, France and the Netherlands. It will be piloted by the Louvain university in collaboration with a French institute specialized in health economy and the Antwerp university.

**BRUSSELS** — With a soaring infection rate, steadily growing death toll and enforced quarantine, it's hard to see the positive side of the coronavirus, but the European Environment Agency says that air quality is improving.

The EEA said Wednesday that new data confirms "large decreases in air pollutant concentrations — of nitrogen dioxide concentrations in particular — largely due to reduced traffic and other activities, especially in major cities under lockdown measures."

Nitrogen dioxide is mainly emitted by road transport, and the agency says levels of the pollutant in northern Italy, the epicenter of the country's coronavirus outbreak, are ranging from 21-47% lower this month than in March 2019.

Similar trends have been seen in other parts of Europe under lockdown. Levels in Barcelona and Madrid in Spain dropped by 40-55% in the week of March 16-22, while NO2 levels in the Portuguese capital Lisbon also dropped 40% over the same week.

The agency notes that air pollution contributes to respiratory and heart disease but that it's not yet clear whether exposure to such gases might worsen the condition of people with COVID-19.

However, EEA chief Hans Bruyninckx insists that crisis measures are not the way to tackle air pollution. "Addressing long-term air quality problems requires ambitious policies and forward-looking investments," he says.

**BANGKOK** — Thailand's prime minister says he will take sole charge of the country's battle against COVID-19, warning the outbreak may get much worse.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha's government issued a 16-point order for the national state of emergency set for Thursday until April 30 that forbids most foreigners from entering the country and bans rallies and other gatherings in crowded places.

It does not include a curfew that had been expected as a measure to enforce social distancing and uninfected people are not confined to their homes.

Prayuth declared that strict measures would be taken against anyone violating the regulations and officials who do not carry out their duties.

He emphasized control of information, calling on the mass media not to interview officials who aren't authorized to make announcements and warning that social media users spreading 'fake news' would be strictly dealt with.

The chief of defense forces will be in charge of national security and deal with violations of the law, Prayuth said. Violations are punishable by a prison term of up to two years and a 40,000 baht (\$1,220) fine.

**MOSCOW** — Russia's prime minister ordered provincial governors Wednesday to move more quickly to ready hospital beds for coronavirus patients as the outbreak has spread across the vast country.

The government reported 658 cases of the new coronavirus in Russia, up from 495 a day before. That marked a significantly bigger daily increase compared to previous day when the number of infections increased by several dozens.

The warning to governors came a day after the mayor of Moscow told Russian President Vladimir Putin that the Russian regions weren't acting energetically enough to prepare for the outbreak. Mayor Sergei Sobyenin warned that the low number of cases in Russia compared to Europe could be explained by insufficient screening and called for quicker action to brace up for the worst.

Deputy Prime Minister Tatyana Golikova reported that 112,000 people are currently in self-isolation being monitored for coronavirus after return from abroad. Earlier this month, the government has requested all

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those who returned from the countries plagued by the outbreak to self-quarantine for two weeks.

**RAMALLAH, West Bank** — Tens of thousands of Palestinian workers are expected to return to the occupied West Bank from Israel following orders from the Palestinian Authority.

Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh late Tuesday ordered the workers to return and go into 14-day quarantine, the latest in a series of measures to contain the coronavirus outbreak.

He says those disregarding the orders will face unspecified legal consequences.

Israel has reported more than 2,000 cases and five deaths. The Palestinian Authority, which governs parts of the West Bank, has reported 58 cases.

Israel had allowed 65,000 Palestinian workers to remain in the country during the crisis, but many are expected to return as Israel tightens its own restrictions. Most work in construction, agriculture and manufacturing.

Working in Israel pays much better than in the West Bank, where decades of Israeli military rule has hindered economic development.

**TIRANA, Albania** - Albania has declared the natural calamity emergency because of the virus.

The government late Tuesday issued the decision at the official gazette saying that the rights are limited "to the level considered necessary to protect the citizens' health." That means that all public gatherings, including demonstrations and strikes are prohibited.

The government authorities have increased rights, including entering people's homes to check for virus cases. People are also obliged to report virus symptoms or cases.

That situation is to continue for an unspecified time "during the period of infection."

As of Tuesday, Albania had 5 deaths and 123 cases.

The country is in a lockdown with all border crossing routes shut, but one flight to Turkey. Schools, cafes, restaurants, gyms and shops are closed, except those offering food items and medicine. Only a limited number of public and private employees can work during an eight-hour time a day while all people may only get out to buy food and medicine.

**LONDON** — Britain's Parliament is set to shut down for at least four weeks because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Lawmakers have continued to attend -- though in smaller numbers -- despite the spread of COVID-19, which has reached 8,077 confirmed cases and 422 deaths in the U.K. Visitors have been banned from the Parliament buildings and some staff have been working from home.

With Britons now ordered to stay home and all but essential shops shut, Parliament is expected to shut down once lawmakers have approved an emergency law on Wednesday giving the government more powers to fight the coronavirus.

Lawmakers will vote on a motion suspending Parliament until April 21. They had previously been due to take an Easter break from April 1-20.

Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick said "Parliament has to lead by example, follow the guidelines wherever it can, and ensure that we protect the staff that work in Parliament as well."

**JOHANNESBURG** — Coronavirus cases across Africa are now above 2,400, and South Africa has more cases than any other African nation with 709. The continent's most developed country enters lockdown first thing Friday.

**BERLIN** — Germany's parliament is meeting to approve an enormous package drawn up by the government to cushion the economic impact of the coronavirus outbreak.

Lawmakers were to vote Wednesday on a series of measures that will allow the government to offer aid totaling more than 1 trillion euros (\$1.1 trillion).

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As a precaution, members of parliament were spaced widely apart in Berlin's Reichstag building for the session.

The government is breaking with six years of balanced budgets to borrow what Finance Minister Olaf Scholz called the "gigantic sum" of 156 billion euros to finance the packages and cover an expected shortfall in tax revenue. Parliament's approval is needed to loosen legal limits on running up debt.

Scholz, who is Germany's vice chancellor, presented the package in place of Chancellor Angela Merkel, who is in quarantine at home after a doctor who gave her a vaccination tested positive for the coronavirus.

Scholz said that "we as the German government are doing everything necessary and everything possible to cushion the economic and social consequences of managing the crisis."

**COLOMBO, Sri Lanka** — Sri Lanka police on Wednesday warned of strict legal action against the people who violate a countrywide curfew.

In a statement, police said those who violate the curfew will be immediately arrested, even without a warrant, and legal action will be taken against them. The statement did not elaborate on the possible punishment.

Within the last 24 hours, police have arrested 420 people who violated the curfew and seized 97 vehicles.

The government has imposed the curfew since Friday (March 20), as the Indian Ocean island nation has been struggling to contain the spreading of the virus. The number of positive cases has now jumped to 101.

Since Friday, police have detained 2,682 persons for violating the curfew and detained 786 vehicles, police said.

Police urged people to stay at home during the curfew, except those who engage in essential services such as health and supply of essential commodities.

The government has asked the pharmacies to be kept open during the curfew and allow people to use their prescription as a curfew pass.

**SEOUL, South Korea** — South Korea says it plans to provide coronavirus testing materials to the United States in response to President Donald Trump's request for help.

Jeong Eun-kyeong, director of South Korea's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said the country is willing to send chemical reagents used to extract genetic material during COVID-19 tests, but at a level that doesn't affect its own testing capacity.

She didn't provide a detailed estimate on the size of supplies that could be shipped to the United States.

The office of South Korean President Moon Jae-in earlier said Trump during a telephone conversation between the leaders asked whether South Korea could send medical equipment and supplies to help the United States cope with its outbreaks.

South Korea is pushing an aggressive test-and-quarantine program that some experts say possibly contributed to its lower death toll in comparison with mainland China and hard-hit European nations.

As of Wednesday, South Korea had tested around 358,000 people while reporting 9,137 infections and 126 deaths.

**WASHINGTON** — The White House and Senate leaders of both U.S. political parties have struck an agreement on a sweeping \$2 trillion measure to aid workers, businesses and a health care system strained by the rapidly spreading coronavirus outbreak.

Top White House aide Eric Ueland announced the agreement in a Capitol hallway shortly after midnight. The agreement comes after days of often intense haggling and mounting pressure and still needs to be finalized in detailed legislative language.

The unprecedented economic rescue package would give direct payments to most Americans, expand unemployment benefits and provide a \$367 billion program for small businesses to keep making payroll while workers are forced to stay home.



## Britain's Prince Charles tests positive for new coronavirus

By JILL LAWLESS and DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Prince Charles, the heir to the British throne, has tested positive for the new coronavirus, his office said Wednesday.

The 71-year-old is showing mild symptoms of COVID-19 and is self-isolating at a royal estate in Scotland, his Clarence House office said.

It says his wife Camilla, 72, has tested negative.

"The Prince of Wales has tested positive for Coronavirus," Clarence House said. "He has been displaying mild symptoms but otherwise remains in good health and has been working from home throughout the last few days as usual."

Britain's Press Association, citing a source, said the prince and the duchess remained in good spirits, and that Charles was not bedridden.

The tests were carried out by the National Health Service in Scotland.

"It is not possible to ascertain from whom the prince caught the virus owing to the high number of engagements he carried out in his public role during recent weeks."

Buckingham Palace said Queen Elizabeth II remains at her home in Windsor.

"Her Majesty the queen remains in good health," the palace said. "The queen last saw the Prince of Wales briefly after the investiture on the morning of 12th March and is following all the appropriate advice with regard to her welfare."

Charles' last public engagement was March 12. He has had a number of private meetings, and participants at those sessions have been made aware of his condition.

## 10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. 'WE HAVE A DEAL' The White House and Congress agree on a \$2 trillion emergency bill to rush aid to businesses, workers and a health care system slammed by the coronavirus pandemic.

2. PRINCE CHARLES TESTS POSITIVE FOR CORONAVIRUS The 71-year-old heir to the British throne is showing mild symptoms of COVID-19 and is self-isolating at a royal estate in Scotland, his office says.

3. INDIA LOCKS DOWN 1.3 BILLION PEOPLE The unprecedented move by Narendra Modi's government is aimed at keeping the virus from spreading and overwhelming its fragile health care system as it has done in parts of Europe.

4. PANDEMIC EXACERBATES ANXIETY DISORDER Providers say treatment can be tricky when public health recommendations to keep a distance from others or to wash one's hands frequently encounter people who do those things excessively.

5. DO AS I SAY Powerful people in Washington are defying preventative measures aimed at curbing the spread of the coronavirus by shaking hands, traveling abroad and not self-quarantining.

6. NO LONGER A COLLECTIVE ABSTRACTION In what one prominent historian calls "a new moment," the coronavirus pandemic is forcing America to sacrifice for a greater good for the first time since World War II.

7. 'OTHER THINGS WERE NOT IMPORTANT' Millions across the Middle East and in conflict zones farther afield can offer hard-earned wisdom in times like these.

8. STIMULUS DEAL LIFTS WORLD MARKETS Japan's Nikkei 225 surged 8% and other world markets also jumped after Congress and the White House reached a deal to inject nearly \$2 trillion of aid into a virus-ravaged economy.

9. VIRUS CAUSES SURGE IN WORLD WAR II REFERENCES Allusions to the last global war are now heard daily because of the coronavirus, a comparison in some circles deemed unhelpful and merely adding to palpable fear.

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10. RUMORS OF MARTIAL LAW FLY DURING PANDEMIC An Air Force general debunks claims on social media and elsewhere, saying National Guard units are busy distributing food and medical supplies.

## Death toll in Spain surpasses China as virus ravages Europe

By CHRIS BLAKE and SHEIKH SAALIQ Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — Spain now has the world's second-highest tally of coronavirus deaths, after 738 more were reported Wednesday, the country's deadliest toll in one day.

With 3,434 coronavirus patients dead, Spain surpassed China's death toll of 3,285. Italy still has the most deaths of any nation in the world with 6,820. Infections in Spain also rose 20% from a day earlier to 47,610.

Meanwhile in Britain, Prince Charles, the heir to the British throne, has tested positive for the new coronavirus. The palace says he has mild symptoms.

THIS IS A BREAKING NEWS DEVELOPMENT. AP's earlier story is below:

The world's largest democracy went under the world's biggest lockdown Wednesday, as India's 1.3 billion people stayed home in a bid to stop the march of the coronavirus pandemic. As infections and deaths rose in the U.S. and Europe, U.S. lawmakers agreed on a massive \$2 trillion domestic aid package to help those economically devastated by the outbreak.

India's unprecedented move aimed to keep the virus from spreading and overwhelming its fragile health care system, as it has done in parts of Europe and threatens to do in U.S. hotspots like New York. Everything but essential services like supermarkets were shuttered in India. Normally bustling railway stations in New Delhi were deserted and streets that just hours before were jammed with honking cars were eerily silent.

"Delhi looks like a ghost town," said Nishank Gupta, a lawyer. "I have never seen the city so quiet before."

India, where testing has been limited, has only about 450 cases, but Prime Minister Narendra Modi warned that if he didn't act now it could set the country back decades.

In Spain, where hotels have been converted into makeshift hospitals and an ice rink in Madrid is being used as a morgue, the death toll climbed to 2,991 and appeared likely to surpass China's death toll later in the day. In the United States, infections were climbing so quickly that America will soon lead the world in that frightening category as well.

In typically bustling Barcelona, figures walking around with blankets, mattresses or tents punctuated the eerie emptiness. Spain's homeless told The Associated Press they feel more abandoned than ever as everyone else hunkers down at home.

"It is as if there has been a nuclear explosion and (people) are all sheltering in the bunker. Only us, the homeless, are left outside," said 36-year-old Gana, who has been homeless for eight years and uses only one name.

Italy has been the hardest-hit nation in Europe with more than 69,000 infections and 6,800 deaths. Authorities are investigating if a hotly contested Champions League soccer game in Milan in February acted like rocket fuel for the crisis that is overwhelming Italian hospitals and forcing doctors to choose who will receive desperately needed ventilators and who won't.

In Washington, top White House aide Eric Ueland announced the economic agreement in a Capitol hallway shortly after midnight after days of haggling.

Relief that U.S. politicians have reached a deal on economic support pushed world stock markets up on Wednesday. Indexes in Europe and Asia rose a day after the Dow Jones Industrial Average had its best day since 1933.

One of the last issues to be decided concerned \$500 billion for guaranteed, subsidized loans to larger industries, including a fight over how generous to be with airlines that have been rocked by a near-shutdown of travel. Hospitals would get significant help as well.

With Americans' lives and livelihoods hanging in the balance, President Donald Trump said he "would love to have the country opened up and just raring to go by Easter." But that statement sharply contradicted health officials' calls for stricter restrictions on public interactions. Scientists and other politicians in the U.S. have warned that the worst is yet to come.

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New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said his state's infections are doubling every three days, threatening to swamp the city's intensive care units much quicker than experts had expected. The state has 26,000 infections and more than 200 deaths.

"One of the forecasters said to me: 'We were looking at a freight train coming across the country,'" the governor said. "We're now looking at a bullet train."

With infections in the U.S. exceeding 55,000 and deaths over 800, health experts say failing to maintain social distancing will balloon infections to the point that the nation's fragmented health care system would be overwhelmed and many more people would die.

More than 425,000 people worldwide have been infected by the virus and almost 19,000 have died, according to Johns Hopkins University. Overall, more than 109,000 have recovered.

There are signs, however, that drastic measures to keep people away from one another can push back the spread of the illness and flatten the infection curve. In China's Hubei province, where the outbreak was first spotted late last year, started lifting its lockdown.

Some train stations and bus services reopened in Hubei on Wednesday and people who passed a health check were allowed to travel for the first time since January. A similar easing in the hard-hit epicenter of Wuhan is planned for April 8.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia and death.

It is the latter cases — often requiring ventilators and specialized care — that threaten to overwhelm hospitals. Several countries are already running short of the critical equipment needed to treat patients and keep doctors and nurses safe. Doctors are dying in Italy and Spain says 14% of its infections are health care workers.

Cuomo proposed that the Trump administration send thousands of ventilators to New York City — which needs 30,000 of them, he said — and demanded that Trump use wartime authority to force manufacturers to produce them.

Trump has invoked the Korean War-era Defense Production Act to deter hoarding but has been reluctant to use it to force companies to produce medical supplies. Vice President Mike Pence said 2,000 ventilators have been shipped to New York and 2,000 more will be sent Wednesday.

With no end to the crisis in sight, the International Olympic Committee on Tuesday postponed the 2020 Tokyo Olympics until the summer of 2021 at the latest.

Case edged up in countries with fragile health care systems. Virus cases in South Africa rose to 709 as the country got ready to go on lockdown Friday and Russia reporting 163 new cases overnight for 658 total.

In New Zealand, the government declared an emergency before an unprecedented lockdown begins late Wednesday.

"I have one simple message for New Zealanders today as we head into the next four weeks: Stay at home," Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said. "It will break the chain of transmission and it will save lives."

Blake reported from Bangkok. Associated Press reporters around the world contributed to this report.

## White House, Congress agree on \$2 trillion virus rescue bill

By ANDREW TAYLOR, LISA MASCARO and JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House and Senate leaders of both major political parties announced agreement early Wednesday on an unprecedented \$2 trillion emergency bill to rush sweeping aid to businesses, workers and a health care system slammed by the coronavirus pandemic.

The urgently needed pandemic response measure is the largest economic rescue measure in history and is intended as a weekslong or monthslong patch for an economy spiraling into recession and a nation facing a potentially ghastly toll.

Top White House aide Eric Ueland announced the agreement in a Capitol hallway shortly after midnight,

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capping days of often intense haggling and mounting pressure. The deal still needs to be finalized in detailed legislative language.

"Ladies and gentlemen, we are done," Ueland said. "We have a deal."

The economic rescue package would give direct payments to most Americans, expand unemployment benefits and provide a \$367 billion program for small businesses to keep making payroll while workers are forced to stay home.

One of the last issues to close concerned \$500 billion for guaranteed, subsidized loans to larger industries, including a fight over how generous to be with the airlines. Hospitals would get significant help as well.

"After days of intense discussions, the Senate has reached a bipartisan agreement on a historic relief package for this pandemic," said Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., a key negotiator. "It will rush new resources onto the front lines of our nation's health care fight. And it will inject trillions of dollars of cash into the economy as fast as possible to help Americans workers, families, small businesses and industries make it through this disruption and emerge on the other side ready to soar."

At the White House on Tuesday, even as the public health crisis deepened, President Donald Trump expressed eagerness to nudge many people back to work in the coming weeks and held out a prospect, based more on hope than science, that the country could be returning to normal in less than a month.

"We have to go back to work, much sooner than people thought," Trump told a Fox News town hall. He said he'd like to have the country "opened up and just raring to go" by Easter, April 12. But in a White House briefing later, Trump said that "our decision will be based on hard facts and data."

Medical professionals say social distancing needs to be stepped up, not relaxed, to slow the spread of infections. At the White House briefing, the public health authorities said it was particularly important for people in the hard-hit New York City metropolitan area to quarantine themselves for 14 days and for those who have recently left the city to do the same.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the government's top infectious disease expert, said pointedly at the briefing, "No one is going to want to tone down anything when you see what is going on in a place like New York City."

On Capitol Hill, five days of arduous talks produced the bill, creating tensions among Congress' top leaders, who each took care to tend to party politics as they maneuvered and battled over crafting the legislation. But failure was never an option, which permitted both sides to mark big wins.

Even before the deal was reached, news of the likely but elusive agreement had sent the stock market rocketing on Tuesday. The rescue package would be larger than the 2008 bank bailout and 2009 recovery act combined.

The package would give one-time payments of \$1,200 per adult and \$500 per child directly to the public.

A huge cash infusion for hospitals expecting a flood of COVID-19 patients grew during the talks at the insistence of Sen. Chuck Schumer, the Democratic leader, while Republicans pressed for tens of billions of dollars for additional relief to be delivered through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the lead federal disaster agency.

Democrats said the package would help replace the salaries of furloughed workers for four months, rather than the three months first proposed. Furloughed workers would get whatever amount a state usually provides for unemployment, plus a \$600 per week add-on, with gig workers like Uber drivers covered for the first time.

"It ensures that all workers are protected whether they work for businesses small, medium or large, along with self-employed and workers in the gig economy," Schumer said.

Republicans won inclusion of an "employee retention" tax credit that's estimated to provide \$50 billion to companies that retain employees on payroll and cover 50% of workers' paychecks. Companies would also be able to defer payment of the 6.2% Social Security payroll tax.

Democrats pointed to gains for hospitals, additional oversight of the huge industry stabilization fund and money for cash-strapped states. A companion appropriations package ballooned as well, growing from a \$46 billion White House proposal to more than \$300 billion, which dwarfs earlier disasters — including Hurricane Katrina and Superstorm Sandy combined.

To provide transparency, the package is expected to create a new inspector general and oversight board



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for the corporate dollars, much as was done during the 2008 Troubled Asset Relief Program bank rescue, officials said.

Trump in recent days has sounded a note of frustration about the unprecedented modern-day effort to halt the virus' march by essentially shutting down public activities in ways that now threaten the U.S. economy.

Even though Trump's administration recommended Americans curtail activities for 15 days, starting just over a week ago, the Republican president said he may soon allow parts of the economy, in regions less badly hit by the virus, to begin reopening.

He continued on that theme Tuesday as he weighed a relaxation of social distancing guidelines after the 15-day period is up. His suggestion that the pandemic could ease and allow a return to normalcy in a mere few weeks is not supported by public health officials or many others in government.

On Tuesday, top defense and military leaders warned department personnel that the virus problems could extend for eight to 10 weeks or longer. Army Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said during a Defense Department town hall meeting that the crisis could even extend into July.

Trump has balked at using his authority under the recently invoked Defense Protection Act to compel the private sector to manufacture needed medical supplies like masks and ventilators, even as he encourages them to spur production. "We are a country not based on nationalizing our business," said Trump, who has repeatedly railed against socialism overseas and among Democrats.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia and death. The vast majority of people recover.

The virus has caused a global pandemic that has sickened more than 425,000 people and killed about 19,000 worldwide. In the United States, more than 55,000 people have been sickened and more than 800 have died.

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Associated Press writers Lolita C. Baldor, Zeke Miller, Mary Clare Jalonick, Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, Alan Fram and Padmananda Rama contributed to this report.

## Too big to infect? Some US leaders defy virus guidelines

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The State Department has advised against all international travel because of the coronavirus, but that didn't stop Secretary of State Mike Pompeo from flying to Afghanistan this week.

Gyms across the nation's capital are shuttered, but Sen. Rand Paul, an eye doctor, still managed a workout at the Senate on Sunday morning as he awaited the results of a coronavirus test. It came back positive.

The guidance against shaking hands? That hasn't always applied to President Donald Trump, whose penchant for pressing the flesh continued even after public health officials in his administration were warning that such bodily contact could facilitate the spread of the contagious virus. Practice social distancing? Daily White House briefings involve Trump and other senior officials crowded around a podium.

Even as the country has largely hunkered down, heeding the guidance of health experts and the directives of state leaders, some powerful people in Washington have defied preventative measures aimed at curbing the spread. Their business-as-usual actions are at odds with the restrictions everyday Americans find themselves under — and with the government's own messaging.

Some human behavior experts say the "do as I say, not as I do" ethos seemingly on display is common among powerful officials, who may be inclined to think rules for the general public don't apply to them in the same way or who can easily disassociate their own actions from what they say is best for others.

"When we have high power, we think of ourselves as exceptional as if the rules don't apply to us," said Maurice Schweitzer, a professor at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania who has researched behavior and decision-making. "We're much more prone to do what we want because we don't feel constrained in the way that less powerful people do."



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In Pompeo's case, the State Department says the unannounced trip — coming amid a near-global travel shutdown — was necessary and urgent because of political turmoil in Afghanistan that U.S. officials fear could threaten a recent U.S.-Taliban peace deal that calls for American troop withdrawals. Pompeo left Kabul on Monday without being able to secure a power-sharing deal.

People traveling with Pompeo had their temperatures taken and were given small plastic bags containing a face mask, hand sanitizer, bleach wipes and mini-disposable thermometers. A State Department medical official told reporters that Pompeo and his staff would not be quarantining themselves because Afghanistan is not considered a high-risk country for the virus and because Pompeo's movements on the trip were controlled.

But some of the behavior by other officials has drawn rebukes.

Asked in a Science Magazine interview about Trump shaking hands, Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said he tells White House staff that "we should not be doing that. Not only that — we should be physically separating a bit more on those press conferences."

Several senators, meanwhile, scolded Paul for refusing to self-quarantine after he'd been tested, with the doctor overseeing the government's coronavirus response suggesting the Kentucky Republican's actions fell short of model "personal responsibility." More than two dozen senators are in their 70s and 80s, putting them at high risk if exposed.

Still, despite risk to senators and the fact that gyms across the country have been closed as a precaution, Paul and other senators were able to continue going to the Senate gym, using a keypad for access.

Sen. Sherrod Brown, an Ohio Democrat, said in an interview with Newsy that Paul's actions were "irresponsible" and that senators in general have been acting as if they were somehow immune to getting sick. He cited what he said was a "photo opp" for senators held over the weekend.

"I think that senators must think that they're invincible," Brown said.

Paul, a proud civil libertarian, said he had thought it "highly unlikely" he was sick before getting the test results and had no symptoms of the illness. He said he did not have contact with anyone who tested positive for the virus or was sick. He was at the Senate gym Sunday morning, though Paul's staff says he left the Capitol as soon as he received the results.

Asked about Paul, Deborah Birx, the coordinator of the White House coronavirus task force, said people can spread the virus while being asymptomatic, so social distancing is imperative. She noted that she herself stayed home over the weekend when she felt ill. She took a coronavirus test that came back negative.

"These are the kinds of things that we have to do for one another. This is the personal responsibility that I'm talking about that we all have to practice," Birx said.

Trump raised eyebrows among public health specialists when he methodically shook the hands of retail and health industry specialists at a Rose Garden news conference two weeks ago. He acknowledged Monday that shaking hands has been a hard habit for him to break, having become accustomed as president to doing so with "literally thousands of people a week."

Even now, he stands close to other officials at daily White House briefings, including Vice President Mike Pence. By contrast, Defense Secretary Mark Esper began separating from his deputy this month as a precaution.

Itzhak Yanovitzky, a Rutgers University communications professor, said senior officials or people in positions of power frequently separate their public behavior from their private, especially if they think they have greater control over their circumstances compared to strangers. Doctors, for instance, may not always follow their own recommendations to their patients if they think they have better control over their illnesses.

In times of crisis, most people look to health experts as the ultimate authority, Yanovitzky said in an email. But for the segment of the population already disinclined to take the risk seriously, inconsistencies between what people say and do risk undermining the recommendations and mandates of the public health community, he said.

"The problem," said Schweitzer, the Wharton professor, "is that the mixed messages sow confusion, and it seems disorganized, undisciplined, chaotic."

Associated Press writers Matthew Lee and Matthew Daly contributed to this report.

## Turkish prosecutors file indictment over Khashoggi killing

By **SUZAN FRASER** Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkish prosecutors have formally charged two former aides of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and 18 other Saudi nationals over the 2018 killing of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi, officials said Wednesday.

A statement from the Istanbul chief prosecutor's office said it has completed its investigation into Khashoggi's grisly killing at the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul and has indicted 20 Saudi nationals. The killing drew international condemnation and cast a cloud of suspicion over Prince Mohammed.

All suspects however, have left Turkey and Saudi Arabia has rejected Turkish calls for their return to face trial in Turkey. Riyadh insisted the kingdom's courts are the correct place for them to be tried and has put 11 people on trial over the killing.

The Turkish indictment charges the prince's former advisers, Saud al-Qahtani and Ahmed al-Asiri, with "instigating a premeditated murder with the intent of (causing) torment through fiendish instinct," according to a statement from Chief Prosecutor Irfan Fidan's office.

The indictment also calls for life prison sentences for 18 other Saudi nationals charged with carrying out "a premeditated murder with the intent of (causing) torment through fiendish instincts."

Khashoggi, who was a resident of the U.S., had walked into his country's consulate on Oct. 2, 2018, for an appointment to pick up documents that would allow him to marry. He never walked out, and his body has not been found.

A team of 15 Saudi agents had flown to Turkey to meet Khashoggi inside the consulate. They included a forensic doctor, intelligence and security officers and individuals who worked for the crown prince's office, according to a report last year by U.N. special rapporteur Agnes Callamard. Turkish officials allege Khashoggi was killed and then dismembered with a bone saw.

Fidan's office said the 18 suspects are accused of "acting in consensus from the beginning in line with the decision of taking the victim back to Saudi Arabia and of killing him if he did not agree."

The statement did not provide further details and it was not immediately clear if the suspects would be tried in absentia.

The trial in Saudi Arabia last year concluded that the killing was not premeditated, prompting widespread criticism of a "whitewash."

Five people were sentenced to death while three other people were found guilty of covering up the crime and were sentenced to a combined 24 years in prison. Saudi authorities have said al-Qahtani was investigated and had no proven involvement in the killing, while al-Asiri was tried and released because of insufficient evidence.

Turkey, a rival of Saudi Arabia, has used the killing on its soil to pressure the kingdom. It apparently had the Saudi Consulate bugged and has shared audio of the killing with the C.I.A., among others.

Saudi Arabia initially offered shifting accounts about Khashoggi's disappearance. As international pressure mounted because of the Turkish leaks, the kingdom eventually settled on the explanation that he was killed by rogue officials in a brawl.

## Tokyo's delayed Olympics: Who pays bills for another year?

By **STEPHEN WADE** AP Sports Writer

TOKYO (AP) — With the Tokyo Olympics postponed until 2021, now comes the multi-billion-dollar question: Who pays the bills for the delay, and how large will they be?

The most likely answer is — primarily Japanese taxpayers.

"Of course there will be costs," organizing committee CEO Toshiro Muto said when the postponement was

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announced. "As for how much, we have no figures with us right now. As for who will shoulder these costs? Needless to say, they are not going to be easy discussions, so we are not sure how long they will take."

The Japanese financial newspaper Nikkei put the added cost at \$2.7 billion, citing an estimate from local organizers.

Tokyo organizers will have to renegotiate new leases on venues, pay for maintenance at arenas, and maybe find different fields of play. They will also have to deal with real estate developers who are already selling off thousands of apartments at what will be the Athletes Village. The organizing committee also employs 3,500 staff members, and some may lose their jobs to cost cutting.

Tokyo, driven by advertising giant Dentsu Inc., has sold \$3.3 billion in local sponsorships, more than twice any previous Olympics. Those brands will be clamoring to know what they get for their money. Refunds? Make-good deals? New contracts?

And nothing much can be done until new dates are set to replace what was to be this year's Olympics: July 24 through Aug. 9, 2020.

"The general target is summer of next year," said Yoshiro Mori, president of the organizing committee and a former Japanese Prime Minister. "We have to go through scheduling, international events. Many things will have to be adjusted before we come up with a certain time frame."

Of course, all of the rescheduling problems are compounded by the uncertain spread of the virus and the recent downturn in the economy.

Muto acknowledged tough talks are ahead with the International Olympic Committee, which controls the games but leaves the host country to pick up most of the costs.

First, some Tokyo Olympic financing basics.

Local organizers and Japanese government bodies say they are spending \$12.6 billion to put on the Olympics. However, a national government audit report in December put costs at \$28 billion. There is always debate about what are — and are not — Olympic costs, and creative accounting is not unknown.

When Tokyo won the Olympic bid in 2013, it said the total cost would be \$7.3 billion.

Private-sector money makes up \$5.6 billion of today's total budget. The rest — whatever the grand total — is public money.

Tokyo has spent almost \$7 billion on temporary and permanent venues — about 85% from public funds. The most expensive venue is the new national stadium, a national government project billed at \$1.43 billion.

For its part, the Switzerland-based IOC has contributed \$1.3 billion to finance the Tokyo Olympics, a small fraction of the total cost. The IOC had income of \$5.7 billion for the last four-year Olympic cycle (2013-2016). Almost three-quarters of the income is from selling broadcasting rights, with another 18% from sponsors.

The IOC also has a reserve fund of about \$2 billion, and insurance to cover losses.

Bent Flyvbjerg, an author of "The Oxford Olympics Study 2016: Cost and Cost Overrun at the Games," in an email to the Associated Press, said the IOC should share more of the costs and termed it a "monopoly." The study found the Olympics have the "highest average cost overrun of any type of mega-project."

Flyvbjerg said the IOC should "pick up a larger part of the bill for the games, which the IOC profits from. Tokyo and Japan will pick up the added cost, unless the IOC makes an exception and expands the reserve fund, which is what the IOC should do from an ethics point of view."

Tokyo was planning to use 42 venues for 33 sports. One extra venue was planned for the Paralympics. Muto said it was not clear how many venues would be available a year from now.

"Some venues we might have to keep renting until next year," he said. "Because at some venues it takes about a year to get them ready. We can't take them down and then set them up again for the Olympics. That also means added costs."

The biggest headache could be the Athletes Village, which is to house 11,000 Olympians and staff, and 4,400 Paralympians and staff. The sprawling site on Tokyo Bay — 5,632 apartments — is to be sold off after the Olympics and reports say one-quarter have already been sold. Some cost more than \$1 million.

One of the developers, Mitsui Fudosan Co., said it has suspended sales at the complex, which will include 23 buildings.

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Even lining up 80,000 unpaid volunteers again could be expensive and create more work. The city of Tokyo was also planning to use 30,000 added volunteers to help fans find train lines, street addresses, and dish out general help for non-Japanese speakers.

Ticket demand has also been unprecedented with 7.8 million available, and demand exceeding supply by 10 times. Ticket sales are expected to raise about \$1 billion for local organizers.

All tickets have a force majeure clause, which might get organizers off the hook of paying refunds if the coronavirus is deemed to be "beyond Tokyo 2020's reasonable control."

"We don't have a final conclusion about what our policy will be," Muto said. "As much as possible, we want to make sure that people who have already bought tickets will get special consideration."

More AP sports: <https://apnews.com/apf-sports> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Sports](https://twitter.com/AP_Sports)

## Tokyo soars 8% as US stimulus deal lifts world markets

By ELAINE KURTENBACH AP Business Writer

BANGKOK (AP) — Japan's Nikkei 225 surged 8% and other world markets also jumped Wednesday after Congress and the White House reached a deal to inject nearly \$2 trillion of aid into an economy ravaged by the coronavirus.

The advances followed the best day since 1933 for the Dow Jones Industrial Average, which rocketed 11.4% higher on Tuesday.

Tokyo logged its biggest daily gain since 2008. Share prices there were lifted also by the decision to postpone the 2020 Olympics to July 2021 in view of the coronavirus pandemic, which has brought travel almost to a standstill and is leaving many millions of people ordered to stay home to help contain the outbreaks.

The postponement alleviated fears the event might be cancelled altogether.

European markets rallied, with Germany's DAX climbing 4% to 10,085.75. The CAC 40 in Paris picked up 4.6% to 4,436.54. Britain's FTSE 100 added 4% to 5,670.45.

U.S. futures turned higher after U.S. lawmakers said they had bridged their differences over the stimulus package. The future for the Dow rose 3% to 21,221.00 and the contract for the S&P 500 picked up 1.7% to 2,479.70.

The gains this week have been a respite from a brutal month of nearly nonstop selling. But with cases of the virus still climbing, investors are leery of saying markets have hit bottom. Rallies nearly as big as this have punctuated the last few weeks, none lasting more than a day.

The breakthrough on the sweeping \$2 trillion measure to aid American workers, businesses and a health care system strained by the rapidly spreading coronavirus outbreak was an expected but welcome boost to sentiment.

The deal was announced shortly after midnight and follows days of often intense haggling and mounting pressure. It still needs to be finalized in detailed legislative language, but would give direct payments to most Americans, expand unemployment benefits and provide a \$367 billion program for small businesses to keep making payroll while workers are forced to stay home.

"Given the enormity of the package, it will most certainly be well initially well-received as it should be sufficient to avoid buttress 'Main Street' from falling into worst-case, depression type scenarios, especially with the Fed prepared to monetize all the US government's debt," Stephen Innes of AxiCorp. said in a commentary.

Pressure was on Congress to act after the Federal Reserve has done nearly all it can to sustain markets.

Overnight, the Dow closed at 20,704.91, while the more closely followed S&P 500 index, which is vital for most 401(k) accounts, leaped 9.4% to 2,447.33. The Nasdaq composite jumped 8.1%, to 7,417.86.

Ultimately, investors say they need to see the number of new infections peak before markets can find a floor. The increasing spread is forcing companies to park airplanes, shut hotels and close restaurants to dine-in customers.

Earlier share rebounds have quickly evaporated. Since stocks began selling off on Feb. 20, the S&P 500



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has had six days where it's risen, and all but one of them were big gains of more than 4%. Afterward, stocks fell an average of 5% the next day.

And stimulus packages can be addictive, said Ipek Ozkardeskaya, a senior analyst at Swissquote Bank. "Is this package an economic vaccine to the virus? It is too early to tell, but the kneejerk market reaction is rather cheery," she said in a commentary. "The bigger the stimuli, the more investors demand."

The VIX index, a proxy for equity market volatility, remains relatively high, "suggesting that underlying risk sentiment may stay cautious as investors remain wary on the pace of the infection spread, with total confirmed Covid-19 cases exceeding 400,000 globally," Mizuho Bank said in a commentary.

On Wednesday, the momentum was all upward. Tokyo's Nikkei closed at 19,546.63, while the Hang Seng rose 3.8% to 23,527.19. South Korea's Kospi gained 5.9% to 1,704.76 and the S&P/ASX 200 gained 5.5% to 4,998.10. The Shanghai Composite index rose 2.2% to 2,781.59. Taiwan's benchmark jumped 3.8%. Shares were also higher in Southeast Asia.

India's Sensex jumped 6.8% after Prime Minister Narendra Modi ordered the world's largest democracy into the world's biggest lockdown Wednesday. India's 1.3 billion people were ordered to stay home in a bid to stop the coronavirus pandemic from spreading and overwhelming its fragile health care system as it has done elsewhere. Governments elsewhere have also tightened restrictions on business activity and movement as the toll from the virus has surged higher.

For most people, the coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. Those with mild illness recover in about two weeks. Severe illness including pneumonia can occur, especially in the elderly and people with existing health problems. Recovery could take six weeks in such cases.

Its unclear how long-lasting the damage from the outbreak will be on economies. Governments and central banks in other countries around the world are unveiling unprecedented levels of support for their economies in an attempt to limit the scale of the upcoming virus-related slump.

Measures of the shock to the world economy are accumulating.

On Thursday, economists expect a report to show the number of Americans applying for jobless claims easily set a record last week. Some say the number could be way beyond 1 million, amid a wave of layoffs, topping the prior record of 695,000 set in 1982.

In other trading, U.S. crude oil gained 38 cents to \$24.39 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude, the international pricing standard, added 7 cents to \$29.81 per barrel.

In currency trading, the U.S. dollar rose to 111.41 Japanese yen from 111.22 yen late Tuesday. The euro gained to \$1.0845 from \$1.0790.

## Some defy India's sweeping virus lockdown but most stay in

By ASHOK SHARMA and SHEIKH SAALIQ Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — Indians woke up to deserted streets on Wednesday as the government began the gargantuan task of keeping 1.3 billion people indoors during a Hindu holiday season to prevent the coronavirus from rapidly spreading across the subcontinent.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement of a three-week countrywide lockdown covering nearly one-fifth of the world's population triggered panic buying on Tuesday night, but the situation eased after the government issued notices that essential services would be provided.

In recent days, India had gradually expanded stay-at-home orders, banned international and domestic flights and suspended passenger service on its extensive rail system until March 31.

Television images from many cities and towns on Wednesday showed shuttered markets and offices. Normally bustling railway stations stood empty. Joggers awkwardly navigated around each other while trying to maintain proper social distancing.

Police and security forces were deployed to keep people indoors, but allowed residents to buy essentials such as milk, bread and other groceries.

India has reported 519 confirmed cases of COVID-19, the disease cause by the coronavirus, and nine



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deaths.

As the day broke, major roads in India's capital, usually jammed with traffic, were eerily quiet. The normal steady flow of pedestrians slowed to a trickle.

In Malviya Nagar, one of the capital's busiest neighborhoods, people lined up outside open grocery shops. "Delhi looks like a ghost town," said 29-year-old Nishank Gupta. "I have never seen the city so quiet before."

At a pharmacy, Sushil Agarwal, an accountant, looked for a silver lining.

"Surely, this is a time for introspection because people can realize what unpredictable things can happen to their lives. So maybe something good will come out of this," he said.

On Tuesday, Modi said that to save India and every Indian, there would be a "total" ban on venturing out for three weeks. He acknowledged that the lockdown would be a major blow to the economy, but insisted that the alternative could be worse.

"If we are not able to manage the next 21 days, the country will be set back by 21 years," he said.

He pledged \$2 billion to bolster the country's beleaguered health care system.

Wednesday is the start of the Hindu new year according to an ancient lunar calendar and the beginning of a nine-day holiday in which Hindus normally perform daily rituals at temples. The lockdown order, however, bans religious gatherings and instructs places of worship to close.

Modi acknowledged in a tweet that "The celebrations will not be like they are usually but they will strengthen our resolve to overcome our circumstances."

"May we all come together to win the important battle that the nation faces against COVID-19," he said.

Some Indians, including a member of Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, defied the lockdown and attended temple ceremonies.

Yogi Adityanath, the chief minister of India's most populous state, Uttar Pradesh, prayed to a statue of Lord Ram at a makeshift temple in Ayodhya.

Meanwhile, medical personnel and airline crews are complaining that they face discrimination from landlords and neighbors who are afraid they might transmit the virus.

State-run carrier Air India issued a statement appealing "to all, particularly the law enforcement agencies to ensure that Air India crew are treated with respect and freedom that every citizen deserves, especially those who have been discharging their duties in selfless manner for return of fellow Indians."

A health ministry statement on Tuesday said multiple complaints had been received from doctors, paramedics and other health workers in New Delhi that their landlords were forcing them to leave their houses or apartments.

The ministry asked police and municipal authorities to take strict action against the landlords.

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Associated Press writers Rishabh R. Jain in New Delhi, Biswajeet Banerjee in Lucknow and Aijaz Hussain in Srinagar contributed to this report.

## Of America and sacrifice: Is the country ready to step up?

By MICHAEL TACKETT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — For most Americans alive today, the idea of shared national sacrifice is a collective abstraction, a memory handed down from a grandparent or passed on through a book or movie.

Not since World War II, when people carried ration books with stamps that allowed them to purchase meat, sugar, butter, cooking oil and gasoline, when buying cars, firewood and nylon was restricted, when factories converted from making automobiles to making tanks, Jeeps and torpedos, when men were drafted and women volunteered in the war effort, has the entire nation been asked to sacrifice for a greater good.

The civil rights era, Vietnam, the Gulf wars, 9/11 and the financial crisis all involved suffering, even death, but no call for universal sacrifice. President George W. Bush encouraged people to buy things after the terrorist attacks to help the economy — "patriots at the mall," some called it — before the full war effort was underway. People lost jobs and homes in the financial crisis, but there was no summons for com-

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munity response.

Now, with the coronavirus, it's as though a natural disaster has taken place in multiple places at once. Millions will likely lose their jobs. Businesses will shutter. Schools have closed. Thousands will die. Leaders are ordering citizens into isolation to stop the virus' march.

Suddenly, in the course of a few weeks, John F. Kennedy's "ask what you can do for your country" injunction has come to life. Will Americans step up?

"This is a new moment," said Jon Meacham, a historian and author of "The Soul of America."

"Prolonged sacrifice isn't something we've been asked to do, really, since World War II," Meacham said. "There was a kind of perpetual vigilance in the Cold War — what President Kennedy called 'the long twilight struggle' — but living with the fear of nuclear war is quite abstract compared to living with the fear of a virus and of a possible economic depression."

The second world war involved a common enemy and common purpose, with clear sides drawn across the globe. While President Donald Trump has at times tried to summon that feeling about attacking the coronavirus, he has abruptly changed course, suggesting Monday that restrictions he has sought on American life may be as short-lived as his slogan about "15 days to slow the spread," even as others are warning that most of the country is about to be hit by a crush of new cases.

In Congress, some talk of coming together while others excoriate their partisan opposites. On Monday, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) laid the early blame for lack of congressional action entirely at the feet of Democrats.

"A request to do anything becomes a point of attack, and we are always 10 steps back from where we should be on big legislative agreements," said Julian Zelizer, a professor of history at Princeton. "So intense polarization in a moment of crisis — with a president who is not interested in time-tested forms of governance and the job of uniting — make this much more difficult."

That has not been universal. Gov. Mike DeWine (R-Ohio), moved swiftly to shut down most activity in his state and he implored Ohioans to help.

"We have not faced an enemy like we are facing today in 102 years," DeWine said recently. "You have to go back to the 1918 influenza epidemic. We are certainly at war. ... In the time of war, we must make sacrifices, and I thank all of our Ohio citizens for what they are doing and what they aren't doing. You are making a huge difference, and this difference will save lives."

As a nation, Americans are accustomed to seeing swaths of the country destroyed by hurricanes, floods, wildfires and blizzards. But there is then a season of rebuilding and renewal. The coronavirus, with its rapid spread, is giving Americans a public-health Katrina that knows few borders or boundaries, even though some parts of the country are suffering far more than others.

To date, for many, the sacrifices have been mere inconveniences. No restaurants or movie theaters. Maybe the need to buy exercise equipment because the gym has closed. Or to leave the cardboard box from Amazon outside for 24 hours to make sure the virus doesn't somehow enter the home.

A week of being told to work from home can resemble a working vacation. A week of not being able to work at all is frustrating but, potentially, eventually reversible.

But when a week bleeds into a month, or longer, how will we react?

"We used to tax in times of crisis. Now we don't," Zelizer said. "We asked people to ration in times of crisis. Now we don't. We asked people to serve in times of crisis. Now we don't. So this is a sea change. The thing is, Americans might not have a choice."

For many, the choices are personal and painful. Rep. Abigail Spanberger (D-Va.) cannot see her parents or her in-laws for the foreseeable future because she may have been exposed to the virus. But she is also seeing the impact of the virus in many other ways that are far more harmful.

"I think we are at the beginning stages of people understanding what the sacrifice is," Spanberger said. "People with loved ones in nursing homes are told they can't go visit their loved ones. That brings it home. For people who have kids, trying to explain why they can't go to school, can't have playdates, can't see friends, can't see family members.

"It is this element of everyone needs to disrupt their lives so that other people won't die," she said. "It's

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different than eating less meat because of war or working in a factory because a husband is overseas. But you also can't engage with the community, so it makes it harder. You can't lean on your social circle, church, or school. All of those things are taken from us trying to keep people safe."

With people being asked to sacrifice their jobs, their children's education, their ability to commune with family and friends, Spanberger said, "the depth of empathy that that should be available and the strength of concerns over these decisions needs to be unparalleled and we do not see that, at least not from the administration."

What the nation's leaders do or don't do will shape the course of the pandemic and its lethality. But it will be Americans' willingness to sacrifice that may well matter more.

"In the end, this presents a great and compelling test of our national sense of ourselves as exceptional, generous and resilient," Meacham said. "Perhaps we are all of those things. One thing's for sure: We're about to find out."

Michael Tackett is deputy Washington bureau chief for The Associated Press. Follow him on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/tackettdc>

## Trump, Congress agree on \$2 trillion virus rescue bill

By **ANDREW TAYLOR, LISA MASCARO and JONATHAN LEMIRE** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House and Senate leaders of both parties announced agreement early Wednesday on unprecedented emergency legislation to rush sweeping aid to businesses, workers and a health care system slammed by the coronavirus pandemic.

The urgently needed pandemic response measure is the largest economic rescue measure in history and is intended as a weeks- or months-long patch for an economy spiraling into recession and a nation facing a potentially ghastly toll.

Top White House aide Eric Ueland announced the agreement in a Capitol hallway shortly after midnight, capping days of often intense haggling and mounting pressure. It still needs to be finalized in detailed legislative language.

"Ladies and gentlemen, we are done. We have a deal," Ueland said.

The unprecedented economic rescue package would give direct payments to most Americans, expand unemployment benefits and provide a \$367 billion program for small businesses to keep making payroll while workers are forced to stay home.

One of the last issues to close concerned \$500 billion for guaranteed, subsidized loans to larger industries, including a fight over how generous to be with the airlines. Hospitals would get significant help as well.

"After days of intense discussions, the Senate has reached a bipartisan agreement on a historic relief package for this pandemic," said Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., a key negotiator. "It will rush new resources onto the front lines of our nation's health care fight. And it will inject trillions of dollars of cash into the economy as fast as possible to help Americans workers, families, small businesses and industries make it through this disruption and emerge on the other side ready to soar."

At the White House on Tuesday, even as the public-health crisis deepened, President Donald Trump expressed eagerness to nudge many people back to work in coming weeks and held out a prospect, based more on hope than science, that the country could be returning to normal in less than a month.

"We have to go back to work, much sooner than people thought," Trump told a Fox News town hall. He said he'd like to have the country "opened up and just raring to go" by Easter, April 12. But in a White House briefing later, Trump said that "our decision will be based on hard facts and data."

Medical professionals say social distancing needs to be stepped up, not relaxed, to slow the spread of infections. At the White House briefing, the public-health authorities said it was particularly important for people in the hard-hit New York City metropolitan area to quarantine themselves for 14 days, and for those who have recently left the city to do the same.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the government's top infectious disease expert, said pointedly at the briefing, "No

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one is going to want to tone down anything when you see what is going on in a place like New York City.”

On Capitol Hill, five days of arduous talks produced the bill, creating tensions among Congress’ top leaders, who each took care to tend to party politics as they maneuvered and battled over crafting the legislation. But failure was never an option, which permitted both sides to mark big wins.

Even before the deal was reached, news of the likely but elusive agreement had sent the stock market rocketing on Tuesday. The emerging rescue package would be larger than the 2008 bank bailout and 2009 recovery act combined.

The unprecedented economic rescue package would give direct a one-time payment of \$1,200 per adult and \$500 per child directly to the public.

A huge cash infusion for hospitals expecting a flood of COVID-19 patients grew during the talks at the insistence of Sen. Chuck Schumer, the Democratic leader, while Republicans pressed for tens of billions of dollars for additional relief to be delivered through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the lead federal disaster agency.

Democrats said the package would help replace the salary of furloughed workers for four months, rather than the three months first proposed. Furloughed workers would get whatever amount a state usually provides for unemployment, plus a \$600 per week add-on, with gig workers like Uber drivers covered for the first time.

“It ensures that all workers are protected whether they work for businesses small, medium or large, along with self-employed and workers in the gig economy,” Schumer said.

Republicans won inclusion of an “employee retention” tax credit that’s estimated to provide \$50 billion to companies who retain employees on payroll and cover 50% of workers’ paychecks. Companies would also be able to defer payment of the 6.2% Social Security payroll tax.

Democrats pointed to gains for hospitals, additional oversight of the huge industry stabilization fund, and money for cash-strapped states. A companion appropriations package ballooned as well, growing from a \$46 billion White House proposal to more than \$300 billion, which dwarfs earlier disasters — including Hurricane Katrina and Superstorm Sandy combined.

To provide transparency, the package is expected to create a new inspector general and oversight board for the corporate dollars, much as was done during the 2008 Troubled Asset Relief Program bank rescue, officials said.

Trump in recent days has sounded a note of frustration about the unprecedented modern-day effort to halt the virus’ march by essentially shutting down public activities in ways that now threaten the U.S. economy.

Even though Trump’s administration recommended Americans curtail activities for 15 days, starting just over a week ago, the president said he may soon allow parts of the economy, in regions so far less badly hit by the virus, to begin reopening.

He continued on that theme Tuesday as he weighed a relaxation of social distancing guidelines after the 15-day period is up. His suggestion that the pandemic could ease and allow a return to normalcy in a mere few weeks is not supported by public health officials or many others in government.

On Tuesday, top defense and military leaders warned department personnel that the virus problems could extend for eight to 10 weeks, or longer. Army Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said during a Defense Department town hall meeting that the crisis could even extend into July.

Trump has balked at using his authority under the recently invoked Defense Protection Act to compel the private sector to manufacture needed medical supplies like masks and ventilators, even as he encourages them to spur production. “We are a country not based on nationalizing our business,” said Trump, who has repeatedly railed against socialism overseas and among Democrats.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. The vast majority of people recover from the new virus. According to the World Health Organization, people with mild illness recover in about two weeks, while those with more severe illness may take three to six weeks to recover.



Associated Press writers Lolita C. Baldor, Zeke Miller, Mary Clare Jalonick, Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, Alan Fram and Padmananda Rama contributed to this report.

## Virus causes surge in WW II references, but is it merited?

By TAMER FAKAHANY Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — In the first week of June 2019, World War II was on many people's minds.

It was the 75th anniversary of D-Day, a week filled with events honoring the sacrifice and blood of tens of thousands of Allied soldiers that was spilled on the French beaches. Leaders from the United States, Britain, Canada, France — and then-foe and now ally Germany — gathered in a rare show of unity in Normandy, where the tide of the war was so decisively turned.

Now, nine months later, World War II references are once again being heard daily — because of the coronavirus.

The comparison is everywhere in recent days: The world is facing the most serious threat and challenge since the last truly global war. Various leaders have cited World War II in their virus-related remarks. There is pervasive fear that an "invisible enemy" could cause a severe escalation in deaths, ravage the global economy, hamper food supply and spark social unrest.

And there's pushback, too — that the World War II reference is unhelpful and only adds to the fear.

But compare these past frightening few weeks with this roll call of names, places and battles: Hitler, Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill. Auschwitz and Pearl Harbor and Midway and Stalingrad. The siege of Leningrad, the German blitz of London and the Allied firebombing of Dresden. The final, nuclear chapters of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

And compare the utter destruction of cities to empty streets now. Or the death tolls: 85 million then, over 18,000 now, though that latter figure is expected to multiply.

Do the World War II comparisons really hold up, or is it just a convenient metaphor? Here's a look at the connections between the two eras — and the fundamental differences as well.

### WORLD LEADERS' RALLYING CALLS

German Chancellor Angela Merkel was born the decade after the Nazis' defeat and grew up in East Germany feeling the war's direct consequences. Last week, in a rare address to her nation, she stared into the camera with this appeal: "Since German unification — no, since the Second World War — there has been no challenge to our nation that has demanded such a degree of common and united action."

U.S. President Donald Trump went from dismissing the virus as a "hoax" to declaring himself a "wartime president" as he cited the 70-year-old Defense Production Act to battle shortages in desperately needed medical supplies like masks and ventilators as more and more Americans become stricken. He hasn't actually used the federal law yet in spite of strong calls from, among others, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo to do so immediately.

Queen Elizabeth, speaking in recent days, seemed to allude to her own teenage years in World War II when she served as a mechanic and drove military trucks as part of the auxiliary territorial armed services in Britain. "At times such as these, I am reminded that our nation's history has been forged by people and communities coming together to work as one," she said.

Italy has suffered more deaths than any other nation from the virus so far. Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte went on TV late Saturday, announcing that he was tightening the country's lockdown and shutting down all production facilities except those providing essential goods and services. He said: "We are facing the most serious crisis that the country has experienced since World War II."

### DEATH TOLLS AND DEVASTATION

In World War II, 3% of the world's population died; of an estimated 2.3 billion people, 85 million perished. With a current global populace of some 7.7 billion, a similar death toll from the pandemic would mean 231 million dead. Some experts have warned of tens of millions dying from the virus if lockdown and social-distancing measures are not adhered to.



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But there is no endless bombardment from above across vast swaths of the earth, nor a global human tide of misery fleeing those bombs and massacres, nor concentration camps, nor multiple prisoner of war camps with forced labor.

Entire cities and towns were razed in World War II. Oradour-sur-Glane, France — where the Nazis carried out the worst massacre of civilians on French territory in 1944 — is a ghost town, preserved today in ruin as Nazis left it. More than 600 people, including nearly 250 children, were slaughtered.

## RESCUE PLANS, EMPLOYMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

Governments are showing varying degrees of commitment to keeping critical industries and the working population afloat in the time of COVID-19. Rescue plans projected by several Western countries bear a resemblance to the Marshall Plan, the \$15 billion U.S. initiative that aided European recovery after World War II.

In several countries, as many men fought overseas in World War II, women were called upon to bolster the workforce and, in particular, help to produce armaments. Now the key workers across the world are the doctors, nurses, caregivers and cleaners — and those who can are told to work from home to avoid spreading the virus.

That work and the economies it sustains, like much else in the modern world, is dependent on one key connector: internet service. If that cratered, the next phase of crisis could be one triggered not by developments in technology — such as the atomic bomb — but simply by the sudden lack of it.

For human beings who lived through World War II, such a notion would seem unimaginable.

**EDITOR'S NOTE** — Tamer Fakahany is AP's deputy director for global news coordination and has helped direct international coverage for the AP for 17 years. Follow him on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/tamer-fakahany>.

## India's 1.3 billion locked down as US reaches virus aid deal

By **CHRIS BLAKE** and **SHEIKH SAALIQ** Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — The world's largest democracy went under the world's biggest lockdown Wednesday, with India's 1.3 billion people ordered to stay home in a bid to stop the coronavirus pandemic, while in the U.S., lawmakers and the White House agreed on a massive \$2 trillion domestic aid package to help those impacted by the outbreak.

India's unprecedented move was aimed at keeping the virus from spreading and overwhelming its fragile health care system as it has done in parts of Europe, where infections were still surging. New York, meanwhile, scrambled to set up thousands of new hospital beds, and organizers delayed this summer's Tokyo Olympics until next year.

Financial markets continued their wild swings, with Asian benchmarks gaining Wednesday after Wall Street posted its best day since 1933 in anticipation of the economic rescue package. The deal would give direct payments to most Americans, expand unemployment benefits and provide a \$367 billion program for small businesses to keep making payroll.

In India, everything but essential services like supermarkets were shuttered. Normally bustling railway stations in New Delhi were deserted and streets that just hours before were jumbled with honking cars were eerily silent with just a trickle of pedestrians.

"Delhi looks like a ghost town," said Nishank Gupta, a lawyer. "I have never seen the city so quiet before."

India has about 450 cases of the virus, but Prime Minister Narendra Modi warned that if he didn't act now it could set the country back decades.

In Washington, top White House aide Eric Ueland announced the economic agreement in a Capitol hallway shortly after midnight. "Ladies and gentlemen, we are done. We have a deal," Ueland said.

The deal came after days of haggling and still needed to be finalized in detailed legislative language.

One of the last issues to be decided concerned \$500 billion for guaranteed, subsidized loans to larger industries, including a fight over how generous to be with airlines that have been rocked by a near shut-

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down of travel. Hospitals would get significant help as well.

With Americans' lives and livelihoods hanging in the balance, President Donald Trump said he hoped to reopen the country in less than three weeks.

"I would love to have the country opened up and just raring to go by Easter," he said during a Fox News virtual town hall.

With infections in the U.S. exceeding 55,000, including more than 690 deaths, public health experts have warned that failing to maintain social distancing would balloon infections to the point the health care system would be overwhelmed and many more people would die.

More than 423,000 people worldwide have been infected by the virus and nearly 19,000 have died, according to a running tally by Johns Hopkins University.

A flicker of hope that Italy, which has seen the most deaths in the world, faded with an increase Tuesday in both new cases and fatalities. Spain had so many bodies it commandeered an ice rink to store them.

There are signs, however, that drastic measures to keep people away from one another can push back the spread of the illness. In China, the province where the outbreak was first spotted late last year started lifting its lockdown.

Some train stations and bus services reopened in Hubei on Wednesday and people who passed a health check would finally be allowed to travel for the first time since January. A similar easing in the hard-hit epicenter of Wuhan is planned for April 8, though buses and subways could start sooner.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia and death.

It is the latter cases — often requiring ventilators and specialized care — that threaten to overwhelm hospitals, which in several countries are already running short of critical equipment needed to treat patients and keep doctors and nurses safe.

In New York, the number of cases is doubling every three days, threatening to swamp the city's intensive care units in the weeks ahead, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said. The state has recorded more than 200 deaths, or one-third of the U.S. total.

"One of the forecasters said to me: 'We were looking at a freight train coming across the country,'" the governor said. "We're now looking at a bullet train."

Cuomo proposed the country send thousands of ventilators to New York City — the metropolitan area needs 30,000 of them, he said — and demanded that Trump use wartime authority to force manufacturers to produce them.

Trump has invoked the Korean War-era Defense Production Act to deter hoarding but has been reluctant to use it to force companies to produce medical supplies. Vice President Mike Pence said on Fox News that 2,000 ventilators have been shipped to New York and 2,000 more will be sent Wednesday.

Spain, meanwhile, registered a record one-day increase of nearly 6,600 new infections and a leap of more than 500 deaths, to almost 2,700.

The country started storing bodies in an ice rink converted to a morgue until they could be buried or cremated. Also, army troops disinfecting nursing homes discovered elderly people living amid the corpses of suspected coronavirus victims. Prosecutors opened an investigation.

In Italy, a jump in the number of new deaths and cases dashed hopes fed by two days of declines. The 743 deaths reported Tuesday pushed Italy's toll past 6,800.

"Woe to whoever lets down the guard," Health Minister Roberto Speranza said.

World Health Organization spokeswoman Margaret Harris said cases around the world are expected to increase "considerably."

With no end to the crisis in sight, the International Olympic Committee on Tuesday postponed the 2020 Tokyo Olympics until the summer of 2021 at the latest, acting on the recommendation of Japan's prime minister.

In New Zealand, the government declared an emergency before an unprecedented lockdown begins

late Wednesday.

"I have one simple message for New Zealanders today as we head into the next four weeks: Stay at home," Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said. "It will break the chain of transmission and it will save lives."

In Brazil, which has seen about 2,200 cases, President Jair Bolsonaro was taking a different approach, sticking with his contention that virus concerns were overblown.

"The virus arrived, we are confronting it, and it will pass shortly," he said in a nationwide address Tuesday. "Our lives have to continue, jobs should be maintained."

He said certain Brazilian states should abandon their "scorched earth" policy of prohibiting public transport, closing business and schools, and urging people to stay home.

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Blake reported from Bangkok. Associated Press reporters around the world contributed to this report.

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Follow AP coverage of the virus outbreak at <https://apnews.com/VirusOutbreak> and <https://apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak>

## Survivors of world conflicts offer perspective amid pandemic

By JOSEPH KRAUSS and FARES AKRAM Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — As Western countries reeling from the coronavirus pandemic awaken to a new reality of economic collapse, overwhelmed hospitals, grounded flights and home confinement, it's tempting to think the end of days is at hand.

But for millions across the Middle East and in conflict zones farther afield, much of this is grimly familiar. The survivors of recent wars, too often dismissed as the pitiable victims of failed states, can offer hard-earned wisdom in times like these.

Few have more experience with lockdowns and closures than the Palestinians. During the uprising known as the Second Intifada in the early 2000s, Israel shut down parts of the occupied West Bank and Gaza for weeks on end, using checkpoints and curfews to try to quash it.

In 2002, Israel imposed an around-the-clock curfew in Bethlehem for weeks as troops battled Palestinian militants holed up in the Church of the Nativity, built on the site revered by Christians as Jesus' birthplace.

Jamal Shihadeh remembers being stuck in his home for 25 days before he slipped out and fled to a nearby Jewish settlement in order to work. He ended up sleeping in the factory until the closures were lifted.

Now he is stuck at home again. Israel and the Palestinian Authority sealed off Bethlehem and severely restricted movement after several residents and tourists tested positive for the coronavirus.

The virus causes only mild symptoms in most patients, who recover in a matter of weeks. But it is highly contagious and can cause severe illness, including pneumonia, particularly in older patients or those with underlying health problems.

"A virus outbreak is much more serious than an Israeli invasion," Shihadeh said. "You can stay away from the soldiers, but I'm not sure you can stay away from a virus."

Now he and his wife and sons, who have been stuck at home since March 5, live much the same way he did in 2002. They watch the news and Arab soap operas on TV, they play cards and socialize, and they wait for the situation to improve.

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### 'OTHER THINGS WERE NOT IMPORTANT'

The Gaza Strip has been under an Israeli and Egyptian blockade since the Islamic militant group Hamas seized power in 2007. Travel in or out is heavily restricted, and many Palestinians were trapped in their homes for days or weeks at a time during the three wars Hamas has fought with Israel.

During the 2008-2009 war, Mohammed al-Attar awoke one morning to the sound of tanks, aircraft and gunfire. By then, much of his extended family had gathered on the ground floor, with about 80 people sleeping in the living room, kitchen and other areas away from outer walls or windows.

The family had stocked up on mattresses and basic goods, but after five days they raised white flags

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and were evacuated to a school that had been turned into a shelter.

"We were just praying for it to stop and that we would stay alive," he said. "Other things were not important."

Gaza has only reported two coronavirus cases, but there are fears that even a small outbreak could overwhelm its health care system. There are only about 60 ventilators in the territory of 2 million, and most of the breathing machines are already in use by patients with other ailments.

Long before the pandemic, Gazans were forced to adapt to daily hardships. Most only have a few hours of electricity a day, the tap water is undrinkable, and the unemployment rate is about 50%. It's almost always been difficult to leave, even for those who can afford it, and now the borders with Israel and Egypt are sealed.

## 'WE EXPECT IT TO HAPPEN TO US'

In Sarajevo, the lockdowns have revived painful memories of when the city was besieged for 46 months during the Balkan wars in the 1990s.

Bosnian Serb fighters were deployed on the surrounding hillsides and pounded the city with artillery fire. There were severe shortages of food, water and electricity, and snipers gunned down those who ventured out.

It was the kind of thing you hear about on the news, the kind of thing that happens in faraway countries. That's what the people of Sarajevo thought.

And then it happened to them.

Aida Begic, a filmmaker who was a teenager at the time, recalls how even after fighting began in other parts of the country, no one in Sarajevo thought it would reach them.

"Then it happened, and it lasted for three and a half years," she said. "When something like this (pandemic) is happening, we do not doubt that it will happen to us. We expect it to happen to us. We are certain that it will."

Now, many are drawing on lessons from the war. Some are buying wood-burning stoves, seed potatoes and onions. Begic knows people who have bought up to 40 kilograms (90 pounds) of flour.

"Someone who hasn't had our experience may not remember that they must buy extra face cream and other similar everyday products," she said. "We remember the things we missed during the war."

## 'AN ENEMY THAT WE DON'T KNOW'

The comparisons with wartime lockdowns only go so far, as those who have lived through both readily acknowledge.

Hanaa al-Yemen, a 55-year-old mother of three in Lebanon's port city of Sidon, lived through her country's 1975-1990 civil war and various other bouts of violence, including the 2006 war between Israel and the Hezbollah militant group.

But she said the coronavirus pandemic, and the countrywide lockdown imposed to contain it, is like nothing she's ever experienced.

"We used to be so scared of the warplanes and the random shelling, but we could still go out at times and work," she said. "Today there is an enemy and a danger that we don't know, we can't see or touch it, and it can strike us or a member of our family at any time."

In Cuba, which is under a 30-day lockdown, many have become masters of self-sufficiency through decades of U.S. sanctions and several periods of severe stagnation in the centrally planned economy.

"We're always storing things," said Taimy Martinez, a 41-year-old administrator in a state-run business. "If we have chicken, we use it little by little. If we have money to buy canned food, we do. Sugar, a bit of bread to make toast, we make it last."

"I can endure a three-week quarantine if we start today," she said.

In the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir, lockdowns have been a fact of life for decades. Pakistan and India have split the region in two, each claiming it in its entirety, while residents have long demanded



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independence or union with Pakistan.

Last August, India stripped the region of its semi-autonomy. Fearing mass protests or a full-blown uprising, it ordered the region's 7 million people to stay indoors for months and imposed an information blackout, cutting off internet and even phone service. Indian troops arrested thousands in anticipation of protests.

It's happened before, and Kashmiris have learned to make the best of it.

"I can enumerate at least half a dozen things which curfews and security lockdowns have taught us," said Sajjad Ahmed, a schoolteacher.

He says volunteers have mobilized to help the elderly and infirm. Parents have learned to home-school their children, and nearly everyone has mastered basic first aid, often by treating those wounded in clashes with security forces.

When extended families are stuck inside for weeks or months at a time, they share stories, imparting a sense of history that can provide strength in times of turmoil.

"It helped us to rediscover the family and social talk," Ahmed said.

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Krauss reported from Jerusalem. Associated Press writers Mohammed Daraghmeh in Ramallah, West Bank; Ahmad Mantash in Sidon, Lebanon; Sabina Niksic in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina; Andrea Rodríguez in Havana and Aijaz Hussain in Srinagar, India, contributed to this report.

## **They already had an anxiety disorder. Now comes a pandemic.**

**By MALCOLM RITTER AP Science Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — At first, Jonathon Seidl wasn't worried about the coronavirus despite his anxiety disorder. But that changed.

The 33-year-old digital media strategist from Dallas, who takes medication, said his concern was less about getting sick than about the battering the economy could sustain. Would he be able to feed his family? Would there be a run on food stores? He could not shake his worries.

So he paced. His heart raced. He wanted to go to bed early "because sleep was the only respite." But his sleep was rarely restful. "I would wake up during the night," he said.

The pandemic is worrisome enough for most people. For those with anxiety disorders, it presents a special challenge, especially if they are not receiving treatment.

That's the case for about two-thirds of people with anxiety disorders, says Dr. Bruce Schwartz, president of the American Psychiatric Association. "Those are the ones I'm worried about," he said.

Schwartz, who maintains a practice in New York, said those who are in treatment "do pretty well" in the face of the pandemic.

Still, some psychologists say they have noticed an uptick in symptoms with the spread of the virus. And for some anxiety conditions, the recommendations from health officials can appear to feed the problem. People who fear interacting with others now hear advice to avoid crowds. People with obsessive-compulsive disorder who fear germs so much they wash their hands excessively now hear public health authorities encouraging frequent hand-washing.

Standard treatments can deal with coronavirus fears in people who already had anxiety troubles, helping them to avoid emotional extremes, psychologists say. The goal is accepting an appropriate level of anxiety and living with some uncertainty.

"You don't have to like that any of this is happening to accept that this is our reality right now," said Vaile Wright, director of clinical research and quality at the American Psychological Association. People can focus on what's under their control, she said, like how to work from home or manage the kids with schools closed.

Mary Alvord, a psychologist in Rockville, Maryland, said she sees increased anxiety in people whose fear of picking up germs drives them to rituals to ease that fear. Public health messages about cleaning surfaces and washing hands can make some patients think "we were right all along," Alvord said.

So "we have to really deal with reality checks," she said. People with an anxiety disorder tend to focus

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on "what-if" ideas and worst-case scenarios more than what is going on in the present, she said. "That's what we're trying to get under control."

It's tricky to get people with obsessive-compulsive behavior to focus on taking reasonable precautions without fueling their condition, said Neda Gould, associate director of an anxiety clinic at the Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center in Baltimore. A mental health provider can help them set goals and limits, she said, while techniques for relaxation and meditation can help "turn off that heightened anxiety or stress response ... or at least to turn it down."

Somebody with obsessive-compulsive disorder might be encouraged to touch some surface they fear is contaminated, and then not wash their hands for 20 minutes, and even then for only the recommended 20 seconds rather than five minutes with scalding-hot water, Wright said.

For people apprehensive about dealing with others, the public health advice about avoiding groups also makes therapy challenging, Gould said. The key thing is to stay connected to other people, and that can be done by social media, email, video conferencing or phone calls, she said.

Alvord, in fact, said she avoids the term "social distancing" and instead talks about "physical distancing and social connectedness." That allows for connecting online, she said.

It can be hard for anxiety-prone people to reach out when they feel overwhelmed, Wright said, so other people should put in the effort to contact them, just to ask how they're doing. "There's nothing wrong in talking about the virus in a productive way," encouraging people to take care of themselves physically and emotionally without inducing panic and destructive riffs of "what-if," she said.

And it's OK to contact friends and family "and talk not at all about the virus right now," she said. "We need that too. We need a balance."

Schwartz recommends that people staying home limit the amount of time spent listening to the news, which includes not leaving it on in the background. And he suggests staying busy with projects like cleaning closets and drawers and cooking with one's family, as well as getting outdoors for walks.

Alvord, who directs 18 therapists in two offices, said her practice, like many others, has moved its patients to online contact. She noted that thousands of psychologists signed up for her recent webinar on practicing psychology remotely in the pandemic age.

In her case, the shift was promoted both by people anxious about showing up in person and the practice's own precautions for a caseload that could land 50 people in a waiting room on a Saturday morning.

Research shows internet therapy can be as effective as doing in person, Alvord said. But "it's different than having somebody in the office," she said. "I only see you from the waist up ... I don't see you walking. I don't see all the full range of gestures."

Gould said she recently moved all her sessions to telephone or videoconferencing, including group sessions. The goal is to help people like Seidl, who says he has found some solace in thinking about life after the outbreak.

"It's one of the things that gives me hope," he said, describing a point where his mind slows down and his heart stops racing. "There is so much relief, and there is so much rest."

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Marshall Ritzel in New York contributed to this report.

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The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

## Out of vital medication, US woman among those stuck in Peru

By MITCH WEISS, HOLBROOK MOHR and MATTHEW LEE Associated Press

For Anna, a 33-year-old American woman stranded in a Peruvian hotel room and out of life-saving medication to treat her auto-immune disease, the clock is ticking.

After Peru ordered its borders closed March 15 in an effort to hinder the spread of the new coronavirus, she and her husband tried to charter a plane to leave Cusco. They even planned to take with them other

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Americans trapped in the city nestled high in the Andes near the ancient ruins of Machu Picchu.

But the Peruvian government refused to give the plane permission to land, according to the couple, the U.S. government and airline officials. And when they asked the U.S. State Department for help, they said they were told the agency was working on the situation.

"There are other foreign governments that are able to take out their citizens, but it seems that with the U.S. there is some gridlock in the Peruvian government granting those airplanes permission to land," Anna said. "But there are many citizens here that are just desperate to go home."

The couple's plight is the latest in a series of problems facing thousands of U.S. citizens trapped all over the world because of the COVID-19 pandemic. U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said last week that he has been working to repatriate Americans. But like others, Anna and her husband say they have gotten little help.

Amid outcry from congressional leaders over the Peru situation, the State Department slammed Peru on Tuesday for turning back two repatriation flights for hundreds of U.S. tourists and said it was engaging the country's government and "advocating vigorously for the return of our citizens." The Embassy previously coordinated with Peru on repatriation flights that brought home 700 Americans.

There was no immediate comment from Peru's foreign ministry. President Martín Vizcarra, a soft-spoken U.S. ally, was among the first in Latin America to close borders over the coronavirus pandemic, deploy the military and require people to stay in their homes. Initially he allowed waivers for chartered repatriation flights, but that ended Saturday.

The pandemic has infected more than 400,000 people around the world and killed over 18,000. The COVID-19 illness causes mild or moderate symptoms in most people, but severe, life-threatening symptoms are possible especially for the elderly or those with existing health problems — like Anna. She and her husband requested that their last names not be made public for privacy reasons related to her medical condition and out of fear of possible retaliation from Peruvian authorities.

Peru confirmed its first case of the virus March 6, three days before Anna arrived to meet her husband who was there as part of a South American trip. When Peru's president declared an emergency and closed the country's borders days later, they were given just 24 hours to leave.

Anna's husband immediately turned to the U.S. Embassy for help, telling officials about her precarious health condition and dwindling supply of medication. He provided a note from her U.S. doctor attesting that it was "very urgent and important that she returns to USA" for treatment.

Lacking an answer about whether a U.S. plane would rescue them, he contacted political leaders in Texas including Sens. Ted Cruz and John Cornyn who he said tried to help. The couple believed an American plane would land in Cusco on Tuesday, but that didn't happen.

American Airlines spokesman Ross Feinstein said a charter flight from Miami reached Peruvian airspace that afternoon but was denied permission to land, and circled until fuel levels dictated a return to Miami. The State Department said Peru also did not provide clearances for a LATAM flight to pick up Americans in Cusco.

U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio tweeted Tuesday that the problems in Peru were due to a "lack of urgency" by mid-level State Department employees, but that a "competent official has taken direct control."

Anna's husband had a backup plan: He had reached out to private companies to charter an air ambulance, but he said Peruvian authorities refused to let it land.

Various private air charter companies have been working feverishly to find a way to bring them home, according to communications that Anna showed to The Associated Press.

Steve Panzella, president of Horizon Jets Charter Inc., said the couple contacted him about an air ambulance and said they were willing to pay to bring other Americans home on any flight they charter. He said Cusco's airport presents some challenges because it is high in the mountains and not all airplanes are designed to take off from that elevation, but he said the holdup in this case has been securing permission from Peru.

"I have been getting calls 24 hours a day from people stuck all over Central and South America, but

nothing like Peru," Panzella said. "People are desperate."

In interviews, other Americans who traveled to Peru painted a bleak picture of armed troops patrolling the streets during the lockdown and making sure they stay in their hotels. Some told AP they didn't know how or when they would get home. Others managed to leave by buying tickets through local travel companies. But they were given little advance notice about the flights and didn't know until they boarded if there would be enough seats.

Constance Bauer told AP via email that her son is stuck with other Americans in the Amazonian city of Iquitos.

"And the situation is much worse for these folks than for those in Lima (the capital) — food, medical supplies, medical care, clean water are very scarce in Iquitos and they are under a strict, military-enforced quarantine," she wrote.

For Anna, all there is to do is wait.

"I'm out of my medications," she said, "and it is not a condition that can be treated here in Peru."

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Associated Press writers Joshua Goodman in Miami, Franklin Briceno in Lima, Peru, and David Koenig in Dallas contributed to this report.

## Trump hoping to see US economy reopened by Easter amid virus

By ZEKE MILLER and DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said he is hoping the United States will be reopened by Easter as he weighs how to relax nationwide social-distancing guidelines to put some workers back on the job during the coronavirus outbreak.

Trump's optimism contradicted the warnings of some public health officials who called for stricter — not looser — restrictions on public interactions. But federal officials suggested that advisories could be loosened in areas not experiencing widespread infection.

With lives and the economy hanging in the balance, Trump said Tuesday he was already looking toward easing the advisories that have sidelined workers, shuttered schools and led to a widespread economic slowdown.

"I would love to have the country opened up and just raring to go by Easter," he said during a Fox News virtual town hall. Easter is just over two weeks away — Apr. 12.

"Wouldn't it be great to have all of the churches full?" Trump said in a subsequent interview. "You'll have packed churches all over our country."

And as scientists warned the worst is yet to come — with hospital systems tested beyond their capacity and health workers sidelined by exposure — Trump addressed the nation, saying he was beginning "to see the light at the end of the tunnel."

Trump's comments came even as White House officials urged people who have left New York City amid the outbreak to self-quarantine for 14 days after their departure, owing to the widespread rate of infection in the metro area. It also follows on the president encouraging lawmakers on Capitol Hill to pass a roughly \$2 trillion stimulus package — estimated at roughly \$6 trillion once the Federal Reserve's actions are included — to ease the financial pain for Americans and hard-hit industries.

Health experts have made clear that unless Americans continue to dramatically limit social interaction — staying home from work and isolating themselves — the number of infections will overwhelm the health care system, as it has in parts of Italy, leading to many more deaths. While the worst outbreaks are concentrated in certain parts of the country, such as New York, experts warn that the highly infectious disease is certain to spread.

The U.S. is now more than a week into an unprecedented 15-day effort to encourage all Americans to drastically scale back their public activities. The guidelines, issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, are voluntary, but many state and local leaders have issued mandatory restrictions in line with, or even tighter than, those issued by the CDC.



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On Monday, the U.S. saw its biggest jump yet in the death toll from the virus, with more than 650 American deaths now attributed to COVID-19. Trump's comments come after dire warnings by officials in hard-hit areas. New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said his state's hospital system will soon hit a breaking point — resulting in avoidable deaths — even with the restrictions already in place.

"I gave it two weeks," Trump said during the town hall from the Rose Garden. He argued that tens of thousands of Americans die each year from the seasonal flu and in automobile accidents and "we don't turn the country off."

When the 15-day period ends next Monday, he said, "We'll assess at that time and we'll give it some more time if we need a little more time, but we need to open this country up." He added, "We have to go back to work, much sooner than people thought."

Trump's Easter target was not immediately embraced by Dr. Deborah Birx, the coordinator for the White House task force, who indicated any move would have to be guided by data still being collected. She suggested that public health professionals could recommend a general easing, while pushing for local restrictions to remain in the hardest-hit areas.

Trump acknowledged that some want the guidance to continue, but claimed without providing evidence that keeping the guidance in place would lead to deaths from suicide and depression.

"This cure is worse than the problem," Trump said.

During a press briefing Tuesday evening, Trump said public health officials and economists were "working to develop a sophisticated plan to open the economy as soon as the time is right — based on the best science, the best modeling and the best medical research there is anywhere on earth."

Trump's enthusiasm for getting people back to work comes as he takes stock of the political toll the outbreak is taking. It sets up a potential conflict with medical professionals, including many within his government, who have called for more social restrictions to slow the spread of the virus, not fewer.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's leading expert on infectious diseases and a member of the White House's coronavirus task force, did not appear at the virtual town hall, but Trump denied there were any tensions between the two men.

"I will be guided very much by Dr. Fauci and Deborah," Trump said.

At the press briefing later, Fauci said, "No one is going to want to tone down anything when you see what is going on in a place like New York City." But he suggested he would be willing to examine the potential for easing the CDC advisories in areas that have been less affected by the outbreak.

Larry Kudlow, Trump's top economic adviser, told reporters Tuesday that "public health includes economic health."

"That's the key point. And it's not either-or. It's not either-or, and that's why we're taking a fresh look at it," he said.

During a private conference call with roughly 30 conservative leaders on Tuesday, Vice President Mike Pence reinforced Trump's eagerness to lift coronavirus-related work and travel restrictions "in a matter of weeks, not months."

When pressed on a specific timeline for lifting restrictions, Pence said there would be no formal decisions made until the current 15-day period of social distancing was complete, according to a conference call participant who spoke on the condition of anonymity to share details of the private discussion.

Pence told the group that accommodations would need to be made for the highest-risk populations if and when restrictions begin to be lifted.

Despite Trump's rosy talk, other elements of the government were digging in for the long haul. Top defense and military leaders on Tuesday warned department personnel that the virus problems could extend for eight to 10 weeks, or even into the summer.

Army Gen. Mark Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said during a Defense Department town hall meeting that restrictions could go into late May or June, possibly even July. He said there are a variety of models from other countries, so the exact length of the virus and necessary restrictions are not yet clear.

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Associated Press writers Lolita C. Baldor in Washington and Steve Peoples in New York contributed to

this report.

## Olympics delayed as Europe, US struggle with surging virus

By ADAM GELLER and DAVID RISING Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The Tokyo Olympics were postponed a year as coronavirus deaths and infections surged in Europe and the U.S. on Tuesday, with New York warning it is about to get hit by a “bullet train.” Stocks soared after Washington lawmakers said they were close on a nearly \$2 trillion deal to help businesses and ordinary Americans pull through the crisis, but talks dragged on over some sticking points.

Around the globe, India, with 1.3 billion people, or one-sixth of the Earth’s population, ordered the biggest lockdown in the world. A flicker of hope that Italy might be turning the corner faded after officials reported an increase in new cases and deaths. And Spain had so many bodies it commandeered an ice rink to store them.

More than 420,000 people worldwide have been infected and over 18,900 have died, according to a running count kept by Johns Hopkins University.

In New York City, one of the biggest hot spots, authorities rushed to set up thousands of hospital beds for potential victims. The number of cases is doubling every three days, threatening to swamp the city’s intensive care units in the weeks ahead, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said. The state has recorded more than 200 deaths, or one-third of the U.S. total.

“One of the forecasters said to me: ‘We were looking at a freight train coming across the country,’” the governor said. “We’re now looking at a bullet train.”

Cuomo proposed the country send thousands of ventilators to New York City — the metropolitan area needs 30,000 of them, he said — and demanded that President Donald Trump use wartime authority to force manufacturers to produce them.

“People said it’s a war. It is a war. Then act like it’s a war!” Cuomo said.

Trump has invoked the Korean War-era Defense Production Act to deter hoarding but has been reluctant to use it to force companies to produce medical supplies. Vice President Mike Pence said on Fox News that 2,000 ventilators have been shipped to New York and 2,000 more will be sent Wednesday.

Dr. Deborah Birx, who’s coordinating the U.S. coronavirus response, told reporters that people leaving New York City should quarantine themselves for two weeks.

The International Olympic Committee postponed the 2020 Tokyo Olympics until the summer of 2021 at the latest, acting on the recommendation of Japan’s prime minister. That could be a heavy economic blow to Japan and could upset athletes’ training regimens, perhaps costing some of them a shot at a medal.

Still, some competitors were relieved.

“A huge decision but I think the right one for sure,” British sprinter Adam Gemili said on Twitter. “Time to regain, look after each other during this difficult period and go again when the time is right!”

In Washington, top congressional and White House officials said they expected to reach a deal soon on a package to shore up businesses and send relief checks to ordinary Americans of \$1,200 per person or \$3,000 for a family of four. While the two sides have resolved many issues in the sweeping package, talks continued on the final details.

Earlier, the optimism sent stocks soaring around the world. On Wall Street, the Dow Jones Industrial Average surged more than 2,100 points, or 11.4%, for its best day since 1933.

With Americans’ lives and livelihoods hanging in the balance, Trump said he hoped to reopen the country in less than three weeks.

“I would love to have the country opened up and just raring to go by Easter,” he said during a Fox News virtual town hall.

Later, at a briefing with reporters, Trump said public health officials and economists were “working to develop a sophisticated plan to open the economy as soon as the time is right — based on the best science, the best modeling and the best medical research there is anywhere on earth.”

With infections in the U.S. exceeding 50,000, including more than 690 deaths, public health experts

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have warned that failing to maintain social distancing would balloon infections to the point the health care system would be overwhelmed and many more people would die.

In one of the outbreak's first celebrity deaths, Terrence McNally, the Tony-winning playwright whose credits included "Kiss of the Spider Woman," "Ragtime," "Love! Valour! Compassion!" and "Master Class," died in Florida of complications from the virus at age 81, his representative said. McNally was a lung cancer survivor who lived with chronic inflammatory lung disease.

Spain, meanwhile, registered a record one-day increase of nearly 6,600 new infections and a leap of more than 500 in the death toll, to almost 2,700.

The country started storing bodies in an ice rink converted to a morgue until they could be buried or cremated. Also, army troops disinfecting nursing homes discovered elderly people living amid the corpses of suspected coronavirus victims. Prosecutors opened an investigation.

Spain's interior minister said police have arrested more than 900 people for defying the government's order to stay home.

As health care workers worked around the clock, they also struggled with scarce supplies.

"All over the country, you see examples of workers inventing homemade suits using plastics," said Olga Mediano, a lung specialist at a hospital in Guadalajara, a city outside Madrid. "The protective suits are fundamental because without health workers, we won't be able to do anything."

Relatives of elderly people and retirement-home workers were fearful.

"We live in anguish. We have no information whatsoever," said Esther Navarro, whose 97-year-old mother has Alzheimer's and is at a home in Madrid with coronavirus cases.

In Italy, a jump in the number of new deaths and cases over the last 24 hours dashed hopes fed by two days of declines. The 743 deaths reported Tuesday pushed Italy's toll past 6,800, by far the highest of any country.

"Woe to whoever lets down the guard," Health Minister Roberto Speranza said. "Now, more than ever, the commitment of everyone is needed."

In a distinct shift in the crisis, some 85% of new infections are coming from Europe and the United States. In fact, Chinese authorities ended a two-month lockdown in Hubei province, where the outbreak began, though it's still in effect in the hard-hit city of Wuhan until April 8.

World Health Organization spokeswoman Margaret Harris said cases around the world are expected to increase "considerably."

In Britain, confusion rippled through the country after Prime Minister Boris Johnson ordered a three-week halt to all nonessential activity.

The government told most stores to close, banned gatherings of three or more people and said everyone apart from essential workers should leave home only to buy food and medicine or to exercise. But photos showed crowded trains on some London subway lines.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan tweeted: "Ignoring these rules means more lives lost."

For most people, the coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia and death.

Elsewhere around the world, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi decreed a "total lockdown" of the country for 21 days. India has reported about 500 cases.

"To save India and every Indian, there will be a total ban on venturing out of your homes," Modi said.

Neighboring Pakistan ordered its railways shut down as infections climbed past 900.

The Philippine Congress approved a bill declaring a national emergency and authorizing President Rodrigo Duterte to launch a huge program and tap private hospitals and ships to help as the outbreak takes hold. The country reported more than 550 cases.

In contrast to other European countries, Germany offered some hope that it has flattened the exponential spread of the virus, which has infected some 30,000 people. The death toll was relatively low at about 130, and Germany has even taken in patients from France and Italy for treatment.

Chancellor Angela Merkel's government approved a massive aid package to counter the economic fallout,

offering more than 1 trillion euros (\$1.1 trillion) to tide over small companies and entrepreneurs and pump capital into bigger companies.

Rising reported from Berlin. Associated Press reporters around the world contributed to this report.

Follow AP coverage of the virus outbreak at <https://apnews.com/VirusOutbreak> and <https://apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak>

## In pandemic, rumors of martial law fly despite reassurances

By DAVID KLEPPER, BEATRICE DUPUY and MEG KINNARD Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Millions of Americans have been ordered to stay home. Businesses and schools are shuttered. And National Guard units have been activated in more than half the states.

Yet despite what you may have read in a text message or on social media, there are currently no plans for a national quarantine, let alone martial law. Those National Guard units? They're busy distributing food and medical supplies.

Rumors of a military-enforced national lockdown have been debunked repeatedly by state and federal authorities who say their recurrence shows just how persistent false claims can be during an emergency, and why it's vital to find reliable sources of information.

"I hear unfounded rumors about National Guard troops supporting a nationwide quarantine," said Air Force Gen. Joseph Lengyel, chief of the National Guard Bureau. "Let me be clear: There has been no such discussion."

### NATIONAL GUARD ACTIVATED

More than 4,000 National Guard reservists have been deployed in at least 31 states to help with the response to the virus, according to Defense Secretary Mark Esper. Their missions vary, though primarily they're being used to distribute food and supplies.

Unlike other military service members, National Guard members are under the dual control of their states' governor and the president. While they can be deployed overseas in combat zones, they also regularly respond to domestic emergencies, such as wildfires or hurricanes.

Authorities say the coronavirus pandemic is similar to those kinds of crises, though on a much larger scale. "With COVID-19, it's like we have 54 separate hurricanes in every state, territory and the District of Columbia," Lengyel said.

### SO WHAT ARE THEY DOING?

As more COVID-19 tests become available, guardsmen in some states are helping at testing sites. That's the case in Rhode Island and New York, where Guard members are expected to help with traffic control and administrative tasks at the state's first drive-thru testing site.

Meanwhile, members of the Guard and another military agency, the Army Corps of Engineers, are working to transform the mammoth Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in Manhattan into a 1,000-bed hospital.

In South Carolina, Gov. Henry McMaster has asked the Guard to draw up plans for the construction of temporary medical facilities adjacent to hospitals, should they be needed.

In Louisiana, the Guard is providing security at areas where people were in isolation or quarantine. In Maryland, they helped bring cruise ship passengers home from quarantine at a Georgia air base.

For most, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms. But for some older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

### RUMORS OF NATIONAL LOCKDOWN, MARTIAL LAW

Anxiety about the outbreak and the escalating response to it have led to confusion — and misinformation — about the Guard's role.

As government officials began activating the National Guard, text messages and posts suggesting that the guardsmen would enforce martial law began being widely shared.

The posts, often claiming to be from a "friend of a friend," advised that within 48 to 72 hours the president



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would order a two-week mandatory quarantine and that the National Guard would mobilize to administer it. These messages all sought to create a sense of urgency, which can lead people to panic-buy or make rapid travel decisions, said Clint Watts, a senior fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute and Alliance for Securing Democracy.

"It shows the power of conspiracies when people are scared," he said. "It's creating havoc."

While there are no announced plans yet to use National Guard members to enforce stay-home directives, California Gov. Gavin Newsom did float the possibility for his state when he called up 500 guardsmen to help distribute food.

## SO WHAT IS MARTIAL LAW?

Martial law is the imposition of military control over civilians, usually during a time of war. Civilian courts are shut down, and military justice prevails.

It's been declared several times throughout American history. Hawaii, when it was a U.S. territory, was placed under martial law for most of World War II. President Abraham Lincoln declared martial law during the Civil War.

What's happening now is not martial law, experts say. For one reason, elected governors and the president remain in charge, and courts continue to operate.

Even if military personnel are asked to enforce local laws it wouldn't be martial law, since they'd be enforcing civil laws passed by elected lawmakers, according to Stephen Vladeck, a constitutional law expert at the University of Texas School of Law.

"Seeing the military in our neighborhoods and our communities is not martial law," he said. "It's nothing short of fear mongering to equate it with that."

## A FOREIGN DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGN?

Some federal officials have said there's reason to believe foreign governments are behind some of the rumors about the coronavirus in the U.S.

Acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf said Russia and groups from other countries spread false information to "sow discord on any controversial issue," adding that rumors of a national quarantine were "part of a disinformation campaign."

Social media platforms have said they see no clear signs of foreign coordination but that they're trying to identify and remove misinformation about the virus.

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Klepper reported from Providence, Rhode Island.; Kinnard reported from Columbia, South Carolina.

## Coronavirus-related crimes capitalize on global fear, panic

By COLLEEN LONG, MICHAEL BALSAMO and RODNEY MUHUMUZA Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Thieves steal surgical masks. A clinic sells fake COVID-19 tests. Hate groups encourage sick members to infect law enforcement officers. Imposters pose as public health officials. Con artists peddle fake cures and financial scams.

As the coronavirus pandemic spreads, so too do the crimes related to it — transgressions that capitalize on fear, panic and the urge to lay blame, and add to the burden on law enforcement agencies trying to protect vulnerable citizens.

"It is really disheartening in a time like this that someone would take advantage of the community and take them in a time of need," Tucson, Arizona, Police Sgt. Pete Dugan said.

Everyday life has essentially stopped in many countries in a bid to slow the virus, and some crimes have been declining. But reports of virus-related fraud are on the rise, along with concerns about hate crimes.

U.S. President Donald Trump and others have taken to calling the virus the "Chinese coronavirus," even as scientists say the disease has nothing to do with Asian ethnicity. But the president dismissed the idea that his comments could fuel hate crimes.

"It's not racist at all," Trump has said.

In Los Angeles, a 16-year-old boy of Asian descent said other students bullied him and accused him

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of carrying the virus. In New York, a man on the subway sprayed an Asian passenger with Febreze and verbally abused him. State Attorney General Letitia James set up a hotline for New Yorkers to report hate crimes in the country's outbreak epicenter.

The Anti-Defamation League, which tracks hate groups, blames the virus for elevating racist and anti-Semitic messages, including suggesting that Jews are somehow responsible for the pandemic. Some hate groups have suggested tainting doorknobs or other surfaces with the virus so FBI and police officers fall ill.

"If any of you get this, I expect you to spend as much time as possible with our enemies," one wrote.

Hundreds of masks have been stolen in Portland, Oregon, amid shortages for health care workers. A Missouri man who was coughing told two store clerks he had a high fever. He was arrested after police said he threatened to give the employees coronavirus. People in Pennsylvania and Illinois were accused of similar crimes. Texas prosecutors brought charges against someone who falsely claimed on social media to have tested positive for COVID-19.

In a memo issued Tuesday, Deputy Attorney General Jeffrey Rosen told prosecutors they could charge people who threaten to spread the new coronavirus under U.S. terrorism statutes because the Justice Department considers it a "biological agent" under the law. In such cases, suspects could be charged with a number of offenses, including possessing or developing a biological agent as a weapon, he said.

"Threats or attempt to use COVID-19 as a weapon against Americans will not be tolerated," Rosen wrote in the memo to U.S. attorneys across the country and the heads of all Justice Department agencies, including the FBI.

Meanwhile, police in Bowie, Maryland, are investigating reports of a man wearing an orange vest and blue surgical mask who approached people at two homes claiming to be inspecting for coronavirus. He actually entered one home before a resident confronted him. A similar scam was sweeping through Germany.

The World Health Organization and other authorities are also working to debunk spurious claims about possible cures. They include false assertions that silver, bleach, and garlic could protect against the coronavirus, or that bananas prevent it.

In Uganda, the parliament speaker endorsed a businessman who said he had discovered a chemical that "instantly kills" the virus. Speaker Rebecca Kadaga announced that the businessman had offered to produce the "treatment" in Uganda and it would go on the market shortly.

Kadaga's comments were widely mocked because the product is actually a disinfectant, according to the Ugandan firm that will produce the chemical, not to be ingested.

New York officials recently ordered the Jim Bakker television show to stop marketing colloidal silver products. Trump himself falsely suggested a drug typically used to treat malaria patients had been cleared by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for the coronavirus.

Fraudsters purport to collect contaminated banknotes in South Africa. And police busted a clinic selling false testing kits in Kenya.

The United Kingdom's National Fraud Intelligence Bureau has received more than 100 reports of virus-related scams, with losses totaling more than \$1.1 million (970,000 pounds).

"We have already seen fraudsters using the COVID-19 pandemic to scam people looking to buy medical supplies online ... and targeting people who may be vulnerable or increasingly isolated at home," Graeme Biggar, director general of the National Economic Crime Center in the U.K., said in a statement.

In the U.S., the Justice Department created a central fraud hotline (1-866-720-5721 or [disaster@leo.gov](mailto:disaster@leo.gov)) and has ordered U.S. attorneys to appoint special coronavirus fraud coordinators.

Meanwhile, marketing schemers have quickly pivoted to offering "senior care packages" that include hand sanitizer or even a purported vaccine, which doesn't exist. Some falsely claim that Trump has ordered that seniors get tested.

It's all a trick to get personal information that can be used to bill federal and state health programs, health officials said.

"It's a straight-up ruse to get your Medicare number or your Social Security number under the guise of having a test kit or a sanitary kit sent to you," Christian Schrank, assistant inspector general for investiga-

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tions at Health and Human Services.

The worldwide outbreak has sickened more than 350,000 people and left more than 15,000 people dead. For most people, the virus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

The World Health Organization says criminals are increasingly posing as WHO officials in calls and phishing emails to swipe information or money. The United Nations also set up a website to help prevent fraud.

But the warning came too late for an 83-year-old woman in Mannheim, Germany, who was convinced by scammers to hand over a five-figure sum, claiming it was for a relative who had fallen ill. Police, who would not give an exact figure on the stolen euros, said the woman was told that a driver would pick up the money from outside her front door, to avoid possible infection.

By the time she got suspicious, the money was gone.

Muhumuza reported from Kampala, Uganda. Associated Press writers Frank Jordans in Berlin and Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar in Washington also contributed to this report.

## Asian shares jump after Dow sees biggest gain since 1933

By **STAN CHOE, DAMIAN J. TROISE and ALEX VEIGA AP Business Writers**

NEW YORK (AP) — Shares opened sharply higher in Asia on Wednesday after the Dow Jones Industrial Average surged to its best day since 1933 with Congress and the White House nearing a deal on injecting nearly \$2 trillion of aid into an economy ravaged by the coronavirus.

Japan's Nikkei 225 index jumped 5.3%, while Hong Kong added 3% and Sydney climbed 3.6%. Markets across Asia were all up more than 2%.

The Dow burst 11.4% higher, while the more closely followed S&P 500 index leaped 9.4% as a wave of buying around the world interrupted what has been a brutal month of nearly nonstop selling. Investors released some frustration that had pent up over days of watching the U.S. Senate stalemate over the crucial rescue package.

Despite the gains, investors were far from saying markets have hit bottom. Rallies nearly as big as this have punctuated the last few weeks, and none lasted more than a day. Economists and investors alike are still expecting to see some dire economic numbers in the days and weeks ahead.

"Today was a good day, but we would not necessarily see this as turnaround time," said Adam Taback, chief investment officer for Wells Fargo Private Bank.

Both Democrats and Republicans said Tuesday they're close to agreeing on a massive economic rescue package, which will include payments to U.S. households and aid for small businesses and the travel industry, among other things. A vote in the Senate could come later Tuesday or Wednesday.

Investors were imploring Congress to act, particularly as the Federal Reserve has done nearly all it can to sustain markets, including its latest round of extraordinary aid launched Monday.

"It's sort of like, keep the patient alive in the emergency room so you can provide some treatment options," said Katie Nixon, chief investment officer at Northern Trust Wealth Management.

The Dow rose 2,112.98 points, its biggest point gain in history, to 20,704.91. The S&P 500, which is much more important to most 401(k) accounts, rose 209.93, or 9.4%, to 2,447.33 for its third-biggest percentage gain since World War II. The Nasdaq composite jumped 557.18 points, or 8.1%, to 7,417.86.

In Asia early Wednesday, Tokyo's Nikkei was at 19,053.40, while the Hang Seng rose to 23,374.57. South Korea's Kospi gained 4.2% to 1,678.13 and the S&P/ASX 200 picked up 3.6% to 4,906.10. Taiwan's benchmark jumped 4.4%.

U.S. crude oil gained 88 cents to \$24.89 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude, the international pricing standard, added 91 cents to \$30.65 per barrel.

In currency trading, the U.S. dollar was at 110.90 Japanese yen, down from 111.22 yen late Tuesday. The euro rose to \$1.0803 from \$1.0790.

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Earlier share rebounds have evaporated. Since stocks began selling off on Feb. 20, the S&P 500 has had six days where it's risen, and all but one of them were big gains of more than 4%. Afterward, stocks fell an average of 5% the next day.

"One of the things to be careful about is thinking this will be the panacea or that this fiscal response will be sufficient," said Eric Freedman, chief investment officer at U.S. Bank Wealth Management.

Ultimately, investors say they need to see the number of new infections peak before markets can find a floor. The increasing spread is forcing companies to park airplanes, shut hotels and close restaurants to dine-in customers.

President Donald Trump said Tuesday during a Fox News virtual town hall that he hopes to "open up" the economy by Easter. Analysts said the pronouncement wasn't a contributor to the day's huge rally, which was mostly due to the stimulus hopes.

For most people, the coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. Those with mild illness recover in about two weeks. Severe illness including pneumonia can occur, especially in the elderly and people with existing health problems. Recovery could take six weeks in such cases.

Economists are topping each other's dire forecasts for how much the economy will shrink this spring due to the closures of businesses, and a growing number say a recession seems inevitable.

Some of the market's areas hardest hit by the closures, though, led the way higher Tuesday as expectations rose for incoming aid from the U.S. government.

Norwegian Cruise Lines, MGM Resorts and American Airlines Group were all up at least 33%. Energy companies and banks were also strong, though all remain well below where they were a month ago.

Governments and central banks in other countries around the world are unveiling unprecedented levels of support for their economies in an attempt to limit the scale of the upcoming virus-related slump. Germany, a bastion of budgetary discipline, also approved a big fiscal boost.

The gains came even as the first reports arrived showing how badly the outbreak is hitting the global economy. In the United States, a preliminary reading on business activity in March showed the steepest contraction on record, going back to 2009. Reports were also gloomy for Europe.

"Everyone was prepared for a set of shockers, and that is precisely what we got, but they are not a surprise," said Chris Beauchamp, chief market analyst at IG. "It is at times like this that the market's propensity to look forward is demonstrated most effectively."

More gloomy data is nearly assuredly on the way. On Thursday, economists expect a report to show the number of Americans applying for jobless claims easily set a record last week. Some say the number could be way beyond 1 million, amid a wave of layoffs, topping the prior record of 695,000 set in 1982.

Helping to lift sentiment in markets was news from China that it is preparing to lift the lockdown in Wuhan, the epicenter of the outbreak, and from Italy reporting a reduction in the number of new cases and coronavirus-related deaths.

"It's still early days, of course — perhaps investors can start to envisage life beyond the coronavirus," said Craig Erlam, senior market analyst at OANDA Europe. "That could make stocks look a little more attractive, although anyone jumping back in now will need to have nerves of steel."

Despite Tuesday's big gains, it's no time to get complacent, said Wells Fargo's Taback.

"We would caution that the danger is not all behind us at this point," he said. "We still have not seen numbers that give us an indication of just how bad things are."

AP Business Writer Joe McDonald contributed from Beijing.

## Taylor Swift's publicist takes aim at Kim Kardashian in feud

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Kanye West and Taylor Swift public beef has reignited again with the ongoing feud now involving his wife and Swift's publicist.

Swift's publicist, Tree Paine, fired back Monday night at Kim Kardashian West, who had defended herself after someone released a video, clipped into segments, of the full 25-minute conversation of Kanye West



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and Swift discussing his song "Famous." Kardashian West posted several tweets Monday to address Swift who said in a statement earlier in the day on Instagram that she was illegally recorded in the "manipulated" video.

West was condemned for a lyric in which he called Swift a bitch in his 2016 song "Famous." The rapper said Swift gave her blessing to use the lyric during a phone call, but the singer denied ever hearing the lyric.

The new footage of the phone call between West and Swift was posted online from an unknown source Friday night.

The new clips seem to corroborate Swift's claims that West didn't tell her the full lyrics of the song. But they also show West repeatedly asking Taylor for her approval of a lyric in which he raps: "I feel like me and Taylor might still have sex, Why? I made that bitch famous." Swift does tell West she thinks it's funny, just as the rapper said when the song first was released.

Previously, Kardashian West seemed to vindicate her husband — months later — by releasing snippets of the call where Swift appeared to approve the lyrics. She said in a tweet Monday that Swift lied through her publicist that "Kanye never called to ask for permission."

In response, Paine said in her tweet Monday that West did not call to get the lyric approved from Swift. She said West asked Swift if she could release the song on her Twitter account but she declined.

## 'Cacophony of coughing': Inside NYC's virus-besieged ERs

By **MICHAEL R. SISAQ, JIM MUSTIAN and JENNIFER PELTZ** Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A "cacophony of coughing" in packed emergency rooms. Beds squeezed in wherever there is space. Overworked, sleep-deprived doctors and nurses rationed to one face mask a day and wracked by worry about a dwindling number of available ventilators.

Such is the reality inside New York City's hospitals, which have become the war-zone-like epicenter of the nation's coronavirus crisis.

Faced with an infection rate that is five times that of the rest of the country, health workers are putting themselves at risk to fight a tide of sickness that's getting worse by the day amid a shortage of needed supplies and promises of help from the federal government that have yet to fully materialize.

"You're on 100% of the time — no matter what," said Dr. Jolion McGreevy, medical director of The Mount Sinai Hospital emergency department. "It's been a month of full force, and that's certainly very stressful."

Patients initially showed up with fairly mild symptoms, ranging from a runny nose to a mild fever, concerned they contracted coronavirus. That shifted over the past week, McGreevy said, and now hospitals are receiving far sicker patients in need of life-saving intervention.

"These are people in severe respiratory distress, needing to be intubated and needing the intensive care unit," he said. "We knew it was coming. We saw it in Italy and other places so we were prepared for it, and now we're seeing it."

Columbia University chief surgeon Dr. Craig Smith wrote in a note to colleagues: "To think we could mimic Italy seemed risible a week ago. Not today."

Nearly 14,800 people in New York City have been diagnosed with coronavirus as of Tuesday, accounting for more than half the cases in the hardest-hit state in the nation.

More than 2,800 people in the city were hospitalized because of the virus — double the figure from three days earlier — and more than 600 were being treated in intensive care. The death toll rose to 192, and officials from the governor on down warned it will get worse before it gets better.

"We are not slowing it. And it is accelerating on its own," said Gov. Andrew Cuomo, predicting the state could be as close as two weeks away from a crisis that sees 40,000 people in intensive care. Such a surge would overwhelm hospitals, which now have just 3,000 intensive care unit beds statewide.

"One of the forecasters said we were looking at a freight train coming across the country. We're now looking at a bullet train," he said.

Bristling at President Donald Trump's notion that Americans should be prepared to go back to work in weeks for the sake of the economy, Cuomo said that would essentially sacrifice the lives of the elderly and

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the most frail among us. "That's not the American way," he said. "That's not the New York way."

And Cuomo appeared to mock the federal government for congratulating itself for sending the city 400 desperately needed ventilators from the national stockpile.

"What am I going to do with 400 ventilators when I need 30,000?" he asked.

Khalid Amin, a doctor at Methodist Hospital in Brooklyn, treated seven COVID-19 patients on Tuesday, ranging from 25 to 72, and he is struck by the way the disease has laid each low in the same way — the fatigue, the way they grasp for air with the slightest movement.

One patient in his 50s, moving from the bathroom to his bed, a space of less than 12 feet, seemed to struggle at one point, his chest rising and falling rapidly.

"You seem short of breath?" Amin asked. Then came the reply, so low, Amin could barely hear him though he was inches away. "Yes."

Moments later, a stethoscope on the patient's back, Amin heard the same telltale sound he had been hearing in other patients that day: "It's a crackle, like crumpling paper."

Dr. Craig Spencer, who survived a bout of Ebola in 2014 and now is director of global health in emergency medicine at New York-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center, tweeted Tuesday of a "cacophony of coughing" in the ER, saying nearly every patient he encounters has the same symptoms, regardless of age: a persistent hack, shortness of breath and fever.

"You're afraid to take off the mask," he wrote. "It's the only thing that protects you."

Smith said hospitals in the New York-Presbyterian system are burning through about 40,000 masks a day amid the crisis — about 10 times the normal amount — and have begun issuing staff members just one each day.

Mayor Bill De Blasio said about 2.2 million masks were delivered to hospitals Monday, with additional supplies en route from the state and federal governments. But he said there would have to be a lot more where that came from.

"If we run out of it, it's like sending a soldier into war where everyone else has armor and we don't have armor," said Dr. Joseph Habboushe, an emergency room physician at NYU Langone Medical Center.

The city's health department last week advised health professionals to continue working after exposure — rather than self-quarantining — unless they show symptoms.

"The more we hear about doctors and nurses getting sick, the more we get nervous," said Dr. Eric Cioe-Pena, director of global health at Northwell Health. "It's definitely on the mind of every health care worker in America. We don't want to be in a position where we're making decisions based on resources rather than the clinical care of patients."

Cioe-Pena has been following what he calls a "decontamination routine" after every shift, in which he wipes down his phone and washes both his scrubs and street clothes.

"We've ventured into a battle," he said.

Across the city, health care workers, hospital administrators and public officials were scrambling to preserve precious gear and find more treatment space before they were overwhelmed. The Jacob K. Javits Convention Center was being converted into a 1,000-bed hospital, and a fully staffed and equipped Naval hospital ship, the USNS Comfort, was expected to arrive within two weeks to provide another 1,000 beds, not for coronavirus patients but to provide relief to hospitals dealing with them.

NYU Langone's Habboushe said that while ER physicians deal with potential danger all the time, there's concern about what's to come with the coronavirus. While the vast majority recover from the illness, older adults and people with existing health problems are particularly vulnerable and could suffer more severe illness or even death.

"The anxiety and stress that I think all of us in society are feeling right now — we are feeling it all the more so in the hospital," he said. "How can we deal with the idea that this is going to be worse and worse before it gets better?"

Among the biggest looming concerns, Habboushe said, is the prospect of medical professionals having to decide which patients get the potentially life-saving machines such as ventilators and which do not.

"It's one of those things you learn about. It's hard to imagine you actually would face that," he said. "And now we're all realizing there's a really high chance we'll be facing that, and that breaks my heart."

AP reporters Bernard Condon and Candice Choi contributed to this report.

The Associated Press receives support for health and science coverage from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

Follow AP coverage of the virus outbreak at <https://apnews.com/VirusOutbreak> and <https://apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak>

## Potential coronavirus treatment granted rare disease status

By **MATTHEW PERRONE** and **RICHARD LARDNER** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The pharmaceutical giant that makes a promising coronavirus drug has registered it as a rare disease treatment with U.S. regulators, a status that can potentially be worth millions in tax breaks and competition-free sales.

What that specialty status will actually mean for the marketing or profitability of Gilead Science's experimental drug remdesivir isn't clear. The drugmaker did not immediately respond Tuesday to requests for comment.

Experts who have studied the so-called "orphan drug" program say the company's request — and the Food and Drug Administration's decision to grant it — seem inappropriate given the rapidly expanding threat of the viral outbreak.

A financial analyst, though, called Gilead's request "pretty standard."

The FDA granted the status on Monday, according to the agency's website. If approved for coronavirus, Gilead Sciences would receive seven years of exclusive U.S. marketing for the drug and tax credits on its research and development costs.

Congress created the orphan drug program more than 35 years ago to encourage companies to develop drugs for niche diseases and conditions that might not otherwise be profitable. But since then, filing for orphan status has become a standard pharmaceutical industry tactic to extend the profitability of drugs and block competitors. Orphan drugs are also typically eligible for other special programs that speed up FDA reviews for approval.

The FDA defines a rare disease as one with fewer than 200,000 patients in the U.S. In a statement Tuesday, the agency said COVID-19 fit that criteria when the request was made. There are more than 50,000 cases in U.S. but many more expected in the coming weeks and months.

"It seems like a misuse of the Orphan Drug Act, even though technically it's within the bounds of the law," said Dr. Aaron Kesselheim, a Harvard Medical School health policy expert. "There's no expectation here that this drug wouldn't be able to generate appropriate revenue for the manufacturer."

Kesselheim said a number of the early AIDS drugs also received orphan drug status in the 1980s and 1990s, but then went on to generate billions in sales.

But Tyler Van Buren, a senior research analyst at the financial services firm Piper Sandler, called Gilead's filing "pretty standard."

"It says nothing about profiting off of the pandemic, but it does provide protection if remdesivir turns into a business in subsequent years," he said.

In recent years the orphan drug program has come under scrutiny from the media, Congress and government inspectors amid concerns that it is being misused to protect six-figure prices on specialty drugs. Roughly half of the 48 new drugs approved by the agency last year received orphan drug designation. Many were priced well above \$100,000 for a year's supply, including drugs for cancer, muscular dystrophy and other genetic disorders.

The nonprofit Public Citizen group said in a statement that the U.S. government should be "urgently

concerned" with the affordability of remdesivir.

Gilead's chairman and CEO, Daniel O'Day has previously said the company hasn't discussed with any governments how much remdesivir will cost.

"The topic of pricing comes up once you know the medicine works," he said.

Remdesivir, given through an IV, is being tested in at least five separate experiments, and Gilead also has provided it to several hundred severely ill COVID-19 patients in the U.S, Europe and Japan under "compassionate use" provisions. The company said Sunday it was halting that program due to an unmanageable number of requests.

The drug interferes with virus reproduction and has shown some promise in lab and animal studies against other coronaviruses that cause similar diseases, MERS and SARS. It was also used briefly in some Ebola patients in Congo.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. The vast majority of people recover.

Day said earlier this month at a press conference with other drug industry executives that his company has been working on the drug's development for a decade. He said Gilead has spent "really billions of dollars" developing the drug and plans to spend even more to scale up manufacturing facilities at Gilead and its partners.

Gilead didn't respond to questions seeking more details about the company's spending on remdesivir, including whether the figures used by O'Day included the U.S. government money spent on research by federal scientists and grants to universities.

The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

## Arizona appeals court upholds Jodi Arias' murder conviction

By **WALTER BERRY** Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — The Arizona Court of Appeals on Tuesday upheld Jodi Arias' first-degree murder conviction and life prison sentence in the 2008 killing of her former boyfriend.

Arias' lawyers had argued that a prosecutor's misconduct and a judge's failure to control news coverage during the case deprived her of the right to a fair trial.

But the three-member appeals court, in a 29-page opinion, unanimously concluded that prosecutor Juan Martinez's conduct in the case didn't outweigh Arias' guilt.

"We conclude that Arias was convicted based upon the overwhelming evidence of her guilt, not as a result of prosecutorial misconduct," the ruling said.

However, it noted "an egregious case of misconduct by a highly-experienced prosecutor" who "improperly engaged in self-promoting conduct."

The panel condemned Martinez's "argumentative phrasing of questions" to defense witnesses, adding that his "aggressive tone and combative, bullying behavior" were recurring issues in the trial and Arias' attorneys moved for a mistrial six times.

"We strongly disapprove of his actions, we are compelled to follow the well-established principle that we do not reverse convictions merely to punish a prosecutor's misdeeds."

Arias was convicted of killing ex-boyfriend Travis Alexander at his home in the Phoenix suburb of Mesa. Prosecutors have said Arias violently attacked Alexander in a jealous rage after he wanted to end their affair and planned a trip to Mexico with another woman.

Arias has acknowledged killing Alexander but claimed she acted in self-defense after he attacked her. He was stabbed nearly 30 times, had his throat slit and was shot in the head.

The case attracted worldwide attention as salacious and violent details about Arias and Alexander were broadcast live.



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The guilt phase of Arias' trial ended in 2013 with jurors convicting her of murder but deadlocking on punishment. A second sentencing trial ended in early 2015 with another jury deadlock, leading a judge to sentence Arias to life.

The Maricopa County Attorney's Office moved to fire Martinez this year after suspending him. But the dismissal was stayed pending his appeal under civil service protections. Martinez has been a county prosecutor for 30 years.

A call to Martinez seeking comment on the court ruling wasn't immediately returned Tuesday.

Peg Green, one of Arias' attorneys, declined comment on the appeals court opinion.

## Multiple Tony-winning playwright Terrence McNally dies at 81

By MARK KENNEDY AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Terrence McNally, one of America's great playwrights whose prolific career included winning Tony Awards for the plays "Love! Valour! Compassion!" and "Master Class" and the musicals "Ragtime" and "Kiss of the Spider Woman," has died of complications from the coronavirus. He was 81.

McNally died Tuesday at Sarasota Memorial Hospital in Sarasota, Florida, according to representative Matt Polk. McNally was a lung cancer survivor who lived with chronic inflammatory lung disease.

His plays and musicals explored how people connect — or fail to. With wit and thoughtfulness, he tackled the strains in families, war, and relationships and probed the spark and costs of creativity. He was an openly gay writer who wrote about homophobia, love and AIDS.

"I like to work with people who are a lot more talented and smarter than me, who make fewer mistakes than I do, and who can call me out when I do something lazy," he told LA Stage Times in 2013. "A lot of people stop learning in life, and that's their tragedy."

McNally's "Lips Together, Teeth Apart," about two married couples who spend a weekend on Fire Island, was a landmark play about AIDS. His play "The Ritz" became one of the first plays with unapologetic gay characters to reach a mainstream audience.

McNally also explored gay themes in the book for the musical "Kiss of the Spider Woman," for which he won his first Tony Award. His play "Love! Valour! Compassion!" earned him another Tony Award for its portrayal of eight gay men facing issues of fidelity, love and happiness.

"Theater changes hearts, that secret place where we all truly live," he said at the 2019 Tony Awards, where he accepted a lifetime achievement award. "The world needs artists more than ever to remind us what truth and beauty and kindness really are."

F. Murray Abraham, the Oscar-winner who appeared on Broadway in "The Ritz" said of McNally: "His plays are a pleasure to do, but what he says is important, too. And he's like a fountain he keeps on writing and writing and writing."

Tributes pored in online from Broadway figures, including from fellow playwrights Paula Vogel, who called McNally "the soul of kindness" and Lin-Manuel Miranda, who called McNally "a giant in our world, who straddled plays and musicals deftly." Actor Conrad Ricamora describe McNally as "the most kind, brilliant person to work with" and talk show host James Corden tweeted: "He was an absolute gentleman and his commitment to the theater was unwavering. He will be missed by so many of us."

Composer Tom Kitt, who won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama for "Next to Normal," told The Associated Press he considers McNally "irreplaceable."

"Terrence was an extraordinary man and a brilliant artist," Kitt said. "He's a true giant in our art form, and he will be missed and we are lucky that we had him and had his art for as long as we did."

In 2018 McNally was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He won four Tonys and an Emmy. New York University gave him an honorary doctorate in 2019.

Andrew D. Hamilton, president of New York University, told the crowd that day that McNally put a "unique stamp on American drama by probing the urgent need for connection that resonates at the core of human experience."

Some of his Broadway musical adaptations include "The Full Monty," adapted from the British film and

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scored by David Yazbek; "Catch Me if You Can," based on the Steven Spielberg film, and scored by composer Marc Shaiman and lyricist Scott Wittman; and "Ragtime," the musical based on the novel by E.L. Doctorow, which won four Tony Awards. In 2017, his musical reworking of the film "Anastasia" landed on Broadway.

Yazbek, in tribute to his collaborator, tweeted it was "honor to know you and doubly to work with you. We will all miss you but thank you for leaving so much great work." Multiple Tony-winner Audra McDonald tweeted to McNally: "The world is not nearly as sweet of a place without you in it. My heart is breaking yet again."

McNally's 2014 Broadway play "Mothers and Sons" — revisiting McNally's 1990 TV movie "Andre's Mother," which won him an Emmy Award — explores the relationship between a mother and her dead son's former gay partner. His "It's Only a Play" was a valentine to theater-making. His "The Visit" was a meditation on revenge.

Brian Stokes Mitchel, who starred in "Ragtime," said McNally's curiosity was ever-present. "He had a wit and he always was engaged in the conversation and always seemed to want to do the right thing," he told The AP. "That curiosity, I think, is one of the hallmarks of great artist and Terrence certainly had that on top of his enormous, enormous heart."

McNally was born in St. Petersburg, Florida, and grew up in Corpus Christi, Texas, listening to radio broadcasts of "The Green Hornet" and the Metropolitan Opera. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Columbia University in 1960 with a degree in English.

McNally was at the Actors Studio when he was hired by novelist John Steinbeck to be a tutor and guardian to his sons. One of McNally's earliest theater attempts was writing the book for a musical adaptation of Steinbeck's "East of Eden" which was called "Here's Where I Belong" and lasted only a single performance on Broadway in 1968.

McNally's first Broadway play "And Things That Go Bump in the Night" didn't fare much better in 1965. His absurdist, symbolic melodrama about good and evil confounded critics. Newsday called it "ugly, perverted, tasteless." It closed in less than three weeks. He was 24.

He rebounded with the 1969 off-Broadway hit "Next," a two-character comedy about a reluctant draftee reporting for an Army physical. A string of successes followed, including "Where Has Tommy Flowers Gone?" (1971), "The Tubs" (1974), "Bad Habits" (1974) and "The Ritz" (1975), a farce set in a gay bathhouse that ran more than a year on Broadway and became McNally's first produced screenplay.

His breakout, "Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune," about a romance between a waitress and short order cook, was later adapted into a film starring Al Pacino and Michelle Pfeiffer. It was revived on Broadway in 2019 starring Audra McDonald.

He collaborated three times with legendary composer John Kander and lyricist Fred Ebb — on "The Rink," "Kiss of the Spider Woman" and "The Visit." Chita Rivera starred in all three.

"A huge part of me is gone," Rivera said in a statement. "But then it's not. Terrence wouldn't like that. He helped to make me who I am as a person. He is the epitome of love and friendship. Only God knows how much I will miss him."

His love of opera informed his works "Golden Age," "The Lisbon Traviata" and "Master Class," which explored the life of opera diva Maria Callas. He also contributed to opera as a librettist — "The Food of Love" in 1999 with music by Robert Beaser, "Dead Man Walking" in 2000 with music by Jake Heggie, and 2015's "Great Scott" with Heggie.

McNally sometimes was controversial, especially with his play "Corpus Christi," which depicts a modern-day Jesus as a homosexual. The Manhattan Theater Club, the first company to consider staging it, received death threats and temporarily canceled the production before enjoying a successful run.

When picking up his "Ragtime" Tony Award, McNally thanked the theater community for its outcry. "You came together when I was in trouble. It was a time of oppression. You came together overnight. Our voices were heard, and we won." Holding his Tony high, he said, "So this is for freedom. Thank you."

McNally and his partner, Thomas Kirdahy, married in Vermont in 2003, and again in Washington, D.C., in 2010.

Kirdahy was a college roommate of New York Mayor Bill De Blasio, who on Tuesday called McNally "some-

one who epitomizes so much about this city" and "wrote some of the greatest plays in recent memory, but also someone who worked so hard for a better New York City and a better America for all of us."

Associated Press reporters Jennifer Peltz and John Carucci contributed to this story.

Mark Kennedy is at <http://twitter.com/KennedyTwits>

## What you need to know today about the virus outbreak

By The Associated Press

As virus deaths accelerate in the U.S., President Donald Trump has gone against the advice of scientists and top health experts, claiming he will reopen the country and its ailing economy in weeks, not months.

Around the globe, India, with 1.3 billion people, or one-sixth of the Earth's population, ordered the biggest lockdown in the world, adding to the growing list of countries and American states that have told people to stay home. Just when it looked as if Italy might have turned the corner, officials reported a jump in new cases and deaths. And Spain had so many corpses it commandeered an ice rink to store them.

More than 400,000 people worldwide have been infected and over 18,000 have died, according to a running count kept by Johns Hopkins University.

Here are some of AP's top stories Tuesday on the world's coronavirus pandemic. Follow [APNews.com/VirusOutbreak](https://www.apnews.com/VirusOutbreak) for updates through the day and [APNews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak](https://www.apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak) for stories explaining some of its complexities.

### WHAT'S HAPPENING TODAY:

— President Donald Trump said he is hoping the country will be reopened by Easter, as he weighs how to refine nationwide social-distancing guidelines to put some workers back on the job amid the coronavirus outbreak.

— The International Olympic Committee announced a first-of-its-kind postponement of the Summer Olympics that were to have been held in Tokyo, bowing to the realities of a coronavirus pandemic that is shutting down daily life around the globe and making plans for a massive worldwide gathering a virtual impossibility.

— Hospitals are looking to test a century-old treatment used to fight off flu and measles outbreaks in the days before vaccines: using blood donated from patients who have recovered.

— As the coronavirus pandemic spreads, so too do the crimes related to it. It's adding to the burden on law enforcement trying to protect vulnerable citizens.

— Malaysia's medical glove factories, which make most of the world's critical hand protection, are operating at half capacity just when they're most needed.

— New York City hospitals have become the war-zone-like epicenter of the coronavirus crisis in the U.S. with a "cacophony of coughing" in packed emergency rooms, beds squeezed in wherever there is space, and overworked, sleep-deprived doctors and nurses rationed to one face mask a day.

— In the debut episode of "Ground Game: Inside the Outbreak," host Ralph D. Russo talks to News Director for Greater China Ken Moritsugu about the lessons the rest of the world can learn from Asia to stem the spread of COVID-19.

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

For most people, the virus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. The vast majority of people recover.

Here are the symptoms of the virus compared with the common flu.

One of the best ways to prevent spread of the virus is washing your hands with soap and water. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends first washing with warm or cold water and then lathering soap for 20 seconds to get it on the backs of hands, between fingers and under fingernails before rinsing off.

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You should wash your phone, too. Here's how.

Misinformation overload: How to separate fact from fiction and rumor from deliberate efforts to mislead.

ONE NUMBER:

100 MILLION: There are more than 100 million people in Egypt, which is now under a two-week, 7 p.m.-to-6 a.m. curfew, to help fight the spread of the virus.

IN OTHER NEWS:

VIRUS BOT: While other industries struggle, Liu Zhiyong says China's virus outbreak is boosting demand for his knee-high, bright yellow robots to deliver groceries and patrol malls looking for shoppers who fail to wear masks. Liu, CEO of ZhenRobotics Corp., is among millions of entrepreneurs who are gradually getting back to work after China declared victory over the coronavirus that shut down the world's second-largest economy.

The Associated Press receives support for health and science coverage from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

Follow AP coverage of the virus outbreak at <https://apnews.com/VirusOutbreak> and <https://apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak>

## With isolation, abuse activists fear an 'explosive cocktail'

By JOCELYN NOVECK AP National Writer

"Safer at Home." It's a slogan of choice for the mandatory confinement measures aimed at curbing the spread of the coronavirus. But it's not true for everyone.

As the world's families hunker down, there's another danger, less obvious but just as insidious, that worries advocates and officials: a potential spike in domestic violence as victims spend day and night trapped at home with their abusers, with tensions rising, nowhere to escape, limited or no access to friends or relatives — and no idea when it will end.

"An abuser will use anything in their toolbox to exert their power and control, and COVID-19 is one of those tools," said Crystal Justice, who oversees development at the National Domestic Violence Hotline, a 24/7 national hotline in the United States.

In cities and towns everywhere, concern is high, and meaningful numbers are hard to come by. In some cases, officials worry about a spike in calls, and in others, about a drop in calls, which might indicate that victims cannot find a safe way to reach out for help.

On a normal day, 1,800 to 2,000 people will call that national hotline. That number hasn't changed, but that doesn't surprise organizers. After natural disasters like earthquakes, Justice says, it's only when schools and workplaces reopen that people are finally able to reach out.

More significant, she says, is that more than 700 people who called the hotline between last Wednesday and Sunday cited the coronavirus as "a condition of their experience." Some of the out-of-the-ordinary anecdotes staffers are hearing include abusers preventing their partners from going to their jobs in health care, or blocking them from needed health care services or from accessing safety tools like gloves or sanitizer.

In Los Angeles, officials have been bracing for a spike in abuse. "When cabin fever sets in, give it a week or two, people get tired of seeing each other and then you might have domestic violence," said Alex Villanueva, the sheriff of Los Angeles County.

"We started getting on this as soon as soon as we started seeing the handwriting on the wall," said Patti Giggans, executive director of the nonprofit Peace Over Violence in Los Angeles.

Before the statewide lockdown, the nonprofit began preparing online counseling sessions, and reaching out to clients to suggest ways to keep in contact — perhaps phone calls to counselors from a bathroom



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or during a walk, if an abuser is in the home.

In one recent case, Giggans said a woman showed up at the emergency room after a domestic violence incident, and Peace Over Violence staff had to talk to her over the phone to get her to safety in another county.

Because of virus measures, advocates "can't show up at the police station now. We can't show up at the hospital," Giggans said. She said her staff has been told that shelters are taking people's temperatures when they show up. The shelters are also working on plans to limit the proximity of people, in order to maintain social distancing, she said.

Such conditions are also an issue in Illinois, where shelters, already at capacity, were moving beds further apart to follow CDC guidelines.

"One of the key challenges of this health pandemic is that home isn't a safe place for everyone," said Amanda Pyron, executive director of The Network: Advocating Against Domestic Violence, based in Chicago. "Victims and the abusers have to stay at the scene of the crime." The group helps run a statewide 24-hour hotline, which has seen a spike in the average number of daily calls, from about 60 to 90, since confinement orders went into effect last weekend.

Similar concerns have arisen in hard-hit continental Europe. In France, "it's an explosive cocktail," says Nathalie Tomasini, a leading lawyer for domestic violence victims there. Being trapped in an apartment with an abusive partner, she said, is akin to "a prison with no open window."

"Today we're confronted with ... a form of war," Tomasini said. In wars of the past, "men were on the front. Now they're at home. It's not the same war."

At the National Federation of Women's Solidarity, which runs France's hotline, director Francoise Brie said that calls had dropped sharply from the usual 350 or 400 during the first week of confinement — though it remains too early to measure confinement's precise effects.

"We expect more serious acts, more repeated acts, more numerous," Brie said.

And at the group Women Safe, there's been an uptick in calls. One change, said Frederique Martz, who runs the group: Domestic violence victims are no longer being referred to hospitals which "are all saturated" with coronavirus cases.

In Spain, another country reeling from the virus, the Justice Ministry has stressed that no court will close during the crisis and that gender violence is among the key areas receiving special attention. There has been an uptick in domestic violence calls to the country's national 016 hotline, said Carmen Benito, president of Women Against Mistreatment.

"Women are much more vulnerable now," Benito said. "Some women have called us from the bathroom, asking what will happen if they leave, where can they go and if the government services are still working."

In addition to intimate partner violence, concerns have also been raised about child abuse. In jurisdictions everywhere, the chief worry is not only that coronavirus tensions could trigger more abuse, but that with kids out of school, more cases could go unreported or unnoticed.

Calls to Missouri's child abuse and neglect hotline dropped by half as the virus first struck the state, from about 680 calls the week of March 12 to about 320 the following week.

"If kids are not at school, those reports aren't getting made," said Jessica Seitz, public policy director for the advocacy group Missouri Kids First. "That's really a crack in the system."

Jennifer Tidball, Missouri's acting social services director, said that while it's normal for calls to decrease when school is out, "this is much more than we would have expected."

Minnesota has seen a 30% drop in reports, according to the state's Department of Human Services, which said it was "deeply concerned about the impact of COVID-19 on children and families across Minnesota." And calls reporting child abuse have sharply dropped in Georgia, too, according to data from the state's Division of Family and Children Services, which usually handles about 300 reports a day. Last Thursday, it handled 120.

Without educators in place, "We really need neighbors to check on next-door children and children in the neighborhood," said Tom Rawlings, the division's director.

Back at the National Domestic Violence Hotline, which is based in Austin, Texas but has staff working

remotely now, advocates are urging people in potentially risky situations to use the more discreet chat and text options available on their website, and to formulate a personal safety plan. This could include setting up a standing call with relatives or establishing a code phrase to signal an emergency.

Advocates like Justice say it's far too early to link the saga of coronavirus isolation to any long-term trends. But they're hardly filled with optimism.

"We know this is affecting survivors," she says. "It doesn't necessarily mean NEW abuse is happening, but we know that abusers will use any tool at their disposal."

"And isolation is one of the strongest tools."

AP National Writer Jocelyn Noveck writes frequently about gender issues. Follow her on Twitter at @JocelynNoveckAP. Contributing to this report were Curt Anderson in St. Petersburg, Florida; Jeff Baenen in Minneapolis; Summer Ballentine in Columbia, Missouri; Stefanie Dazio in Los Angeles; Elaine Ganley in Paris; Ciaran Giles in Madrid, Spain; and Sophia Tareen in Chicago.

## **Biden's challenge: Breaking through with virus response**

**By ALEXANDRA JAFFE and BILL BARROW Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Joe Biden is working to reassert himself in national politics three weeks after taking command of the Democratic presidential primary.

Like most Americans, Biden has stayed close to home recently to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. That — and a slow shift to the new online-only reality of the campaign — has left him with a lower profile as much of the nation has focused on the pandemic and President Donald Trump's response to it.

But from a newly constructed television studio in his Wilmington, Delaware, home, Biden sat for a series of high-profile interviews on Tuesday. The appearances were a preview of a more public role he's hoping to assume in the coming weeks as he emerges as the Democratic counter to Trump.

In an interview with CNN, Biden took an increasingly aggressive stance against the president's coronavirus response, urging him to "stop talking and start listening to the medical experts."

He sounded similar themes in an afternoon interview on MSNBC, and during an earlier appearance on ABC's "The View," where Biden said he's trying to balance his critiques of Trump against anything that would seem to undermine the president during a crisis.

"I've not been criticizing the president, but I've been pointing out where there's disagreements on how to proceed," Biden said. "When the president says things that aren't accurate, we should not say, 'You're lying.' We should say, 'Those aren't the facts.'"

Biden has faced growing pressure from allies to speak out more about the coronavirus. In two fundraisers this past week, supporters asked how they could see more of Biden as Trump blankets the airwaves with daily, freewheeling briefings that drive each day's news cycle.

Trump, for his part Tuesday, summoned his favorite nickname for his likely fall opponent, dismissing any critiques from "Sleepy Joe Biden." The former vice president laughed on CNN when shown clips of Trump's barbs. "What a piece of work," Biden said.

Guy Cecil, chairman of Priorities USA, the major Democratic super PAC, said he's glad to see a commitment from Biden to take on a more robust schedule of public and media appearances.

"We need to be holding this administration accountable, and there's no way to do that if you're not speaking out," he said.

But with the major networks focused daily on crisis and controversy, Biden's more measured tone has sometimes struggled to break through.

On Monday, Biden broadcast an address on the outbreak, but his remarks, which came at the same time as a briefing by New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, weren't picked up live by any of the major networks. On Tuesday, when Biden appeared on "The View," some stations cut away to briefings from local leaders on the virus.

Cecil acknowledged the difficulty Biden and the broader Democratic Party face getting coverage for their

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message and said it's one of the reasons his group recently launched a multimillion-dollar advertising blitz around Trump's coronavirus response.

"In order for people to break through, in order to really hold the president accountable, sometimes the best way you can do that is simply by making sure you're on people's TV screens, and paying for it," he said.

Further complicating Biden's effort to mount a response is the fact that his virtual campaign remains a work in progress.

While he was delivering remarks Monday for the first time from his new at-home television studio, his telestrator appeared to malfunction or he otherwise lost his place. Biden stumbled for a few seconds and gestured to staff standing out of the frame before getting back on track with his list of suggested policy ideas to combat the pandemic.

The town halls, meanwhile, cannot fully replicate the campaign trail even when the technology goes off without a hitch. Aides tout Biden's affinity for retail politics and his personal connections in one-on-ones, and they say they're trying to find ways to bring that out. But they also agree that a call-in session is not the same as asking a would-be president a question in person or standing on the rope line and sharing a personal moment after an event.

Another challenge for Biden: remaining relevant and engaged in the conversation and response from a notably peripheral position as the likely-but-not-quite-official nominee of the Democratic Party, and one who is no longer serving in public office.

While Bernie Sanders' path to the Democratic presidential nomination is increasingly mathematically improbable, the Vermont senator isn't exiting the race and has done his own online events and media appearances emphasizing his efforts in the Senate to respond to the virus.

Sanders' campaign announced that millions watched a series of virtual town halls he's held in recent days with musical acts and high-profile supporters, including New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. The senator also urged his army of online donors nationwide to forgo giving to his campaign and instead donate to five charities he said were on the front lines of the response to the virus. He later announced the effort had raised more than \$2 million for the groups, which included Meals on Wheels.

Sanders was criticized in the conservative media for staying in Vermont on Sunday night to make an online appearance with Ocasio-Cortez rather than being in the Senate for key procedural votes on the virus response package.

He was in the Senate on Monday, and, rather than addressing supporters online, he appeared on MSNBC, conceding that a 2020 race upended by the coronavirus meant "we are in a bizarre moment." He has another online town hall on coronavirus later Tuesday.

The Democratic National Committee had planned to hold a debate next month but has yet to schedule one. Sanders spokesman Mike Casca said Tuesday of his candidate, "If there is a debate in April, he plans to be there."

Biden, meanwhile, has mentioned that he's in contact with Democratic elected officials, including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, whose state is a coronavirus hotspot. But Biden has not tipped his hand on whether he's tried to shape the Democratic response or negotiations on Capitol Hill or whether he's simply seeking briefings so he's up to speed on how his party is trying to wield power.

He also said Tuesday that he receives daily briefings from public health experts and his economic team, offering a sort of model for what a Biden presidency might look like in a crisis such as this one.

On balance, Biden aides say, the pandemic and grounded campaign don't change Biden's core message — that Trump isn't up to the job and that Biden's experience proves he is. That was the thrust of Biden's foreign policy speech last summer: "The world's democracies look to America to stand for the values that unite us. ... Donald Trump seems to be on the other team."

It was his message again Monday in talking about Trump's response to COVID-19: "Donald Trump is not to blame for the coronavirus. But he does bear responsibility for our response."

For the campaign, it's simply a matter of how to get that message to voters — and how to grab media

attention for a platform the campaign doesn't have to pay for.

As for the candidate, he seems content to project confidence that political considerations will work themselves out.

"My whole focus has basically been how we deal with this crisis," Biden said Friday. "Quite frankly, thus far it's been less about how we campaign or make stark differences between the president and I. I think some are just self-evident."

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Associated Press writer Will Weissert in Washington contributed to this report.

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Catch up on the 2020 election campaign with AP experts on our weekly politics podcast, "Ground Game."

## Key medical glove factories cutting staff 50% amid virus

By JULIET LINDERMAN and MARTHA MENDOZA Associated Press

Malaysia's medical glove factories, which make most of the world's critical hand protection, are operating at half capacity just when they're most needed, The Associated Press has learned.

Health care workers snap gloves on as the first line of protection against catching COVID-19 from patients, and they're crucial to protecting patients as well. But medical-grade glove supplies are running low globally, even as more feverish, sweating and coughing patients arrive in hospitals by the day.

Malaysia is by far the world's largest medical glove supplier, producing as many as three out of four gloves on market. The industry has a history of mistreating migrant workers who toil over hand-sized molds as they're dipped in melted latex or rubber, hot and exhausting work.

The Malaysian government ordered factories to halt all manufacturing starting March 18. Then, one by one, those that make products deemed essential, including medical gloves, have been required to seek exemptions to reopen, but only with half of their workforce to reduce the risk of transmitting the new virus, according to industry reports and insider sources. The government says companies must meet domestic demand before exporting anything. The Malaysian Rubber Glove Manufacturers Association this week is asking for an exception.

"Any halt to the production and administrative segments of our industry would mean an absolute stoppage to glove manufacturing and it will be disastrous to the world," said association president Denis Low in a statement released to Malaysian media. He said their members have received requests for millions of gloves from about 190 countries.

U.S. imports of medical gloves were already 10% lower last month than during the same period last year, according to trade data compiled by Panjiva and ImportGenius. Experts say greater declines are expected in coming weeks. Other countries making gloves including Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Turkey and especially China are also seeing their manufacturing disrupted due to the virus.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection announced Tuesday it was lifting a block on imports from one leading Malaysian medical glove manufacturer, WRP Asia Pacific, where workers had allegedly been forced to pay recruitment fees as high as \$5,000 in their home countries, including Bangladesh and Nepal.

The CBP said they lifted the September order after learning the company is no longer producing the medical gloves under forced labor conditions.

"We are very pleased that this effort successfully mitigated a significant supply chain risk and resulted in better working conditions and more compliant trade," said CBP's Executive Assistant Commissioner for the Office of Trade Brenda Smith.

The Southeast Asian medical glove manufacturing industry is notorious for labor abuses, including demanding recruitment fees that send impoverished workers into crushing debt.

"Most of the workers who are producing the gloves that are essential in the global COVID-19 endemic are still at high risk of forced labor, often in debt bondage," said Andy Hall, a migrant workers rights specialist who has been focusing on conditions in Malaysian and Thai rubber glove factories since 2014.

In 2018, workers told several news organizations they were trapped in factories and grossly underpaid



while working overtime. In response, importers, including Britain's National Health Service, demanded change, and companies promised to end recruitment fees and provide good working conditions.

Since then, advocates like Hall say there have been improvements, including recent food handouts at some factories. But workers still suffer long, arduous shifts, and receive little pay to make medical gloves for the world. Most of the workers in the Malaysian factories are migrants, and live in crowded hostels at the factories where they work. Like everyone in Malaysia, they're now locked down because of the virus.

"These workers, some of the invisible heroes of modern times in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, deserve much more respect for the essential work they do," said Hall.

Gloves are just one of many types of medical equipment now in short supply in the U.S.

The AP reported last week that imports of critical medical supplies including N95 masks have sharply declined in recent weeks due to factory closures in China, where manufacturers had been required to sell all or part of their supply internally rather than export to other countries.

Rachel Gumpert, director of communications and membership services for the Oregon Nurse's Association said hospitals in the state are "on the edge of crisis."

"Across the board there's not enough of anything," she said. They're mostly lacking adequate masks right now, she said, but "in two weeks we'll be in a very bad place in terms of gloves."

In the U.S., concerns about a shortage have prompted some stockpiling and rationing. And some locales were asking for public donations.

In response, the FDA is advising medical providers whose stocks are dwindling or already gone: don't change gloves between patients who have the same infectious disease, or use food grade gloves.

Even with adequate supplies, the agency said that under present circumstances: "Reserve use of sterile gloves for procedures in which sterility is required."

Last week an Italian doctor died after testing positive for novel coronavirus. In one of his last interviews, he told broadcaster Euronews he had had to treat patients without gloves.

"They have run out," he said.

## Can blood from coronavirus survivors treat the newly ill?

By LAURAN NEERGAARD AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hospitals are gearing up to test if a century-old treatment used to fight off flu and measles outbreaks in the days before vaccines, and tried more recently against SARS and Ebola, just might work for COVID-19, too: using blood donated from patients who've recovered.

Doctors in China attempted the first COVID-19 treatments using what the history books call "convalescent serum" -- today, known as donated plasma -- from survivors of the new virus.

Now a network of U.S. hospitals is waiting on permission from the Food and Drug Administration to begin large studies of the infusions both as a possible treatment for the sick and as vaccine-like temporary protection for people at high risk of infection.

There's no guarantee it will work.

"We won't know until we do it, but the historical evidence is encouraging," Dr. Arturo Casadevall of Johns Hopkins University's school of public health told The Associated Press.

Casadevall drew on that history in filing the FDA application. The FDA is "working expeditiously to facilitate the development and availability of convalescent plasma" a spokesman said.

Here are some questions and answers about this latest quest for a treatment.

### WHAT EXACTLY IS THIS POSSIBLE THERAPY?

It may sound like "back to the Stone Age," but there's good scientific reason to try using survivors' blood, said Dr. Jeffrey Henderson of Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, who coauthored the FDA application with Casadevall and another colleague at the Mayo Clinic.

When a person gets infected by a particular germ, the body starts making specially designed proteins called antibodies to fight the infection. After the person recovers, those antibodies float in survivors' blood -- specifically plasma, the liquid part of blood — for months, even years.

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One of the planned studies would test if giving infusions of survivors' antibody-rich plasma to newly ill COVID-19 patients would boost their own body's attempts to fight off the virus. To see if it works, researchers would measure if the treatment gave patients a better chance of living or reduced the need for breathing machines.

One caution: While regular plasma transfusions are a mainstay of medicine, very rarely they can cause a lung-damaging side effect.

## COULD IT ALSO ACT LIKE A VACCINE?

Sort of, but unlike a vaccine, any protection would only be temporary.

A vaccine trains people's immune systems to make their own antibodies against a target germ. The plasma infusion approach would give people a temporary shot of someone else's antibodies that are short-lived and require repeated doses.

Still, if FDA agrees, a second study would give antibody-rich plasma infusions to certain people at high risk from repeated exposures to COVID-19, such as hospital workers or first responders, said Dr. Liise-anne Pirofski of New York's Montefiore Health System and Albert Einstein College of Medicine. That also might include nursing homes when a resident becomes ill, in hopes of giving the other people in the home some protection, she said.

"We need both things desperately," Pirofski said. "We need to be able to break the cycle of transmission and we also need to be able to help people who are ill."

## WHAT'S THE HISTORY?

These plasma infusions were used most famously during the 1918 flu pandemic, and against numerous other infections, such as measles and bacterial pneumonia, before vaccines and modern medicines came along. Long-ago research is sketchy. But in the *Journal of Clinical Investigation* earlier this month, Casadevall and Pirofski cited evidence that 1918 flu patients given the infusions were less likely to die. And a 1935 medical report detailed how doctors stopped a measles outbreak from sweeping through a boarding school using "serum" from prior patients.

The old-fashioned approach still is dusted off every so often to tackle surprise outbreaks such as SARS in 2002, and in 2014 when Ebola survivors' plasma was used to treat other patients during the West Africa epidemic. Even during those recent outbreaks, strict studies of the technique were not done, but Casadevall said there were clues that the plasma helped.

Casadevall thinks that when it didn't work, it may have been used too late. "Somebody at the end of their lives, it's very hard to affect" any disease at that point, he cautioned.

A more modern approach is to brew this type of antibody in the lab, something Regeneron Pharmaceuticals and other companies are working on. Using blood from COVID-19 survivors is a decidedly more labor-intensive approach — but researchers could start banking the plasma as soon as regulators give the OK.

## HOW WOULD DOCTORS GET THE PLASMA?

Blood banks take plasma donations much like they take donations of whole blood; regular plasma is used in hospitals and emergency rooms every day. If someone's donating only plasma, their blood is drawn through a tube, the plasma is separated and the rest infused back into the donor's body. Then that plasma is tested and purified to be sure it doesn't harbor any blood-borne viruses and is safe to use.

For COVID-19 research, the difference would be who does the donating -- people who have recovered from the coronavirus. Scientists would measure how many antibodies are in a unit of donated plasma — tests just now being developed that aren't available to the general public — as they figure out what's a good dose, and how often a survivor could donate.

Researchers aren't worried about finding volunteer donors but caution it will take some time to build up a stock.

"I get multiple emails a day from people saying, 'Can I help, can I give my plasma?'" Pirofski said.

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The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

## Virtual volunteers offer help to strangers amid virus stress

By MARIAM FAM Associated Press

WINTER PARK, Fla. (AP) — Sitting cross-legged in her living room, Donna Borak rested her palm on her heart as she guided a small group of virtual participants in meditation and deep breathing. Notice where you might be holding tension, she instructed.

"Send your attention to your head ... maybe acknowledging it's OK if you've been worried and scared," she told them "Maybe finding comfort that we are all in this together."

From her Washington, D.C., home, Borak has been hosting a free virtual meditation class daily for anyone who wants "a respite during such a moment of uncertainty." Attendees are encouraged to bring children, loved ones or pets. "Even your plants."

"Inhale, maybe even a little bit more deeply this time, slowly letting the air out of your mouth."

As social distancing has emerged as a key tool to staunch the spread of the coronavirus, ordinary people around the globe have turned to technology to overcome physical barriers. In ways big and small, they are forging new connections and comforting others inundated by bad news about the virus or burdened by unpaid bills.

Borak wanted to carve out a space for togetherness — for a stressed-out parent, a manager or a laid-off employee to take a break. So far, attendees joining her class on Zoom video conferencing have mainly been friends and family, and she's been sharing sessions on Instagram.

"While a meditation class for 15 minutes doesn't solve financial stress or help to explain what will happen next or address serious health care concerns, to me, it's an opportunity to not be alone and to not exist in isolation," she said by phone. "I didn't want anyone to feel alone."

For most people, the virus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. The vast majority of people recover.

A journalist whose work stints included The Associated Press and who had been attending yoga teacher training, Borak draws lessons from such testing times.

"Going forward, for every time that we opted out at the last minute of attending an event or a happy hour or a dinner, we'll hopefully feel differently about it when we come back together again," she said. "We need each other."

In Austin, Texas, Catherine Woodiwiss has also gone online to provide relief of a different kind. She knew that the cancellation of South by Southwest — a film, music and technology festival that attracts hundreds of thousands to Austin — could hit artists and small business owners hard.

Her first instinct to help by buying local wasn't going to work amid the social distancing and various shutdowns. So she encouraged those who lost income to reach out online.

"I can't give a ton, but I can give something, and will as much / for as long as I can," she wrote on Twitter.

She said takers included an 18-year-old pregnant woman who works as a cashier and said her store would be closed for a month and a musician whose shows would have covered rent and other expenses.

She used Venmo to send money directly after doing a "light vetting" of recipients by looking at their accounts. "I'm comfortable erring on the side of being of help," she said. "In a moment of need, I am comfortable giving to who asked for it."

There are "times that I have been very much in need of financial support from other people," Woodiwiss said in a phone interview. "I am very lucky to be at a moment ... where that's not true."

She's been setting aside money for a while to help with different causes. Now coronavirus is her cause — and she's part of a bigger effort. On her social media feeds, she's seen people come together in new ways, holding "singing circles" or sharing self-quarantine recipes.

Borak and Woodiwiss are among an army of virtual volunteers worldwide donating time and money. Some have used the Internet to set up food-delivery services to the elderly. One mother issued an international call for help celebrating the birthdays of her self-quarantined children.

"People are trying to figure out how to belong with each other ... when we are physically separate," Woodiwiss said. "In this moment of real, relatively unanticipated crisis, it's been really great to see people show up."

While nonstop global news about the effects of the coronavirus have become commonplace, so, too, are the stories about the kindness of strangers and individuals who have sacrificed for others. "One Good Thing" is an AP continuing series reflecting these acts of kindness.

Associated Press religion coverage receives support from the Lilly Endowment through the Religion News Foundation. The AP is solely responsible for this content.

## States differ on exempting worship from coronavirus closures

By ELANA SCHOR Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — As multiple governors issue orders to curb large gatherings and implore residents to stay home in a bid to slow the spread of the coronavirus, at least a half-dozen states have exempted some level of religious activity.

The divergent treatment of faith in some states' pandemic-fighting orders comes as a few houses of worship across the nation continue to greet people in person, despite federal public health guidance to avoid gatherings larger than 10 people and decisions by most religious leaders to shift services online. While the pandemic has heightened political tensions, the states including religious exceptions in their orders designed to combat the pandemic are led by governors in both parties.

In Michigan, for instance, Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer announced a stay-at-home order on Monday that banned all gatherings outside of individual households. Guidance on the order noted that "a place of religious worship, when used for religious worship, is not subject to penalty" for violating it, a standard that the state had applied to its previous order curbing gatherings.

In Tennessee, where Republican Gov. Bill Lee issued a Sunday order limiting gatherings to 10 people, Pastor Greg Locke said he plans to keep having service at Global Vision Bible Church in Mt. Juliet. Locke said that he plans to be in touch with attorneys about remaining open, and that he is providing essential services to locals still recovering from tornadoes that slammed the state earlier this month.

"I don't think a church staying open in days of chaos, when people need hope — I don't think that should be controversial," said Locke, describing himself as "shocked" by the degree of public pushback he received for continuing to hold services.

Religious gatherings were exempted from Ohio's stay-at-home order, issued Sunday by Republican Gov. Mike DeWine. Solid Rock, an Ohio megachurch whose Cincinnati location hosted an event for evangelical supporters of President Donald Trump last month, held an in-person service on Sunday and said on its website that it would exert a constitutional right to continue meeting.

"We do believe that it is important for our doors to remain open for whomever to come to worship and pray during this time of great challenge in our country," the church stated, noting that it wants to "help people safe."

DeWine posted a Sunday warning on his Twitter account, asking "religious leaders to think about their congregations" as they weigh state guidelines crafted for public health reasons.

"We did not order religious organizations to close, but my message to EVERYONE is that this is serious. When you are coming together, whether in a church or wherever - this is dangerous," DeWine tweeted.

Another pastor who took heat for holding in-person service on Sunday, Tom Walters of Pennsylvania's Word of Life Church, posted an apology on the church's Facebook page and said he would move to online-only worship amid the virus.

"Please believe me when I say that it was not out of arrogance or defiance" that the church met, Walters wrote, "but solely for the purpose of praying for our churches, communities, and nation."

Other states declining to force closures of places of worship include Pennsylvania, where the list of es-



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sential businesses permitted to keep operating includes "religious organizations," and New York, where all nonessential businesses across the state were ordered closed as of Sunday night. Guidance accompanying that order said that "houses of worship are not ordered closed," but "it is strongly recommended no congregate services be held and social distance maintained."

Tony Suarez, executive vice president of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference and a member of President Donald Trump's evangelical advisory board during the 2016 campaign, tweeted on Tuesday that he was "thankful" to see the number of states "listing churches as 'essential services.'"

States that did not exempt religious activity in their pandemic-related shutdown orders include Oregon, whose Democratic governor moved to prohibit nonessential gatherings on Monday, and Maryland, whose Republican governor's list of activities limited to 10 people on Monday included the "spiritual (and) religious."

California's stay-at-home order, by contrast, classified "faith based services that are provided through streaming or other technology" as an essential function.

Frederick Gedicks, a Brigham Young University professor who specializes in religion and the law, said arguments exist for both accepting and rejecting exemptions for worship.

On the one hand, Gedicks said, religion could be considered "especially important during a national emergency" — but from another perspective, "it's not singling out or targeting religion" to constrain worship at a time when most secular activity is also getting reined in.

Gedicks added that states' divergent approaches during the current pandemic are no more problematic than they've been on other issues: "What we're discovering now is the limitations of federalism in a time of national crisis."

Columbia University law professor Katherine Franke said that since "the overwhelming majority of at least Christian congregations are meeting online," state officials may have issued the exemptions in the hopes the impact would be minimal, assuming "most people will do the right thing."

Indeed, many faith leaders have gone to creative lengths to continue delivering spiritual support during the pandemic. In states such as Utah, where a mass gathering to welcome back returning Mormon missionaries sparked criticism from the state's GOP leaders, Catholic priests have offered to hear drive-up confessions that heed social distancing rules crafted to stop the virus.

But a handful of other houses of worship continued to meet. One Louisiana pastor reportedly welcomed hundreds to his church on Sunday, flouting public health restrictions for the second straight week and earning a rebuke from Democratic Gov. John Bel Edwards.

Edwards exempted travel "to and from an individual's place of worship" in his state's most recent stay-at-home order, which restricts gatherings larger than 10 people.

Next-door in Mississippi, Republican Gov. Tate Reeves has not ordered business closures or limits on social behavior. During a Sunday prayer session he led on Facebook, Reeves asked that residents have "the wisdom to do what's right, not only for themselves but what's right for all of their fellow Mississippians."

For most people, the virus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. The vast majority of people recover.

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Associated Press writer Emily Wagster Pettus contributed from Jackson, Miss.

## Grim find: Bodies of virus victims in Spanish nursing homes

By CIARÁN GILES and ARITZ PARRA Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — Spanish army troops disinfecting nursing homes have found, to their horror, some residents living in squalor among the infectious bodies of people suspected of dying from the new coronavirus, authorities said Tuesday.

Defense Minister Margarita Robles said the elderly residents were "completely left to fend for themselves, or even dead, in their beds." She said the discovery over the weekend included several nursing homes but did not name them or say how many bodies were found.

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A judicial probe into the horrific discovery was opened Tuesday as Spain announced a record one-day jump of nearly 6,600 new coronavirus infections, bringing the overall total to more than 39,600. The number of deaths also leaped by a record 514 to almost 2,700, second only to Italy and China.

As bodies piled up, Madrid took over a public skating rink as a makeshift morgue after the city facility overflowed. To date, 1,535 people have died in the hard-hit Spanish capital, more than half of the national total. The capital region has over 12,350 infections.

"This is a tough week," Dr. Fernando Simón, head of Spain's health emergency center, told a daily news briefing.

Relatives of elderly people and retirement homes' workers expressed growing concern about the situation at the centers.

"With everything that is happening with the coronavirus, this was a ticking bomb," said Esther Navarro, whose 97-year-old Alzheimer's-stricken mother lives at the Usera Seniors' Center in Madrid, where soldiers found some of the bodies.

"Now we are bracing ourselves for the worst possible outcome," she told the Associated Press in a telephone interview.

A worker at the nursing home said at least two bodies had to remain in the home for a day before funeral workers, who are working around the clock, arrived to take them away.

"We are very saddened, because the residents are almost like our own relatives due to the time we spend with them," the worker, José Manuel Martín, told Cadena SER radio.

Pedro Núñez said his father-in-law, Zoilo Patiño Lara, died at the nursing home from the virus on Saturday, although he was never diagnosed or taken to a hospital when symptoms appeared. The man, in his 80's and suffering from advanced Alzheimer's, was not removed until Sunday despite Núñez's repeated calls to funeral home workers.

Domusvi, the private company contracted by the Madrid regional government to run the Usera nursing home, confirmed that two residents died there over the weekend. A company spokeswoman, who declined to give her name, blamed the delay on funeral homes that failed to come quickly to take away the bodies.

While most people suffer only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever or coughing, from COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus, for older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause far more severe illness, including pneumonia.

Nursing homes worldwide have been especially hard hit. In the United States, several facilities have seen unusually high death tolls, and federal officials found that staff members who worked while sick at multiple long-term care facilities contributed to the spread of COVID-19 among vulnerable elderly in the Seattle area.

On Monday, federal regulators gave the Life Care Center in Kirkland three weeks to address the serious infractions that have been linked to the death of at least 37 residents. The nursing home failed to identify and manage sick residents and failed to notify health authorities in a way that placed residents in "immediate jeopardy," regulators found.

Besides Washington state, burgeoning outbreaks at nursing homes in Illinois, New Jersey and elsewhere in the U.S. have underscored long-running problems in the industry. As in Spain as well as in Italy, France and elsewhere in Europe, among the biggest problems has been a critical staffing shortage.

In Spain, the government announced last week that it would take over control of senior-care facilities from private companies and, as part of an unprecedented aid package, set aside 300 million euros (\$323 million) for adding additional social workers and caretakers.

Although Spanish households have traditionally included three generations living under one roof, nursing homes have mushroomed across the country over the past two decades, with multinationals and investment funds entering the lucrative business. According to Spain's official scientific research body, CSIC, there were 373,000 people in more than 5,400 nursing homes across the country in 2019.

Miguel Vázquez, the president of Pladigmare, an association that fights for better conditions in Spain's nursing homes, said the virus pandemic has forced a spotlight on the lack of personnel and resources that the wave of profit-seeking private investors has brought to the business of running the facilities.

"Spain has turned a right to being properly cared for, as enshrined in our laws, into a business that

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benefits from saving costs," Vázquez said, adding that private facilities have been even more opaque than usual since authorities trying to halt the spread of the coronavirus closed the residences to visitors earlier this month.

"Now that relatives can't get in, we don't really know what's going on there," he said, adding that the situation was even more dire in the Spanish capital, where 92% of some 400 nursing homes are privately owned or managed.

The head of AETE, which represents the country's largest for-profit nursing home businesses, said that criticism for "localized problems" should not be extended to the whole industry, which he said has been urging authorities to provide additional protective gear for weeks.

Jose Cubero also said that overburdened hospitals in Madrid were rejecting patients with COVID-19 from nursing homes.

"We provide assistance but we are not health care facilities. The elderly also have the right to be treated in hospitals," Cubero said.

Simón, the doctor appointed by the Spanish government to coordinate its response to the outbreak, said that over 5,400 health workers have been infected by the coronavirus.

"Everyone has been making a titanic effort, especially our health workers," government spokeswoman María Jesús Montero told a televised daily news conference, where journalists submitted questions via messaging apps.

At the Palacio de Hielo ice skating rink-turned-makeshift-morgue on the outskirts of Madrid, security forces guarded the premises as funeral vans entered the building via an underground car park. Madrid authorities took up the rink's offer after the city's municipal funeral service said it could take no more coronavirus victims until it restocked with more protective equipment.

The city government said bodies would be held at the rink until they can be taken to be cremated or buried.

Madrid has also turned two city hotels into hospitals to help with the overflow of virus patients and plans to convert five others. Madrid's hotel association has offered 40 hotels to help medical workers. Madrid also set up a field hospital in the Ifema trade fair complex, where the U.N. climate conference COP25 was held in December.

Follow AP coverage of the virus outbreak at <https://apnews.com/VirusOutbreak> and <https://apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak>

## Volunteers sew masks for health workers facing shortages

By TAMMY WEBBER, DEE-ANN DURBIN and ANNE D'INNOCENZIO Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Bill Purdue waterproofs basements for a living, but he has spent the past few days in his buddy's Washington, Indiana, auto trim and upholstery shop cutting rectangles of cotton fabric that his friend sews into face masks.

Fashion designer Briana Danyeale left Italy last month to return to her mother's Greer, South Carolina, home, where she has turned the living room into a mini sewing factory, making masks that she embroiders with the words, "We Got This!"

They're among scores of people answering pleas from hospitals, doctors and nurses so desperate for personal protective equipment amid the viral pandemic that they've turned to the public, saying do-it-yourself face masks are better than nothing.

And for those sitting at home worrying as the virus strains hospitals and the economy teeters, sewing masks makes them feel less helpless.

"Whatever it takes to get the job done, that's what I want to do," said Purdue, 57, whose daughter works at the women's hospital in Evansville, Indiana. He and his friend Mike Rice responded to a Facebook post last week from Deaconess Health System in Evansville asking the public for help.

The efforts mirror those in other countries, including Spain, where mask-making volunteers include a group

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of nuns and members of the Spanish Air Force. Around 500 masks a day are coming off sewing machines at the Paratroop School in Murcia, in the country's southeast, according to the Air Force's Twitter account.

In Belgium, what began as a one-woman operation about a week ago grew to a small army of home-sewing mask-makers within days. In Kosovo, inmates in a women's prison volunteered to make masks.

For most people, the new virus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. The vast majority recover.

But the virus is spreading rapidly and starting to max out health care systems in several cities.

Deaconess spokeswoman Pam Hight said the hospital system realized it could face a shortage if local infections skyrocket like they have elsewhere. So officials produced and posted a how-to video that has been shared across the country.

"We had people who wanted to ship them to us from all over the United States and we started saying, 'Please, please use them in your communities,'" she said. "It makes your heart warm; people are so good."

She said Deaconess expects to collect thousands of masks this week at an off-hospital site and sanitize them before distributing them to nurses and doctors or sending them to local nursing homes and homeless shelters.

Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, New Hampshire's largest hospital, is preparing kits with fabric and elastic and encouraging volunteers to sew face masks for patients, visitors and staff so medical-grade protective equipment can be conserved for front-line health care workers.

Providence St. Joseph's Health in the hard-hit Seattle area last week put together kits using special material and distributed them to people willing to sew them. But the company said Tuesday that it was discontinuing the effort because local manufacturing companies had begun making masks and face shields quickly and on a larger scale.

Federal officials had previously advised hospital workers to use surgical masks when treating patients who might be infected with coronavirus amid reports of dwindling supplies of fitted and more protective N95 respirator masks.

"If nurses quit or become too fatigued or even become ill themselves, then we don't have a frontline anymore," said Wendy Byard of Lapeer, Michigan. She began organizing friends to make masks after learning her daughter, a nurse at a suburban Detroit hospital, was told to wear the same mask all day.

Last week the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention quietly updated its guidance, saying hospitals that run low on surgical masks should consider ways to reuse them or to use them through an entire shift. And if hospitals run out, the CDC said, scarfs or bandanas could be used "as a last resort," though some health officials warned cloth masks might not work.

Mary Dale Peterson, president of the American Society of Anesthesiologists and chief operating officer at a Corpus Christi, Texas, children's hospital, said she declined volunteers' offers to make masks. She said construction and manufacturing industries instead should donate or sell the high-grade masks they have to hospitals.

"It would be only an extremely, extremely last resort that I would have my staff" wear homemade masks, she said. "I really hope it doesn't get to that point in the U.S."

At the Missouri Quilt Museum in Hamilton, Missouri, board members asked local hospitals if masks were needed and "they emphatically said yes," said director Dakota Redford. Soon other health care providers, including ambulance crews and nursing homes, were requesting masks.

"This has been a true grassroots effort that has exploded across the country in the quilting world," she said.

Businesses also are stepping up.

Crafts chain Joann Stores is making all of its 800-plus stores available for up to 10 people at each location to sew masks and hospital gowns, offering sewing machines and supplies, spokeswoman Amanda Hayes said.

Hayes said the number of people allowed in the stores adheres to CDC guidelines, the sewing stations



will be six feet apart and staff will continuously sanitize the work areas and materials. The company also has special kits for customers who want to make masks at home.

"We're enabling people to feel like they are contributing at a time when we don't have control," Hayes said.

In Baltimore, almost 285 volunteers with 618 3D printers between them are making plastic face shields for Johns Hopkins and other area hospitals and dropping them off at a maker space called Open Works. Executive Director Will Holman, who organized the effort, said he laid off 21 part-time employees last week because of the virus but has rehired some to assemble, sterilize and package the shields.

Danyeale, the South Carolina fashion designer, said she made about 200 masks bound for a local nursing home and hospitals in Florida, Georgia, Indiana and Illinois.

"If I'm one person creating 200 masks, imagine what we all could do," said Danyeale, 24. "It's super sad that we're at this point, but this is encouraging."

Durbin reported from Detroit and D'Innocenzio from New York. Associated Press writers Jeff McMillan and Michael Stobbe in New York; Martha Bellisle in Seattle; Fares Akram in Gaza City, Gaza Strip; Barry Hatton in Lisbon; Virginia Mayo in Antwerp, Belgium; and Lazar Semini in Tirana, Albania, contributed to this report.

## Russia ramps up measures against coronavirus as cases grow

By **DARIA LITVINOVA** and **VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV** Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian authorities acknowledged Tuesday that a low number of coronavirus cases in the country could be a result of insufficient screening and warned that the nation must brace for the worst.

President Vladimir Putin donned a yellow protective suit to visit the top Moscow hospital treating coronavirus patients and conferred with officials on how to stem the outbreak. Hospital chief Denis Protsenko told Putin the country needs to "prepare for the Italian scenario."

Russia has reported 495 cases and no deaths. Critics have argued for weeks that the numbers are too low for a country with a 2,600-mile border with China, blaming a low level of testing and a long tradition of hiding unpleasant truths.

At the same time the coronavirus was engulfing Europe, Putin ordered an April 22 plebiscite on constitutional amendments that could allow him to stay in power until 2036. But he also has said the vote could be postponed if the contagion spreads.

Some have accused the government of manipulating the statistics to downplay the coronavirus threat in order to prevent panic and ram the constitutional vote through at any cost.

"They themselves don't know how many actual cases they have, because testing is of such low quality" said Anastasia Vasilyeva, a doctor for Russian opposition figure Alexei Navalny and leader of the Alliance of Doctors union.

Vasilyeva and some others pointed at a 37% increase in pneumonia cases in Moscow in January as a sign that the figure could include some unreported coronavirus cases.

"We receive information from medical workers in the regions. ... Hospital beds are full with these, supposedly, pneumonia cases patients," she said.

The authorities have denied tweaking or concealing coronavirus statistics and argued that the increase in pneumonia cases could have been explained by a more proactive screening for pneumonia this year.

Officials have ranted about "fake news" of covered-up deaths and said that those spreading them could face criminal charges. On Tuesday, Vasilyeva said the police were investigating her for claiming the government was manipulating statistics.

The government and some experts have credited the low number of cases on an early closure of the border with China and a ban on entry for Chinese citizens at the time the epidemic was at full swing in that country. Starting early this month, Russia also has requested all travelers from Italy, France and other countries worst affected by the virus to self-quarantine for two weeks after arrival.

And finally last week, the Russian government has denied entry to all foreigners except diplomats and

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members of official delegations.

The Kremlin had sought to project an upbeat view on the situation, insisting that all measures have been taken to prevent a bigger outbreak. But on Tuesday, Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyenin, who leads a task force on dealing with the virus, warned that the situation could be worse than it seems.

"The number of tests has been quite low and a real picture is not known," Sobyenin said during a meeting with Putin, adding that provincial governors must receive orders to move more quickly to ready hospital beds for the gravely ill.

For most people, the virus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. The vast majority of people recover.

Sobyenin ordered all Moscow residents over 65 to stay home starting Thursday, voicing hope that this measure, along with other moves by the city authorities, will help to "flatten the curve" and prevent the nation's health care system from being overwhelmed with patients.

"Otherwise, the system won't be able to cope," he said.

Doctors warn that Russia should brace itself for a major outbreak. "We are looking at tens of thousands of infections down the line at the very best," Pavel Brand, the director of Klinika Semeynaya, a chain of private medical clinics in Moscow, told The Associated Press.

The government said 163,000 coronavirus tests have been performed so far. Until recently, all tests in Russia were analyzed by just one lab in Novosibirsk and it took several days to get results.

Sobyenin reported to Putin that Moscow this week launched its own network of labs, and that the number of tests will reach 13,000 a day for the city.

Moscow, a city of more than 13 million, already has shut schools, canceled public events, banned gatherings of more than 50 people and encouraged companies to make arrangements for employers to work from home — moves that already have been taken in other regions across Russia.

The authorities in the capital also ordered the construction of a new hospital for coronavirus patients that is being built from scratch and should be ready in several weeks. In addition to three hospitals treating coronavirus patients in Moscow, several other clinics have been recently converted for the purpose.

Dr. Melita Vujnovic, the World Health Organization representative in Russia, praised the measures taken in the country as "very effective."

"The WHO recommendations from the very beginning are do not wait until it gets you and start doing it," she told the AP. "And this has been the trick or the secret in Russia delaying of the epidemic. For the moment, I would say, that the capacity is sufficient to absorb the initial growth."

Many have voiced concern, however, that Russia's teetering, underfunded health care system could be hard pressed to cope with a big coronavirus crisis.

Many medical facilities were shut down in recent years as part of massive cost-cutting reforms, and wards for treating infectious diseases were always first to go, said Victor Maleyev, epidemiologist with Russia's Central Institute of Epidemiology. "So now they have to find beds elsewhere," he said.

Another big problem appears to be shortages of protective gear. Medical communities on social media are abuzz with reports of doctors and nurses not being given enough face masks, and Vasilyeva said her union receives a lot of complaints about that.

More than 100,000 people have signed an online petition launched last week, demanding more action from the government and saying there might be "thousands, or even tens of thousands of people" infected with the virus. Among other things, the petition demanded transparency in telling people about the scale of the outbreak and the speed at which it spreads. "The authorities cannot and should not have secrets from the people," the petition said.

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Daniel Kozin in Moscow contributed.

## India's prime minister decrees 21-day lockdown to curb virus

By EMILY SCHMALL and SHEIKH SAALIQ Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — India will begin the world's largest lockdown on Wednesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced in a TV address, warning citizens to stay inside or risk inviting the pandemic into their homes, and pledging \$2 billion to bolster the country's beleaguered health care system.

"To save India and every Indian, there will be a total ban on venturing out," Modi said Tuesday night, acknowledging that the 21-day lockdown would be a major blow to the economy, but insisting that the alternative could set the country back 21 years.

The move puts nearly one-fifth of the world's population under lockdown.

The announcement set off panic in many neighborhoods as people rushed to markets to stock up on supplies. At many places, police tried to disperse crowds outside stores.

Indian health officials have reported 469 active cases of COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus, and 10 deaths. Officials have repeatedly insisted there is no evidence yet of localized spread but have conducted relatively scant testing for the disease. In a country where tens of millions live in dense urban areas with irregular access to clean water, experts have said local spreading is inevitable.

For weeks, while the coronavirus wracked neighboring China and other parts of Asia, India's official infection toll stood at just three, all students in the Chinese epicenter, Wuhan, who were treated in their home state of Kerala and recovered from the disease.

But since the World Health Organization declared the coronavirus a global pandemic, triggering India's government to invoke a British Raj-era epidemic act giving it sweeping powers to contain the disease, the cases have been growing rapidly and, according to Modi, have the potential to "spread like wildfire."

In recent days, India had gradually expanded stay-at-home orders, banned international and domestic flights and suspended passenger service on its extensive rail system until March 31.

Modi called Tuesday's order a "total lockdown" and did not address whether any service providers would be exempt, but said that "all steps have been taken by central and state government to ensure supply of essential items."

The ministry of home affairs said essential services including grocery stores, banks, ATMs and gas stations will remain open. It said no more than 20 people will be permitted to attend funerals.

It was not clear what the lockdown would mean for about 300 million Indians who according to official data live below the poverty line.

Indian finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said a comprehensive relief package would be announced soon.

The lockdown "has essentially drawn a 'laxman rekha' on our doors," Modi said, referring to a line drawn by the hero of the Hindu epic "Ramayana" to protect his wife's dwelling place. "You must remember that you will invite a grave pandemic like coronavirus to your homes if you step out."

Indian virologist Dr. T. Jacob John said before the wholesale lockdown was announced on Tuesday that India was being forced to take extreme containment measures after failing to mitigate the problem earlier on, when the caseload was light.

"There would have been time because the wolf was not yet at the door. Now today the wolf's inside the door and India's supposed to calmly respond with a wolf in the corner," he said.

## Albert Uderzo, a creator of French hero Asterix, dies at 92

PARIS (AP) — Albert Uderzo, one of the two creators of the beloved comic book character Asterix, who captured the spirit of the Gauls of yore and grew a reputation worldwide, died on Tuesday. He was 92.

The French press quoted family members as saying that Uderzo died of a heart attack in the Paris suburb of Neuilly.

Asterix, portrayed as a short man with a droopy mustache always wearing a helmet with wings, was created in the early 1960s by Uderzo and Rene Goscinny. The character lived in a village in Gaul, present-day France, resisting Roman conquerors, along with his inseparable big-bellied friend, Obelix.

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"Albert Uderzo died in his sleep at his Neuilly home of a heart attack with no links to the coronavirus," the French press quoted his son-in-law, Bernard de Choisy, as saying. "He had been very tired for several weeks."

French Culture Minister Franck Riester said that Uderzo "found the magic potion," referring to his spirit, craftsmanship and long hours of work. Riester may also have been making a reference to the famous magic potion in the Asterix series, which gave the hero and his fellow villagers temporary superhuman strength.

"Supreme nobility, he accepted that his heroes survive him for the happiness of the public," Riester said.

Uderzo initially illustrated the characters created along with writer Rene Goscinny. Together, they created 24 comic books. After Goscinny's death in 1977, Uderzo also took over the comic books' writing duties, deciding to continue without his creative partner.

Goscinny's daughter, Anne, called the two men "brothers" and praised Uderzo's "courage" for continuing without his collaborator.

"They were as different as fire and water, but they lived something that few among us could live," she told the French daily Le Parisien. "They were the kind of friends you don't often have in life."

Uderzo, whose father was an Italian immigrant, was born on April 25, 1927, in France's Marne region, but grew up outside Paris. As a child, he was captivated by Walt Disney characters, notably Mickey Mouse, one of the inspiration of his own artistic talents.

After numerous jobs and referrals, he met Goscinny when he was 24. An instant friendship developed "and we decided to remake the world with all the thoughtlessness and the boldness of our youth," Le Monde quoted Uderzo as saying in his memoirs.

After collaborating on other projects for some nine years, "Asterix Le Gaulois" appeared in 1961.

Fans offered thanks on social media and recollections of childhood memories reading the Asterix comic books whose fan base includes adults.

The Asterix books have been translated into dozens of languages.

Asterix-based spinoffs include movies and a theme park outside Paris that draws tens of thousands of fans of the iconic resistance hero and his mighty sidekick, Obelix.

## Buddy, can you spare a dime? Echoes of '30s in viral crisis?

By **MARCY GORDON AP Business Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The imagery floats in sepia-colored photographs, faintly recalled images of be-draggled people lined up for bread or soup. Shacks in Appalachian hollows. Ruined investors taking their lives in the face of stock market crashes. Desperation etched on the faces of a generation that would soon face a world war.

By now, it's hard to find someone whose grandparents are old enough to recall the suffering of the Great Depression or the stream of rescue programs the government unleashed in response to it. All but gone, too, are memories of President Franklin Roosevelt's "fireside chats," his attempts to console an anxious populace and quell the "fake news" rumors of the day.

Nearly a century later, the U.S. economy is all but shut down, and layoffs are soaring at small businesses and major industries. A devastating global recession looks inevitable. Deepening the threat, a global oil price war has erupted. Some economists foresee an economic downturn to rival the Depression.

"With the markets destroying wealth so quickly, the two shocks we're seeing globally — the coronavirus and the oil-price war — could morph into a financial crisis," said Carmen Reinhart, a professor of economics and finance at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. "We will see higher default rates and business failures. It could be like the 1930s."

During the early Depression years, unemployment peaked at 25%. U.S. economic output plunged nearly 30%. Thousands of banks failed. Millions of homeowners faced foreclosure. Businesses failed.

No one knows how this recession may unfold or how effectively the government's rescue programs might help. Ignited by an external event — a raging global pandemic — it is uniquely different from both the Depression and the financial meltdown of 2008-09. And so its possible solutions are trickier.



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It isn't a conventional dislocation rooted in a financial collapse or an overheated economy or a burst asset bubble. The twist this time is that the only sure way to defeat the pandemic — with drastic containment measures like lockdowns, quarantines and business closures — is to deliberately cause a recession by bringing business and social life to a halt.

James Bullard, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, has gone so far as to warn that unemployment could reach 30% within months and that economic output could shrink 50%. Other outlooks aren't quite as grim. But they're all bleak.

Some economists take heart from the fact that the government possesses more potent tools to stabilize the economy than it did in the 1930s, some of them created in response to the Depression. They include a social safety net in unemployment insurance, a guarantee of bank deposits and federally backed mortgages. And the 2008 financial crisis led to the creation of an array of programs to fortify the banking system and encourage borrowing and spending.

President Donald Trump, after a hesitant start, now backs a bold and multi-pronged federal response to the crisis. It is just the sort of sweeping government involvement in the economy that was pushed this year by Democratic presidential candidates, well before the viral outbreak, but is almost always resisted by Trump and other Republicans.

After days of negotiations between congressional leaders and White House officials, Congress edged toward an agreement Tuesday on legislation that would deliver, by far, the largest economic rescue plan in U.S. history. At somewhere around \$2 trillion, the wide-ranging aid package is intended to sustain workers and companies for at least 10 weeks. After that, further help might be needed.

The final package is expected to include, among other things, one-time cash payments of \$1,200 to individuals and \$3,000 for a family of four; more generous unemployment benefits for workers sidelined by the virus; an extension of that coverage to gig workers and independent contractors; and small business loans to help retain workers. An earlier \$100 billion-plus package passed by Congress last Wednesday and signed by Trump includes a guarantee of paid sick leave for some workers affected by the virus.

A major element of the government's intervention will continue to be the Federal Reserve, which is injecting trillions of dollars in liquidity into the financial system to support key lending programs. On Monday, the Fed unleashed its boldest effort yet to protect the U.S. economy by helping companies and governments pay their bills. With lending markets threatening to shut down, the Fed's intervention is intended to ensure that households, companies, banks and governments can get the loans they need at a time when their own revenue is drying up.

As a whole, the emerging all-guns-blazing federal response is at least an echo of the economic stimulus that Roosevelt engineered in the depths of the Depression. Huge government aid programs put tens of millions to work in the construction of public buildings and roads, the pursuit of conservation projects and development of the arts.

Rural poverty was addressed, in part, by buying low-producing land owned by poor farmers and resettling them in group farms. Fannie Mae was created to buy home mortgages issued by the Federal Housing Administration. After the immediate crisis passed, Congress enacted far-reaching reforms of the financial system and banks and established unemployment insurance.

In contrast to today, the 1930s workforce was predominantly a male-dominated one of manual and farm labor. That changed only later, when the "Rosie the Riveter" wave of women entered factories to help mobilize America to fight World War II — a mobilization whose economic boost finally ended the Depression.

Today's service sector-dominated 21st century economy, populated more by retail, technology and financial services as well as by contractors, freelancers and "gig" workers, is far different. A 2020 equivalent of the Works Progress Administration would be hard to imagine.

In today's environment, more likely than government-created jobs are temporary measures like cash payments and guaranteed paid sick leave. Yet the options for the government are so vast that experts say they could deliver a significant benefit if deployed properly.

"There are more levers now for the government," says Richard Grossman, who teaches economic and financial history at Wesleyan University. "There's a lot now that the government can do that it wouldn't

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even have thought of doing in the 1930s.”

An example was a rarely used 1950s-era lever that Trump invoked last week — the Defense Production Act. It empowers the government to marshal private industry to accelerate production of key supplies in the name of national security. (Critics complain that Trump has yet to put the law fully into action by actually ordering companies to make protective masks and other equipment that hospitals say are running dangerously low.)

Also last week, the president said he was open to giving the government a vast reach into the private sector — by taking equity stakes in companies that have been crippled by the virus, in exchange for giving the companies emergency loans.

This would recall the 2008-09 financial crisis, when the government engineered a \$700 billion bailout of banks and automakers — and, in exchange, acquired equity stakes in those companies. That enabled the government to profit years later, when the companies repaid the taxpayer bailouts. The government took over outright the home mortgage backers Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

“Right now, the country’s frozen,” said Anat Admati, a professor of finance and economics at Stanford University and senior fellow at Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research. “Policymakers have to decide what’s really best for society.”

Admati notes that FDR’s New Deal and unemployment insurance wove a new safety net after the ravages of the Depression. But the net has eroded over the last decade, she says, along with the rise in gig and part-time workers and low-paid staffers in health care and other service industries. Many of those workers don’t stand to benefit much, if at all, from unemployment benefits and other programs built for a different era.

A result is that income inequality could worsen as a result of the crisis and the economic and social dislocation it causes.

“There are bailouts and subsidies coming,” Admati said. “The key is how they are targeted.”

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Follow Gordon on Twitter at @mgordonap

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, March 25, the 85th day of 2020. There are 281 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On March 25, 1931, in the so-called “Scottsboro Boys” case, nine young black men were taken off a train in Alabama, accused of raping two white women; after years of convictions, death sentences and imprisonment, the nine were eventually vindicated.

On this date:

In 1634, English colonists sent by Lord Baltimore arrived in present-day Maryland.

In 1894, Jacob S. Coxey began leading an “army” of unemployed from Massillon (MA'-sih-luhn), Ohio, to Washington, D.C., to demand help from the federal government.

In 1911, 146 people, mostly young female immigrants, were killed when fire broke out at the Triangle Shirtwaist Co. in New York.

In 1915, the U.S. Navy lost its first commissioned submarine as the USS F-4 sank off Hawaii, claiming the lives of all 21 crew members.

In 1947, a coal-dust explosion inside the Centralia Coal Co. Mine No. 5 in Washington County, Illinois, claimed 111 lives; 31 men survived.

In 1960, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, in New York, ruled that the D.H. Lawrence novel “Lady Chatterley’s Lover” was not obscene and could be sent through the mails. Ray Charles recorded “Georgia on My Mind” as part of his “The Genius Hits the Road” album in New York.

In 1963, private pilot Ralph Flores and his 21-year-old passenger, Helen Klaben, were rescued after being

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stranded for seven weeks in brutally cold conditions in the Yukon after their plane crashed.

In 1965, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. led 25,000 people to the Alabama state capitol in Montgomery after a five-day march from Selma to protest the denial of voting rights to blacks. Later that day, civil rights activist Viola Liuzzo, a white Detroit homemaker, was shot and killed by Ku Klux Klansmen.

In 1985, "Amadeus" won eight Academy Awards, including best picture, best director for Milos (MEE'-lohsh) Forman and best actor for F. Murray Abraham.

In 1988, in New York City's so-called "Preppie Killer" case, Robert Chambers Jr. pleaded guilty to first-degree manslaughter in the death of 18-year-old Jennifer Levin. (Chambers received 5 to 15 years in prison; he was released in 2003 after serving the full sentence.)

In 1990, 87 people, most of them Honduran and Dominican immigrants, were killed when fire raced through an illegal social club in New York City.

In 2018, in an interview with "60 Minutes," adult film star Stormy Daniels said she had been threatened and warned to keep silent about an alleged sexual encounter with Donald Trump in 2006. A fire at a shopping mall in a Siberian city in Russia killed more than 60 people, including 41 children.

Ten years ago: Osama bin Laden threatened in a new message to kill any Americans al-Qaida captured if the U.S. executed Khalid Sheik Mohammed (HAH'-leed shayk moh-HAH'-med), the self-professed mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks, or other al-Qaida suspects. Defense Secretary Robert Gates approved new rules easing enforcement of the "don't ask, don't tell" ban on gays serving openly in the military. Daisuke Takahashi gave Japan its first men's title at the World Figure Skating Championships in Turin, Italy.

Five years ago: Afghan President Ashraf Ghani thanked the U.S. Congress for billions of American tax dollars and vowed his war-racked country would be self-reliant within the decade. British singer Zayn Malik shocked his fans by announcing he was quitting the chart-topping band One Direction.

One year ago: UFC superstar Conor McGregor announced his retirement on social media. Apple announced the launch of a video streaming service, Apple TV Plus, that could compete with Netflix and Amazon with ad-free original series and films.

Today's Birthdays: Movie reviewer Gene Shalit is 94. Former astronaut James Lovell is 92. Feminist activist and author Gloria Steinem is 86. Singer Anita Bryant is 80. Actor Paul Michael Glaser is 77. Singer Sir Elton John is 73. Actress Bonnie Bedelia is 72. Actress-comedian Mary Gross is 67. Actor James McDaniel is 62. Former Sen. John Ensign, R-Nev., is 62. Movie producer Amy Pascal is 62. Rock musician Steve Norman (Spandau Ballet) is 60. Actress Brenda Strong is 60. Actor Fred Goss is 59. Actor-writer-director John Stockwell is 59. Actress Marcia Cross is 58. Author Kate DiCamillo is 56. Actress Lisa Gay Hamilton is 56. Actress Sarah Jessica Parker is 55. Baseball Hall of Famer Tom Glavine is 54. TV personality Ben Mankiewicz is 53. Olympic bronze medal figure skater Debi Thomas is 53. Actor Laz Alonso is 49. Singer Melanie Blatt (All Saints) is 45. Actor Domenick Lombardozzi is 44. Actor Lee Pace is 41. Actor Sean Faris is 38. Comedian-actor Alex Moffat (TV: "Saturday Night Live") is 38. Former auto racer Danica Patrick is 38. Actress-singer Katharine McPhee is 36. Comedian-actor Chris Redd (TV: "Saturday Night Live") is 35. Singer Jason Castro is 33. Rapper Big Sean is 32. Rap DJ-producer Ryan Lewis is 32. Actor Matthew Beard is 31. Actress-singer Aly (AKA Alyson) Michalka (mish-AL'-kah) is 31. Actor Kiowa Gordon is 30. Actress Seychelle Gabriel is 29.

Thought for Today: "The truth does not change according to our ability to stomach it emotionally." — Flannery O'Connor, American author (1925-1964).